

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 8th – June 14th, 2007**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Free Fishing Weekend is June 9-10, during which no license or tag is required to fish, crab or clam.

Sportanglers will be allowed to keep fin-clipped springers from I-5 to Bonneville Dam from June 6th to the 15th. Catches are expected to be light as the bulk of the run has bypassed the lower river. Small, bright spinners will work best in the shallow water but backtrollers working plugs may also take a few.

Steelhead counts at Bonneville are still too low to get plunkers excited about beach fishing in the Portland to Longview stretch.

Springer counts totaled 16,600 at Willamette Falls on the 1st of June. About 5,650 summer steelhead have crossed with the water temperature up to 68 degrees. Very few spring chinook are being hooked in the warm water of the lower river. Shad fishing has been fair to good but location is the key to success.

A few springers have been taken around Stayton on the North Santiam with the better steelhead catches coming from below Fishermen's Bend. Over 1,000 summer steelhead and about 135 spring Chinook have entered the Foster Dam facility on the South Santiam with a percentage of these recycled downstream. Springer hookups are rare but a few summers are falling to bobber and jigs.

Clackamas steelheaders are throwing spinners and drifting eggs with fair to good results. Very few springers are being hooked on the Sandy but summer steelheaders are producing a few fish. **Pro guide Brandon Glass (503-666-5370)** reports decent steelheading up high but that water levels are low.

For Free Fishing Weekend, Alton Baker Canal, Big Cliff Reservoir, Blue River Reservoir, Blue River above the Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Carmen Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Fall Creek, Foster Reservoir, Hills Creek, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, the McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake, Roaring River Park Pond, Salmon Creek, Salt Creek, North Fork Santiam River above Detroit, Sunnyside Park Pond, Trail Bridge Reservoir, Walter Wirth Lake and the Willamette River Middle Fork above Hills Creek are scheduled to be stocked with hatchery trout in the South Willamette Zone.

Benson Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, Henry Hagg Lake. Huddleston Pond, North Fork Reservoir, Roslyn Lake, Sheridan Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir, Small Fry Lake and Timothy Meadows are scheduled to be planted in the North Willamette Zone.

Northwest – Sturgeon fishing in the Astoria area remains sporadic with quality keepers coming from the deep water near the Astoria/Megler Bridge. Upstream of Tongue Point, shaker action is better but keepers are harder to come by. Sand shrimp remains the best bait for shallow water, anchovies in the deep.

Spring chinook action remains slow on Tillamook Bay but some guides are at least hooking fish daily reports **pro guide Dave Johnson (503-201-4292)** the ocean has been friendly and commercial boats are reporting good catches several miles offshore. Bottomfishing remains good but not nearshore where most sport boats are likely to target them.

Scheduled for trout planting in the Northwest Zone are Cape Meares Lake, Hebo Lake, Town Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Big Creek Reservoirs # 1 and #2, Cleawox Lake, Olalla Creek Reservoir and Thissel Pond.

Southwest – Smallmouth bass fishing is good near Elkton on the Umpqua. Shad fishing is holding up well. Spring chinook fishing remains a disappointment.

Offshore bottom fishing out of southwest ports is producing excellent catches of rockfish and ling cod. Ocean Chinook fishing remains tough but coho are being caught and released on every trip out, a good sign for the season to come.

Estuary crabbing is poor to fair but has improved offshore in about 50 feet of water. South coast beaches are reliably producing surfperch limits.

Spring Chinook fishing on the lower Rogue remained poor over the weekend, but baitfish have started to show in the bays. This is a positive sign and salmon should follow. A few springers are being hooked on the upper Rogue.

Klamath River anglers have not had much luck catching any springers for over a week.

Dave Pitts, Field Editor for Salmon Trout and Steelhead said he expects the ocean off Brookings to be improving for salmon and is looking forward to tuna fishing.

Libby Pond, Clearwater #2 Cooper Cr. Reservoir, Galesville Reservoir, Hemlock Lake, Herbert's Pond, Lake in the Woods, Lemolo Reservoir, Loon Lake, Marie Lake, Plat I Reservoir, Eel Lake, Upper and Lower Empire Lake, Powers Pond, North and South Tenmile Lake, Lost Creek Reservoir, Medco Pond, Lake Selmac, Expo Pond, Rogue River (Sec.5) and Howard Prairie are scheduled to receive hatchery trout. Fish stocking has been delayed in some locations due to cold water and slow fish growth. Call 541-247-7605 to verify.

Eastern – Showers this week are likely to cause some spikes in the water level on the Deschutes. When the lower river settles down, salmonflies and caddis patterns will be effective. Large nymphs were most effective over the past weekend but strong winds hampered fly anglers.

Pro guide Rick Arnold (541-480-1570) reports large trout being taken on Wickiup and Paulina.

Anglers are hitting good numbers of smallmouth bass at the John Day River. Water levels were dropping rapidly over the weekend, however, and fish are running on the small side.

While the water level at Green Peter is low, anglers fishing deep water near the floating restroom have taken limits of kokanee.

Scheduled for trout planting in the Deschutes Watershed are Burns Pond, Century Gravel Pit, Cottonwood Meadows, Cultus Lake, Deschutes River, Devils Lake, Fall River, Hosmer Lake, Lake of the Woods, Lofton Reservoir, Ochoco Creek, Shevlin Pond, Sprague Gravel Pit, Spring Creek, North and South Twin Lake, Simtustus Lake will receive 6,250 10 to 15 inchers.

SW Washington – Most SW Washington rivers are suffering from a lack of fresh salmon but the Lewis remains the best option for anglers versed in low water tactics. Summer steelhead on the East Fork is a fair option for bank anglers.

Low, warm water will put these rivers in poor condition in the coming weeks. Light leaders and small baits will be the best option but anglers shouldn't have high expectations.

Columbia River Fishing Report – The big news on the Columbia is the re-opener of spring Chinook fishing on the Columbia River this week. Fishery managers re-opened an even larger expanse of river on 6/6 as the run forecast is now being determined to be larger than originally predicted. The official press release reads:

Columbia River Spring Chinook season open through June 15 from Tongue Point to McNary Dam

Clackamas, Ore - State fishery officials met today and decided to open the mainstem Columbia River spring Chinook recreational salmon fishery from the I-5 Bridge to McNary Dam (excluding salmon angling from a boat and from the Washington shore between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island power lines) through June 15.

Including the previous extension of the mainstem fishery from Tongue Point to the I-5 Bridge, the spring Chinook salmon fishery will now be open from Tongue Point to McNary Dam beginning midnight tonight through June 15, 2007.

"The spring Chinook run is now projected to slightly exceed our preseason forecast" says John North, ODFW Columbia River Fisheries Manager. "With this increased return, we can re-open the spring fishery through June 15 to give anglers more opportunities before the summer fishery begins on June 16."

Beginning June 6, anglers may fish from Tongue Point to the McNary Dam until June 15 for the retention of adipose fin-clipped adult and jack spring Chinook, adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad with a daily bag limit in Oregon of two adult Chinook or steelhead per day. Catch limits for jacks remain in effect as per permanent regulations. It is unlawful to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released when fishing from boats less than 30 feet in length. Anglers are encouraged to release non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook immediately unharmed.

Fish managers set the Columbia River spring Chinook fishery based on the number of fish expected to return from the ocean and the allowable impact to wild salmon and steelhead stocks listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. "Impacts" are the unintended mortalities associated with handling and releasing wild fish. This year, non-Indian impacts are limited to 1.5 percent of the total upriver run that includes ESA-listed Snake River spring/summer Chinook and Upper Columbia River spring Chinook

The summer Chinook fishery is scheduled for June 16-30 from Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam and June 16-July 31 from Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border. During this summer season, the Oregon daily bag limit for adult salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead is two fish in any combination. Retention of non-adipose fin clipped Chinook (adults and jacks) is allowed during this fishery.

Additional information may also be found on ODFW's Web page at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OSCRP/CRM/action_notes.html.

Although it is good to have this additional opportunity, the bulk of the run has passed Bonneville Dam and guides reported about 1 fish per guide boat on the June 6th opener in the Bonneville area. Spinners fished in the fast water will be responsible for the bulk of the catch. Reports coming from the Kalama area are slightly better with a rumor of 12 fish for 20 boats fishing in the area. Tides are ripe for bank anglers to have a fair opportunity for salmon and steelhead this week.

Sturgeon fishing is the more productive option with the river producing fair action river-wide. Starting with the estuary, action has been fair to good for anglers willing to be on the hunt for fish. The most consistent action is along the green line both above and below the Astoria Bridge. On the outgoing tide, anglers have been having inconsistent action below the bridge but when it's good, it's pretty darn good.

Targeting depths between 12 and 28 feet of water has produced some quality fish. The farther out the tide, the deeper you should find yourself fishing. Anchovies is really the only option in this deep water as the crab are eager to take your offering. On the incoming tide, folks have been exercising the above bridge option in deeper water also using anchovies for bait. Charter boats are working the deep water above the bridge on the Washington side and judging from the number of boats in that area, they are catching fish. Sand shrimp are responsible for keepers in shallower water- shallower as in 6 feet or less. From the Tongue Point area, guides are coming in with fair catches but they are having to move often with very localized bites. There are no trash fish or crabs in this area.

Anglers fishing in the Columbia River gorge are still reporting fair catches of keepers and oversized although wind has hampered success with the newly adopted Marker 85 deadline. Shad fishing remains great with passage nearing peak. It looks as if the return may be down from previous years and that explains why some days, folks are witnessing sporadic results for shad. Small, green grubs are still working well in the morning while small spoons like Dick Nites work well in the afternoon. Although we are in peak season for oversized fish, the behemoths are not falling all that easy. The main reason is the new deadline for the fishery- Marker 85 often does not have enough flow to keep boats effectively fishing as they fall prey to winds blowing upriver during the day. This fishery will likely remain challenging for the remainder of the season.

The Guide's Forecast – With a weak tide series on the horizon, salmon fishers, especially from the bank will find challenging conditions for any great fishing this week. Stronger tides tend to focus fish closer to the beach where bank anglers can gain access to them. Also, we're in between spring and summer Chinook runs and the summer steelhead have yet to show in respectable numbers so neither make for exciting prospects this week.

Sturgeon anglers will also have more challenging tides to work with making the deep water a better prospect for the weekend. Anchovies will rule the roost in the deeper water but if you are fishing upstream of Tongue Point, sand shrimp will be an important bait as well. Keepers are being caught on both tides but the last the last part of outgoing tide and the first part of incoming is producing the best results so focus your days effort around this time frame.

Crabbing the lower Columbia estuary is not productive; effort is low.

Oversize anglers shouldn't have much trouble catching fresh shad for bait (or for fun) but catching more than 1 or 2 oversized fish may be challenging for most. Wind will certainly be a factor in angler success.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Free Fishing Weekend on Saturday and Sunday, June 9th and 10th, means no license or tag is required to go fishing, crabbing or clamming. Activities are planned at many lakes and ponds as well as a day-long educative event at Bonneville Dam. See **Random Links**, below for a complete list of planned activities this weekend.

Over 400 spring Chinook have been counted at Leeburg Dam on the McKenzie as of the last week in May but only a handful of those were of hatchery origin. About 90 steelhead, all finclipped, were also counted. Most of the fish movement occurred mid-month with fish passage dropping off at the end of May.

Half the full-time maintenance crew, all of the part-time workers and several senior employees have lost their jobs related to parks on the McKenzie River. Only two persons remain employed and responsible for facilities on the McKenzie River and those at Fern Ridge and Dorena reservoirs. This due to an ordinance change which funnels a Car Rental Tax into the general fund rather than to parks. In all, 24 parks are closing with another couple of dozen or so suffering reduced services. Nix the idea of

sneaking into a closed park. The fine for doing so is over \$420.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports –

Spinners are taking a few steelhead and the occasional spring Chinook on the Sandy River, the waters of which are starting to get milky, an indication of its glacial origin.

Pro guide Brandon Glass (503-666-5370) reports, "Well the Sandy River is still low, but the snow melt has really colored up the river. I have heard of decent catching up river for Summer Steelhead and only a few Springers. The lower end is like a ghost town for people, except swimmers!! The catching has still been slow in the lower end also."

North Coast Fishing Report – Weaker tides have been the more productive option for salmon anglers targeting springers in the Tillamook district. Trolling herring along the inside of the north jetty has netted occasional results for boaters in the last few hours of outgoing tide. Given this seasons history of returns state-wide, don't hold high expectations for this fishery. **Pro guide Dave Johnson (503-201-4292)** reports, "I fished T-Bay twice since your last report, hit the upper bay in the morning and the lower bay in the afternoon. We caught one about twenty five pounds on Friday and we had one nice one break off on Saturday. Both fish in the upper bay. I only saw or heard of one or two others on both days. Not real exciting but we've hooked at least one per day every day we have fished Tillamook this spring."

No sign of driftable water for a weak spring Chinook run on the north coast. Is your boat collecting cobwebs?

Offshore, ocean conditions currently look favorable but that may change by the weekend. Bottomfishing is good and for anglers willing to explore offshore, trolling for Chinook in deeper water (where the commercial trollers are) is a strong possibility.

The Guide's Forecast – This may be the last chance for spring Chinook action on Tillamook Bay. Herring trollers stand a fair chance on the weekend tide series, working the inside of the north jetty on the last half of the outgoing tide. This will allow for a late start for those not willing to be an early bird.

The offshore weather forecast is not that encouraging for salmon trollers and bottomfishers. If the forecast changes, anglers versed in downrigger tactics may want to work a few miles offshore for Chinook that seem to be showing up in larger numbers.

Bay crabbing remains poor.

Central & South Coast Reports – Eight out of 10 anglers took halibut during the last all-depth opening. The ocean inside the 40-fathom line is open seven days a week for halibut with deeper water open again on June 7th through 9th. Sufficient poundage remains in the spring halibut quota to allow for at least two more weeks of all-depth fishing off the central Oregon coast. The summer all-depth halibut season will open Fridays through Sundays starting August 3rd for a quota of 6,307 pounds.

Crabbing has been slow in Alsea Bay and fair in Yaquina Bay. Jig fishers are taking herring out of Newport but it's been spotty.

Umpqua anglers are catching good numbers of smallmouth bass and all the shad they need for crab or sturgeon bait. Larger bass are falling for soft plastics fished right on the bottom in deeper areas around

Elkton. While springer fishing is very slow, anglers trying for them are occasionally surprised when a striped bass nails their offering.

Rogue anglers continue to do best on the upper river though it's only fair at best. A few Chinook have been taken on the Grants Pass stretch but with the exception of a small pod passing through over the weekend, the lower river is slow. While flows and water temperatures are conducive for decent springer fishing, the Chinook just aren't there.

Offshore salmon anglers launching out of Gold Beach and Brookings are having trouble getting their terminal tackle through thick schools of coho. Most of these are natives but all must be released regardless until the retention season opens June 23rd. Bottom fishing is excellent with fair to good numbers of ling cod being taken with the prolific rockfish.

Dave Pitts, Field Editor for Salmon Trout and Steelhead, adds this, "Klamath, Rogue and the ocean are poor right now for kings, "But" We are now seeing larger herring and sardines in the Harbor. This is a great indicator for salmon. Birds both Gulls and Pelicans are working heavy between the buoys and Salmon Rock and near Bird Island.

"Coho are continuing to be caught by sports anglers but are released until later this month. Commercial fisherman are beginning to catch salmon, a good day for commercial boats is 9 to 15 fish. Purple haze hoochies, and a large 11 inch flasher.

"Lings and things are Red hot!!!! I mean you really can't do anything wrong, lead fish Cocahoe's, scampi's and fly jogs all are working, large herring stinger rigs are best for large Lings.

"Surf Perch are also on a great bite at this time, Winchuck River Mouth area, Lone Ranch Beach and Mill beach are all go areas to try for both Red tail and the Larger striped Perch which average 3 pounds. Use shrimp, Salad shrimp in the store or Tiger Prawns, Break off into thumb nail size pieces and bait a #4 hook. Use a cannon ball weight not a Surf weight, you want your sinker to move around with the surf not dig in, I would suggest at least #20 lbs test, most of the fish are in the rocky areas with Kelp, I personally use 65 lbs braid (Power Pro) It cuts the kelp and does not break off as easy J There ya go and get a lie wet and catch fish.

"I expect the Ocean in Brookings to be producing within the next few weeks, this summer you will be reading a lot about the Brookings area for kings lings and things and Tuna, get ready!"

Central and Eastern Oregon – Trout have keyed on the big bugs on the lower Deschutes. This, just as the salmonfly and Golden Stone hatches are winding down above Maupin. Caddis and Pale Morning Dun hatches are underway on the middle Deschutes which experienced a spike in water level mid-week but should be quite fishable by the weekend.

Pro guide Rick Arnold (541-480-1570) reports, "Wickiup reservoir kicked out one of the biggest brown trout in the last few years. Oscar Hoffman of Madras caught a 25 Lb., 37 in. monster hen brown a couple of weeks back. The fish hit on a nightcrawler fished from shore.

"I heard today that Steve Keene from Costa Mesa, Ca. caught a 12.5 Lb. hookjaw brown from Paulina Lake just this morning on an A/C 7 in. "Skinny." Looks like some of the bigger browns are starting to show up.

"Lots of kokanee showing up at Odell, but action had slowed at Crescent for both kokanee and browns. Mackinaw at both lakes should come on for downrigger fisherman fishing flatfish, A/C plugs and flasher/hootchie combo's.

"When the thermocline sets up look for improving action on kokanee at all lakes. Work small dodgers and the kokanee killers of your choice at 40-70 feet."

Northwest Trout – Officials at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the United States Forestry Service announced Tuesday this week that the Free Fishing Weekend event at Detroit Lake has been cancelled do to a toxic blue-green algae bloom at that location.

Most anglers are taking limits of trout at Diamond Lake which has been heavily planted with various sizes of trout since it re-opened following elimination of a tui chub infestation.

Lots of hatchery trout will be planted in Oregon Lakes and ponds for Free Fishing Weekend. These fish are easy to catch and a great way to introduce kids to the sport.

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Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report May 30th – June 12th, 2007

North Puget Sound

With only a few weeks left in spring, anglers have an assortment of fishing opportunities, ranging from trout and chinook to shrimp and lingcod.

In the freshwater, **trout** fishing continues in the lakes and will expand into several of the region's rivers and streams June 1. Under the statewide rule for trout, there is a two-fish daily limit and a minimum

size of eight inches in rivers and streams. However, some of the region's rivers and streams have a rule requiring trout to be at least 14 inches in length to keep. For more rules and details on trout fishing, anglers can check WDFW's 2007/2008 *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

Portions of the Skagit and Skykomish rivers also open for **spring chinook salmon** fishing June 1. The Skagit is open to hatchery springer retention from the Highway 530 bridge at Rockport to the Cascade River. The daily limit is two hatchery chinook at least 12 inches in length. On the Skykomish, hatchery spring chinook fishing is open from the Lewis Street Bridge in Monroe to the Wallace River. The Skykomish fishery also has a daily limit of two hatchery chinook at least 12 inches in length.

Anglers are reminded that **bull trout** retention is prohibited along portions of the Skagit River beginning June 1. Anglers fishing the Skagit from Rockport to the Gorge Dam and the Cascade and Sauk rivers must release all bull trout.

Out on the saltwater, the northern portion of Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) opens June 1 to catch-and-release fishing for **salmon**. Fishing will be allowed north of a line from Point Monroe to Meadow Point. Handling rules are in effect for this fishery and single-point barbless hooks are required. Further north, the Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery begins June 1 and runs through Sept. 24, except for a one-day closure on June 23. The fishery is open each week from Friday through noon Monday. There is a two-salmon daily limit and chinook must be 22 inches in length to retain.

Meanwhile, anglers are still picking up **lingcod, halibut, rockfish** and **cabezon** in waters throughout north Puget Sound. During the hook-and-line season (May 1-June 15), there's a one-fish daily limit for lings, with a minimum size of 26 inches and a maximum size of 40 inches. The halibut season is open five days a week, Thursday through Monday, with a daily limit of one halibut and no minimum size limit. Anglers fishing for rockfish must keep the first legal rockfish caught, and those fishing for cabezon have a daily limit of two fish and there is no minimum size limit.

The **spot shrimp** fishery is wrapping up in the region. Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands) will be the last to close for spot shrimp at the end of the day Thursday (May 31).

However, shrimpers can soon drop a pot for **coonstripe** and **pink shrimp**, as those seasons get under way June 1 in marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) and 9 (Admiralty Inlet). In the northern and central portion of Marine Area 7, the fishery gets going a few days later on June 4. The daily limit in all of these fisheries is 10 pounds, including heads and tails, of all shrimp species combined, except spot shrimp. Shrimp heads can be removed, but the heads must be retained while in the field. Details, such as the required minimum mesh size and maximum fishing depths, are available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/shrimpreg/shrimpindex.shtml>.

Before heading out, anglers should check the rules and regulations for freshwater and saltwater fisheries in WDFW's 2007/2008 *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

With June nearly here, anglers can soon add **trout** and **steelhead** to their list of fishing choices, or continue to take advantage of the **halibut** and **lingcod** seasons, which end in a few more weeks. In addition, spring **chinook** are running in Olympic Peninsula rivers, anglers are getting an extra day to catch **shrimp** in Hood Canal and a new **crab** season is on the horizon.

The recreational **halibut** fisheries in Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) and Marine Area 2 (Westport) are now closed, but anglers trying for the big flat fish still have a few options. The North Coast (Neah Bay and

LaPush) fishery will reopen for one day on Thursday, May 31 from 12:01 a.m. to 11:59 p.m., and will reopen June 19 and 21. Anglers fishing those days will be restricted to waters no more than 30 fathoms deep, as specified in the 2007-08 *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet.

Sunny weather in Port Angeles brought out hundreds of halibut fishers during the last weekend in May, and fishing was good until the wind kicked up. Participants in the 7th annual Port Angeles Halibut Derby, caught a total of 40 fish with the winner bringing in a 78-pounder. This area, as well as Puget Sound, will close June 16. Marine Area 5 (Seiku) will remain open through Aug. 3, These fisheries are open five days a week, Thursday through Monday.

Anglers fishing for **lingcod** and other bottom fish off Westport the last weekend of May had better luck with the weather, said Wendy Beeghley, WDFW fish biologist. "When the weather allows people to get out on the water, there are lots of lingcod and black rockfish," she said. Anglers should note the one-fish daily limit during the lingcod hook-and-line season in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and south Puget Sound (May 1-June 15).

Returning **spring chinook** are keeping anglers busy on the Sol Duc, Quillayute and Hoh rivers on the northern Olympic Peninsula, said Mike Gross, WDFW fish biologist. "We're seeing good numbers with more than 250 back to the Sol Duc hatchery," he said. However, the warm weather is causing the Hoh to discolor due to late-spring glacial melt.

With the opening of river fishing on June 1, Gross reminds people angling for sea-run and resident **cutthroat** to take their *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet with them or check online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> before they go. Regulations can vary river by river. Anglers looking for hatchery **summer steelhead** should consider the Wynoochee and Chehalis rivers in Grays Harbor County, as well as the Quillayute, Bogachiel, Calawah, Sol Duc, Hoh, and Lyre, said Gross.

June 1 also marks opening day for **salmon** fishing in Marine Area 11, which extends from the northern tip of Vashon Island to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Selective fishing rules will be in effect, requiring anglers to use single, barbless hooks and release any wild chinook they encounter. Anglers should also note that Commencement Bay is closed to salmon fishing until Aug. 1. Details on rules and limits are included in the *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet, or online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

Shrimp fishing will open for one more day in Hood Canal, on a date to be announced the week of May 29. Anglers will have an opportunity to harvest nearly 11,000 pounds of spot shrimp still available there. Meanwhile, in the Tacoma area, Marine Area 11 will reopen for non-spot shrimp June 1, with a 150-foot maximum fishing depth restriction. Marine Areas 4 (east of the Bonilla Line), 5, 6 (excluding the Discovery Bay Shrimp District) and 13 are open daily. For more information, anglers can check online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/shrimpreg/shrimpindex.shtml>, or call the Shellfish Hotline at 1-866-880-5431.

Looking forward to **crab** fishing? The popular recreational fishery opens June 18 seven days a week in the western Strait of Juan de Fuca (marine areas 4 and 5) and southern Puget Sound (Marine Area 13). Most other marine areas will open July 4 on a Wednesday-through-Saturday schedule, although some waters north of Anacortes will not open until later in summer.

Crab fishers should be aware of several changes in this year's catch-reporting system including:

Two-card reporting system: All sport crabbers fishing in Puget Sound will be required to report their Dungeness crab catch on separate summer and fall/winter catch record cards during the course of the season.

On-line reporting: For the first time, sport crabbers will have the option of reporting their catch via the Internet in lieu of mailing in their catch cards. The website address will be printed on the catch cards along with the reporting deadlines.

No coastal reporting: Catch record cards are no longer required to fish for Dungeness crab on the Washington coast (marine areas 1-4).

The new catch record cards are available from license dealers throughout the state. Fishers who have already purchased a 2007 Puget Sound crab endorsement will receive their cards by mail prior to the first opening on June 18. Those who have changed their address since purchasing their endorsement should contact WDFW at (360) 902-2464 to make sure they get their cards.

Additional information is available on the WDFW website at

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>, or
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/crabindex.shtml>.

Free Fishing Weekend for all state residents is coming up June 9-10. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. Also, no vehicle use permit will be required during Free Fishing Weekend to park at any of the 500 water-access sites maintained by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as size limits, bag limits and season closures will still be in effect. (For example, no crab fishing in Puget Sound will be allowed during Free Fishing Weekend, because the fishery will still be closed as of June 9-10.) Anglers will also be required to complete a catch record card for any salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or halibut they catch. Catch record cards and WDFW's **Fishing in Washington** rules pamphlet are available free at hundreds of sporting goods stores and other license dealers throughout the state. The rules pamphlet is also available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

Southwest Washington:

The hatchery **spring chinook** season has been extended through June 15 on the lower Columbia River from the I-5 Bridge downstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line, although the run is clearly winding down. **Shad**, on the other hand, have been abundant in some areas, and **sturgeon** fishing has been heating up from the Columbia River Gorge down to the estuary.

Anglers should also be aware that a variety of rivers and streams open to **trout** fishing June 1 and that fishing licenses aren't required June 9-10 during **Free Fishing Weekend**.

"There's definitely a lot going on right now as we move into the summer season," said Joe Hymer, WDFW fish biologist. "Part of the challenge is figuring out what kind of fishing you want to do." Those intent on landing a hatchery **spring chinook** - either on the mainstem Columbia or its tributaries - will probably have to work at it, Hymer said. Now that the bulk of the spring chinook run has passed Bonneville Dam, anglers fishing below the dam are just as likely to catch an early **summer steelhead** or **summer chinook** as a springer, he said.

The good news is that returns of summer steelhead and chinook should start picking up soon, and the summer chinook season opens June 16 from Rocky Point/Tongue Point all the way up to Priest Rapids Dam. (For fishing regulations, check the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet, posted on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.)

"They call them 'summer hogs' for a reason," Hymer said. "Some of those fish will run to 30 or 40 pounds."

Shad, averaging three to five pounds, don't get that big, but make up for it in sheer numbers. Thirty-

nine boat anglers fishing the Columbia mainstem from Bonneville to Longview reported keeping 127 shad - and releasing 442 others - during a weeklong creel survey ending May 28. Tens of thousands of fish are passing Bonneville Dam daily.

"Shad are boney, no doubt about it, but they put up a good fight and there is no limit on how many you can catch in Washington," Hymer said. "And you don't need a lot of fancy gear - a lot of anglers do just fine fishing a bead and a hook." For shad recipes, see the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/outreach/fishing/shad/shad.htm>.

Sturgeon anglers might also want to check out some new recipes, too. During a recent creel survey, 514 charter boat anglers fishing out of Ilwaco reported catching 206 legal-size sturgeon. Another 613 private boat anglers fishing from Ilwaco to Deep River reported 97 keepers - all of which Hymer sees as the start of even better fishing ahead.

"Right now sturgeon seem to be spread from Marker 85 all the way down to the estuary," he said. "My sense is that some of those fish are moving downriver and will start concentrating in the estuary." Anglers who prefer to fish smaller waters can look forward to June 1, when a number of rivers and creeks throughout the region open for trout fishing. Those rivers fall into two main categories: stocked and wild. By the season opener, WDFW plans to finish planting thousands of 9-to-12-inch fish in waters such as Canyon Creek in Clark County, Spring Creek in Klickitat County and Little White Salmon River in Skamania County. The complete stocking scheduled for the region is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg5/index.htm>.

Those seeking warm water species should try John Day Pool, Hymer said. Creel surveys conducted May 21-27 found that boat anglers averaged over two walleye and eight bass kept or released per rod. Washingtonians who are interested in fishing but haven't actually given it a try have a perfect chance to do so during **Free Fishing Weekend**, scheduled June 9-10.

During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. Also, no vehicle use permit will be required during Free Fishing Weekend to park at any of the 500 water-access sites maintained by WDFW.

"Free Fishing Weekend is a great time to revive an old hobby or to introduce friends and family to fishing," Hymer said. "Adults can introduce kids to fishing on a wide variety of waters around the state." While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as size limits, bag limits and season closures will still be in effect. Anglers will also be required to complete a catch record card for any salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or halibut they catch. Catch record cards and WDFW's *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet are available free at hundreds of sporting goods stores and other license dealers throughout the state. The rules pamphlet is also available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

Eastern Washington:

With warm weather in the forecast, anglers should expect a slowdown in the good fishing they've experienced in recent weeks. "Fish now, and get ready to start fishing earlier and later in the day," suggests Chris Donley, WDFW central district fish biologist of Spokane. Donley says virtually every open fishery has good action now, from **rainbow trout** at Coffeepot Lake in Lincoln County to **largemouth bass** at Rock Lake in Whitman County.

WDFW northeast district fish biologist Curt Vail of Colville reports Waitts Lake has been very good for rainbows from 11 inches and up and **brown trout** from 16 inches and up. "Curlew Lake is great for rainbows again this year," Vail said. "A possible new state record **tiger muskie** - one that exceeded a 48-inch-long tape measure - was caught there recently but it was released by a bass fisherman." Vail also noted Bayley and McDowell lakes on the Little Pend Oreille Wildlife Refuge have been producing

catches of rainbow up to 25 inches and lots of smaller fish have been hooked and released.

WDFW enforcement sergeant Dan Rahn reported checking good catches during a boat patrol on Lake Roosevelt over the Memorial Day weekend. "We checked some nice **walleye** and **bass** in the Hawk Creek area and on the lake below Two Rivers," he said. "Walleye fishing should also be good on the June first opener of the Spokane Arm as usual."

Many rivers and streams throughout the region open to fishing June 1. After current high flows in some settle out, they should provide good action on trout and other species. WDFW fish biologists remind anglers to read the regulations carefully because there are restrictions on gear and portions of waterways to protect future fish populations.

WDFW southeast district fish biologist Glen Mendel of Walla Walla reports the special Snake River hatchery **chinook salmon** season is continuing "fairly well" and is likely to remain open another couple weeks. But at the current rate of catch, Mendel doubted the special season would last until the end of June. The season is open from Texas Rapids boat launch upstream to the Corps of Engineers boat launch about a mile upstream of Little Goose Dam on the south bank of the Snake River. The daily limit is one hatchery (adipose-fin-clipped with healed scar) chinook at least 12 inches long. All chinook with the adipose fin intact - and all steelhead - must immediately be released unharmed. Anglers must use barbless hooks when fishing for all species in this area of the Snake River during the salmon fishery, and use hooks no larger than 5/8 inch (point of hook to shank).

Family fishing events are planned in southeast Washington for the June 9-10 Free Fishing Weekend. A kids' fishing derby is scheduled on Saturday morning, June 9, at West Evans Pond near Clarkston, and on Sunday morning, June 10, at Rainbow Lake in the Tucannon River Valley. Special prizes are offered for tagged rainbow trout stocked in both waters from WDFW's Tucannon Fish Hatchery. For more information about the events, contact the Umatilla National Forest's Pomeroy Ranger District at 509-843-1891.

North Central Washington:

Chinook salmon fishing on the Icicle River in Chelan County continues with a daily catch limit of two salmon, minimum size 12 inches. The portion of the river that opened May 22 for the special season is from the closure signs 800 feet upstream of the mouth to 500 feet downstream of the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery rack. WDFW Chelan district fish biologist Art Viola of Cashmere explains that fishery is possible because in-season run analyses predict about 2,500 salmon are coming to the Icicle that are not listed as endangered, and only about 1,000 fish are needed for hatchery broodstock. Viola reminds anglers that a night closure and non-buoyant lure restrictions are in effect. Depending on catch rates, the season could remain open through July.

June 1 marks the opening of river and stream fishing throughout the region. WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist Bob Jateff of Omak reminds anglers that it's catch-and-release only with selective gear for **trout** on the Methow River and selected tributaries such as the Twisp and Chewuch. "The river is still a little high for fishing yet," Jateff said, "but it should be in pretty good shape by the middle of June. Anglers should check the fishing rules pamphlet closely because there are selected areas on the Methow, Twisp, and Chewuch rivers that are open to fishing during specific dates only."

Jateff also reports that lake fishing has been good with the Conconullys, Wannacut and Spectacle all producing nice catches of **rainbow trout**. "Of the selective gear waters, Blue Lake in the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area has been good for rainbow and brown trout running 12 to 20 inches," he said. "Pearygin Lake near Winthrop and Jameson Lake in Douglas County both continue to provide good catches of rainbow for both shore and boat anglers."

WDFW Columbia Basin district fish biologist Jeff Korth of Moses Lake says **walleye** fishing has been

slow recently at Potholes Reservoir and Moses Lake. "The fish are there," he said, "and when the bite has been on, everyone was getting fish. Be prepared to keep trying different means of enticing fish to grab the bait. Water temperatures are still in the mid to high 60's, so there's plenty of time to get out there before things warm up too much."

South Central Washington:

WDFW district fish biologist Paul Hoffarth of Pasco reports **shad** are moving up the Columbia and Snake Rivers now. "Shad migrate in large schools and pass relatively close to shore in many areas as they move upstream," Hoffarth said. "Shad darts and mylar jigs are very effective. Boat anglers should use divers to get their lures down, nine to 20 feet deep in most areas."

Hoffarth also noted **sturgeon** fishing in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River should start to be productive in early June. "Remember the sturgeon sanctuary remains in effect from the Interstate 82 bridge at Umatilla upstream to McNary Dam," he said. "This area will remain closed to angling for sturgeon through July 31." The sturgeon fishery in the John Day Pool, from John Day Dam upstream to the I-82 bridge, is nearing the quota for this year and is expected to close soon. For an updates on that fishery, check the WDFW fishing rule change website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regqs/fishregs.htm>.

The Ringold bank fishery for **spring chinook salmon** has been extended through June 15. "The summer chinook season in the Hanford Reach will kick off on June 16, just as the Ringold bank fishery ends," Hoffarth said. "The summer fishery is open to boat anglers as well as bank anglers, but check the rules pamphlet for all restrictions."

Rivers and streams open to fishing June 1, although WDFW fish biologist Jim Cummins says the southcentral region's waterways are generally are not a big draw early on. "Water temperatures are generally cold and flows are a little high, often resulting in slow fishing," he explained. "River flows have been moderate and most rivers and streams have been in fishable condition, but that is likely to change soon with a warming trend that will cause high elevation snow to melt."

"The best bet for the June first opener might be the Naches River," Cummins said. "Some nice **cutthroat** and **rainbow trout** can be caught early in the season there. Bull trout, adult steelhead and salmon must be released if caught, and all fish must be released in the catch-and-release section of the river. Although fly fishing is good later in the season, the best early season success is with spinners and spoons. Anglers need to read the regulations carefully, and note that no bait is allowed and that single, barbless hooks are required."

Cummins noted the Yakima River, which is open year-round above Roza Dam, is flowing higher now than desirable for fly anglers. Hoffarth agrees the Yakima is running high, but in the Tri-Cities area that's making for some excellent early summer fishing conditions for **bass** and **channel catfish**. Hoffarth also notes **walleye** fishing in the Columbia and Snake rivers usually picks up in June. Best bets in the Columbia are the areas near the Irrigon and Boardman marinas just across the border in Oregon.

Kokanee fishing should begin to heat up in June in Yakima River reservoirs, Cummins said, but so far it's been slow. "All of the Yakima reservoirs are full," he said, "so boat launching should be good. Rimrock, Bumping, Kachess, Keechelus and Cle Elum reservoirs all hold kokanee. Rimrock Reservoir is muddy, which may delay the kokanee bite. Flood flows last November via the North and South forks of the Tieton River, evidently brought in tons of silt which remains suspended in the water column. The Tieton River itself is also muddy, and may remain muddy for several months."

WDFW district fish biologist Eric Anderson of Yakima reports **triploid rainbow trout** will be stocked in three popular lakes June 4-6: Lost Lake in Kittitas County will receive over 3,500 triploids running three-

quarters of a pound to a pound-and-a-half each; Dog Lake in Yakima County will receive 1,468 triploids at a pound-and-a-half each; and Leech Lake in Yakima County receives 1,105 triploids at a pound-and-a-half each.

"Fishing action at Clear Lake in Yakima County remains hot with over 10,000 catchable-sized **rainbow trout** stocked in the last several weeks," Anderson said. "Clear Lake also received over 6,400 of the larger triploid rainbow trout since the first of May."

Anderson said many other lakes and ponds in the Yakima and Kittitas valleys continue to provide good fishing. "Our hatchery crews are gearing up to re-stock many of them right before the state's designated Free Fishing Weekend on June 9 -10." See WDFW's website <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/> for details.

Reader Email

A long-time friend, Brian P. sent this to TGF co-editor Michael Teague, "I went out this morning fishing by myself and had some pretty good luck. I hooked 7 spring chinook and one steelhead all on my fly rod on a fly that I tied back when I was taking study breaks in Montana. Ended up bringing home one spring chinook and a steelhead. It was hard landing the fish by myself without a net on an 8 weight fly rod too. I think I might just have to go back in the morning and Friday too. Enjoy the pictures."



Mike O. who wrote last week with questions about Green Peter and similar fisheries, sent this, "Last Sunday, we went to Green Peter, and caught 14 Kokanee. The reservoir was low for this time of year, but fish were running about 20' to 30'. Fish were 10" to 12", most caught on an a rainbow Apex with double hook and white corn. Again thank you, and where would I find information for Green Peter and Odell Lake."

Michael replied, "Regarding where to obtain information on these or other fisheries, I'd recommend you join the friendly crowd at www.ifish.net (if you haven't already), tell a story or a little about yourself on your first post, then make yourself at home. You're always welcome to ask questions about fishing

anywhere around Oregon. While you probably won't get specific locations, you'll find out what's working, the best time of day and how deep the fish are holding.

"You can check the level at Green Peter and see photos of what to expect here:

<http://www.coastangler.com/kokaneeramp.html>

"Hope this helps and please let us know how you do out there."

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

List of Free Fishing Weekend events:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/free_fishing/events.asp

Good information from the Oregon State Marine Board - Boating in Oregon Coastal Waters:

<http://www.boatoregon.com/Library/CoastalGuide.pdf>

Weekly Quote – "Fishing is not like billiards, in which it is possible to attain a disgusting degree of perfection." - Arthur Ransome

GOOD LUCK!