

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 28th – August 3rd, 2006**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- With Chinook counts on the decline and steelhead on the increase, anglers are converting over to smaller gear in search of summer runs. Some of the best action is taking place at the mouth of the Cowlitz where action is consistent and effort on the rise reports **pro guide Brandon McGavran (360-607-1327)**. A rare Chinook is still being taken between Longview and Bonneville Dam and even on Davis Bar reports **pro guide Jim Stevenson (503-881-5289)**. Bank anglers did best in the Gorge where weekend anglers averaged nearly a steelhead for every 4 rods.

Catch and release sturgeon fishing remains consistent in the Gorge but effort is low. That should change with the opening of the sanctuary above Marker 85 on August 1st but the stretch from Bonneville to Wauna Powerlines will close to sturgeon retention beginning the same day. This stretch will open again on October 1st until the quota is met. The shad run is nearly complete so floater shad is making the best available bait.

Daily Chinook and steelhead counts at Willamette Falls have fallen to low double digits. With the water temperature topping the mid-70s, this is strictly a tributary fishery for salmonids and a warmwater fishery in the lower Willamette.

The upper Sandy has produced a few steelhead at first light but glacial run-off continues to hamper visibility.

Water levels on the Clackamas are very low and clear. Water temperatures are 68 degrees at Rivermill Dam where a few summer steelhead are still being taken by early morning anglers. Steelhead are still be recycled from Dog Creek hatchery- 660 so far this year.

Water in the North Santiam is a bit high but has good color. Tempt steelhead with small baits or lures. Over 5,500 summer steelhead and 2,600 springers had been counted at Foster Dam on the South Santiam as of July 25th. Most of the hatchery fish are recycled downstream. Fishing is slow to fair.

Breitenbush River, Carmen Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Upper McKenzie River, Quartzville Creek, Salmon Creek and North Fork Santiam River are scheduled to be planted with trout.

Northwest – The famed Buoy 10 season opens up on August 1st. With warm water conditions and mediocre returns of coho forecasted, the opener will yield little results. The ocean remains the best option but most boats have been averaging less than a fish per rod. Ocean and bar conditions have not been favorable for the sport boat fleet. The lack of effort is one reason for a relaxing of regulation beginning August 11th. Anglers will be able to fish 7 days per week and keep 2 salmon- either Chinook or coho or a mix of both.

Catch and release sturgeon fishing remains excellent downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. Sand shrimp are hard to find locally but are responsible for the bulk of the catch. Effort is very low.

Salmon fishing out of Garibaldi will close on after July 31st. Fishing was good late last week for anglers able to find 54 degree water to fish in. This was at about 300 feet NW of the Tillamook Bay entrance. Since then, ocean conditions have been rough keeping most anglers docked. The catch

has been mostly coho but a rare Chinook is being taken too.

Nehalem Bay remains a disappointment but success should change as mid-August draws near. The summer Chinook run will be peaking soon and herring trollers working the jaws should begin to witness better success rates.

Summer steelhead remain a viable option on the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. Early morning anglers will have the highest success rates. Action has definitely slowed since the sunny weather reports **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)**.

Radio-tagged Chinook may be retained on the Siletz River starting August 1st. Retention of these fish outside of the Columbia is illegal in all other waters.

Offshore coho fishing out of Depoe Bay and Newport has turned on, rewarding anglers with many limits. Fish are 20 to 30 feet deep over 180 to 200 feet of water.

Ocean anglers are anxiously anticipating the opening of the all-depth summer halibut season August 4th, 5th and 6th. Additional three-day opportunities will follow.

Southwest – Winchester Bay remains the top producer for boaters launching in search for offshore salmon. About 4,000 Chinook and 2,500 coho have been taken. Over 60% of the coho quota remains available off the central Oregon coast as of July 23rd. Water offshore over the weekend was too cold to produce decent catches, however.

Smallmouth bass action is steady through the heat of the day on the Umpqua River. They're running small so use light tackle.

Baitfish are thick in Rogue Bay as the Fall Chinook run gets underway. Trollers report mixed results and it was slow late last week although many fish exceeding the 30-pound mark have been taken. Trout are scheduled to be planted in Section 5 of the Rogue River.

There's still plenty of water remaining in Diamond Lake following an eight-foot drawdown in preparation for rotenone treatment this Fall to eliminate an exploding tui chub population. The lake remains open with a 20-trout limit few but catches are poor. Active gillnetting is removing good chub numbers and contractors are managing to avoid high trout catches.

Easy limits are the rule for bottomfish off the Southern Oregon coast. Black rockfish make up the bulk of the catch. As of July 24th, vermillion rockfish may no longer be retained.

Crabbing remains good in the ocean out of Brookings with softshells still rare.

Eastern - Caddis flies are active on the lower Deschutes with evenings producing memorable fly rod action for trout. Steelhead catches should be improving although the water temperature may effect mid day catches.

Green Peter is producing good catches of kokanee on the troll.

Southwest Washington- The Cowlitz River remains the bright spot for steelheaders. Nearly 1,000 summer steelhead were recycled downriver this week with boat anglers taking the majority of fish.

Warm water has effected the Drano Lake fishery and the Klickitat remains turbid with the recent warm weather.

The mouth of the White Salmon is producing some salmon and steelhead catches.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Lower Columbia sport anglers have shifted their attention to the large run of summer steelhead that is now present in the mainstem. Summer Chinook passage is falling and the recent run size update has the summer run of Chinook at 78,600 fish from a paltry 49,000 before the season got started. Summer steelhead predictions are nearly identical to last year's run (312,500) and success is well underway. **Pro guide Brandon McGavran (360-607-1327)** reports, "Summer steelhead fishing at the mouth of the Cowlitz continues to steadily improve. The water temperature in the lower Cowlitz is currently 59 degrees, while the Columbia is a toasty 71 degrees. This temperature difference is what makes this fishery so productive during July, August, and September as these fish are attracted to the cooler water of the Cowlitz. My clients and I have been hooking 4 to 8 steelhead a day with most fish weighing between 5 to 8 pounds. An occasional summer Chinook is being landed as well (we put a 35 pounder in the boat last Friday).

My best results have been fishing with red U-20 Flatfish and spinners." **Pro guide Jim Stevenson (503-881-5289)** reports, "had one trip on Columbia, Davis bar, nice 23 lb summer Chinook, saw no other fish caught and very little pressure, small brass spinner caught the fish. The water is very warm, approaching 70 degrees."

Anglers are still targeting salmon in the gorge and in the Troutdale area. Troutdale area fishers are having the most consistent luck but these salmon fisheries are due to fade. Steelheaders in the know- that is, ones that know what lanes the fish travel in through the gorge, are scoring good results now that flows have dropped. Small spinners and plugs are taking fish but warm water certainly keeps fish more motivated in the faster flows and at the mouths of the cooler tributaries.

Sturgeon anglers are still finding success for oversized fish in the gorge but quality baits are harder to come by. **Pro guide Trevor Storlie (503-307-5601)** reports floater shad are present in good numbers one day and hard to find the next. He landed 5 oversized fish for a full day's effort on 7/28 and reported guides down to Camas were catching fish. Action should improve dramatically when the sanctuary opens up on August 1st. Wind has been a factor in success.

Ocean trollers out of the mouth of the Columbia have been struggling to get their fish. Effort remains relatively low and harsh NW winds have been keeping many sport boats at bay. Action has been consistent both north and south of the entrance but boats are averaging less than a fish per rod. The big minus tide series has kept boats from crossing the bar early in the morning when the bite has been best. Couple this with a large wind chop and ground swell and not many people are having a great time fishing for salmon out there.

Catch and release fishing for sturgeon remains excellent for fish in the 3 to 5 foot range downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. Sand shrimp is clearly the bait of choice but anchovies is working too. Some guides continue to find success using fresh and frozen herring as well. Effort is extremely low for this fishery which is contributing to the high success rates.

Crabbing in the lower Columbia remains poor. One guide put out 6 pots for the entire tide only to get about a dozen keepers. The crab outside are mostly in a softshell state. Razor clamming remains closed not just because of standard regulation but due to increased levels of domoic acid. The closure has extended southward to Cape Lookout just south of Netarts Bay.

The Guide's Forecast – Action for summer steelhead should be the best thing going- especially for boaters this week on the lower Columbia. Boaters working the river will have a distinct advantage over bank anglers this week as we enter a weaker tide series over the weekend. The modest flows will not concentrate migrating steelhead close to the beaches like they do in the swifter flows of a

minus tide series. Boaters working the cooler waters of the tributaries will fare the best results and effort is on the rise at the mouth of the Cowlitz. Nearly 50 boats were witnessed there on the 28th but it was reported that nearly 50 fish were taken that day! This fishery will remain consistent well into August and salmon will start showing up in better numbers in about 3 weeks.

Anglers should write off summer Chinook now but consistent anglers working the gorge and the Troutdale areas will argue they have another week of fishing.

Sturgeon anglers in the gorge will rejoice in the opening of the sanctuary on August 1st. Previously, anglers were restricted to Marker 85 downstream of Beacon Rock but the opener will allow for fishing to the deadline just downstream of Bonneville Dam. Fishing for oversized fish should see a nice shot in the arm as the faster flows will enable anglers to fish without the wind factor. These oversized fish will be seeking faster flows where food sources will be more readily available. The catch and keep fishery closes on August 1st so any legal sized sturgeon must be released unharmed.

Sturgeon enthusiasts will be disappointed if they don't take advantage of the great sturgeon opportunities in the estuary. Although NW winds are taking some of the fun out of the sails of anglers in the afternoon, action is great downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. The shallow flats of Desdemona Sands is producing good results using sand shrimp but you'll need to wait until the 2nd half of outgoing tide for those fish to flush off the flats and onto your baits. Some areas out of the Tongue Point area are producing as well and the softer tides will give anglers some deep water opportunity as well.

Offshore, weather forecasts are not encouraging but wind and swell is forecasted to subside slightly by Saturday. Of course, the Friday/Saturday closure will keep people off the water but Sunday may be an option as strong outgoing tides will soften for an easier bar crossing and seas may be more tolerable by then. The earlier you can get out there after the salmon, the easier it will be to possibly obtain a limit. The CR Buoy continues to be the go-to spot but anglers may expect some better opportunities for Chinook north of the Columbia River entrance.

A recent teleconference between NOAA Fisheries, the Pacific Fishery Management Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and recreational fishers resulted in a change in the regulations for the salmon fishery offshore out of the Columbia (Leadbetter Pt., WA to Cape Falcon, OR) from Sunday through Thursday to seven days a week as of August 11th. In addition, the daily limit will be two salmon, either Chinook, finclipped coho or one of each as of that date. These decision were made due to the limited opportunity boaters have had this year due to rough bar and ocean conditions.

Buoy 10 opens on August 1st but not too many anglers are anxious to get after the fish. Run sizes are good for Chinook but both Chinook and coho will likely not show in any great numbers until the middle of the month. Anglers will be greeted with high tide in the early morning so the downstream troll on the Washington side would be a good bet but concentrate mostly in the water downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. Don't expect good results but once in a while, we get surprised.

FYI to anglers, the Departments of Oregon and Washington fisheries have modeled the proposed commercial fisheries to be decided on 7/27:

An early to mid-August salmon fishery during the first two weeks of August (modeled dates were **August 3, 8, 10, or August 3, 7, 9**). May have to move the lower Boundary to Zone 2 or the Astoria-Megler Bridge. Mesh size is 8-inch minimum and area is Zones 1-5. Goal is to have all five Zones open during this fishery. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.19% (5% of the total commercial impacts). **Total catch expectation is 4,100 Chinook.**

The mid-August salmon fishery is expected to occur during **the week of August 14th** (modeled

dates were **August 13, 14, 17**). Mesh size is 8-inch minimum. Area is Zone 1 above the Astoria-Megler Bridge if possible on August 13, and Zone 2 or Zone 3 through Zone 5 after that. The URB allocation for this fishery is 0.27% (7% of the total commercial impacts). **Total catch expectation is 4,100 Chinook.**

The late August fishery is expected to occur beginning the **week of August 20 or August 27**. Mesh size is **9-inch** minimum and area is Zones 4-5. The URB allocation for this fishery is 0.56% (14% of the total commercial impact). **Total catch expectation is 3,600 Chinook.**

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – The slow, warm water in the lower Willamette holds hope only for bass fishers. The shad and springer fishery is wrapped and sturgeon fishing is in the doldrums.

With Detroit Reservoir full at the headwaters of the North Santiam, the flows in the river are swift but the color and temperature of the water is encouraging. Over 1,500 steelhead have been trucked down river from the fish trap at Mehama to provide anglers with an additional opportunity to catch them.

The Guide's Forecast – The lower Willamette closes to retention on August 1st which means Saturday, July 29th will be the last to try for a keeper. Catch-and-keep sturgeon fishing will resume in October.

Tempt steelhead in the North Santiam with small baits or lures. Recently, a pink and white jig presented under a float has been effective. Bank anglers have easy access to fine water and good numbers of summers at Packsaddle and Minto Parks.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Daily fish counts are all over the chart at Faraday Dam on the Clackamas River. Over 50 hatchery Chinook on Monday this week followed by 11 on Tuesday, July 25th. Prior to that, four days of zero fish. It's been single digits or none since the first week of July. Dry weather is evident with the Clackamas flows about as low and crystalline as this river ever gets. Anglers have remarked about the slow season on the Clackamas River but a record of nearly 6,500 spring Chinook have returned to the hatchery facility. Recycling of summer steelhead is ongoing weekly. A few have been caught near McIver at dawn.

Summer heat has taken its seasonal toll on the Sandy River, causing it to run milky/gray, the trademark of a tributary with a glacial origin. Steelheaders are having a tough time of it here. A couple of anglers have reported fish right below Cedar Creek, but there are better options for steelhead.

North Coast District Fishing Report – Much like the mouth of the Columbia, rough seas are keeping anglers from fishing on the large remaining quota out of Garibaldi. More than half the quota remains but the fishery will shut down after July 31st. Prior to the rough ocean, boats were taking limits or near limits in the waters NW of the Tillamook Bay entrance. Experienced anglers were seeking the 54 degree water and finding it at the 300 foot line. Trolled herring (frozen) were taking mostly coho- a mix of hatchery and wild with hatchery making up a stronger component and an occasional Chinook. The justification for the July 31st closure comes from the northerly migration of hatchery coho destined for the Columbia River. These are the fish the department wishes to target in order to protect other weaker runs of fish. The ocean will remain open to Chinook but check the regulations for the area you are fishing in. Selective harvest regulations relax in most areas beginning August 1st.

Nehalem Bay anglers are still looking for consistent action. An occasional adult is being taken from Wheeler to the jaws. Herring and spinners are responsible for the bulk of the catch but most anglers are patiently waiting for better results. Bobber tossers further upriver are taking a rare fish.

On steelhead fishing, **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** has this to report: "Fishing in the river is dead. After the heavy heat, there is little water in the creek, and the bite is totally off. Crabbing around here has been great with some nice big and healthy ocean crabs, with an occasional soft one here and there. Fall is right around the corner, so we are focused on that scene now."

Crabbing in Tillamook and Netarts Bays is picking up nicely. Some of the better catches in the last several months are beginning to show. Limits can be had for anglers utilizing the 3 trap per person rule and working the gear with fresh bait often.

An occasional keeper sturgeon is still being taken from the Tillamook River. Effort has dropped off but those persistent are witnessing some results using sand or mud shrimp for bait. Herring usually show up in small numbers in the Tillamook tidewater this time of year and would make excellent bait for those willing to jig for them.

The Guide's Forecast – There are only a few days left to pursue ocean salmon out of Garibaldi. If the seas subside over the weekend, fishing could be pretty good. Check bar and ocean conditions before putting out all the effort to go ocean fishing. Trolled herring will be the ticket and look for 54 to 56 degree water before fishing. Fish shallow in the early morning but drop those baits deeper as the morning progresses. Even Chinook will be close to the surface in the early morning.

Nehalem Bay should start to show more promise as we enter the month of August. Herring trollers will rule the roost fishing their plug cuts at the jaws. The softer tide series will attract upstream migrating Chinook for longer periods of the tide this week and run timing suggests things are due to break loose soon.

Drop your crab pots in the ocean if you are headed that way. Otherwise, crabbing in Tillamook and Netarts Bays justifies a trip in itself to our coastal estuaries. Razor clamming has closed along the ocean beaches north of Cape Lookout due to elevated levels of domoic acid.

Summer steelheaders will have a challenge this week as warm, sunny weather will hamper success.

Central & South Coast Reports – Trollers launching out of Newport and Depoe Bay have been experiencing a pretty reliable coho bite. Plug-cut herring and spinner/hootchie combos are taking fish.

Ocean salmon anglers are expected to score well for coho and Chinook out of Winchester Bay this weekend if wind and wave conditions cooperate as predicted. Offshore salmon fishing is closed South of Humbug Mountain. Rock fishing is producing easy, early limits. Surf perch fish has remained hot and will continue so until these fish have finished producing young, at which time they'll disappear for a while. Red-tailed or pinkfin sea perch are live-bearers and it's not unusual to have them issue miniature clones of themselves when hooked. The young will survive just fine when this occurs, so get the little ones back in the water promptly. Then invite the parents home for dinner.

While the selective offshore coho season is scheduled to close at the end of August, it may be extended if the quota doesn't fill. It should be extended. Since only hatchery coho may be retained, that means these are our fish. We paid for them with our license and tag fees.

Bass fishing is very good on the South Umpqua and in the mainstem above Scottsburg. The shad run is about over here. Summer steelheaders are finding fair to good action particularly early in the day. Oversized sturgeon continue to be caught and released below Reedsport and the occasional keeper has been landed.

Anglers have been allowed to keep both wild and hatchery Chinook as of July 15th. Trollers report mixed results and it was slow late last week although many fish exceeding the 30-pound mark have been taken. Salmon fishing in the bay will improve into August. Warm river temperatures will keep them kegged until Fall. Trollers in Rogue Bay remain challenged this week to hookup with early Fall Chinook. The operative term is 'early'. This fishery will improve into August. Steelheading is good and improving in the Grants Pass section and on the upper Rogue as a strong component of summers is on the move in excellent water and flow conditions. All manner of tackle is effective. Anglers at the Hatchery Hole are scoring the better numbers, but this area is crowded. Fishing at dawn has offered the best action of the day.

Regulations indicating that it is illegal to retain a radio-tagged salmon outside of the Columbia will no be in effect on the Siletz as of August 1st. This regulation change will allow anglers to return this expensive equipment to the ODFW. These fish are easy to spot as they have a whip antenna hanging out of their mouth and a colored plastic tag near the dorsal. In return for the transmitter and details where it was caught, the ODFW will provide information on when and where it was tagged.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411) write, " ... the steelhead fishing on the Deschutes should be picking up as 2000 steelhead a day are now going The Dalles Dam. However, yesterday PG & E raised the river levels as they declared an energy crisis (I assumed to help out California) so the river levels may be going up and down until the current heat wave is over. This means that anglers need to secure their boats with some long ropes and not camp too close to the river. I am not sure how the fluctuating river levels will affect the fishing, but my guess is that will slow down the bite."

Northwest Trout – In the Willamette Valley, Breitenbush River, Carmen Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Upper McKenzie River, Quartzville Creek, Salmon Creek and North Fork Santiam River are scheduled to be planted with trout.

Washington fishing reports:

Pro guide Brad Shride (206-463-9230 or 877-483-0047) reports:

Things got a bit better this past week in Area 11 Tacoma-Vashon Island for Kings and Silvers. We fished this past week 4 out of the seven days. Wednesday and Thursday we were on the Cowlitz River fishing for Steelhead.

Bait has been plentiful lately all around the Clay-banks, Pt Dalco, Slag Pile and along Owens Beach area. We kept our gear pretty simple this past week. A straight cut plug herring off the downrigger and a Green Hot-Spot flasher with a Green/White Coyote Spoon or a green Spatter Back Squid or a cut plug herring seemed to put these migrating Salmon into the boat. I like to tip my squid and Coyote Spoons with a little cured herring strip.

We trolled from first light at 25 feet, 35 feet, 55 feet to 90 feet and as the morning wore on and the light got brighter we dropped a rig or two all the way to the bottom. Only one fish this past week was caught below that 120 foot depth for us. I usually keep my gear pretty simple this time of the year so I fished a lot of just straight cut plug herring brined in my own secret sauce about 75 feet behind the downrigger ball. The brine I use includes rock salt and Mrs. Stewarts bluing but I cannot

tell what the rest of the brine is. Try different scents to satisfy your own curiosity. Scent works! If you do not use scent on your plugs, lures, spoons flashers etc. then you are not giving yourself that full advantage.

Friday we managed to hook into some pretty nice fish. We lost one very nice King but managed to boat a King about 8 pounds and a Silver about 4 pounds. The King we lost was 30 feet on the downrigger in 140 feet of water just off the Slag Pile. The Silver was hooked on a flasher squid combo at about 60 feet in the same general area. The 8 pound feeder King was caught on a straight cut plug herring at Owens beach in 150 feet of water at 90 feet on the downrigger. All of Fridays fish were caught before 9:00 AM.

Saturday we hit a King just off the Slag Pile in about 110 feet of water with the Downrigger set at 25 feet. At 5:30 in the morning on a straight cut plug herring we hit a very nice King. Mike was the lucky fisherman. When Mike saw the rod pull off the downrigger he jumped for it and the fight was on. This King went straight for the bottom so I knew it was a nice fish. When this King came to the surface and rolled over and I saw his tail I knew it was a big fish. Three times he came up and then went back to the deep. We finally netted it with high fives and a lot of WOW"s. Way to go Mike! This is the biggest I have heard of this year so far and the biggest checked that we know of. As in the picture this migrating King was officially weighed in at the Boathouse Marina and tipped the scales at 29 pounds 9 ounces. We had another fish on just after that with the Hot Spot flasher Squid combo in the same area and down 67 feet on the rigger. Turned out to be a nice 4 pound Silver. Just after that we managed a 7 pound feeder King on the Flasher Squid combo again. One more bite after that and then nothing. All these fish hit first thing in the morning just after daylight until about 7:00 AM. After that it was over.

Sunday was about the same scenario but not quite as lucrative for us but there was an early morning bite just the same. We managed a very nice 11 pound King in the same area this morning on a straight cut plug herring down about 54 feet on the downrigger in 130 feet of water at the Slag Pile. Nice fish! This was Jim Griswold the father of my wife Amy from Vashon Island. It all happened from first light to about 7:00 AM. Bite over! Get out there early especially with early morning tide as you double your chances.

Monday was the same, two fish, one 5 pound Silver at 65 feet and one 10 pound King in 70 feet along Owens Beach and the Slag Pile trolling shallow in the morning and deeper as the morning wears on. Same set up was the Flasher combo and straight cut plug herring.

Pinch your barbs, try to be courteous to others with the crowds out now and give the guy some room if he has a fish on. Stick to the rules. This fishery is for all of us so please do your part. Start early as the more successful fisherman start at 4:45 AM or daylight and some are done as you are just getting out. Keep your bait fresh, check and change your baits often because we are seeing a ton of little shakers out there right now. The Silvers in our area along the Slag Pile and Owens Beach seem to be deeper all the way to 90 feet. I check and change only one rod at a time. I try different depths and stay in the area of the bait if you can. Most of these fish are traveling/migrating fish and are not bottom dwellers as Blackmouth are. Good luck and see you on the water.

From the WDF&W Weekender Report:

[North Puget Sound](#)

Anglers will have a chance to catch some **sockeye** salmon on Lake Washington after all. An unexpected three-day recreational fishery for sockeye in the lake is set to begin July 29, and last through July 31.

After a couple weeks of higher-than-anticipated sockeye counts at the Ballard Locks, state and tribal salmon co-managers agreed to update the strength of the Lake Washington sockeye run to about

411,000 salmon. The new sockeye projection, which includes expected returns through August, is well above the spawning escapement goal of 350,000 salmon.

"This summer's sockeye return to Lake Washington is larger than anticipated and strong enough to allow for an exciting recreational fishery," said Tim Flint, WDFW salmon resource manager. "This is a one-of-a-kind fishery."

Fishing will be allowed from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. The daily limit is two sockeye, measuring at least 15 inches. All other salmon must be immediately released unharmed. No fishing will be allowed within 100 yards of the floating bridges. Waters within 1,000 feet of the mouth of the Cedar River in Renton also will be closed to all fishing.

Anglers must carry a freshwater or combination fishing license and salmon catch record card. Any salmon that is not released must be immediately recorded on the catch record card. Under freshwater fishing rules, anglers may only fish with one rod and must stop fishing once they have reached their personal daily limit.

Elsewhere in the region, anglers only have a few days left to hook a sockeye on the Baker River. That fishery, which is open from the mouth of the river to the Highway 20 Bridge at Concrete, wraps up July 31. The daily limit is two sockeye at least 12 inches in length.

On the Skykomish River, the **spring chinook** fishery also remains open through the end of July. The Sky is open from the Lewis Street Bridge in Monroe to the Wallace River, and has a daily limit of two hatchery chinook at least 12 inches in length.

On the saltwater, resident **coho** fishing is good from Edmonds down to Tacoma, said Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound recreational salmon manager for WDFW. "Anglers are catching a good number of 2- to 5-pound coho in Marine Area 10, especially near Jefferson Head and in the Elliott Bay fishery," Thiesfeld said.

Recent creel checks at the Shilshole and Armeni boat ramps give some indication of angler success. On July 21, 384 anglers checked 39 coho at Armeni, while 130 anglers accounted for 37 coho at Shilshole. The following day, 379 anglers brought home 35 coho at Armeni, and 120 anglers checked 96 coho at the Shilshole ramp.

The **chinook** bite in Elliott Bay also is decent, said Thiesfeld. "Overall, the start of the salmon fishery in Elliott Bay is going well," he said. "It's much better than last year, which was a pretty down year."

The Inner Elliott Bay fishery is open Friday through Sunday each week with a two-salmon daily limit. Anglers fishing outside of the Elliott Bay fishery in Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) have a daily limit of two salmon, with no minimum size limit, and must release chinook salmon. Beginning Aug. 1, anglers fishing in Marine Area 10, including the Elliott Bay and Sinclair Inlet fisheries, must release chum salmon.

The Tulalip Bay "bubble" salmon fishery continues to be slow. Checks at the Everett Ramp showed 127 anglers with only four chinook July 21, and 272 anglers brought home 12 chinook the following day. "This is usually when the bubble hits its stride, but it has yet to heat up," Thiesfeld said. "We hope it picks up soon."

Anglers fishing the Tulalip bubble are reminded that the fishery is open each week from Friday through noon Monday and runs through Sept. 25. There is a two-salmon daily limit and anglers must release any chinook measuring less than 22 inches.

Another option is Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), where anglers have hooked a few chinook. On

July 21, fish checks at the Coronet Bay public ramp showed 17 anglers hauled in four chinook, while 69 anglers checked in nine chinook the following day. Anglers have a daily limit of two salmon, and can only keep one chinook, which must measure at least 22 inches in length. Beginning Aug. 1, anglers in Marine Area 7 must release wild coho and chum salmon.

Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) also is open for salmon, and beginning Aug. 1, fishing opportunities in the region will increase when marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) open.

Before heading out, anglers are encouraged to check out the regulations for each fishery in WDFW's *2006/2007 Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

Instead of dropping a hook, drop a pot. **Crab** fishing is open in marine areas 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10 and the southern and eastern portions of Marine Area 7 Wednesday through Saturday each week. See WDFW's sport-crabbing website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/>) for more information.

To participate in the fishery, all crabbers age 15 or older must obtain and carry a current Washington fishing license. In addition, all crab fishers - regardless of age - must obtain and carry a catch record card and a crab licensing endorsement to fish for crab in Puget Sound. The crab endorsement costs \$3 for crabbers age 15 and over, but is free to fishers under age 15.

The **coonstripe** and **pink shrimp** fishery also remains open throughout the region, and shrimpers can drop a pot in marine areas 8-1, 8-2, the northern and central portions of area 7 and a portion of area 9. Details on the fishery, such as the required minimum mesh size and maximum fishing depths, are available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/>.

Fishing for **trout** at numerous lakes, rivers and streams also remains a possibility for anglers throughout the region. For more rules and details on the trout fishery and other freshwater fisheries, anglers should check WDFW's *006/2007 Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

[South Sound/Olympic Peninsula](#)

Salmon fishing off the Pacific coast is picking up, according to Wendy Beeghley, WDFW fish biologist, who noted that the quality and size of the fish continue to be top rate. And beginning Aug. 11, salmon fishing on the coast will open seven days a week and anglers will be allowed to keep two chinook as part of the two-fish daily limit.

During the week of July 17, charters fishing out of Ilwaco (Marine Area 1) posted some of the best catch rates on the coast, averaging 1.5 salmon per angler. Private boats scored about one fish per angler, mostly coho. Charter boats fishing out of Westport (Marine Area 2) caught fewer salmon - just under one per rod - but more than half of those fish were chinook. Both areas are open on a Sunday-through-Thursday schedule until Aug. 11, when they switch to seven days per week.

Anglers fishing out of LaPush (Marine Area 3) and Neah Bay (Marine Area 4) also averaged about one fish per rod, mostly coho. Those areas will be open Tuesday through Saturday until Aug. 11, when the fishery opens seven days per week.

The coho are good size for this time of year, averaging six to seven pounds, said Beeghley, noting that "it's typical for them to grow a pound or two a week now." The derby winner in Westport on July 24 was 29 pounds, "but I've seen even bigger ones than that," she said.

Catch rates for salmon are also improving in Marine Area 11 (Vashon Island to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge) said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. "The action has definitely picked up, and right on schedule," he said. For instance, at Point Defiance Boathouse, a WDFW creel check on July 19

measured a catch rate of one fish for every two rods. The next day, it was about one chinook for every 1.4 rods. At Narrows Marina on July 23, anglers were reeling in a chinook every 1.8 rods. Fishing in Marine Area 11 is open daily. Commencement Bay remains closed to salmon fishing until Aug. 12.

Salmon fishing is also open in marine areas 10 (Bremerton), 12 (Hood Canal, south of Ayock Point only), 13 (South Puget Sound), 5 (Sekiu/Pillar Point), and 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca) on a daily basis, with a daily limit of two salmon. Chinook release is required in marine areas 5, 6, and 10, except marked, hatchery chinook may be retained west of Ediz Hook. Chinook also may be retained in Sinclair Inlet. Fishing has been fair on Hood Canal, said Thiesfeld, but has slowed down in the South Sound and the Strait.

Anglers will get another chance to catch **halibut** starting Aug. 4, when Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) opens for Pacific halibut fishing three days per week - Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Fisheries managers determined there were enough fish to re-open the fishery for one weekend. After a catch estimate, they will announce whether the fishery will open for a second weekend in August. The WDFW website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/creel/halibut/index.htm>) and recreational fishing hotline (360-902-2500) will be updated with the new season information as soon as it is available.

Or how about a big, meaty **tuna**? Anglers fishing 40 to 50 miles offshore from Ilwaco have been reeling in lots of them, according to Wendy Beeghley. "That's actually pretty close in for tuna fishing," said Beeghley, who heard of one charter that averaged 14 fish per person, and private boats getting 10 fish for every two-to-three people. There is no bag limit for tuna, which can really fill up the dinner table. "They average 14-15 pounds and that's almost all meat," said Beeghley.

With temperatures breaking heat records in some parts of the region, anglers can generally improve their odds by moving from lakes to streams, said Hal Michael, WDFW fish biologist. "Even the so called 'warm-water fish' don't like this weather," he said. "People are fishing deeper. Going out in the very early morning and late evenings is best." But given it's a hot time of year, anglers should consider heading for cooler areas, higher elevations and moving waters. Michaels noted, for example, that he's heard the slower moving sections of the Chehalis River have been producing good numbers of **smallmouth bass** and **rock bass**.

Weather shouldn't be an issue for the youngsters lining up to reel in a jumbo rainbow trout at the Kids Fishing Pond at the Thurston County Fair Aug. 2-6. The WDFW pond will be set up inside a big tent for catch-and-release from noon-2:30 and 4:00-6:00 each day. Anglers age 14 and under can participate.

Crab fishing is open seven days per week in marine areas 4 (Neah Bay east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 (Sekiu) and 13 (south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge) through Feb. 28. Most other areas of Puget Sound are open for crab fishing Wednesdays through Saturdays, including marine areas 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 11 (Tacoma/Vashon) and 12 (Hood Canal). In addition, these areas will be open the entire Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-4, before closing for a catch assessment. Fishing will resume in areas where the catch quota has not been met, on dates to be announced by WDFW.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five male Dungeness crab with a shell width measuring at least 6¼ inches, plus six red rock crab of either sex with a shell width of at least 5 inches. All undersized crab, female Dungeness crab and all softshell crab of either sex must be returned to the water.

To participate in the fishery, all crab fishers age 15 or older must obtain and carry a current Washington fishing license. In addition, all crabbers - regardless of age - must obtain and carry a catch record card and a crab licensing endorsement to fish for crab in Puget Sound.

Those fishing in Hood Canal are also asked to report any Dungeness crab bearing a bright green tag on the underside of their shell. Sport or tribal fishers who catch a crab bearing the distinctive green tag are asked to call the department toll free at 866-859-8439 and report the tag number along with the date, location, and depth of capture. More information on crab fishing is available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/>.

Southwest Washington:

The popular Buoy 10 **salmon** fishery opens Aug. 1, when new salmon-fishing rules also take effect in many other areas of the Columbia River and its tributaries. Some of those regulations are more restrictive, others less, so anglers are advised to check the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) before casting a line.

While the Buoy 10 salmon fishery usually doesn't peak until late August, it can produce some nice fish right from the get-go, said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist. "If conditions are right, anglers can hook up with some adult chinook and ocean-sized coho right from the start," Hymer said. "It's tailor-made for salmon anglers with boats that are too small for ocean fishing."

The fishery, which extends from Buoy 10 at the mouth of the Columbia to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line east of Astoria, will be open seven days per week. The daily limit is two salmon, only one of which can be a chinook, from Aug. 1 through Oct. 31. Anglers can keep any chinook - fin-clipped or not - so long as it is at least 24 inches long. They can also retain any adipose-clipped coho measuring at least 16 inches, but must release any wild coho, sockeye or chum they catch.

The Buoy 10 fishery also has other attractions. Barbed hooks are allowed, and anglers may fish with either a saltwater, freshwater or combination license. "Party fishing" rules will be in effect, allowing all anglers aboard a boat to fish until the daily limit for all licensed and juvenile fishers aboard has been reached. And regulations allow jigging for anchovies and other baitfish, using up to three treble hooks or nine single-point hooks, not to exceed 3/8 inches between the point and shank.

Shore-bound anglers also have some options. Fishing off the North Jetty, where anglers can cast in either direction, is open seven days per week when the fishery for either Buoy 10 or Marine Area 1 is open. Barbed hooks are allowed, and the daily limit and size restrictions follow the most liberal regulation in either area.

Last year, anglers caught 9,223 chinook and 6,878 hatchery coho by the time the Buoy 10 fishery closed Dec. 31. This year's fishery is expected to be similar, except with fewer chinook and more coho predicted, Hymer said. "But we'll have a better idea once the fishery is up and running," he said.

On the same day the Buoy 10 fishery gets under way, fishing rules will change on several other areas of the Columbia and its tributaries. Changes effective Aug. 1 include:

No more than one adult chinook salmon - clipped or unclipped - as part of the daily bag limit for anglers fishing the mainstem Columbia River upstream to Bonneville Dam. Two adult chinook - clipped or unclipped - may be retained in the Deep, Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis (including the North Fork), Green, Toutle (including the North Fork), Washougal, Wind and White Salmon rivers, and in Drano Lake.

Night closures and non-buoyant lure restrictions on the Columbia mainstem from Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam. Non-buoyant lure restrictions also will be in effect on sections of the Wind, White Salmon and Klickitat Rivers as well as Drano Lake.

A requirement to release wild, unmarked coho from mouth of the Columbia upriver to the Hood River Bridge and on many of the tributaries noted above. For a river-by-river listing of regulation

changes effective Aug. 1, see the *Fishing in Washington* rule pamphlet.

Closure of the hatchery spring chinook season on the Grays and Elochoman rivers. The last day of spring chinook fishing on those rivers is July 31.

While anglers are still picking up some summer chinook below Bonneville Dam, catch rates have been best for **hatchery steelhead**. During the week of July 17, boat anglers fishing from the mouth of the Cowlitz River downstream averaged one steelhead for every three rods. The Cowlitz, itself, is still the best-producing tributary for steelhead, but those feeding the Bonneville Pool should start heating up as the Columbia mainstem continues to get warmer, Hymer said.

Meanwhile, anglers hoping to take home a **sturgeon** from the lower Columbia are running out of time. The fishery from the Wauna power lines upstream to Marker 85 is currently open to sturgeon retention Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, but switches to catch-and-release upstream to Bonneville Dam Aug. 1. It will next open to sturgeon retention Oct. 5. Catch-and-keep sturgeon fisheries below the power lines and in the Bonneville Pool are closed for the year.

As recent thermometer readings would suggest, this is high season for warmwater fish. Boat anglers fishing the Bonneville Pool have been averaging nine **bass** per rod. Those fishing The Dalles Pool have been averaging three **walleye** per rod, and those fishing the John Day Pool have been scoring an average of six bass and one walleye per rod.

Bank anglers have also been reeling in some **landlocked salmon** at Riffe Lake behind Mossyrock Dam. A recent creel check found that 12 anglers had caught 16 coho and nine chinook. They released nine of the coho and all but one of the chinook.

Eastern Washington:

Summer heat is forcing anglers higher and fish deeper. The north end of the region includes many small, deep lakes at higher elevation with somewhat cooler air temperatures that make for more comfortable fishing. "But you still need to fish very early in the day or late in the evening," said WDFW District Fish Biologist Curt Vail. "The water is still warm and fish hide in deep, shaded water during the heat of the day. They're more actively feeding at night and into the early hours of morning when they can see better. So some of the best fishing is at night or just before dawn, when the skies are clear."

Vail said that Davis Lake in Ferry County and Yocum Lake in Pend Oreille County are producing nice **cutthroat trout**. Summit Lake in Stevens County has nice **rainbow trout** and Elbow Lake just to the west has **eastern brook trout**. Elbow Lake, at just 48 acres, is best suited for float tube or shore fishing. At about 4,300 feet elevation, Big Meadow Lake west of Lone in Pend Oreille County is a good bet for reeling in 12-inch and larger rainbows. The Little Pend Oreille chain of lakes, from Frater and Leo lakes in Pend Oreille County to Heritage, Thomas, Gillette and Sherry lakes in Stevens County, are producing rainbows in the 10-inch range and **tiger trout** up to 14 inches.

Catch-and-release fishing for rainbows up to a pound and a half and 17.5 inches long continues to be good in the evenings and early mornings at Starvation Lake near the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge southeast of Colville. Vail noted that water temperatures near the bottom of shallow Starvation Lake are over 70 degrees now, so daytime fishing there is a bust. In addition to being catch-and-release only, Starvation has selective gear regulations which includes no motorized boats. Fishing at McDowell Lake, also on the refuge, is slow since milfoil treatment was completed earlier this month. Vail said McDowell will be drawn down soon to prepare for a fishery rehabilitation treatment this fall.

Curlew Lake near Republic in Ferry County continues to produce 10- to 12-inch rainbows and near-state record size **tiger muskies**, which must be at least 36 inches long to keep. Many of the

northeast district's fishing lakes within the Colville National Forest have U.S. Forest Service campgrounds and other facilities. For more information see <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/forest/maps/>.

Vail also noted that the Pend Oreille River is producing good catches of large **northern pike**. The river is also a good bet for **largemouth bass**, especially from Lone to Box Canyon Dam, and **smallmouth bass** in the Metaline Falls area. Although not at a high elevation, Waitts Lake in southern Stevens County continues to be a good evening spot to catch rainbows and **brown trout**, plus some **largemouth bass** and **yellow perch**. The public access site on Waitts is closed through Aug. 13 for reconstruction work, but three resorts offer access. **Kokanee** at Loon Lake, also in southern Stevens County, is pretty much a "nighttime show," Vail said, not only because of the daytime heat, but Jet Ski and other non-fishing boat traffic disturbance.

North Central Washington:

Chinook salmon fishing recently opened on the Okanogan River from the Highway 97 Bridge near the mouth to the Highway 97 Bridge just south of Oroville, and on the lower Similkameen River from the mouth upstream to the county road bridge in Oroville. This extension of the ongoing upper Columbia River and lower Okanogan River fishery is due to a strong return of summer chinook, which are stable and not listed under the Endangered Species Act. The daily limit is six chinook salmon, with no more than two adult fish. All coho and sockeye must be released. On the Similkameen River, everything except salmon must be released. Non-buoyant lure restrictions and night closures are in effect for all species on both rivers. The season runs through Sept. 15.

WDFW District Fish Biologist Bob Jateff said the Methow River and tributaries should be good **trout** fishing through August as the water level continues to decline. He reminds anglers that the Twisp and Chewuch river sections, along with the Methow River section from Foghorn Dam to Weeman Bridge, will be closed to fishing starting Aug. 16. The remaining section of the Methow River from Foghorn Dam (near Winthrop) downstream to the Lower Burma Road Bridge (near Methow) will remain open until Sept. 31. "Catch-and-release and selective gear rules apply to these areas and anglers should check the pamphlet carefully because there are sections of each river that are closed to fishing of any kind," he said.

Jateff also noted Okanogan County's Leader Lake is still producing good catches of **bluegill** and **crappie**. "Leader is a good lake for kids," Jateff said. "It has excellent shore access and the fish can be easily caught with a worm and bobber. There's also a good boat launch site for those who want to fish the upper end of the lake where shore access is more limited."

South Central Washington:

Recent hot weather has been discouraging lowland lake fishing and encouraging anglers to head for the mountains. WDFW Fish Biologist Jim Cummins reports most mountain trails are snow free, except at the very highest elevations. "But bugs are abundant," he said. "So in most areas insect repellent is a necessity." Cummins said alpine lakes should be producing **cutthroat**, **rainbow** and **eastern brook trout** "until the snow flies this fall." For general high lake fishing information and potential hike-in and higher elevation fishing destinations, anglers can look at the "Trout Fishing in High Lakes" publication at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/outreach/fishing/highlake.htm> or the Southcentral region's high lakes recent fish stocking records at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regions/reg3/highlakes.pdf>. "Just remember that many lakes have natural reproduction and do not require stocking," he said. "So don't limit your fishing choices to the stocking list alone."

Kokanee anglers should find cooperative fish at Rimrock, Bumping, Keechelus and Kachess reservoirs. Cummins notes that Rimrock and Bumping are producing the best fishing now. "As water temperatures warm, kokanee will drop deeper into the water column," he said. "Successful anglers

will troll, either using downriggers or one to two ounces of lead. Fish will likely be 20 to 40 feet deep."

Rivers and streams have finally dropped down to summer low flows and should be producing **rainbow, cutthroat** and **eastern brook trout**. WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager Perry Harvester notes that some streams with glacial headwaters, like the upper Cowlitz, White, and Klickitat, will be turbid and un-fishable for a while longer, due to heavy glacial till from snow melt. Many rivers and streams are managed with low catch limits and under selective gear rules. **Bull trout** and **salmon** are off limits and must be released if caught. Some areas are closed to protect bull trout. Anglers should review fishing regulations before fishing.

Reader Email

So, when a professional fishing guide does go on vacation, what do you suppose he does? TGF's own **pro guide, Bob Rees** wrote to us from op North, "What a vacation! Can I write about fishing in Alaska!? Here is a 63 pounder we landed on the 19th on the lower Kenai River. Stan Lintner's personal best. Good times....."



Got a story to tell or information to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: drees@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: SailCat@SailCat.com

Random Links - Summer Video Edition -

Hammerhead attacks Tarpon:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjWQNwv-GJ4>

Fishing - Not always as planned: *<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTTdifL-tA4>

Fish are rich in Omega 3 fatty acids: *<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=soJ45Paswto>

Tuna Popping (Advisory- Language from excited fishermen):

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0HZhi-zArY&mode=related&search=>

Stupid Boat Tricks

WEGO Kite Tube, the video:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3662795352661557160&q=kite>



WEGO Kite Tube, the recall:

<http://www.sportsstuff.com/news/07-13-06/index.shtml>

Follow-up - Having been recalled and withdrawn from the market following a number of injuries and deaths, WEGO has lowered the price and now offers free shipping. Sad:

<http://www.waterriders.com/Sportsstuff-Wego-Kite-Tube-P194C23.aspx>

Weekly Quote – "They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream, but that's not quite it. What happens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the grand scheme of things, and suddenly they're just not such a big deal anymore." - John Gierach

GOOD LUCK!