

**Northwest Oregon and Washington's most complete and accurate fishing forecast**

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 9<sup>th</sup>, – June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** Sturgeon anglers fishing in the gorge are still scoring good numbers of oversized sturgeon on fresh shad. The keeper bite has slowed however but a full days effort can still yield results.

The best keeper action is in the estuary where boats are averaging just over 1 keeper per boat. Concentrations of sturgeon are in front of Astoria and they are responding to smelt and fresh anchovies. A better weekend tide series should better disperse fish.

Effort for salmon in the gorge is light but one boat reported 10 Chinook on Tuesday but less than half were hatchery fish. Spinners in the swifter flows are taking fish and shad anglers are picking up an occasional keeper. Dam passage has increased again with subsiding flows.

Anglers are thankful to see a moderation in height and flow of the Columbia. This has allowed the Willamette to begin recovering from the backup and should lead to an overall improvement in fishing in the lower river. Spring Chinook fishing has been slow but steady with trolled herring and spinners accounting for hookups in Oregon City and Portland Harbor.

**Pro Guide Bill Kremers (541 754 6411)** reports that shad fishing continues to be great by Oregon City.

Sturgeon fishing has been fair in the lower Willamette. There are plenty of shakers and even a few oversized around, particularly in the Multnomah Channel.

This is the time of year for Clackamas springers to return. Look for an improvement in catch rates on the river as a result. Water conditions should be improving.

The Sandy River has been kicking out a few springers recently but summer steelhead remain scarce. In higher flows, the salmon have been found in the shallower steelhead water. Eggs are producing the best results.

North Santiam anglers are finding high, swift water but there are plenty of fish in the river. The South Santiam has good numbers of steelhead with the spring Chinook population increasing daily. The water level is supposed to be reduced late this week prior to Free Fishing Weekend.

Trout fishing has been very good this week at Hagg Lake. Rainbows are easy at Detroit where limits of kokanee have been taken as well. Action for trout is fair at Green Peter but kokanee fishing is slow.

Scheduled for planting this week are Benson Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, West Salish Pond, Alton Baker Pond, Clear Lake, Detroit Reservoir, Dexter Reservoir, East Freeway Lake, E. E. Wilson Pond, Foster Reservoir, Green Peter Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River Lower, McKenzie River Upper, Roaring River Park Pond, Salmon Creek, Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake.

Take a youngster or non-fishing acquaintance out for Free Fishing Weekend June 10th and 11th. No license is required. For information about free fishing events this weekend, visit the ODFW web site at [www.dfw.state.or.us/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/).

**Northwest** – Spring salmon continue to delight Tillamook district anglers and weekend trollers working the lower estuary scored results during the weaker tide series. The upper bay slows during these transition tides.

The upcoming weekend minus tide series will put upper bay spinner trollers at an advantage. Sturgeon anglers still have a viable fishery but the best action coincides at the time of the tide when salmon fishing will be at its best.

The small amount of precipitation drew salmon into the North Coast streams but rivers remained clear and the fish were timid.

Razor clam diggers will likely score great results over the weekend on Clatsop County Beaches. The beginning of the minus tide series begins on Friday and climbs through the weekend.

No trout are scheduled to be planted in the Northwest Zone this week.

**Southwest** - Ocean Chinook fishing has picked up considerably out of Winchester Bay. Trolling herring at 60 to 120 feet over 200 to 350 feet of water is most effective. With the number of coho being hooked by offshore Chinook fishermen, it's shaping up to be a great season at the June 17th opener. The coho are running 80% hatchery fish. The North Umpqua was running high over the weekend and was not producing Chinook catches. The oversized sturgeon fishing is still good below Reedsport.

In a June 2nd bulletin, the ODFW announced that as of June 5th, wild spring Chinook may no longer be retained on the Rogue River. Fin clipped hatchery fish can still be kept but returns have been poor this year.

Reports regarding offshore salmon fishing out of Brookings indicate interest and

catches are on the rise. Large bait balls of anchovies and big sardines are being seen offshore. Salmon seem to be feeding on those sardines, which should boost their growth rate this year.

Scheduled to receive hatchery trout are Howard Prairie and Willow Lake.

**Eastern** - Fly fishing on the lower Deschutes from Maupin to Warm Springs is hot now with fish keyed on Golden Stones and Salmon flies.

The Metolius is producing well for fly fishers matching the abundant Mayfly hatch. Bull trout are being taken on streamers.

Wallowa Lake is finally producing catches of kokanee but the fish are running small. Sizable rainbow trout are available however and lake levels are still fluctuating.

Burns Pond, Century Gravel Pit, Cultus Lake, Deschutes River, Devils Lake, East Lake, Fall River, Hosmer Lake, Lake of the Woods, Ochoco Creek, Shevlin Pond, Simtustus Lake, Sprague Gravel Pit, Spring Creek and South Twin Lake will be planted with trout this week.

**Southwest Washington-** The Cowlitz River continues to be a disappointment for salmon anglers but summer steelhead counts look to be well above average this year.

The North Fork of the Lewis continues to be a bright spot for salmon anglers and the Kalama is producing fair results for salmon and steelhead.

Chinook are being taken throughout the Wind River but higher concentrations are being found in the higher reaches where access is not so attainable.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Fishing is again percolating on the Columbia River with salmon and sturgeon on the menu. Throw in summer steelhead, and some may call it “the good ‘ol days”.

Although not many are taking advantage of it, salmon fishing in the gorge, particularly from the shad rack upstream to the deadline, is quite productive for spinner and plug fishermen. A recent improvement from just a few days ago, the dropping of the Columbia in recent days is having a clear impact on success rates. Anglers dropping spinners in 12 to 20 feet of water are picking off fish with multiple hookups reported by some boats. Brass and red or a combination of both is scoring results. Smaller blades work better in the faster flows. Counts are back on track with over 1,000 Chinook per day passing Bonneville. Although salmon passing Bonneville are now counted as summer Chinook, with the late run being witnessed

on most waterways, they are in all likelihood, spring fish. Hopefully the counts, especially spring jack salmon, will continue to climb.

Sturgeon fishing in the gorge has dropped off for keeper fish but oversize fishing remains good for anglers using fresh shad. One guide commented that Saturdays seem to be tough to draw multiple hookups but most days, anglers will wrestle between 2 and 5 oversized fish. Heavy lead and safe anchoring strategies is important when angling in this section. Shad strips or smelt is taking a few keepers for the relatively high effort in the gorge. Anglers must still obey the Marker 85 rule for both keeper sized and oversized sturgeon. Shad fishing is slam dunk if you are looking for sturgeon bait or crab bait. It seems most anything will work. Shad counts are fast approaching 1 million fish.

Steelhead fishing on the Columbia is beginning to take off but will get even better in the coming weeks. As a general rule, anglers should monitor steelhead counts at Bonneville and interest should heighten when counts reach 200 or more summer fish per day. The last count was 130 fish on 6/6.

Sturgeon fishing in the estuary is going well for those patient enough to stick out the bite. Keepers are common from the downtown area and smelt and anchovies are fishing best. 35 to 55 feet of water is producing the best results and fish are just covered on the fish finder. The incoming tide has produced the best with the current soft tide series. With excessive flows being released from upriver impoundments, incoming tides are not having a big impact on which way the boat faces. That should change by the weekend however. Some fish are coming from the shallows upstream of Tongue Point but the higher quality fish seem to be coming from downtown Astoria. Shrimp is the clear bait of choice for shallow water anglers.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The big minus tide series will have a profound effect on angling over the weekend. Starting with the estuary, sturgeon anglers should find fish more spread out and entering the shallow flats in the higher flows. Also associated with higher flow is a more aggressive bite. This has been troublesome for many this week as fish seem to be biting extremely light. Anglers won't have the same options in the upcoming week as we enjoyed recently but along those same lines, more options open up using shrimp in the shallows- a much more exciting way to fish. There is very little action downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge.

Sturgeon anglers in the gorge should be concentrating on oversize sturgeon. Seek the slower edges of the current for big fish but plan on a tough weekend as flows will likely increase again on Saturday. Anchor safely and take as much shad as you can for sturgeon or crab bait.

Salmon fishers will have their best opportunities in the gorge using small spinners

or plugs. Target fish in the swift, shallow gravel bars like the Shad Rack and keep that gear fishing close to the bottom where the current isn't as strong.

Salmon and steelhead anglers will have a strong outgoing tide this weekend to work spin-n-glos and small plugs off of lower Columbia River beaches. Faster flows will concentrate fish close to shore making fast sloping beaches a good option for easy fishing. Sauvies Island, Tenasillahe Island and Prescott Beach will offer up some opportunity for plunkers.

The seas look friendly enough for clammers over the weekend. Clatsop Beaches should produce ample numbers of clams for diggers working the dry sand or surf.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – As the numbers of spring Chinook counted at Willamette Falls dwindle, the water temperature on June 6th hit 63 for the first time this year. Chinook totals for the year topped 25,000 on May 29th, the latest data available. Steelhead numbers are strong with the year-to-date total as of May 29th well over 7,600. The spring Chinook action is moving with the fish from the Willamette to the tributaries but the shad run is in primetime.

**Pro guide James Stevenson (503-580-4162)** reports, "Upper Willamette near Salem is over, full of moss your gear won't work for more then 2-3 minutes. Coastal streams with a rise have fresh fish in them. Eggs and sand shrimp best bet. Streams will drop fast without rain."

Slow to fair remains the report for sturgeon with lots of shakers around.

Coon Island in Multnomah Channel, normally a go-to location for shad, has been slow this year.

**Pro Guide Bill Kremers (541 754 6411)** adds this: "Shad continues to be great by Oregon City. We are using a chartreuse jig head and 1" grub, and back bouncing it back with an occasional twitch. Steelhead fishing on the South Santiam was a little spotty because the rivers been a little up and down. It appears that the flows are now leveling off and the fishing should pick up in the coming weeks. The shuttle service has changed this year on the South Santiam here the updated phone numbers: Tom Holley Cell number 541-401-2059 ; \$15 Foster to Pleasant valley; \$20 pleasant Valley to Binegar Butte or Waterloo Binegar Butte 541-619-5338 \$15 Foster to Pleasant Valley or Pleasant Valley to his place or Waterloo."

Despite decent numbers of steelhead in the high water of the North Santiam, fishing remains lackluster. Look for the level of the South Santiam to be significantly reduced on or before June 9th.

MacKenzie fly fishers have experienced some very good fishing lately on the lower river by throwing Caddis dries.

According to a Release dated Thursday, June 8, 2006 the ODFW Salem plans to close the field office located at 4412 Silverton Road NE in Salem to public traffic on June 30. The two employees working there will be relocated. Department officials said "the move provides a substantial cost savings for the agency."

**The Guide's Forecast** – Spring chinook fishing is winding down on the Willamette. Expect far less company now with the effort for chinook switching to the tributaries. For those who'd like to get just one more Willamette springer, try St. Johns, the head of the Multnomah Channel or in the Oregon City/Gladstone area. Anchor if the current allows or drag spinners.

With the nice weather forecasted for this coming weekend, expect hundreds of shad to die at the hands of anglers. With Coon Island slow, Oregon City will be the place to go. Huge crowds are a given.

There's no reason to expect much of an improvement in the sturgeon fishery, but expect to see a few oversize in the catches over the next week. Use smelt is you can get 'em, shad to try for a really big one, but be sure to use tackle that's up to the task.

To a greater degree than other fish, shad travel nose-to-tail which means anglers must be right on their path to really clean up on them. If catches are sparse, move. These moves are not necessarily upstream or down but rather toward one bank or the other to get on top of the fish.

Tiny Dick Nite spoons or even a swivel and bead with a siwash hook attached will draw strikes. Once on the shad, it's often worthwhile to change lures to find the fish's preference at the moment. Similarly, if the action slows, switching to a different color wobbler may fill the cooler.

Shad is a great choice for crabbing because the Dungeness love 'em and seals will leave the traps alone. Also a good choice for sturgeon baits, shad is tops for oversized. These smelly baitfish make first-rate halibut bait as well. While some folks eat shad, expect a herring-like experience if you try it as the two are closely related and quite similar in taste.

Oregon City to the Falls has been most productive for shad on the lower Willamette.

The South and mainstem Santiam hold the greatest promise of delivering a springer.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – The water level on the Clackamas came up over the last week. The Water temperatures are in the mid-50s. Summer steelhead catches have improved a little and should pick up in the coming weeks with steelhead scattered throughout the system. Spring Chinook fishing has been fair to good for boaters working the deeper holes. Over 800 springers have returned to the hatchery.

Water levels at the Sandy River are receding and it's clearing up. Summer steelheading and spring Chinook fishing has been fair to good.

**The Guide's Forecast** – June is the month for the Clackamas River to deliver spring Chinook although catches here are expected to be lower than previous seasons just like everywhere else.

Steelhead and chinook catches should continue strong in the Sandy right up to the time the water turns milky from its glacial origin. Temperatures currently are in the mid-50-degree range.

**North Coast District Fishing Report** – The best thing going on the North Oregon Coast is Tillamook County's spring Chinook. The recent soft tide series produced fair numbers of beautiful spring Chinook last weekend. Inside of the jetty, along the north jetty, anglers working herring on the bottom scored good results. Subscribers Gary and Sharon Kish had a great weekend with Sharon landing a fish nearing 30 pounds! The best action was along the jetty with the upper bay producing a few fish. Tillamook County Deputy Paul Fournier reported slow action overall but he took home 2 nice springers over the weekend trolling herring in the upper bay. Tidewater remains clear but some fish moved upstream on the recent rain freshet.

Flows did not jump dramatically on the most recent rain freshet but this time of year, any rise is significant on the North Coast. Driftboaters on the Trask and Nestucca Rivers did take fresh salmon home but what we have come to expect from coastal springers is one day they're here, the next, they are not! Backbouncers produced the best but plug pullers found opportunity.

Sturgeon fishing recently slowed but so did effort. You won't find much enthusiasm when the tides are weak. That is soon to change. Crabbing in the estuary is better than it has been but still fair at best. The ocean is best and recent calm weather paid dividends for ocean crabbers and bottomfishers. The weather is not supposed to cooperate for saltwater enthusiasts this weekend.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The upcoming minus tide series will put upper Tillamook

Bay spinner trollers at an advantage. Chartreuse/green dot spinners are a stand by for trollers and should continue to produce. Herring should also produce good results for upper bay and lower tidewater anglers. The maximum benefit of the minus tides won't be felt until later next week but early risers for the weekend effort should have some of the best opportunity.

Flows are forecasted to remain stable so salmon fishing on the rivers will remain challenging. First light and first hole fishermen will have the best chance on the Trask and Nestucca Rivers.

Crabbers won't fare so well on North Coast estuaries due to the larger tidal exchanges. Sturgeon fishers however should do well with sand shrimp provided they can keep their baits from being attacked by smaller crab currently rearing in Tillamook Bay. Fish higher in the bay for the best results and keepers should be starting to show on the Tillamook River.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – The steelhead run on the Siletz times out a little late but will be worth the trip starting around mid-June.

All-depth halibut is open this week Thursday through Saturday. Although Saturday, June 10th is the official ending date of the spring season, more dates will be scheduled if any poundage remains in this year's generous quota. Near shore halibut fishing is allowed seven days a week inside the 40-fathom line. With Free Fishing Weekend the 10th and 11th, Saturday Halibut don't have to be tagged.

Barrels at cleaning stations on the Southern Oregon coast often have to be emptied several times a day, a positive indication of strong catches of rockfish, ling cod and cabezon. Limits of Dungeness are being taken by fishers who are dropping pots in the ocean and picking them up on the return trip. The crab are running large and remain firm.

Sturgeon fishing remains a good option in the Umpqua River estuary for mostly oversized fish. Spring Chinook fishing has picked up slightly on the mainstem although anglers say it's still slow. The peak of the springer run occurs on the Umpqua this month. Smallmouth bass and shad fishing is good. Water in the North Umpqua remains cold which has the chinook off the bite. The South Umpqua is closed to steelhead fishing, open for trout.

The Coos, Millicoma and Coquille rivers offer fine shad fishing prospects. Coquille fishermen have been catching striped bass from Arago downstream on large plugs at first and last light.

With the South coast streams open for trout since May 27th, anglers are reminded that no bait may be used above tidewater. Fishing for sea-run cuts is improving.

Bass fishing at Tenmile Lake has been exceptional this year. Once managed for numbers, it's been putting out better catches of large bass since all largemouth over 15 inches have to be released.

In a June 2nd bulletin, the ODFW announced that as of June 5th, wild spring Chinook may no longer be retained on the Rogue River. Fin clipped hatchery fish can still be kept but returns have been poor this year. "In addition," according to the bulletin, "the fishing season for spring Chinook between Gold Ray Dam and Rogue Elk County Park will close June 30. The decision was made in light of a second year of low spring Chinook returns. As of May 31st, the count at Gold Ray Dam totaled just over 3,511 spring Chinook salmon, 22 percent of the 10-year average return of 14,680 fish by the end of May."

Catches of spring chinook remain very low as is angler effort on the lower Rogue. Most hopefuls are trying from Elephant Rock up to the Ferry Hole with little success. Just as the Rogue closed to the retention of wild Chinook, catches hatchery fish improved in the Grants Pass stretch though it's still slow. Springer action is best in the upper river with the Hatchery Hole delivering slow but steady catches.

Gold Ray Dam fish counters have seen just over 3,800 spring Chinook as of June 3. The upper Rogue remains swift and high due to heavy water releases, snow melt and stream flows.

Cutthroat trout fishing is picking up in Rogue Bay

Fly anglers are enjoying fine catches on Holy Water on the upper Rogue River with Golden Stones and Salmon flies hatching in good number. The peak of the hatches occur in June. If anglers wish to retain any trout, they may keep five a day but those must be fin clipped. The North Fork Rogue above Prospect will be stocked this week and using bait to take them is allowed.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Although the Deschutes rose about six inches and went off-color on Wednesday, June 7th, it was coming down the morning of the 8th and should fish well by the weekend. With the big Salmon flies hatching and on the wing and trout solidly keyed on them, fly-rodders can expect rewarding results for their efforts.

Mayfly hatches have only been improving on the Metolius. The river is in good shape, fine color and will fish well this weekend.

**Pro guide Mac Huff (800-940-3688)** reports. "Wallowa Lake is usually in the

middle of excellent kokanee fishing now, but apparently the cool spring moved the calendar back a few weeks and Gina Barstad at Wallowa Lake Marina says that the kokanee fishing is just starting. Memorial Day weekend was the beginning of the good fishing for bluebacks, she says. Most of the early fishing reports indicate that the kokanee are small, Barstad offers hope of finding larger fish with a 15-inch fish she caught recently.

"In addition to the kokanee fishing Wallowa Lake is notable for good rainbow trout fishing and, while the kokanee fishing seems to be lagging, she and Brad Snook at The Sports Corral in Joseph each know of rainbows being landed that measured longer than 20 inches with a decent showing of fish measuring in the teens.

"The water level at Wallowa Lake had peaked was falling until last weekend's rains turned the tide and brought the lake up a few inches. Barstad says that on Monday the lake was still rising slowly, but the weather forecast suggests that the trend will soon change.

"Kinney Lake, which opened last weekend is another good choice to spend a fishing weekend. Snook reports that anglers using spinners are landing larger-than-average trout this spring with rainbows up to 14 inches reported."

**Northwest Trout** - Kokanee fishing has been slow at Green Peter although fish are running large. The water level remains very low. Odell is producing good catches of kokanee.

Scheduled for planting this week in the Willamette Valley are Benson Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, West Salish Pond, Alton Baker Pond. Clear Lake, Detroit Reservoir, Dexter Reservoir, East Freeway Lake, E. E. Wilson Pond, Foster Reservoir, Green Peter Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River Lower, McKenzie River Upper, Roaring River Park Pond, Salmon Creek, Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake. No stocking is scheduled for the Northwest Zone.

**SW Washington** - It's Free Fishing Weekend June 10th and 11th in Washington State, too!

### **Reader Email**

Got a question or suggestion? Perhaps a story or a report? Shoot us a note ... we love to get Email!

Write to the TGF staff:

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### **Random Links**

More Free Fishing Weekend options:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060607/OUTDOORS/606070342/1034>

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2006/june/004.asp>

Longtime salmon spokesman silenced by Bush administration:

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003031855\\_noaa01m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2003031855_noaa01m.html)

NOAA considers methods for Deterring Problem Seals & Sea Lions:

<http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Seals-and-Sea-Lions/Deterring-Pinnipeds.cfm>

**Weekly Quote** – "The capture of a really big fish is a pleasant surprise; were it a forgone conclusion, angling would be robbed of much of its fascination. It is the unknown in our sport which s so tempting". - E. Marshall-Hardy in [Mirror of Angling](#)

**GOOD LUCK!**