

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **April 20th – April 26th, 2007**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- A total of 514 spring Chinook had crossed at Willamette Falls as of April 16th. Winter steelhead counts were 4592 and summer steelhead topped the 600 mark. Water temperature at the falls was down to 50 degrees on April 17th. Lower Multnomah Channel produced springer limits for some trollers over the weekend. Sellwood has been most productive early in the day. Keeper sturgeon have been taken near Sauvies Island.

Pro guide David Johnson (503-201-4292) reports taking a few springers on prawn spinners and remarked about the low number of summer steelhead crossing the Falls.

Pro guide Bill Kremers (541 754 6411) has taken a few on green label herring, mentioning how hard it is to find that size.

Although the Columbia River from I-5 to Buoy 10 closed on Sunday, improved catches- including a surge in "snow-belly" Willamette salmon reports **pro guide Brandon McGavran (360-607-1327)**, indicate improving numbers are bound for Willamette Valley fisheries. Above Bonneville Dam, the mainstem will remain open until April 30th. Over 3,000 adults have passed Bonneville, which should stimulate this fishery along with the Drano Lake and Wind River fisheries. Educate yourself on the new regulations for these fisheries.

Sturgeon fishing in the Portland to Longview stretch has improved significantly. Over a keeper per boat was recorded in the weekend creel check and fishing should remain productive in the coming weeks. Clackamas steelheading is slow to fair with no additional spring Chinook catches reported over the last week.

Water temperature in the Sandy River has yet to break out of the mid-50s. When it does, the spring Chinook fishery will get underway. Some summer steelhead are in the system now.

Steelheading is fair for wild winter steelhead and a few hatchery summers from Green's Bridge to Stayton on the North Santiam. Rains and snowmelt have increased flows. Both winter and summer steelhead are entering the South Santiam as well. **Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** suggests using sand shrimp around Jefferson on the North for summers.

Scheduled to be stocked with hatchery trout this week are Benson Lake, Bethany Pond, Blue Lake, Commonwealth Lake, Dorman Pond, Haldeman Pond, Harriet Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Mt Hood Pond, Roslyn Lake, Trojan Ponds, Alton Baker Canal, Blue River Reservoir, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, Dexter Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Foster Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Roaring River Park Pond, Timber Linn Lake and Waverly Lake.

Northwest – On the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers, steelhead were still available last week for anglers experienced in low water tactics. The lower stretch from Mills Bridge on the Wilson and 4th Bridge to 1st Bridge on the Nestucca produced the best results reports **Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** Jesse also has some of the best sardines available for all your salmon needs. Most steelhead adults are beginning to spawn but summer run fish should follow on the heels of these late winter fish although smaller numbers are expected.

The extreme tide series now upon us should produce a rare springer in upper Tillamook Bay for spinner

or herring trollers. Target these fish close to low slack but be aware sands in the upper bay have once again shifted to challenge boaters.

Crabbing and bottom fishing was good prior to the extreme tides but sturgeon fishing and clamming should be good options for weekend anglers.

Minus tides mid-morning will be helpful for the ongoing cleanup at Yaquina Bay this week. Volunteers are encouraged to assist SOLV in this annual event which will continue through Earth Day on Sunday, April 22nd.

Vernonia Pond, Nehalem Spring Lake, Alder Lake, Battle Lake, Big Creek Reservoir # 1 and #2, Buck Lake, Dune Lake, Elbow Lake, Georgia Lake and Lost Lake in Clatsop County are on the trout planting schedule this week.

Southwest – Most South coast rivers have closed to fishing.

The 2007 ocean salmon season dates were released by the ODFW on April 13th: "In the ocean from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, the salmon season is open seven-days-a-week, March 15 to Oct. 31, for all salmon except coho. For the harvest of coho, the season is open June 23 to Sept. 16, until the 50,000 coho quota has been reached. Retained coho must have a healed adipose fin-clip. Anglers are reminded that beginning May 1, the minimum size for Chinook salmon is 24-inches.

"In the ocean from Humbug Mountain, south to Horse Mountain, Calif., the salmon season is open seven-days-a-week May 5 to Sept. 4, for all salmon except coho. For the harvest of coho, the season is open June 23 – Sept. 16, or until the 50,000 coho quota between Cape Falcon and the California-Oregon border has been reached. Retained coho must have a healed adipose fin-clip."

Umpqua steelheaders are experiencing slower action as the winter steelhead run winds down river-wide. The spring Chinook run has yet to get rolling although a few were taken over the weekend and a 50-pounder was landed here on Saturday, April 7th.

Rogue River Rigs, a combination of an anchovy with a spinner blade on it's nose, are taking a few Chinook on the lower Rogue as anglers anxiously anticipate the springer run getting underway in earnest. Catches have improved as rains pushed water temperatures into the mid-50s recently. Incoming tides are the best time to target these early fish. Steelheading in the middle and upper river has been fair.

Scheduled for stocking this week are Bradley Lake, Upper and Lower Empire Lake, North and South Tenmile Lake, Medco Pond, Spaulding Pond, Fish Lake, Burma Pond, Dutch Herman, Expo Ponds and Reinhart Park Pond. Willamette Lake, Howard Prairie, Cole Rivers Lake and Hyatt Lake have been planted for the opener on April 28th.

Eastern – Pro guide Rick Arnold (541-480-1570) reports, "Bull trout fishing has slowed somewhat this past week. Numbers are down and so is size, though we did get some 7-8 Lb. fish.

"Crescent lake continues to produce a mix of browns and macks. Water temps are good for both species in the shallows. Pull plugs that imitate kokos or rainbows in 10-20 feet."

The middle Deschutes is offering fair to good fishing for trout in the Steelhead Falls stretch, but few trout are rising to insects hatching. Consequently, nymphs are more effective than dries.

Burns Pond, Diamond Lake and Krumbo Reservoir are scheduled to be planted with hatchery trout.

SW Washington – The Kalama River produced some good chinook catches last week for boaters

backbouncing eggs and shrimp. The Lewis River is due to pick up as well.

The Cowlitz River is best for steelhead with only an occasional salmon showing in the catches. Anglers working the Blue Creek stretch.

Columbia River Fishing Report – The Columbia River from Buoy 10 to Bonneville Dam is now closed. Anglers and guides fishing the lower portion of the river near Clifton Channel and Jim Crow Sands saw significant improvement in catches prior to the closure. It's a strong indication that numbers are beginning to peak. Guides working the Woodland section of the river also did well prior to the closure. **Pro guide Brandon McGavran (360-607-1327)** reports, "Landed some nice fish all last week through Sunday. On Sunday I was 4 for 5 with a 27 pounder. Started to see some Willamette fish in our catch the last couple of days. The River temp hit 51 the last day." Brandon had been getting most of his fish on the troll using herring for bait. Similarly, **pro guide Joe Salvey (503-349-1411)** reports, "great spring chinook fishing the last few days on the Columbia. It was really productive and the fish are on the way to the Willamette. The last few days in the Columbia we had been averaging 4 to 5 fish with other missed opportunities that did not hang on. We were having great success on brined green label herring using Pro Cure Brine and Brite. I fished the Multnomah Channel on Monday and we had a productive day, we went 3 for 4 with one double. That was a rare treat that produced a 22-pound fish and an 18-pound fish at the same time. Now is the time to get serious about putting some of these fresh fish on your barbecue."

With the closure of the Columbia, many guides that fished this area will transfer their effort to the Multnomah Channel or SW Washington streams. We are entering peak run timing so the best is yet to come!

Upriver, anglers have some good opportunity in the next 10 days. The river from Bonneville Dam upstream remains open to fin-clipped chinook until April 30th. Adult passage at Bonneville is climbing incrementally with over 4,000 springers passed the dam on the 17th. For the first time this season, daily passage has topped 1,000 fish and this trend should continue although the run is again tracking late.

Wind and Drano Lake fisheries should continue to see bolstered catches but check regulations for new rules this year. Anglers targeting upriver bound fish near the mouths will find improving catches but those that have consistent locations to intercept these fish in the mainstem will likely produce better catches as returns to these favored Washington tributaries is forecasted to be down this year.

It may be time to consider a stronger effort for sturgeon in the Portland to Longview stretch. Catch rates jumped significantly in the last creel survey with better than a keeper per boat reported. Numerous shakers provided action as well but we haven't seen catch rates like this for quite some time in this stretch of the river. Anglers using smelt and some with a combination of shrimp have produced some nice keepers recently.

Sturgeon action in the gorge has not improved however when usually this fishery begins to gain momentum. It won't be long until the oversize fish begin to stage for spawning and taking advantage of the shad run in the coming weeks. Effort remains low. Upstream of Bonneville, success is also sub-par but action for walleye continues to be good in the John Day Pool. Almost 2 walleye per boat were tallied in the weekend creel.

The Guide's Forecast – With the mainstem closure, anglers are scurrying to find an alternative to this gentlemen's fishery. Most will opt for the Multnomah Channel or Willamette River, which is coming into its peak season. Catches in the mainstem Columbia and lower Willamette verifies that peak season is fast approaching. This should be a productive week for Multnomah Channel and Willamette River fishers.

Anglers still wishing to target salmon in the Columbia will have to focus their efforts upstream of Bonneville Dam. Slow trolled herring or prawn spinners (which worked well downstream of I-5) should produce fair results. Larger concentrations of anglers will be targeting springers near the mouths of the Wind River and Drano Lake. Hardware and plugs will also begin to take fish more consistently when water temperatures continue to warm.

Those motivated the catch sturgeon should seriously consider the Portland to Longview fishery. Smelt are taking a good number of keepers but as the popularity of this fishery grows, anglers will have to get more innovative to produce consistent catches. With the warming of these metro rivers, shad will soon be on their way and the Willamette is the first likely spot to produce this prime bait for oversize sturgeon. Look for temperatures in the mid-fifties before you get too excited however.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Willamette water temperature has dipped to 50 degrees, effectively stalling the spring Chinook bite. Numbers of springers crossing the Falls is also depressed with the total so far this season fewer than 550. Summer steelhead are slow to cross as well in the chilly water with the YTD at 620. About 4,600 winters have been counted. Trollers are taking spring Chinook from Sellwood Bridge through the Portland Harbor and in lower Multnomah Channel. Checkers over the weekend report 22 Chinook taken by 51 boats in the stretch from Milwaukee to Sellwood with the best fishing early in the day. 33 boats took 17 springers in the West Lynn area. A total of eight legal-sized sturgeon were taken by five boats fishing at St. Johns. Keepers also came from the Oregon City and Milwaukee and near Sauvies Island.

Pro guide David Johnson (503-201-4292) reports, "I fished the O.C. are last Thursday and we ended up missing two, one on a prawn, one on a herring. Only saw five to eight fish caught for the day. That's the last time I fished. It should be picking up as we get closer to the peak.

"As for early summers showing on the Clackamas, reports tell me there's not many around and Willamette Falls only had 400 I think (you might want to confirm that) By this time of year there should be around a 100 per day passing the falls."

Anglers should be aware of a lot of reports of sea lions taking hooked fish so be on the look-out."

Pro guide Bill Kremers (541 754 6411) adds the he's "been busy teaching my fishing classes at LBCC, but I did have a springer trip on Sunday by Swan Island. Fishing was really slow, only saw two caught. We stayed thru the afternoon tide change. It paid off as we picked up a nice twenty pounder at 3 in the afternoon on the west side of the river where they are building a barge. Was fishing down at 17 feet. It hit a cut plug herring (green label-very hard to find). We will be doing some clamming at Newport tomorrow there is a large minus tide on Wednesday and Thursday."

Spring Chinook have yet to show at the trap on the South Santiam at Foster Dam. Snowmelt is likely to keep levels and flows somewhat high in the coming weeks on both the North and South Santiams.

The Guide's Forecast – The peak of the spring Chinook run on the lower Willamette will occur in late April and early May. Anglers fortunate enough to hook a springer in areas where sea lions can be seen working should avoid raising a net until the last possible moment as the pinnipeds recognize it as a signal there's an easy meal on your line. Sturgeon fishing has been decent in the Oregon City to Milwaukee area, but fight the fish sitting down if you're able as a standing angler is another dinner alert to sea lions. Smelt, herring and sand shrimp will be effective baits.

Summer steelheading and spring Chinook fishing will be worthwhile in the Santiams when counts at

Willamette Falls improve. **Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** offers this tip, "The Santiam has some summer steelhead in it. They love sandshrimp, so load up with some and hit the lower end of the North, and through the Jefferson area." Springers, which often seem to be lockjawed and in a rush to make it upstream above the Falls, often slow down and start to bite once they enter the Santiam system.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Steeheaders on the Clackamas have seen some fair fishing one day with nothing happening the next. With water temperatures only in the high 40s, spring Chinook fishing will remain very slow until the water warms several degrees. Both summer and winter steelhead are available and the water color is good. Effort and catches are very low on Eagle Creek.

A variety of baits and lures have hooked steelhead on the Sandy over the last week though it's only fair at best. The lower river holds promise for an early summer steelhead as numbers improve weekly but the water still too cold to entice spring Chinook into the system.

North Coast District Fishing Report – Steelhead fishing on the north coast streams was still an option for anglers last week. Although flows were low and visibility almost too good, fair catches came from the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. The Wilson produced best for boaters in the Mills Bridge to Sollie Smith section employing low water tactics like bobbers and worms or jigs. Stealthy side-drifters using small baits also took fish in the obvious holding water. The catches on the Wilson consisted of a few fresh late run winter fish and an occasional spawned out hatchery fish.

On the Nestucca, anglers working the upper drifts fared better early in the week with catches of late run winter fish and a few summer steelhead. **Pro guide Kent Anderson (503-550-6303)** had this to report from the previous week: "I finished up on the Nestucca on Friday (4/13). We were very lucky and found a group of fish in 1 short stretch of the lower river. We ended up landing 7 (3 wild, 3 broodstock winter and 1 fresh summer) and lost a couple others. It was a good way to end my season." More recent reports also hint at the presence of summer fish and a small showing of spring Chinook.

Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808) reports, "The Nestucca is slow. We are seeing some nice summers. Not a lot, but they are here. Over that last rain, there were several caught in the lower river, and some in Three Rivers as well. There have been a couple of Springers caught, all in the lower river, and there are some in tide water as well. Crabbing in the bay is a total waste of time. Over this next week of good rains, look for some fresh fish to hit the lower river. A bit early for a good batch of Springers, but it is not out of the realm of possibilities..." Jesse also has some of the highest quality sardines available for all your spring and fall chinook fishing needs. Give him a call!

Savvy anglers took advantage of the low tide exchanges working the north jetty inside of Tillamook Bay using jigs and herring. A mix of black rockfish and lingcod were in the catches. Crabbing also improved last week but extreme tides this week will keep success rates down for these same two fisheries.

The Guide's Forecast – It will be a week of hiatus for most of the north coast this week. Steelhead numbers will start to wane and it will be a few weeks before springer action becomes consistent. Good minus tides will be promising for sturgeon in the Bay City and South Channels. Use sand shrimp for bait.

Motivated anglers working the upper Tillamook Bay may find some success for a rare spring chinook using spinners or plugs on the screaming outgoing tide. As the tide nears low, fish (what few of them that will be present) will be motivated to bite. Herring will also be a good option in the cooler spring water temperatures. These extreme tides produce best in the upper bay.

Ocean conditions are not favorable for saltwater bottom fishers. The swell is forecasted to increase by the weekend and it could also effect razor clam diggers destined for Clatsop Beaches near Seaside. Although razor clam reaction varies on surf conditions, ideally, the lower the forecasted swell, the better the clams will "show" making harvesting easier. Diggers can often shield themselves from the big surf by digging close to Tillamook Head if the swell is coming from the south or the south jetty at the Columbia River entrance if the swell is coming from the north.

Central & South Coast Reports – Halibut fishing opens May 1st off the central Oregon coast although a few have been taken (and released) by bottom fishers recently. All-depth halibut starts on May 10th.

Most South coast rivers including the Elk, Sixes, Applegate and Chetco are closed until May 19th. Hyatt Lake and Howard Prairie are also closed at this time.

Crabbing is very slow in Yaquina Bay. Dungeness are plentiful in many Southwest bays and estuaries but are running too small to keep.

Sutherlin resident John Carnate took a large spring Chinook on the Umpqua about five miles below the Scotts Creek Boat Ramp on Saturday, April 7th. It took 45 minutes to land the salmon on 50-pound braided mainline and a 40-pound leader. Carnate was unable to get the behemoth to a state-certified scale until the following day at which time the fish weighed 52 pounds. He currently has the fish frozen whole for mounting at a later date. See **Random Links**, below for the detailed story.

Several other large spring Chinook been taken last week on the lower Umpqua from Winchester Dam downstream. A pod moved through the river on April 11th triggering hookups but Chinook action has slowed since that date. Smallmouth bass to five pounds have been taken recently. The smallie fishery will improve as the water warms. A few sturgeon have been taken recently in the estuary and additional water in the system coupled with minus tides this week should turn on the bite below Reedsport. A few striped bass have been taken recently and the striper fishery is expected to improve over the next few weeks. Crabbing in Winchester Bay has been slow.

With the winter steelhead run winding down on the Coos and Coquille, catches have been light. These rivers will remain open to steelheading through the end of April.

Steelheading on the upper Rogue is fair. with winter counts at Gold Ray Dam over the 12,000 mark. It's getting late in the season for these fish and many are spawning now, but sheer numbers of steelhead is maintaining the fishery here. The lower and middle Rogue have been very slow for springers with high water hampering efforts. Most years it's heating up by this time, but a break in the weather is needed this season to put the river in shape.

While few anglers are trying for salmon offshore, one boat brought in the fist Chinook of the year to the Port of Charleston over the weekend.

Not since 1990 has such a generous and promising ocean salmon season been available to Southern Oregon anglers. Over 120 uninterrupted days will be offered in the Klamath Management Zone which stretches from Humbug Mountain to the California border. The Chinook season opens May 5th and closes September 4th. Offshore coho opens June 23rd, closing on the same day as Chinook.

Central and Eastern Oregon – March Brown hatches have been phenomenal some days on the middle Deschutes. The lower river is open below the deadline at the reservation but that stretch opens on April 28th. Take a variety of flies to target trout on the lower Deschutes as many different bugs are

present in addition to the ubiquitous March Browns. Mid-day has been most effective.

The Metolius is a tough river but it's fishing as well as possible now with mayflies and caddis on the water. Bull trout catches have been consistent.

Northwest Trout – Stocked with hatchery trout this week in the Willamette Zone were Benson Lake, Bethany Pond, Blue Lake, Commonwealth Lake, Dorman Pond, Haldeman Pond, Harriet Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Mt Hood Pond, Roslyn Lake, Trojan Ponds, Alton Baker Canal, Blue River Reservoir, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, Dexter Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Foster Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Roaring River Park Pond, Timber Linn Lake and Waverly Lake. In the Northwest Zone, Vernonia Pond, Nehalem Spring Lake, Alder Lake, Battle Lake, Big Creek Reservoir # 1 and #2, Buck Lake, Dune Lake, Elbow Lake, Georgia Lake and Lost Lake in Clatsop County were planted. Detroit Reservoir will receive 20,000 legal size trout. Timber Lake will be added back into the stocking schedule in the near future.

ODFW will host their second youth angling event Saturday, April 28 at Garden Lake and another on the same date at Trojan Ponds. Both free events will run from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. ODFW Angler Education instructors will be on hand to assist young anglers and all tackle will be provided including rods, reels and bait.

Northwest Bass and Panfish - Largemouth bass are in pre-spawn in Willamette Valley lakes, ponds and sloughs now. That means this is the time of year they'll be most vulnerable and more inclined to strike a wide variety of lures. Bass are object-oriented; 'structure' as the pros call it. They will be near logs, brush or weed lines. How closely the bass will orient these objects depends on water clarity. Bass feel secure as long as they can see the structure. They're ambush feeders, so will position themselves to intercept passing prey. Anglers should present lures accordingly.

Fishing for both largemouth and smallmouth bass is improving at Hagg Lake. Yellow perch are being caught but have been running small.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report April 18th – May 1st, 2007

North Puget Sound

As the region's blackmouth and steelhead fisheries come to a close, more anglers are starting to shift their attention to other fishing opportunities. The halibut season is under way in Puget Sound, and openings for other bottom fish are not far off. And one of the most anticipated fisheries occurs later this April, when the lowland lakes trout season kicks off.

Beginning April 28, anglers can cast a line in many of the region's lakes, where thousands of legal-sized **trout** have been planted. Information on stocking schedules for rainbow, cutthroat and triploid trout is available on WDFW's website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/index.htm>).

During the first few weeks of the season, anglers should focus on fishing higher in the water column, where the stocked trout tend to remain after being placed in a lake, said Jon Anderson, WDFW resident trout manager. "After they're planted, the trout usually can be found in the top 3 to 5 feet of water," he said. "After a few weeks, drop the hook deeper."

Meanwhile, freshwater anglers have only a few more days to cast for **steelhead**. The catch-and-release steelhead fishery on the Skagit and Sauk rivers closes at the end of the month. Anglers on the Skagit can fish for steelhead from The Dalles Bridge to the Cascade River, while those on the Sauk can fish from the mouth of the river to the Darrington Bridge.

Out on the saltwater, the region's **blackmouth** fishery also is coming to an end. Only the selective chinook fishery in marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) remains open, and those two areas close April 30.

But anglers are still finding some blackmouth as the season enters its final days. According to creel checks at the Everett boat ramp, 310 anglers hauled in 48 chinook during the second weekend in April. At the Edmonds ramp 22 anglers brought home six chinook that same weekend, while 21 anglers checked five blackmouth at the Mukilteo ramp.

Anglers in marine areas 8-1 and 8-2 can keep up to two hatchery chinook per day, so long as the fish measure at least 22 inches in length. Wild chinook salmon, which have an intact adipose fin, cannot be brought aboard the boat.

Halibut fishing opened April 9 throughout the region. Mutiny and Admiralty bays, as well as Eastern and Partridge banks usually are the best bets for flatfish early in the season. Halibut fishing is open five days a week, Thursday through Monday, with a daily limit of one halibut and no minimum size limit.

Anglers also can drop a line for other bottomfish, such as **lingcod**, **rockfish** and **cabezon**, beginning May 1. During the hook-and-line season (May 1-June 15), there's a one-fish daily limit for lings, which must be a minimum size of 26 inches and a maximum size of 40 inches. For rockfish, there is no minimum size and anglers must keep the first legal rockfish caught. Anglers fishing for cabezon have a daily limit of two fish, and there is no minimum size limit.

Anglers out on Puget Sound will soon have an opportunity to drop a **shrimp** pot. The shrimp season opens throughout the region May 5. Details are available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/>.

Before heading out, anglers should check the rules and regulations for freshwater and saltwater fisheries in WDFW's 2006/2007 *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Anglers face a variety of choices as spring fishing seasons continue to unfold throughout the region. Go saltwater fishing for **halibut** or **lingcod**? Go river fishing for **steelhead** or **spring chinook** on the north coast? Dig **razor clams** during a mornings-only dig scheduled April 19-22 at various ocean beaches?

For many anglers, "fishing season" begins April 28 on opening day of the lowland lakes **trout** season. On Washington's single biggest fishing day, anglers can choose from among 110 lakes in the region stocked with rainbow, cutthroat, brown trout and triploids.

Lakes stocked with more than 3,000 trout include Wentworth Lake in Clallam County; Sandy Shores in Jefferson County; Mission and Wildcat lakes in Kitsap County; Devereaux Lake in Mason County; Ohop and Spanaway lakes in Pierce County; and Clear, Deep, Hicks and Long lakes in Thurston County. Updated information on WDFW fish plants is available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/>. For tips on fishing options, by water and county, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/prospects/index.htm>.

Thurston County offers youngsters ages 5-14 a head start with a one-day fishing event at Long Lake

Park on April 21. The area open to fishing includes the waters within the swimming buoy line between the fences at the north and south boundaries of the swimming beach. Children must be pre-registered in order to participate. Information on registering and the event is available by calling Lacey Parks and Recreation, (360) 491-0857.

Meanwhile, recreational **halibut** anglers have been out in force near Port Angeles (Marine Area 6), pulling in more than 40 of the big flatfish since the season began April 9. Marine areas 6-11 and 13 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound) are open five days a week, Thursday through Monday, through June 16.

This month and next are the best months to catch halibut, said Greg Bargmann, WDFW marine fish manager. "The earlier in the year, the better," he said. Bargmann advises anglers to check the tides and go out when there's minimal change. "Fish bite best when the tide is moving slowly, with no significant highs or lows," he said.

Anglers should note the following additional halibut openers occurring throughout May:

Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) will open May 1, seven days a week until 70 percent of the quota is reached, or until July 15, whichever comes first. The fishery will reopen on Aug. 3 and continue three days a week, Friday through Sunday, until the remaining quota is reached, or Sept. 30, whichever comes first. It is unlawful to fish for, retain, or possess any bottom fish, except Pacific cod and sable fish with halibut on board.

Marine Area 2 (Westport/Ocean Shores) will open May 1, five days a week, Sunday through Thursday, until 95 percent of the quota is reached. During this time, fishing will be open seven days a week in the northern nearshore area south of the Queets River. Once the catch reaches 95 percent of the quota, fishing in the nearshore area will be limited to Fridays and Saturdays until the remaining quota is taken - or Sept. 30, whichever occurs first.

Marine areas 3 and 4 (Neah Bay and LaPush) will open May 15, three days a week, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, until the May quota is reached. The fishery in that area will then reopen on selected dates in June within certain boundaries.

Marine Area 5 (Seiku) will be open May 24 through Aug. 3, five days a week, Thursday through Monday.

Marine Area 12 (Hood Canal) is closed to fishing for halibut and a number of other species due to low dissolved-oxygen conditions.

All areas open to fishing have a one-fish daily catch limit and two-halibut possession limit, regardless of whether those fish are fresh or frozen. There is no minimum size limit for halibut caught in any area. For additional information, call the Fishing Hotline at (360) 902-2500 or check the WDFW website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/creel/halibut/>).

The **lingcod** fishery in Marine Area 4 (Neah Bay) got under way April 15, giving anglers a chance to land some of the abundant fish in the area. Creel reports from opening day near Sekiu on the Strait of Juan de Fuca showed an average of one fish for every angler.

But weather conditions along the south coast near Westport have been thwarting lingcod anglers, said Wendy Beghley, WDFW fish biologist. "When nature cooperates and people can get out, they're catching fish," she said. "But so far the weather's been pretty challenging."

Anglers should note the minimum size for lingcod in Marine Area 4 is 24 inches, rather than 22 inches in marine areas 1-3 on the south coast below Cape Alava. All four marine areas are open seven days a

week through Oct. 13. Details on regulations and additional information about the lingcod fishery is available on the WDFW Fishing Hotline (360-902-2500) and the department's website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

As long as the weather holds, anglers on the Bogachiel and Calawah rivers should be able to catch a few wild **steelhead** before the season closes April 30, said David Low, WDFW fish biologist. "We're hearing there's some good-sized steelhead out there, if people can get out on the rivers," Low said.

Meanwhile, **spring chinook** are showing up in the Sol Duc and Quillayute rivers, where about 1,300 hatchery fish are expected to return this year, said Low. He also reminds anglers that the Hoh River reopens May 17 for spring chinook as well. Before heading out, anglers should check WDFW's Fishing in Washington pamphlet, posted at the website noted above.

Rather dig **razor clams**? A morning dig is scheduled April 19-22. One beach - Twin Harbors - will open for digging Thursday, April 19, joined by Long Beach on Friday, April 20. Those beaches plus Copalis, Mocrocks and Kalaloch will open for digging Saturday, April 21. All beaches except Kalaloch will be open for digging Sunday, April 22. All digging on those beaches must be finished by noon. Details are available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/razorclm/season.htm>.

Southwest Washington:

More than 300,000 anglers across the state - including thousands from southwestern Washington - are expected to turn out April 28 for opening day of the lowland lakes **trout** season. Mineral Lake in Lewis County always draws a crowd, as does Swift Reservoir in Skamania County and the Rowland Lakes in Klickitat County. At these and many other lakes set to open around the region, the daily catch limit is five trout per day, no minimum size.

Then again, many anglers will forgo the "opening day" tradition for a chance to catch a **spring chinook salmon** on one of several tributaries to the Columbia River. The mainstem fishery below the Interstate 5 Bridge closed April 16, but the action on Columbia River tributaries should start heating up soon, said Joe Hymer, WDFW fish biologist.

"With the mainstem now closed below Bonneville Dam, the focus is shifting to the `tribs'," Hymer said. "We should see a lot more spring chinook caught in rivers ranging from the Cowlitz to the Klickitat in the days ahead."

Anglers fishing the North Fork of the Lewis River caught some spring chinook during the week ending April 15, although none were checked on the Cowlitz River. Boat anglers fishing near Blue Creek did, however, average nearly one late-run **hatchery steelhead** for every two poles. Bank anglers also caught some fish. Tacoma Power personnel recovered 53 adult spring chinook along with 275 winter-run steelhead at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery.

The first spring chinook of the season was checked at Drano Lake during the same week, and more are clearly headed that direction. On April 16, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers counted 804 spring chinook passing Bonneville Dam - nearly as many as the cumulative total this year through April 12.

"As those numbers continue to rise, it won't be long before fishing improves upriver," said Hymer, who advises anglers to keep an eye on online "dam count" totals to assess fishing prospects above Bonneville Dam. See <http://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/adult.html>.

Hymer reminds anglers gearing up to fish for hatchery spring chinook salmon in the Wind River that new regulations are in effect this season. In a year when chinook salmon returns to the Wind River are predicted to be down significantly, anglers fishing that river may retain only one - rather than two - hatchery spring chinook per day.

Night closure and non-buoyant lure restriction also will be in effect on the Wind River this year. In addition, the river will remain closed to all fishing upstream from a point 400 feet below Shipherd Falls until the catch-and-release steelhead season begins in September.

As in previous years, anglers will be required to release any wild, unmarked spring chinook they catch any time during the season.

Anglers should be aware that the mainstem Columbia from Tower Island powerlines, located about 6 miles below The Dalles Dam, to McNary Dam is scheduled to remain open to fishing for hatchery salmon and hatchery steelhead through April. Some spring chinook have been sampled just below John Day Dam in recent days.

Upriver anglers waiting for the chinook catch to pick up might want to try fishing for **walleye** in the John Day Pool. Thirty-seven anglers checked during the week ending April 15 averaged nearly one keeper per pole. For downriver anglers, Hymer suggests fishing for **sturgeon** on the Columbia River from Vancouver downstream. "It's a sleeper fishery," he said. "While most people were out fishing for chinook, a handful of anglers were getting some nice sturgeon."

But if history is any guide, the lowland lakes trout opener April 28 will have the greatest draw. Tips on fishing areas, listed by county and water, can be found in *Washington Fishing Prospects*, available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/prospects/index.htm>. Fish stocking details, by county and lake, are available in the Hatchery Trout Stocking Plan on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/index.htm>.

Eastern Washington:

Many excellent **trout** fishing waters open April 28 in this region and fish biologists believe it will be a great opener if the weather cooperates. Chris Donley, WDFW central district fish biologist, expects the top producing waters to include Badger, Williams, and West Medical lakes in southwest Spokane County and Fishtrap Lake on the Lincoln-Spokane county line.

"Badger's rainbows and cutthroats are averaging 10 to 12 inches, with some up to 20 inches," Donley said. That catch will mostly come from the near 60,000 cutthroat fry and near 80,000 rainbow fry that have been stocked and growing in Badger the past couple of years. This spring, Badger also received 5,000 eight- to 12-inch rainbows, 200 two- to five-pound surplus hatchery rainbow broodstock, and 2,016 triploid rainbows weighing three-quarters to 1.5 pounds.

Donley also likes the prospects at Williams Lake, where he expects anglers to catch limits of 11- to 20-inch trout. Spring fry plants over the past couple years at Williams total almost 182,000 rainbows and over 45,000 cutthroats, Donley said. This spring Williams also received 10,000 eight- to 12-inch rainbows, 400 two to five-pound surplus hatchery rainbow broodstock, and almost 3,000 triploids running three-quarters to 1.5-pounds apiece.

"West Medical opening day catches will be even better than last year, mostly from the 200,000-plus rainbow fry stocked there," Donley said. West Medical was also stocked with 10,000 eight to 12-inch rainbows, 400 two to five-pound surplus hatchery rainbow broodstock, and 2,016 triploids.

Donley predicts "another peak production year for Fishtrap Lake," which has plenty of 11- to 16-inch rainbows along with fry plants now running 10 to 12 inches. Fishtrap received over 98,000 rainbow fry over the last couple years, plus 15,000 eight to 12-inch rainbows, 400 two to five-pound surplus hatchery rainbow broodstock, and 2,417 triploid rainbows this spring.

Medical Lake is going to be good this year, too, Donley said. Rainbows and browns are running to 20 inches and tiger trout up to 18 inches. Fishing at Medical Lake is under selective gear rules, with a 14-inch minimum size and two-fish daily catch limit. "Fish Lake will also be good for eastern brook trout

and tiger trout, a brook-brown hybrid," Donley said. "Brook trout should average 8 to 16 inches and tiger trout will be seven to 20 inches." Fish Lake received nearly 12,000 tiger trout fry, almost 6,000 brook trout fry, and 400 two-plus-pound surplus hatchery brook trout broodstock.

"Clear Lake should also be pretty decent with all the stocking we've done there," Donley said. Clear has received 85,000 rainbow fry, 55,000 brown fry, and 20,000 tiger fry over the last couple years, plus 30,000 eight to 12-inch rainbows, 10,500 eight to 12-inch browns, 50 two- to five-pound surplus hatchery rainbow broodstock, and 2,261 triploids running two-thirds to 1.5 pounds this spring.

Donley says two mixed-species lakes in Spokane County that open April 28 could also be fairly productive. Downs Lake gets 5,000 catchable-size rainbows every year, but it also has lots of **yellow perch** and a fair population of **bass** and **crappie**, he said. Chapman Lake gets 7,500 rainbow catchables, added to more than 100,000 kokanee fry that have been growing since last spring. "Chapman's kokanee fishing won't be great on this opener, but it will pick up later in the season," Donley said.

Donley also noted that several year-round lakes in Spokane could be good bets for warmwater fish on April 28 - especially for anglers who want to avoid the crowds at the usual trout hot spots. Eloika and Bonnie lakes offer good perch fishing and Silver Lake has bass, crappie and **bluegill**.

Other central district waters that opened earlier this spring under selective gear rules continue to provide good catches. These include Spokane County's Amber Lake, where rainbows are averaging 12 to 20 inches, and Lincoln County's Coffeepot Lake, where rainbows are averaging 12 inches.

The Tucannon River impoundments in Columbia County opened for trout fishing last month, but hatchery crews continue to stock them and other area waters with catchable-size rainbows. Curl Lake opens April 28 and is being stocked with eight to 12-inch and some 14-inch-plus rainbows.

In the north end of the region, Rocky Lake in Stevens County to be one of the best bets on the April 28 season opener, said WDFW district fish biologist Curt Vail of Colville. Limits of nine to 12-inch rainbows should come from the 5,000 rainbow fry stocked there last spring. Waitts Lake in Stevens County should also be very good with abundant stocking, including more than 30,000 brown trout fry from last year, 17,000 eight to 12-inch rainbows and 250 two to five-pound surplus hatchery rainbow broodstock, and 24,000 recently-released net-pen-reared rainbows.

Marshall Lake in Pend Oreille County should also produce good catches from the 35,000 cutthroat fry stocked last fall. Cedar Lake in Stevens County, which received over 18,000 rainbow fry last spring, historically produces big rainbows on the opener. Mudgett Lake in Stevens County, which received over 10,000 rainbow fry last year, should also be good. Southern Stevens County's Deer and Loon lakes are receiving lots of triploid rainbows ranging from three-quarters to 1.5 pounds to add to opening day action. Deer Lake is slated for 3,350 triploids, along with 15,000 rainbow fry, 31,400 rainbow catchables, 500 rainbow broodstock and 900 eastern brook broodstock. Loon Lake is getting 1,063 triploids, in addition to more than 16,000 rainbow fry and nearly 110,000 kokanee fry.

April 27 is the registration deadline for the "Fishing Kids" event on May 5 at Spokane County's Clear Lake. This annual event for kids 5-14 years of age provides beginning fishing instruction, a t-shirt, Zebco rod and reel, and other fishing goodies for just \$5 per kid. Registrants must sign-up for half-hour fishing instruction timeslots from 8 a.m. through 2:30 p.m. Registration forms are available at WDFW's eastern regional office at 2315 N. Discovery Place in Spokane Valley and Spokane County 4-H at WSU Extension, 222 W. Havana St. in Spokane. Call the 4-H office at 477-2638 for more details.

[North Central Washington:](#)

The April 28 fishing season opener at several Columbia Basin **trout**-stocked waters should be very productive, says WDFW district fish biologist Jeff Korth of Moses Lake. Best bets may be Grant County's Blue and Park lakes, which were just rehabilitated last fall and stocked with 10-12-inch rainbows, plus triploid rainbows running three-quarters to 1.5 pounds each.

Blue Lake received 105,000 catchables and 5,901 triploids, while Park received 70,000 catchables and 3,752 triploids. "The catchables at Blue and Park should provide an average catch rate of at least three fish per angler on the opener," Korth said. "Fingerlings for the 2008 fishery will be stocked later this spring, and the Park and Blue lakes fisheries will return to their former glory."

Vic Meyers Lake, which connects to Park Lake, was also rehabilitated last fall, and is being stocked with 3,000 catchable-sized rainbows and 280 big triploids in time for the opener.

The rainbow catch at Deep Lake is usually very good on the opener, yielding four to five fish per angler, Korth said. Besides the usual 5,000 rainbow and 40,000 kokanee fingerlings, Deep Lake also received 5,000 catchable-sized (10-12 inches) rainbow trout this year. "The late-spring, early-summer kokanee fishery at Deep Lake has been good to those who know how to target them," Korth said, "But the better kokanee fishing comes later in the summer, in July and August."

Perch Lake is among the most consistent waters in the Basin, with limits of 11-12-inch rainbows generally the rule, Korth said. "Perch Lake receives only 10,000 fingerlings annually, and the lake is fished out in a few weeks most years, so only an occasional 15-inch carryover will be seen," he said. Korth noted that Perch Lake is mostly a shore fishery, although hand-carried boats or float tubes can be used.

Warden Lake, once a favorite for the late April trout opener, is now plagued by spiny-rayed fishes like sunfish and bullheads, reducing survival rates for fingerling trout. "Warden Lake was stocked with 57,000 rainbow fingerlings last spring, but our sampling indicates that only about 10 percent survived," Korth said. "Another 20,000 rainbow fingerlings were stocked last fall and survival of these fish was good. Yearling rainbow from the spring stocking were 12-14-inches, but those from the fall stocking will only be eight to 10 inches." Warden's last rehabilitation was nine years ago. A few carryover rainbows at 15 inches and better should make up about five percent of opening day catches, he said, along with some large brown trout.

Many of the Basin's March 1 and April 1 opening lakes are still fishing very well, especially Burke Lake and Upper Hampton Lake, and the selective gear fisheries at Dusty, Lenore, and Dry Falls lakes.

WDFW district fish biologist Bob Jateff of Omak says several trout waters in the Okanogan should provide good fishing on the April 28 opener. Good bets for lots of 10- to 12-inch rainbows, and some carryover rainbows to 14 inches, are Conconully Reservoir, Conconully Lake, Wannacut, Fish, and Alta lakes.

Pearrygin Lake, near Winthrop, was rehabilitated last fall to remove undesirable fish species, but will be re-stocked prior to the opener with both catchable-size (12 inch) and triploid rainbow trout (one to two pounds).

Big Twin Lake, near Winthrop, suffered some winterkill but will be planted with triploid rainbows up to 1.5 pounds and catchable rainbows to 12 inches. Other good bets for selective gear lakes are Blue Lake on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area (for rainbows and browns up to 18 inches) and Ell Lake, southeast of Tonasket (for rainbows 14 to 16 inches). Ell continues to have low water level issues but should still provide fair fishing.

Both fly-fishing-only lakes in the Okanogan - Aeneas and Chopaka - should have slower than normal

fishing for rainbow trout, Jateff said, but in both cases the opportunity exists for some exceptionally large fish. Meanwhile, Leader Lake near Okanogan should provide fair fishing for rainbow trout, as well as **black crappie** and **bluegill**.

Jameson Lake in Douglas County should have good fishing for rainbow trout 11 to 12 inches, and some carryovers to 14 inches, said Jateff, noting that Jameson has a well developed launch site with campsites at the southern end of the lake.

Two lakes that opened April 1 continue to provide good catches: Rat Lake near Brewster offers rainbows and browns in the 11 to 13-inch range, and Spectacle Lake northwest of Tonasket has rainbows up to 12 inches.

WDFW warmwater fish biologist Matt Polacek reports **walleye** are starting to bite on year-round Banks Lake. "Last year's spring/summer fishery reports showed the highest catch rates on Barker Flats, the southwest side of Steamboat Rock, and in the Devil's Punchbowl in about 18 to 25 feet of water," he said. "Anglers were successful using a perch pattern crankbait or a perch pattern worm harness behind a bottom walker. Troll along the weed beds and if you start catching perch then you are in the right spot. Harvest was excellent last year and we hope that this year is the same."

South Central Washington:

Trout-stocked waters in the southcentral region are open year-round, with hatchery stocking continuing through the spring. Anglers can check stocking schedules at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg3/index.htm> and updates on weekly plants at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/>.

Jim Cummins, a WDFW fish biologist in Yakima, said there is still good snowpack in the mountains, so a number of higher elevation lakes are not accessible to plant. "Catchable-size rainbows were planted in Clear Lake in Yakima County, but Lost Lake near Rimrock Reservoir and Dog Lake are not accessible," he said. "In fact, Dog Lake was completely frozen on April 12. When the snow melts these lakes will be planted."

Cummins reminds anglers that most rivers and streams are closed until June 1 to protect salmon and steelhead smolts that are migrating downstream, and to protect spawning steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout. "The catch-and-release area on the Yakima River is an exception," he said. "The reach of the Yakima is open year-round, but anglers should check the Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet before fishing."

Smallmouth bass fishing is expected to pick up and stay good through at least the end of May in the lower Yakima River. "When spring flows are high, fishing can be difficult," Cummins said. "But when water flow is low, there is some great smallmouth fishing from Benton City down. The recent cool weather in the mountains has resulted in a steady decline in river flows, so now is the time to get the bass gear out and fish the river." Cummins said that although the majority of fish are in the one- to two-pound class, a number of fish five pounds and larger are caught every spring. **Channel catfish** are another good bet in the Yakima as water temperatures increase. Anglers can check Yakima River flows at <http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/yakima/>, where "Daily Data" is the best tab to check. The Yakima River at Kiona is the best flow to check, and water temperatures are also posted.

Paul Hoffarth, a WDFW fish biologist in Pasco, agrees that smallmouth bass and channel catfish in the lower Yakima is improving. He notes that WDFW helped create two new primitive boat launches at Snively Road and Hyde to provide anglers access to waters below Horn Rapids Dam. Additional launches upstream of Horn Rapids Dam are located in Benton City and at Horn Rapids Park.

Hoffarth also said the season for **white sturgeon** remains open at this time in the John Day Pool (John Day Dam to McNary Dam) and will continue until the quota is reached. A sturgeon sanctuary will be in effect from May 1 through July 31 from the Interstate 82 bridge at Umatilla upstream to McNary Dam. No fishing for sturgeon is allowed in this area during this time period.

The Ringold bank fishery will re-open May 1 for **spring chinook** through May 31. Fishing is restricted to bank angling only on the hatchery side of the river from the WDFW markers a quarter mile downstream of the Ringold irrigation wasteway outlet to the markers a half mile upstream of Ringold Springs Creek (hatchery outlet). Daily limit is two hatchery salmon, 12-inch minimum size. Only chinook with a clipped adipose fin and a healed scar at the location of the fin may be retained. Night closure and non-buoyant lure restrictions are in effect. All wild chinook (with an intact adipose fin) must be released immediately and may not be removed from the water.

Hoffarth said the annual stocking of triploid rainbow trout in the Tri-Cities area is complete. In addition to Railroad Pond in Franklin County and juvenile-only Columbia Park Pond in Benton County, two new lakes were planted - Dalton Lake and Powerline Lake, both in Franklin County. Powerline Lake is a walk-in lake with a healthy population of **yellow perch** and **largemouth bass** in addition to the recent triploid plants.

Reader Email

Kap'n Ken Johnson, master of the lengthy paragraph, who recently relocated to the Manzanita area, reports, "What crabs??? Worked the mouth of the Nehalem River the last two days, and a couple of days last week too! Soaked the pots for 20-30 minutes before pulling them in and were surprised each and every time. I got as close to "The Big Pond" as I could where breakers were breaking about 50' West of my furthest West Pot...One broke right over the bow of my "Length Challenged" 16' Jetcraft, which I just sold yesterday. Bought another one "TWO FEET" longer, though, just the other day, for a bit more stability!!! Worked it one hour before and about 35 minutes after High Slack so there was plenty of salt...The outgoing tide was a bit, "swift," once she started out, so we pulled up early to avoid losing any gear...Worked 3 Slip Rings and a Trap...The surprise we were experiencing was the lack of crabs of ANY size once they were pulled to the boat. To make a rambling story short, my cousin and I brought home THREE KEEPERS! TOTAL! According to Kelly at The Jetty Fishery, there was only one boat, in the last week or so, who had more crabs than we did (from his rentals) And, they got FIVE...Whooooo WhooooOOOooooo...The only fishing I know of in the Nehalem River, right now, is for Sturgeon...Personally I haven't heard of any keepers, but I do know a few shakers have been caught. The normally good catches of legal sized fish, this time of year, are just not there. Great Clamming Tides this week, though....."

"Went clamming today (Wednesday April 18th)...Got up real early, dressed in layers as the temperature hovered around 40-42 all morning. We got there about 1 hour before LOW slack tide, and...well...Sad to say, for me...'Nuttin' Honey! My cousin, who is physically able to do just about ANYTHING (I mean, he surfs at 57, the BASTARD!) only came up with 5, He went into the water running about 2" - 6" deep. We clammed at the beaches just North of Gearhart...There were lots of people considering it was a mid-week adventure. No one was doing very good. The average form all the people I talked to was 1-3 TOPS! A commercial guy said the clams were down deep, up to a foot deeper than normal, because of the high winds we had last night and the HARD rain too...Makes sense to me because "showings" were RARE, to say the least...We had really good minus tides but minimal clams...I met one gentleman who got there about 1/2 hour before we did, and was just leaving after clamming for about 1.5 hours with a limit...The clams he had were all of fairly LARGE size too! Of course, there is always ONE person in the bunch, who limits out early...Seems to happen around me when I'm fishing too...Hhhmmmmmmmm....No, it can't be "Me!" I've decide that, for "Differently Abled" clammers, you really need a good minus tide. NOAA said it was a -1.6 tide today... By the time you read this, today's tides were supposed to be -1.7 and Friday about a -1.6...Saturday is looking at about

a -1.2, which is good too! Those are good tides for those of us who can't venture out into the surf, so get out there, no matter what. That being said....Where are the da*ned clams fer krimany sakes??? Maybe I'm just going to stick to crabbing, which lately has been sucking too! We're in a cycle where the bays are being flushed out by melting mountain snow and runoff from the heavy snows we had about three months back...Not flooding and muddy.....Just tons of fresh water running downstream, pushing the crabs out into the salt. Now, the "excuse" for the Razor's??? Dunno.....Doesn't matter.....I'm going again tomorrow!!! Just an FYI...Fill up your gas tanks in Portland/Metro if that's where you're coming from...The local pumps around here, today, are at \$3.15+ per gallon for regular...Just Sayin'.

Reader 'neisha' wrote via the Contact Form at the TGF website. "there is no information on the stocking on |Cascade \Gateway lake in Salem Oregon. When do you stock this lake"

TGF co-editor Michael Teague replied, "We don't actually have anything to do with the stocking of trout. We just relay the information provided by the ODFW.

"The information we share is for the current week, but if you'd like to know what's being stocked in the future, here's the link:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/2007_stocking_schedules.asp

Reader Sharon G. also used the TGF contact for to ask, "love the site and everything it offers I have a question there was some place online that I found a list of Moorages? Do you know where I could find it."

Doug Rees, our esteemed webmaster and the kind fellow who actually sends out the newsletter each week responded, "Thank you for the comments.

"There is a link on the left side of our friend's site, BoatEscape.com, titled Marinas:
<http://www.boatescape.com/>

"Just messing around I found this: <http://www.marina-info.com/minfo/us/usst38/usst38ind.htm>"

Avid angler (and Michael Teague's buddy) Rick Greninger writes, "This is Nicholas Fisher Greninger with his First ever fish and age 5 he went fishing with grandpa Mike Dickey and Hagg Lake last weekend Mike just got me the pics ... another Greninger ruined for life .. father Brian and Mike somehow got skunked?"

Photo by proud grandpa Mike.



And finally, subscriber Roger K. wrote, "Did I read that right? A leader of only 12 inches?"

Michael Teague responds, "Yeah, you did, but that doesn't make it right. The 12-inch leader should be on the Fish Flash. You'll do much better with a leader on the herring closer to 60 inches.

"Thanks for keeping me honest. "

Got a question, story to tell or information to share? Shoot us an Email!

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Here's the long version of the story - Umpqua man lands 50-pound chinook:

*<http://www.newsreview.info/article/20070413/SPORTS/70413034>



Salmon-counters ordered to withhold data:

*<http://www.times.org/archives/2007/gagging.html>

Weekly Quote – "Take my friends and my home - - - as an outcast I'll roam: Take the money I have in the bank: It is just what I wish, but deprive me of fish, and my life would indeed be blank!" - Lewis Carroll

GOOD LUCK!