

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 17th – August 23rd, 2007**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Steelhead numbers continue to peak at Bonneville Dam on the Columbia where some bank and boat anglers are getting into good numbers of fish. Although the bulk of the fish being landed are still the smaller "A" run fish, Idaho bound steelhead of significant larger size are due to make their appearance.

An occasional fall chinook is being landed for boat anglers in the Longview to Gresham stretch of the mainstem Columbia. Although still a few weeks away from peak season, salmon will begin to dominate the catch in this stretch for boaters anchored with hardware.

Oregon and Washington fishery managers met on Wednesday to consider re-opening the retention season for sturgeon in the Wauna to Bonneville section. The staff recommendation was for a continuance of the 4-day retention period (Thursday – Sunday) from August 18th through the end of the year. The compact however adopted a 7-day per week opener for the Wauna to Bonneville stretch and will likely reconsider additional time in the fall if the quota is kept in check. Effort has been light and catches slow.

The Willamette is running 71 degrees at Willamette Falls but there's little in the lower river other than bass fishing of interest to anglers. Sturgeon fishing remains in the doldrums.

Steelheading has been slow to fair on the Clackamas. Spring chinook are evident but too dark to keep.

Fishing remains dead slow at the Sandy although trolling off the mouth may yield summer steelhead.

Summer steelhead and even spring Chinook counts picked up last week at Foster Dam on the South Santiam. Recycling of these fish is ongoing here and has started once again on the North Santiam where fish are being trucked to Mehama.

Trout fishing has slowed on the McKenzie with the water level low.

Waters in the South Willamette Valley scheduled to be planted with trout include Carmen Reservoir, McKenzie above Leaburg Lake and Salmon Creek.

Northwest – Calm seas continue to treat anglers to ample fishing opportunities for salmon, halibut tuna and bottomfish. From Garibaldi, albacore are 20 to 30 miles offshore and some anglers are reporting large Bluefin tuna occasionally breaking water. Salmon anglers are still taking good numbers of mostly coho but limits are not the rule.

Buoy 10 effort is beginning to pick up even though this fishery remains closed to the retention of chinook. If preliminary reports are accurate, the chinook opener on the 22nd should prove productive downstream of Tongue Point reports **Pro guide Jim Nicol (503-550-3166). Don't miss out on learning all about the most exciting fishery NW Oregon has to offer! Order technical report #4 on lower Columbia salmon fishing NOW and we can email you almost immediately some of the best information available on this fishery. Go to: <http://www.theguidesforecast.com/store/cart.php?cat=Tech+Reports> to order yours today!**

Anglers fishing offshore of the mouth of the Columbia are witnessing epic fishing for coho. The recreational fleet as taken over 60% of the coho quota and if calm seas persist, the quota is likely to be met for the first time in several years. Best catches are coming from 6 to 12 miles south of the jetty tips in 150 to 250 foot of water. Although high numbers of wild coho and undersized chinook are being released, limits of hatchery fish are easy to come by. Chinook still only make up a very small portion of the catch. Anchovies make the best bait as bait balls are present in good numbers.

Steelhead are available in all of the whitewater areas of the Nestucca. Small baits will work best. There are still some really nice chrome fish around the area of First Bridge, and around Three rivers reports **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)**.

Albacore fishers are heading west anywhere from 28 to 40 miles out of the mouth of the Columbia. Ample numbers of fish are willing to bite.

Low, warm flows are challenging most freshwater steelheaders on north coast streams. Good numbers of sea-run cutthroat trout are present in tidewater sections of these rivers but remain open to catch and release opportunities only.

Tuna, halibut and Coho were taken out of Depoe Bay on a flat ocean last Sunday.

Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411) reports that the coho fishing is "pretty good" out of Newport, better out of Depoe Bay.

Southwest – Cabezon may no longer be kept by offshore boaters as of Saturday, August 10th. Fortunately, the survival rate for released fish is excellent. Anglers harvested 11.8 metric tons, which filled the quota for this year. Rock and jetty fishers may still keep cabezon, however.

All depth halibut will remain open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday until the 80,000 ton harvest cap is met or October 28th, whichever comes first.

Mild tides, which might make for easy bar crossings won't mean much this coming weekend if the ferocious wind and wave forecast for the southwest coast is accurate.

Smallmouth bass fishing is good with light pressure on the Umpqua. Most smallies are in the one to two pound range. The ODFW announced a rule change on August 10th, which allows anglers to keep radio-tagged salmon taken on the Umpqua. They ask that the tags be returned, however. Steelheading is fair on the North Umpqua, better in the flies-only stretch. Tuna fishing has been great about 45 miles from port.

Anglers launching out of Florence last Sunday found smooth ocean conditions, scattered coho and good ocean crabbing.

Pro guide Jeff Jackson (541-268-6944) reports that Chinook have started entering the Siuslaw and that he took a 27-pounder "with minimal effort."

The Rogue River is open to chinook retention in its entirety with the last stretch where fishing was disallowed, from Gold Ray Dam to Hog Creek Boat Ramp, re-opened August 15th. Numbers of chinook in the lower river are very good, but the bite is only fair. The best fishing is near the mouth at the change of tide.

Offshore Chinook catches picked up dramatically out of Brookings over the past week. Albacore have been taken within 25 miles of shore.

Section 5 of the Rogue River is scheduled to be planted with hatchery trout.

Eastern – The upper Deschutes is producing good catches of Brook Trout on an assortment of dry flies. Steelheading on the lower Deschutes is improving as numbers continue to enter. Trout fishing has been consistently good.

Scheduled to be stocked with trout this week are Devils Lake, Rouge River and Spring Creek.

SW Washington – With area rivers still low, warm and void of high concentrations of summer steelhead, most of the regions effort is taking place at the river mouths. Steelhead catches at the mouth of the Cowlitz and Kalama is fair to good with an occasional chinook being taken. Effort will build significantly in the next 3 weeks as this fishery progresses.

Upstream, anglers fishing Drano Lake and the White Salmon River are reporting good success for steelhead. Last week, boat anglers on the White Salmon averaged a steelhead per rod.

Columbia River Fishing Report – The Buoy 10 fishery is the hot topic this time of year. Usually however, it is open to the retention of Chinook- not at this time but it will be especially important that you read The Guide's Forecast of this section carefully to plot your assault for the opener on August 22nd. There have been some mixed reports for the few boats fishing in the river and it does appear that the Chinook are present. The final gillnet opener also indicated there are good numbers of salmon beginning to show in the lower Columbia. Gillnets took approximately 2,300 Chinook and 2,600 sturgeon in the 3 days that they fished. A small quota remains and the nets will fish again on August 23rd in zones 4 and 5. Coho are only showing in small number in the Buoy 10 fishery and a good deal of them are non-finclipped fish. **Pro guide Jim Nicol (503-550-3166)** reports, "I fished in the lower river the beginning of the week on the "Green Line" with fairly good action. We had 9 opportunities landing 6. However only one was a clipped Coho. The rest were small Chinook. I had out two spinner's and two Herring and one Anchovy. All three rigs saw activity. I was finding most of our action in the 28' to 38' depth outside of Hammond. I fished again inside at buoy 10 on Saturday thru the beginning of the incoming and fished a couple good rips carrying bait fish and received one "Drive By" We all know the ocean is the place to be but the river is a good 2nd choice if the ocean lumps up. We also tried our luck at some catch and release sturgeon. Unfortunately we were not very successful due to a large part to the gill netters. However I did hear up around the tongue point area there was some action some decent size fish."

Outside of the mouth of the Columbia, the salmon action has been nothing short of fantastic! Limits are the rule and the coho are starting to put on weight. Boats have been concentrating to the south about 6 to 8 miles south of the south jetty tip. Depths of 150 to 220 are being targeted and the fish are present in great number. The smaller Chinook and coho have seemingly moved on and although several boats took early limits on 8/15, it took others (including us) until the early afternoon to limit out. The bite definitely begins to slack off after mid-morning as fish fill up on bait and become less aggressive in striking. Chinook were making up a small percentage of the catch but have become even more rare as of late. Some guides have been trying the north beach in shallow water for Chinook but have come up empty handed. If the Chinook are showing in the river, they are likely coming from the north but sport catches do not indicate this. Anchovies are taking all of our fish and when cleaning these fish, are making up the bulk of the diet for these ocean coho. Anglers are of course getting frustrated with the poor strike to land ratio's as the morning wears on. It's just part of ocean fishing. I have been running plain anchovies with banana sinkers and doing just fine without all the extra gadgets on the line. No doubt however, fish flashes can aid in higher yields but I ended up taking off a flasher/hoochie/anchovy rig due to the lack of strikes it was getting.

Fog overtook the lower Columbia and ocean on the 15th so as a reminder, anglers should be aware that

they should check for properly working GPS and bring a back up compass. Never, never leave the boat basin if you are uncomfortable navigating in foggy conditions. You can't count on following another boat out there either- it's a recipe for disaster.

Offshore tuna fishing remains good for most boats but there are some indications that the fish may be more willing to take live bait than trolled jigs. This is a common occurrence later in the season and it may be that way into the late summer. Tuna concentrations are happening about 28 to 40 miles offshore of the mouth of the Columbia.

No one is participating in the catch and release opportunities for sturgeon in the estuary but since the gillnets went in and water temperatures are on the increase, effort and catch is down.

In a bulletin that came as a surprise to many, the ODFW announced the following this week.

For Immediate Release Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Sturgeon fishery opens on Columbia River from Wauna to Bonneville

CLACKAMAS, Ore. — State fishery officials from Oregon and Washington decided today to allow retention of sturgeon seven days per week on the mainstem Columbia River from Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam beginning Saturday, August 18 through Sunday, September 30.

"Because the sturgeon fishery below Bonneville Dam is managed for harvest over three year intervals, it provides flexibility to add this additional fishing time," says John North, ODFW Columbia River Fisheries Manager. "Lower than anticipated catches in 2006 have allowed us to add more time in 2007 and still remain within our management guidelines."

The affected area is the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam, all adjacent Washington tributaries, and the lower Willamette River upstream to Willamette Falls, including Multnomah Channel.

Fish managers set the Columbia River sturgeon fishery harvest guidelines based on recent population estimates, escapement needs, and harvest allocation agreements for Treaty and non-Treaty fisheries.

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

The Guide's Forecast – Of greatest interest to most anglers is the opening of the Buoy 10 fishery to Chinook on August 22nd. With fair reports of Chinook already being taken in the lower river (catch and release only), anticipation is running high. Fall Chinook catches are also on the increase (albeit small) at the mouths of the Cowlitz and Kalama Rivers and even anglers at the mouth of the Sandy have seen limited success. The bulk of the effort on the opener will take place in the Astoria area however and going with tradition, I usually make a prediction on the exact date good numbers of Chinook will show for sport anglers in this fishery. This year, I predict that date to be.....August 25th. How convenient is it that this date falls on a Saturday? Shouldn't be too crowded that weekend, huh? I am sure however that there will be good numbers of Chinook present on the opener for the river (8/22) but the tide is rather weak (only about a 4 foot incoming) with the outgoing tide a whopping 1.2 foot- how pathetic! By Saturday however, we'll have a low slack near the break of dawn (read: get your butt down to Buoy 10 at the crack of dawn for the last part of outgoing/first part of incoming) for Chinook action. From there, work your way upstream along the Oregon or Washington shorelines putting your offerings anywhere from 20 to 40 pulls using divers. Early reports indicate herring are working well but with the warm water, spinners should again be a top producer this year. Don't leave home without your

red/white combo's and chartreuse green dots as well. By this time next week, we have some juicy details on how the fishery is progressing.

Anglers looking for the slam dunk salmon fishing offshore will have to pay close attention to the ocean forecast this weekend. The outlook isn't good:

FRI S WIND 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. SW SWELL 5 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS IN THE MORNING...THEN SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS IN THE AFTERNOON.

FRI NIGHT W WIND 10 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT... BACKING TO S AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 5 FT.

SAT S WIND 5 TO 10 KT...RISING TO 15 TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT...BUILDING TO 4 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. W SWELL 5 FT. SLIGHT CHANCE OF RAIN.

SAT NIGHT S WIND 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT. WIND WAVES 6 FT. SW SWELL 5 FT. CHANCE OF RAIN.

SUN SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT. WIND WAVES 6 FT. W SWELL 9 FT.

MON W WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 9 FT.

It looks as if Sunday will be the real problem child but if anglers are serious about getting after the salmon, they are going to want to get an early start to avoid the possible afternoon winds. Stick to the south as that is where the action has been best all season but if winds persist from the south, it is possible that the bite could switch to the north as wind and currents push fish that direction. The seas are due to change.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – The water at Willamette Falls is up to 72 degrees with the subtropical conditions offering fair to good results for smallmouth bass in the lower river. In an announcement Wednesday this week, the ODFW opened the lower Willamette and Multnomah Channel to catch-and keep sturgeon fishing seven days a week. See the bulletin in its entirety in the Columbia River section of TGF.

For a period of time, steelhead entering the trap on the North Santiam were being donated to the Oregon Food Bank. Thankfully, the process of recycling them downstream to benefit anglers has resumed and will continue for at least the next couple of weeks.

The Guide's Forecast – Fishing has been quite spotty for shaker sturgeon on the lower Willamette with keeper-sized fish a rarity, but at least it's another alternative when the coastal conditions turn nasty. The spring Chinook run is history for 2007 and numbers of summer steelhead are thinning with 20 to 30 a day crossing the Falls. Boaters should proceed with caution in low water levels.

Steelheading has been tough on the North Santiam, despite really good numbers of fish in the system. A total of 13,554 summer steelhead have crossed at Willamette Falls with a high percentage of these bound for the Santiam system. Often, repeated presentations will stimulate the steelhead into striking. While we don't share the notion that fish have emotions, the appearance of this reaction is that it irritates and annoys the fish, so they make a pass at it. Roughly 3,700 summers have been counted at each of the facilities on both the North and South Santiam.

It is hope that rainfall in the forecast will be sufficient to have an impact on the low water at the McKenzie River, but unfortunately, after an extended period of dry conditions, most will be absorbed by

the ground.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Clackamas anglers continue to take summer steelhead, primarily at first light, but the river is so low it's keeping most boaters off the water. A few Chinook are also being landed, but most are too dark to keep this late in the season. About 3,800 spring Chinook have returned to the hatchery facility with daily counts declining recently. Rain this week should improve steelhead action and may serve to deter rafting, tubing and swimming activities which dominate the Clackamas in sunny daylight hours all week long with school still out for summer. The ODFW reminds anglers that it's illegal to retain radio tagged steelhead but request that anglers call the Clackamas Office any time at (971) 673-6000 and advise them of the tag number along with the date, location and time the fish was caught and released.

Water clarity has dramatically improved on the Sandy and while a few steelhead have been taken, it's still quite slow. Most hookups have come on the stretch between Doge and Dabney, but it might be advisable to put the Sandy one on the back burner until coho start to enter. While silvers can be challenging to catch once they enter the tributaries, a strong run is expected this year. Stay tuned. A new fishway has been constructed a couple of hundred feet below the recently-removed Marmot Dam. It is illegal to fish within 200 feet of it.

North Coast Fishing Report – Anglers seeking salmon out of Garibaldi are having a harder time than they were just a few weeks ago. Jellyfish have taken up some space in these waters impeding properly fishing baits. Boats fishing just north of the Nehalem Bay entrance are scoring the best results but you still have to plan on culling through some high numbers of wild coho before finding limits or near limits of hatchery fish. Chinook are making up an insignificant portion of the catch. To date, just over 64% of the quota has been taken and the season is scheduled to run through September 16th unless the quota has been met beforehand.

Tuna chasers are crying the end of the troll season for these fish. Swim baits and live bait will become a more effective tool in the coming weeks. The fish are still 20 to 30 miles offshore.

Inland steelheaders have **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** reporting on the Nestucca River. Jesse writes, "Steelhead are available in all of the whitewater area's of the Nestucca. Small baits will work best. There are still some really nice chrome fish around the area of First Bridge, and around Three rivers. There are a few fall fish being taken from PC to Woods, but very few. Most have been taken from cast spinners at the PC boat ramp. Crabbing in the bay is picking up with some nice firm ones from the bay, as well as some great ocean crab."

The Guide's Forecast – Offshore fishing will likely continue to drop off for hatchery coho in the coming weeks as the bulk of these fish begin to migrate north to the mouth of the Columbia. Later on in early to mid-September, some hatchery fish destined for the Trask River will likely enter the area.

Tuna fishing should remain good but anglers may need to modify their technique to casting swim baits or drifting live bait in order to achieve success.

Crabbing is now closed in the ocean until December 1st.

Some Chinook should become available in the Nestucca tidewater but summer steelhead should be a better option in the upper Nestucca if anglers can employ stealthy techniques.

Central & South Coast Reports – The lower Siletz River has been producing Chinook for about a month now, as pictures at Coyote Rock attest. A few over 30 pounds have been landed with the largest fish do far this season a 35-pounder taken by George Howard. All techniques are used here. but it's courteous to mimic others in the stretch you want to fish. Action has been slow but steady. Steelheading is fair to good for summer steelhead above tidewater with Moonshine Park a popular destination on weekdays as the lumber company only opens the gate to the river upstream on weekends.

High winds and rough seas are forecast for the ocean off the southwest coast this weekend, with an ominous, hurricane-like swirl predicted offshore. It's be a good time to catch up on chores around the house.

All depth halibut will be open Friday through Sunday from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain this and every week until the 80,000-pound catch limit is reached or October 28th if the quota doesn't fill. During the last all depth fishery, some boaters managed to catch halibut, tuna and coho or Chinook all in one trip across the bar. Just be certain to fish the salmon last because only single-point, barbless hooks may be used for any species once salmon have been landed.

Boaters chasing tuna out of Depoe Bay earlier this week have traveled about 25 miles west to find them but by Thursday, albacore were thick at 18 miles. Once in 62 degree water, fishing was good. Coho limits have come quickly over 280 to 300 feet of water.

Bottom fishers out of Newport are taking limits of rockfish and finding a few ling cod to sweeten the take. Halibut fishing has been good, with one fish over the 100-pound mark taken during the last retention period. Coho fishing is good and better numbers of Chinook are showing up in catches. Crabbing in Yaquina Bay is good and has picked up out of Waldport with Dungeness fishing up now. It's a good thing, too, as ocean crabbing closed Wednesday this week.

Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411) reported on August 15th, "Got in late last night from Tuna fishing with Phil Pirone. I got a few of his new UV enhancer scents. Anyway, salmon fishing is still pretty good off of Newport and Depoe, with Depoe bring the better of the two. The best salmon out of Newport is just pass the north end of the Rockpile. Where as it is just a four to eight mile run straight west of Depoe. The key here is to keep going out until you find water over 52 degrees. Anglers on the central coast can expect to catch an increasing percentage of native coho in the coming weeks as most of the hatchery coho are headed to the hatcheries on the Columbia River system. I have two dates left open for Buoy 10, the 26th and 27th of August."

Coho have been scattered of the central and southern Oregon coast, but more Chinook are showing up at cleaning stations. About half of those trying for salmon over the past week have landed a Chinook.

Bottom fishing is good out of all ports but only one-third of the anglers specifically targeting ling cod managed to land one. Just be certain to release all yellow. canary and as of August 11th, cabezon, although shore anglers may continue to keep the latter.

They say there are no sure things in the angling game, but a possible exception might be the smallmouth bass fishery at the Umpqua River. The water temperature has topped 70 degrees in the mainstem Umpqua, virtually shutting down the steelhead bite. But smallies are on the prowl from dawn 'til dusk. A wide variety of baits and lures will take them; smallmouth aren't too finicky, but soft plastics fished in the deeper slots and holes will entice the larger specimens. Location on the river isn't critical and smallies can be caught from bank or boat, but anglers should look for rocky spots where the fish can lurk in anticipation of ambushing a passing morsel. Smallmouth bass fishing is also hot in the South Umpqua. It's been slow for springers and summer steelhead in the North Umpqua with counts at Winchester Dam falling off. Crabbing is improving in Winchester Bay where a few Chinook have been

picked up. Anglers launching offshore on Wednesday this week found easy coho limits at about 50 feet over 350 feet of water. One charter boat landed 336 before 9 AM. Plan on catching and releasing plenty of wild fish in the process, however. It was a long boat ride - 40 or so miles - earlier this week to find warm water and jumpers, but once found, tuna fishing was good.

Coho catches out of Florence are about 50% natives with limits coming at only 25 feet over 250 feet of water.

Pro guide Jeff Jackson (541-268-6944) reports, "Fish are in on the Siuslaw. A few have been caught around the mouth of the North Fork and Cushman. Not tons of fish yet, but all signs are pointing to a great year. I had to check out the reports I've been getting and caught a 27 lb. fish with minimal effort. Its going to be a great year.

"In the ocean out of Florence, salmon fishing has been very hit and miss. Cold water has built in and guys are going outside to over 300' to find a temperature break.

"The Rogue at Gold Beach is still fishing very well. Expect great action on the incoming tides."

The lower Coquille and Coos Bay are producing some fall Chinook as the first of the run is moving in now. Trolled spinners have been effective. Crabbing is picking up in Coos Bay, but sorting of softshells is required. Novice crabbers are reminded that to check for hardness, squeeze the foremost leg of the Dungeness above the joint closest to the body of the crab. It is this area, not the back shell, which will reveal whether or not the crab is fit to retain.

Trollers on the Rogue River estuary finally saw an improvement in the action late last week. The bite fell off under additional pressure over the weekend, but picked up again earlier this week. An anchovy/spinner combinations about all that's used here and it is effective. The fishery is just getting underway and it's shaping up to be a good season. Anglers should be aware that Sunday, August 19th starting at 12:30 PM, the annual hydroplane race will take place on the bay. That might be a good time to try for the fresh Chinook which have ventured upstream as high as the Grant's Pass stretch where boaters are picking them up on plugs. Action for summer steelhead on the upper Rogue has improved over the past week with all manner of bait and lure effective.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Steelhead counts at Bonneville Dam are 'way up from last year - over 25,000 more steelies have crossed at Bonneville in 2007 than in 2006 as of August 15th. Counts at The Dalles are far greater as well. Steelhead fishing is good and continues to improve in the lower Deschutes and trollers at the mouth are seeing decent return on their efforts. The best results on the river are coming from the mouth to Macks Canyon. A few Chinook, Chinook jacks and steelhead are being taken at Shearers Falls.

Northwest Trout – Trout fishing has improved at Diamond Lake with the water cooling seasonally. Boaters are doing better than bank anglers with some reporting limits.

Suttle Lake is producing fair to good catches of kokanee for trollers working wedding rings at about 30 feet.

In the South Willamette Watershed District, ODFW will stock Carmen Reservoir with 2,500 legal size rainbow trout, McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake with 7,500 catchable rainbow trout and Salmon Creek with 1,000 legal size rainbow trout.

The next scheduled stocking in the North Willamette Watershed will be the week of Aug. 20.

Northwest Bass & Panfish - The ODFW reports that small- and largemouth bass are staging for a second spawn near Scoggins Creek at Hagg Lake. This sounds like something I (Michael) should know about but didn't. An August spawn? They say they'll be spawning for three weeks. Who'da figured? It may be worth investigating. Panfishing has been good, particularly in the evening.

Crappie fishing is excellent at Ochoco Reservoir in the Deschutes Watershed.

Davis Lake, which is fly angling only, has been fair to good for bass, but finding the larger fish has been challenging.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report August 8th – 21st, 2007

North Puget Sound

The mark-selective fisheries for hatchery chinook in central Puget Sound have wrapped up, but anglers still have plenty of other opportunities throughout the region to hook a salmon. Anglers are finding some nice chinook on the west side of San Juan Island, along with healthy numbers of resident hatchery coho in marine areas 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton), said Steve Thiesfeld, a WDFW fish biologist.

But the place to be in the next couple of weeks may be "Humpy Hollow," a portion of Puget Sound that stretches from Shipwreck north to Mukilteo.

"We expect a big push of pink salmon in the next couple of weeks, and Humpy Hollow is traditionally the best place to be when those fish head for the region's rivers," Thiesfeld said. Anglers fishing Humpy Hollow, or other waters of Marine Area 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. All chinook salmon must be released. Thiesfeld reminds anglers in neighboring Marine Area 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) that they must release chinook, plus all pink salmon. "In order to protect a weak pink return to the Skagit this year, pink salmon retention is not allowed in 8-1," he said.

Meanwhile, the **crab** fishery continues in marine areas 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10, and the southern and eastern portion of 7. The northern portion of Marine Area 7 opens Aug. 15. See WDFW's sport-crabbing website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/>) for more information.

The **coonstripe** and **pink shrimp** fisheries also are open in the region, and shrimpers can drop a pot in marine areas 8-1, 8-2, 9 and the northern and central portion of Marine Area 7. For more information on the shrimp fisheries check WDFW's website at <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/shrimpreg/shrimpindex.shtml>.

In the rivers, the **steelhead** fishery in the Reiter Ponds section of the Skykomish is under way. That section of the river (1,500 feet upstream to 1,000 feet downstream of the Reiter Ponds Hatchery outlet) opened July 21 after the hatchery collected enough steelhead broodstock to meet egg-take goals.

The salmon fishery on the Snohomish River opens Aug. 16. Anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chinook.

Farther north, the Skagit River will remain closed to salmon fishing until September, said Brett Barkdull, another WDFW fish biologist. "The closure is necessary because only about 90,000 pink salmon are

expected to return to the river this year," he said. "That's far below the minimum return of 330,000 salmon necessary to consider a recreational fishery."

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

[South Sound/Olympic Peninsula](#)

UPDATE (August 9, 2007)

Halibut fishing will open in marine areas 3 and 4 shoreward of a line approximating 30 fathoms from the Bonilla-Tatoosh line south to the Queets River on Aug. 18 and 19. See Rule Changes at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> for more information.

As the salmon season approaches its midpoint, anglers are catching limits of **chinook, coho** and **pink** salmon from the Pacific coast to Puget Sound. They'll also get one more day - Thursday, Aug. 9 - to catch and retain chinook in a portion of the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, and can again fish for halibut off Ilwaco (Marine Area 1).

Salmon fishing is going strong off the southern Pacific coast, where anglers are catching limits off Westport and Ilwaco (marine areas 1 and 2), said Wendy Beeghley, WDFW fish biologist. "Even though the weather's been so-so, this is a good time to go," she said. "Hatchery coho make up the bulk of the catch, but chinook are starting to show up off Ilwaco."

On the north coast (marine areas 3 and 4) anglers fishing off La Push and Neah Bay were averaging about one fish per rod and finding quite a few pink salmon.

Ilwaco is open daily for salmon fishing; Westport is open Sundays through Thursdays; and La Push and Neah Bay are open Tuesdays through Saturdays. Coastal salmon fishing rules will remain as specified in the *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>), or until quotas are met.

Anglers on the south coast are also getting another chance to catch halibut off Ilwaco (Marine Area 1). As of Aug. 3, recreational fishing for Pacific halibut will be open three days a week - Friday, Saturday and Sunday - until the remaining quota is reached, or Sept. 30, 2007, whichever comes first. It is unlawful to retain bottomfish, except sablefish and Pacific cod, when halibut is on board.

Along the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca, anglers will have one more day - Thursday, Aug. 9 - to catch and retain **hatchery chinook**, said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. Enough hatchery chinook remain in the quota to re-open the fishery that day in Marine Area 5 (Sekiu) and the portion of Marine Area 6 west of Ediz Hook at Port Angeles, he said. "There are still some nice hatchery fish out there waiting to be caught."

While the quota for chinook is expected to be reached on Aug. 9, both areas remain open for pink, sockeye and hatchery coho salmon. "The fishing's been better this year for coho and catches should increase through mid-September," he said.

Meanwhile, salmon fishing continues to heat up in southern Puget Sound, Thiesfeld said. "This is the peak of the season and there are good numbers of hatchery chinook showing up." Anglers in all three marine areas - Tacoma/Vashon (11), Hood Canal (12) and Olympia area (13) are doing well, he said.

Selective fishing rules are in effect in marine areas 11 and 13, requiring anglers to use single-point, barbless hooks and release any wild chinook they encounter. The fishery in those two areas runs seven

days a week, with a limit of two salmon a day. Also, Commencement Bay is now open for salmon fishing.

In Hood Canal, the daily limit is four salmon, of which only two can be chinook. All chum must be released.

For those interested in winning a boat, some cash or just getting out and fishing, two derbies in the 12-event Northwest Salmon Derby Series are coming up in Puget Sound. On Aug. 11, participants in the Gig Harbor Salmon Derby can try for the \$2,000 first prize for catching the largest chinook or coho salmon. Kids will be entered into a raffle for a 14-foot boat, motor and trailer. The derby will be held at three locations - the Point Defiance Boat House, Narrows Marina and the Gig Harbor boat launch dock. For more information, call 253-591-5325 or go to <http://www.discovernorthwestfishing.com/salmonderby.asp>

The seventh annual Hood Canal salmon derby will be held on Aug. 18 and 19. Tickets are \$25 a piece and participants can try for a first prize of \$1,000. The kids' derby is free. Weigh-ins will be at the Sunrise Motel near Hoodspout and Mikes' Beach Resort north of Lililwaup. Contact Clint Muns at 360-490-8482 or FISHHOG211@AOL.COM

All participants in both derbies will be entered in a raffle for a 23-foot center console Pacific boat with Honda motor and trailer. For more information, visit <http://www.discovernorthwestfishing.com>.

Meanwhile, the Quilcene River opens on Aug. 16 from Rodgers Street to the U. S. Highway 101 Bridge. The fishery is open seven days a week through Oct. 31. The daily limit is four coho only, with a minimum size of 12 inches. Only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

On the Olympic Peninsula, **summer coho** are starting to arrive in the Sol Duc River, but the river is presenting a challenge to most anglers, said Brian Russell, Sol Duc hatchery manager. "The river is low and clear and the fish are stealthy," he said. "It's pretty tough right now, but the people who know what they're doing are catching some."

Want to do some surf fishing? The Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Summer **Beach Perch** Fishing Derby Aug. 11 along the beaches off Westport. The event starts at sunrise with weigh-in scheduled for 4 p.m. at Angler Charters at 2401 Westhaven Drive - across from Float 8 at the Westport Marina. The entry fee is \$20 and all participants must have a valid state fishing license. The top four anglers will share a \$1,000-\$1,200 cash prize. Participants can register for the derby at www.anglercharters.net. Call 1-800-345-6223 for more information.

Recreational **crab** fishing is open Wednesdays through Saturdays in marine areas 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton), 11 (Tacoma/Vashon) and 12 (Hood Canal) through Sept. 3. Crabbing is open seven days a week in marine areas 4 (Neah Bay east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 (Sekiu) and 13 (south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge) through Jan. 2.

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

Southwest Washington:

There's no time like the present to catch hatchery steelhead in the Columbia River Basin. With more than 100,000 fish counted at Bonneville Dam and more on the way, anglers fishing the big river and tributaries during the first week in August were doing well as far upstream as the White Salmon River.

"We're probably seeing the peak of the summer steelhead run right now, although fishing should be

good into early fall," said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist. "Fishing improved during the last big tide series, and we have another big tide series running through mid-August."

Salmon fishing, on the other hand, has been slow throughout the lower Columbia River. Only a few chinook salmon were counted in creel surveys conducted during the week ending Aug. 5, and chinook retention remains closed in the Buoy 10 fishery through Aug. 21 to conserve wild tules.

But anglers seeking hatchery steelhead - including incoming early "B Run" fish weighing into the upper teens - have lots of options. Some of the best steelhead fishing has been reported at Drano Lake, where catch rates by boat anglers have been averaging nearly three-quarters of a fish per rod. Bank anglers averaged a fish for every two rods at both Drano Lake and the White Salmon River during the week ending Aug. 5.

Hymer estimates that about 60,000 of the 105,000 steelhead that have moved past Bonneville Dam through Aug. 6 are still in the Bonneville Pool, which makes that a good bet for boat anglers. Last year, about 80,000 steelhead had cleared the dam by that date.

Anglers fishing the Cowlitz River at Blue Creek have also been doing well. A creel check conducted during the week ending Aug. 5 turned up 30 boat anglers with 24 hatchery steelhead. Eight bank anglers caught six hatchery fish in the same area.

In the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, anglers have been averaging about one steelhead for every four rods, while boat anglers took one fish for every five rods. The best fishing in the lower river was reported in the gorge, downriver from the dam to Washougal. Overall, anglers fishing the lower river kept about two-thirds of the steelhead they caught.

As in past years, only steelhead with a clipped adipose or ventral fin and a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin may be retained anywhere on the Columbia River or its tributaries.

While fall salmon fishing got off to a slow start this month, catch rates should improve for both chinook and coho in the coming weeks, Hymer said. He noted that the peak fishing time at Buoy 10, where chinook retention begins Aug. 22 for chinook salmon, typically runs from mid-August through Labor Day.

"We have a lot of chinook salmon and hatchery coho holding right offshore, fattening up," Hymer said. "Anglers fishing at Buoy 10 will get a good shot at both species during the peak of the run." The catch limit in the Buoy 10 fishery is two salmon per day. As part of that limit, anglers may retain one adult chinook per day from Aug. 22 to Sept. 3 and from Oct. 1 to Dec. 31. All sockeye, chum and wild coho must be released.

Sturgeon retention is currently closed in all areas of the lower Columbia River although fishery managers from Washington and Oregon are scheduled to meet Aug. 15 to consider additional sturgeon-fishing opportunities above the Wauna power lines. Any actions taken at that meeting will be reported on the website for WDFW's southwest region at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regions/reg5/hotline.htm>.

Eastern Washington:

Lake Roosevelt **rainbow trout** fishing has been very good lately and anglers are commonly catching 14- to 21-inch fish. Successful boat anglers are using streamer flies with a piece of worm behind trolling flashers, pop gear or dodgers at 35 to 45 feet. For best success, trolling gear should be about 100 to 150 feet behind the boat to avoid spooking the fish, and speed and direction should be varied.

Dan Rahn, WDFW enforcement sergeant, reports successful trout trolling at Spokane County's Clear Lake. On a recent boat check, three anglers trolling with flashers and using worms for bait had 15 trout

that measured 12 to 14 inches.

Rahn also reports successful shore fishing during morning hours for rainbows at Spokane County's West Medical Lake where anglers are using worms and marshmallows.

Chris Donley, WDFW district fish biologist, said that nighttime fishing for **kokanee** at Loon Lake in Stevens County continues to be productive. Anglers are mostly fishing from boats with glo-hooks and maggots or corn in 30 to 40 feet of water. "Use your fish finder to locate the fish and then anchor over the top," he said.

Curt Vail, WDFW district fish biologist in Colville, said the Pend Oreille River continues to produce good catches of large **northern pike**. The river is also a good bet for **largemouth bass**, especially from Ione to Box Canyon Dam, and **smallmouth bass** in the Metaline Falls area.

[North Central Washington:](#)

Bob Jateff, WDFW fish biologist in Omak, said summer **chinook salmon** fishing in the Brewster/Bridgeport area has improved considerably with most adult fish averaging 15 to 18 pounds. Some anglers are calling it "the good old days," with limits that include 30-pound wild fish and 12-pound hatchery fish. The open area is from the Highway 173 Bridge at Brewster to the Highway 17 Bridge at Chief Joseph Dam, including the Okanogan River from the mouth to the first Highway 97 Bridge. Anglers must release all coho and sockeye.

Jateff said that because a large number of anglers have been cited for illegally snagging summer chinook salmon in the upper Columbia River, a non-buoyant lure restriction went into effect Aug. 7 for the fishery above Rocky Reach Dam. "When an angler uses a non-buoyant lure - that's one that sinks in fresh water -- the lure may only be equipped with one single-point hook measuring three-quarters of an inch or less from point to shank," he said. The restriction, which is in effect through the end of the season Oct. 15, applies to the upper Columbia River from Rocky Reach Dam to Turtle Rock and from Highway 173 Bridge at Brewster to Highway 17 Bridge at Bridgeport, including the Okanogan River from the mouth to the Highway 97 Bridge immediately upstream of mouth.

Trout fishing has picked up on the Methow River recently as snowmelt decreases and water continues to drop, Jateff said. "Resident rainbow and cutthroat trout up to 18 inches have been caught by both bank and boat fishermen using flies and lures," he said. Selective gear rules and catch and release are in effect for this fishery. Jateff reminds anglers to check the fishing regulation pamphlet carefully, because some areas of the Methow River and tributaries are closed to all fishing.

With warming temperatures, Jateff said trout fishing has slowed a bit in area lakes, and the best times to fish are early in the morning and in the evening when the water is coolest. "Mixed-species fisheries, such as Leader Lake near Omak and Patterson Lake near Winthrop, do best in summer when warm-water species become more active," he said. "Look for good **bluegill** and **crappie** fishing at Leader and **perch** at Patterson this time of the year."

[South Central Washington:](#)

Perry Harvester, WDFW regional habitat program manager in Yakima, said anglers trolling for **kokanee** have had success at Rimrock Reservoir. "Not quite as good as in past years, but not bad," he said. "Use 'Rimrock specials' or small wedding rings baited with maggots at about 20 feet deep behind pop gear. A small, shiny red hook seems to also help. These fish are pretty small at eight to nine inches, but the limit is 16 and they're tasty." Harvester also advised fishing shallow with trolled worms or flies for larger

cutthroat trout, but warned that all protected bull trout that are caught must be carefully released.

The fall **chinook salmon** fishery on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River near the Tri-Cities opens Aug. 16. Paul Hoffarth, WDFW fish biologist in Pasco, said the return to the Hanford Reach is on a "long and hopefully slow decline." The run is expected to be around 40,000 chinook, down from 50,000 last year, he said. "Fishing should be somewhat comparable to last year, likely a little slower," he said. Anglers can fish catch-and-release. The daily catch limit is six salmon, retaining no more than two adults of 24 inches or more. Hoffarth reminds anglers that all areas of the Hanford Reach are closed for hatchery and wild steelhead.

"The good news about **steelhead** is that we are expecting a strong return this year to Ringold," Hoffarth said. "The bad news is that the fishery does not open until the first of October."

Walleye fishing has been good overall in the lower Snake River and the Columbia River. Hoffarth reports anglers are picking up walleye in the usual locations below McNary Dam, including Umatilla, county line, Irrigon, and Boardman. "We are also seeing an increase in anglers fishing for walleye in and around the Tri-Cities and in the Hanford Reach," he said. Hoffarth reminds anglers the John Day Pool (John Day Dam to McNary Dam) is closed to the retention of sturgeon.

Reader Email

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

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*<http://albatuna.com/Recipes/Menu.htm>

Netarts Bay crabbing & clamming info with map:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/bayclams/Clamming_maps/Netarts.asp

Weekly Quote – "Hooking fish is the paradoxical method by which anglers rap on the watery door of the animals we seek." - Jan Zita Grover

GOOD LUCK!