

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **September 5th – September 11th, 2008**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

This is always a special edition for us here at The Guide's Forecast!

We're beginning our 10th year in circulation and the TGF staff wishes to thank all our subscribers for the success we've enjoyed. Our newsletter goes out to over 5,000 dedicated sportsmen and sportswomen here in the Northwest and we're proud to continue to offer the same degree to excellence that we always have. Of course, we'd love to do more and as our subscriber base grows, we'll be able to dedicate more time to our passion and provide you with even more of NW Oregon and Washington's most complete and accurate fishing newsletter! THANK YOU!

Willamette Valley/Metro- The September 1st opener for chinook was very productive for metro anglers fishing from the Bonneville to Longview. Anchor anglers took high numbers of quality, upriver bound salmon from 15 to 40 pounds. Wobblers were responsible for a large part of the harvest but spinners and plugs also took fish. Catch rates have dropped since the opener but it's highly unlikely that this fishery will meet its proposed closure date of September 16th.

To date, adult chinook passage over Bonneville is over double what it was last year for this time of year. Cooler than average water temperatures may be triggering an earlier return but fishery managers will likely look at a run size update in the near future.

Sturgeon fishing in the Columbia River Gorge typically begins to pick up later this month. Eager anglers in search of keepers may find willing fish beginning this week.

Moderating temperatures in the lower Willamette should encourage movement of the coho run and anglers may expect an improvement in sturgeon catches through September.

October caddis are starting to show along with a few of the larger reddsides on the lower McKenzie River. The fishery will be full swing in a few weeks.

Coho are entering the Sandy in modest numbers. The best bet might be trolling at the mouth until heavier rainfall draws adults upriver.

While a couple of coho have been taken at the mouth of the Clackamas, they're not as high as the popular Bowling Alley Hole in Gladstone.

Scheduled for trout planting this week are Faraday Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Timber Lake and the McKenzie River below Leaburg Lake.

Northwest – In an unprecedented move, fishery managers closed the Buoy 10 fishery to the taking of all salmon and steelhead. Anglers must now fish above Tongue Point where chinook and coho retention is allowed but results have been very poor. In years past, spinner trollers have found good success in this fishery but salmon seem unwilling to bite this season.

The September 1st opener in the bubble fishery out of Tillamook Bay produced many more coho for release than chinook. About 8 chinook were tallied for 40 boats participating. Ron Ash of Salt

Lake City, Utah however landed a 25-pound chinook near the mouth of the Wilson River that day on a trolled herring. His son Michael lost another one at the boat in the same area at high tide.

The Nehalem Nestucca and Salmon Rivers should be entering prime season in the coming weeks with both bank and boat opportunities available. Bobber fishermen and spinner trollers take the bulk of the catch.

Albacore anglers scored excellent results on Monday and Tuesday out of Garibaldi. Tuna were just 20 miles from ports and are becoming responsive to live bait and swim baits. Rough seas through the weekend will not make the trip very pleasant however.

Crabbing is picking up on the lower Columbia River and north coast estuaries are also improving. Some softshells are still in the catch however.

Southwest – Trollers are taking Coho in Winchester Bay although many are wild. Chinook fishing is slow and crabbing has been fair. Water conditions on the North Umpqua are excellent, providing good results for summer steelheaders. The flies only section has been quite productive. Early and late in the day are best. Smallmouth bass fishing remains good in the mainstem and South Umpqua.

The Elk and Sixes will start to fish for Chinook following the first decent fall rains.

Tuna anglers out of Brookings are anxious for calmer winds and milder seas which will allow a safe bar crossing even though results have been spotty. Warm water starts about 20 miles offshore with prime albacore conditions at 25 to 30 miles out. Bottomfishing has been fair to good just outside the harbor.

The lower Rogue has been providing spotty results for trollers dragging plug-cut herring or spinner/anchovy rigs. Some days are slow, some are good and one day last week produced 50 chinook to 40 pounds. Chinook fishing has picked up from last week in the Grants Pass stretch.

The opening date for Chetco River fall chinook fishing mentioned in this space last week was incorrect. It is closed through October, opening November 1st under new regulations.

Anglers are averaging one or two trout per hour on Diamond Lake. These fish are running to 20 inches with bait the better option.

Eastern – Trollers at the mouth of the Deschutes are hitting peak numbers of chinook and steelhead right now. The fishery should stay productive for both species for just another two weeks.

Crowds will be thinning out with steelheading improving on the lower Deschutes. The weather recently has been pleasant. Fly anglers on the middle Deschutes are catching decent-sized rainbows and the occasional brown trout. Fires on the upper river have hindered access.

Trollers at Green Peter are catching good-sized kokanee that remain in decent condition. Several boats took limits over the long holiday weekend.

SW Washington – With heavy chinook restrictions in place on many district rivers, anglers are focusing their efforts on the mainstem Columbia which is paying dividends.

Steelhead are still a viable option on the Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers and cutthroat trout are beginning to show in bigger numbers.

Several Columbia River Gorge tributaries are open for adult fall chinook and steelhead and catches are ramping up. Check local regulations for the necessary details.

Columbia River Fishing Report – With the only fishery in town (Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam), reporting should be fairly easy this week. Starting with the easiest, the Tongue Point fishery has been a real disappointment since the opener. A good effort was put forth when anglers learned that the fishery was the only salmon season open on Sunday, August 31st for fin-clipped coho only. It was an excuse to head up there and find out now the fishery would perform on the chinook opener on September 1st. Most thought (including me) that this fishery was well primed for a great harvest but that simply wasn't the case. Slight effort continued through mid-week with only poor results to report. In the stronger tides of the holiday weekend, seaweed plagued many anglers keeping their gear from fishing effectively. Fish were being recorded on the fish finder but only a rare one is being taken.

Upriver however, is quite a different story. The September 1st opener produced excellent results for many anglers, especially from Longview to the mouth of the Sandy River. Quality chinook to 40 pounds were taken with many boats having multiple opportunities although in this wobbler fishery, it can be hard to make all the biters stick. Most anglers in the know are using 5 and 6 foot dropper lines with 5 or 6 foot leaders to their wobblers. Targeting chinook in the deeper 35 to 40 foot of water on the outgoing tide is getting the job done for many. In the morning, slack tide has some anglers trolling spinners and scoring good results. Like the wobblers, these too have to be fished on the bottom of the river. When the tide begins to run, anglers will pick the anchor spot where they have the most confidence and simply work their wobblers in the outgoing tide which can often run for 6 hours.

Although opening day was pretty impressive, action clearly began to slow as the fishery progressed. The main body of biters were culled from the fishery and upriver anglers found it more challenging to find willing fish as the fish they were getting to swim by their gear had already seen hundreds of wobblers. Counts at Bonneville clearly indicate there are lots of fish present but most are clearly on a mission to get upstream instead of biting hardware.

Although some fish are being taken in the Bonneville area, by the time they commit to that fast water, they are likely dedicated to passing the facility to get to the next obstacle. This section typically remains challenging until water temperatures drop, fish migration slows and resident fish become more prevalent in the area. That is typically in early October and the fishery isn't likely to be open at that time.

Of course with the two states recent record of closing some of the most productive fisheries this year, this one is likely not far off from closure itself. Although it's important for anglers to adhere to our responsibility to recover these awesome fish, anglers are at wit's end as our needs are clearly not getting met under the current guidelines. Believe me, there are people working on this issue so when it becomes time to take action, it'll be up to us to step up to the plate and demand change. Be prepared for it or suffer the same consequences that we have been over the last decade of status quo fishery management.

The Guide's Forecast – This fishery is likely to continue to perform to standard but early indications are proving that it won't be an exceptional catch this month. None-the-less, effort is running high and that could very well gobble up allowable impacts before people are ready to quit this fishery. The lower sections of the river will likely continue to produce the best results and of course, properly tuned wobblers will be the key to success. Target water depths of 35 to 45 feet (but watch for ship traffic) and be courteous as tensions are running high with all the

additional pressure on the river these days. Don't overlook a trolling option on slack tides as that has been producing good results for anglers waiting out the outgoing tide.

Sturgeon anglers may have a few more weeks before the gorge kicks in for the fall keeper fishery. By late September, action typically picks up with smelt a top producing bait this time of year. This fishery has been so consistent, there's nothing that makes me believe it won't be a productive fishery well into October.

Crabbing in the lower Columbia continues to pick up but there are still a small percentage of keepers that are softshell. The weak tide series now upon us should produce good results for the few people participating in this fishery.

Although tuna were coming close to shore, it looks like it will be a rough ride for high seas action. The forecast for ocean conditions are as follows:

FRI

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT...RISING TO 20 TO 25 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 5 FT. W SWELL 4 FT AT 9 SECONDS. PATCHY FOG IN THE MORNING.

FRI NIGHT

N WIND 20 TO 25 KT...EASING TO 15 TO 20 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. W SWELL 4 FT. PATCHY FOG AFTER MIDNIGHT.

SAT

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 4 FT. PATCHY FOG IN THE MORNING.

SAT NIGHT

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT WITH GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

SUN

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT WITH GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. NW SWELL 7 FT.

MON

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. NW SWELL 7 FT.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – While the flow at Willamette Falls has increased slightly, it's still not moving much. The water temperature was 70 degrees as of September 2nd. Sturgeon fishing was slow over the last retention period.

Snowpack this year has kept the McKenzie River in excellent shape and the water temperature is within optimum range to produce good catches of trout.

The North Santiam has plenty of summer steelhead in residence, but fishing is nonetheless very slow and when they do bite, it's very light. Water level has been increased here in an effort to improve spawning habitat for spring Chinook.

The Guide's Forecast – There's too little current in the lower Willamette to attract plunkers to Meldrum Bar. Sturgeon fishing will improve as fall comes on but expect poor results this weekend. The Middle Fork should be productive for trout and summer steelhead. Smallmouth bass fishing is improving on the upper Willamette and will continue to do so into fall.

McKenzie anglers are having a ball on the middle river as October Caddis hatches begin. Both dry and pupae patterns will take trout now and fishing is excellent.

Best results on the North Santiam will come late afternoons and evenings after the sun has warmed the water. Bait will out-fish lures and sand shrimp has been the most effective but where the bite will occur is anyone's guess. Even the pros are stumped.

Fishing has slowed at Detroit Reservoir but trout which are being caught are of nice size.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – While coho can be seen rolling at the mouth, it's still early and few Coho have entered the Clackamas, those which are in the river will hold in chutes where the water is moving quickly. The only reports of catches this week have been jacks.

Showers last week drew a few coho into the Sandy where a handful have been caught by optimistic anglers. Trollers at the mouth have also taken some silvers.

North Coast Fishing Report – Desperate for opportunity, anglers (including myself) flocked to the Tillamook Bay bubble fishery on the September 1st opener. Seas were quite tolerable but the action left much to be desired. Numerous coho were caught but not even hatchery coho can be retained in this fishery. The bulk of the catch was wild however. I witnessed about 3 chinook for 30 boats in my morning on "big-blue". When the tide was nearing high, I moved to the upper bay in pursuit of a high tide bite for the mostly Tillamook and Trask River bound chinook of early September. We found our prizes near the mouth of the Wilson River where we hooked 2 chinook and landed one; a 25-pounder. The other chinook we lost was a buck of about 15 pounds. We had one other strike about an hour prior to high slack in the corral. All our strikes came on plug-cut herring fished very close to the bottom of the bay.

I put in another day on Wednesday spending most of the time in the ocean due to the relatively weaker incoming tide that day and the fact we were soaking crab pots close to the bay entrance. We were one of just 6 or 7 boats on the ocean today and drew at least 6 bites, confirming at least 3 of those as coho with one 22-pound chinook landed just north of the north jetty in the morning. All our bites came prior to noon and no one remained on the ocean after 1:00 p.m. The wind did start to pick up. We ended up with 11 keeper crab of good size and quality.

Nehalem Bay anglers are finally beginning to see some positive results in their fishery. Trollers at the mouth were taking good numbers of coho by mid-week with some chinook in the mix. Most of the coho are wild and must be released but there are some hatchery fish available. Most of the fish are getting harvested at the bay entrance but some biters are making it to Wheeler.

Tuna boats that fished early in the week did very well out of Garibaldi. Hundreds of pounds of albacore came across the dock that day and fish were very responsive to swim baits. The fish were reportedly out about 20 miles on a very calm sea. A tuna fisherman's dream!

The Guide's Forecast – Weaker tides this week will make the lower bay the more productive area to target chinook. The ocean is forecasted to be rough (see forecast in the Columbia River section) so in-bay fishing will likely be the only option. Hug the jetty with herring close to the bottom for best results. Both Tillamook and Nehalem Bays should produce fair numbers of coho (both hatchery and wild, but you can retain hatchery fish) and chinook. Some of the larger chinook of the season come in early in the year so this may be the best time for a big one! The upper estuary likely won't produce great results.

The tidewater areas should be holding chinook and coho but weaker tides produces poorer results.

The weaker tides should also make for fair crabbing in the lower estuary as well. The fresher the bait, the better the results but be prepared to fend off bait stealing seals so cage your baits before dropping your pots or rings.

Central & South Coast Reports – Despite the dozen or so photographs of fall Chinook at the Coyote Rock store, it's been slow on the river so far this season.

Tuna fishing has been outstanding this season, with only rough ocean conditions protecting albacore as anxious anglers await a break in the conditions to make a trip. Boaters have been getting into them at 20 to 30 miles offshore or less.

All depth halibut anglers have also been hampered by ocean conditions, which have prevented trips out to productive waters. All-depth openings for pacific halibut are every Friday, Saturday and Sunday on the central coast. An estimated 45% of the quota remains to be taken making it unlikely the summer season will continue until October 26th, the scheduled closure date.

Forecasts for the coming weekend are predicting another series of high seas and rough water.

Boaters out of Depoe Bay on Tuesday this week had a rough ride out to the tuna grounds but experienced outstanding results for some very large albacore. Warm, blue water started only 15 miles from port. Crabbing has improved inside Yaquina Bay. Boats are returning to Newport with limits or near-limits of large, hard Dungeness.

Crabbing at Waldport is producing keepers but rings and traps have been full of many females and undersized crab.

Siuslaw anglers report a high number of jacks in the river this year. This generally bodes well for the following year's run. Crabbing has been good in tidewater.

An abundance of live feed in the ocean has slowed bottomfish catches with the exception of those who are making the effort to gather live bait.

Trollers in Winchester Bay are hooking up with large coho, primarily at the jaws but the majority of these fish are wild, requiring release. Fish can be seen rolling in the bay but catches are light. Few reports have been forthcoming of Chinook being caught over the past week. Crabbing in Half Moon Bay has been worthwhile. Smallmouth anglers on the mainstem Umpqua are catching fish all day long. As the days get shorter, bass sense fall coming on and have started to feed heavily. The South Umpqua is also kicking out decent smallmouth bass catches. Larger smallies are being caught now. Summer steelheading has been good on the North Umpqua and is only getting better as water conditions improve.

Chinook fishing has been slow to dead in tidewater at the Coquille River but there's still plenty of time for it to improve. Crabbing is good.

Coos Bay Chinook trollers are having a tough time hooking up although a few dandy coho have come from the jaws.

Trollers in the Rogue estuary continue to find it challenging to buy a hookup with incoming fall Chinook, although there have been periodic flurries of action. Large, fresh Chinook are expected to push in during the next few weeks and should rejuvenate the action for tidewater trollers. Anchovies on a green-bladed Rogue River Rig, plug-cut herring behind a flasher and a plain spinner have all been hit recently, even though results have been spotty. Steelhead fishing in the lower river, in contrast, is some of the best in years. Summer steelhead jacks, adult steelhead and Chinook jacks are whacking just about any bait or lure all day long although late-day anglers have fared best. As many as 200,000 half-pounders are expected to return which is far above average. Fewer than 20,000 returned last year. Fall Chinook are passing through the Grants Pass stretch in good number, fishing has been slow to fair. Steelheading in the middle river has been pretty good, however. On the upper Rogue, despite counts of summers topping 2,800, this flies-only area has been spotty.

Bottom fishing out of Brookings harbor has been slow to fair, best for those using live bait. The better results have been coming around Twin Rocks in about 40 feet of water.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Steelhead and Chinook are bound up the Columbia and many are destined for the Deschutes. With Chinook counts at Bonneville over the past five days running 13,000 to over 15,000 daily for a total of 147,450 as of September 3rd. Add to this many as 6,900 summers in a day and it's shaping up to be a strong season. There were 45 hatchery steelhead in the Sherars Falls Fish Trap on September 2nd alone.

While River had the Deschutes off color over the weekend but had cleared by Tuesday this week.

Wickiup kokanee remain in fine condition and are providing decent catches to anglers. Many are taking 25-fish limits.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report **September 3rd – September 16th, 2008**

North Puget Sound

The wait is on in both the marine areas and the rivers for the bulk of the ocean **coho salmon** return, which is expected to enter the Puget Sound region in larger numbers over the next few weeks.

"Fishing has been slow to fair with a mix of resident coho and an occasional ocean silver," said Steve Thiesfeld, a WDFW fish biologist. "But the coho catch recently picked up in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, so we could see more and more of those ocean fish make their way into Sound in the coming weeks."

Once those fish arrive, Point No Point, Jefferson Head, Possession Bar and Shipwreck should be good spots to hook ocean coho, Thiesfeld said. Anglers fishing those areas - or other waters of marine areas 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) - have a daily limit of two salmon

but must release chinook. In Marine Area 10, anglers also must release chum salmon through Sept. 15. In Marine Area 9, anglers must release wild coho - identified by an intact adipose fin - through Sept. 15 and chum through Sept. 30.

Marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) also are open for salmon, but fishing continues to be slow in those three areas, said Thiesfeld.

Meanwhile, crabbing in the region is still an option but the opportunity is limited. Only the northern and eastern portions of Marine Area 7 remain open for **crab**. Those two portions are open Wednesdays through Saturdays each week through Sept. 30. The region's other marine areas are closed for a catch assessment.

Crabbers are reminded that their summer catch record cards are due to WDFW by Sept. 15 and must be returned whether or not the cardholder caught or fished for crab during the season. Completed cards can be mailed in or recorded online. Additional information on the fishery is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/crabindex>.

In the freshwater, fishing has been spotty for most anglers, who are waiting for coho to push into the rivers. Portions of several rivers in the region, including the Skykomish, Skagit and Snoqualmie, are open for salmon fishing.

A portion of the Green (Duwamish) River also is open, and there have been a few reports of anglers hooking **chinook**. The Green is open from Tukwila International Blvd. to I-405. Anglers fishing that stretch have a daily limit of six salmon, only one of which may be a chinook, and no more than three adults. Beginning Sept. 16, anglers can also fish from the 1st Ave. South Bridge to Tukwila International Blvd., but must release chinook along that stretch of the river.

Elsewhere, Lake Sammamish is open, with a daily limit of four salmon measuring at least 12 inches. Anglers can keep up to two chinook but must release all sockeye. Salmon fishing is closed within 100 yards of the mouth of Issaquah Creek. Lake Sammamish's larger neighbor, Lake Washington, opens Sept. 16 to coho fishing. Anglers will be allowed four coho per day (minimum size 12 inches) from waters north of the Highway 520 Bridge and east of the Montlake Bridge. Before heading out to the rivers, or out on the Sound, anglers should check the rules and regulations for fisheries in WDFW's *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

The salmon season is winding down on the coast, but anglers are catching lots of coho off Sekiu as the fish move through the Strait of Juan de Fuca and into Puget Sound. Creel checks in Marine Area 5 (Sekiu) over the Labor Day weekend showed an average catch of nearly one **hatchery coho** per person.

"Fishing for coho generally picks up after Labor Day," said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. "With the catch rates we've been seeing lately, the fish are definitely coming through." Thiesfeld said people might want to weigh their decision to fish now or later in the month when they're able to keep **wild coho** as part of their daily two-fish limit. The non-selective coho fishery in Marine Area 5 opens Sept. 16-30.

They can also try their luck in the annual "No Fin, You Win" coho salmon derby, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 6 at Sekiu. The first prize is 50 percent of ticket sales, second prize is 20 percent, and third prize is 10 percent. The \$10 entry fee can be purchased at any local resort, or

call 360-963-2311 for details. Last year, 581 anglers entered the derby with a first prize payout of \$2,905.

Along the coast, salmon fishing is open seven days a week in several areas. "While there wasn't a lot of coho, the **chinook** fishing was pretty good all season," said Wendy Beeghley. "Now as the fishery winds down, we're seeing fewer chinook, which is normal for this time of year," she said. Salmon fishing is scheduled to close Sept. 13 at Westport (Marine Area 2), La Push (Marine Area 3) and the inner portion of Neah Bay (Marine Area 4B). Salmon fishing is already closed in Ilwaco (Marine Area 1) and in the ocean waters off Neah Bay.

Meanwhile, the salmon fishery east of Buoy 13 in Grays Harbor (Marine Area 2-2) will be open seven days a week Sept. 16 through Nov. 30, while a portion of the La Push fishery will be open daily Sept. 20 through Oct. 5. Willapa Bay remains open for salmon fishing until Jan. 31. Anglers are advised to check the *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for specific regulations in each area and details on boundaries.

Those planning to launch their boats in South Bend are advised of an error in the Willapa River listing in the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet. The boat launch referenced as the downstream boundary for the Willapa River fishery is operated by Pacific County, not WDFW. For that reason, anglers using that facility should be prepared to pay a launch fee.

Marine Area 6 (Port Angeles) remains open for retention of **hatchery coho**. Anglers are reminded that handling rules are in effect and that all chum, chinook and wild coho must be released.

In Puget Sound anglers are starting to see the transition from chinook to coho, said Thiesfeld. "Chinook are tapering off but mid-September is generally good for coho in Hood Canal and southern Puget Sound," he said. Thiesfeld reminded anglers that all of Hood Canal is now open for salmon fishing, but only coho may be retained north of Ayock Point.

The Puyallup River system is a popular fishing spot right now for chinook and coho, said Hal Michael, WDFW fish biologist. "There are quite a few fish and lots of effort," he said. Anglers fishing the Carbon River, which opened Sept. 1, are finding chinook while, the mainstem of the Puyallup is producing coho, Michael said. The Puyallup opened Aug. 16. Michael reminded anglers to check the *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for fishing and retention rules.

Low and clear water have made it tough for anglers fishing the Quillayute system on the northern Olympic Peninsula, said David Low, WDFW fish biologist. "There are **summer steelhead** and coho in the rivers, but anglers need to be careful when they're fishing in these conditions because the fish get spooked easily," Low said.

Anglers fishing in the Quillayute system, which includes the Bogachiel, Sol Duc, Calawah and Dickey rivers, can keep two wild chinook as part of their limit of three adult fish. The total daily limit is six fish; all wild adult coho must be released.

Anglers on the Hoh River can keep two adult salmon as part of their six-fish daily limit, but must release all wild chinook from the Oxbow Campground boat launch to Willoughby Creek. Check the *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for specific regulations throughout the region.

In addition to the Carbon River, several rivers and creeks around the region opened to salmon fishing Sept. 1, including the Copalis River, Van Winkle Creek and Joe Creek in Grays Harbor County; the Bear and Niawiakum rivers in Pacific County; McLane Creek in Thurston County and Clearwater River in Jefferson County.

Meanwhile, the **Dungeness crab** fishery remains open in marine areas 7E and 7N (east and north of the San Juan Islands) Wednesdays through Saturdays each week through Sept. 30. Three other marine areas - 4 and 5 in the Strait of Juan de Fuca and 13 in southern Puget Sound - are scheduled to remain open seven days per week through Jan. 2.

Marine areas 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 7 South (San Juan Islands), 8-1 (Deception Pass to East Point), 8-2 (East Point to Possession Point), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton), 11 (Tacoma/Vashon) and 12 (Hood Canal) closed to crabbing Sept. 1.

Recreational crabbers who were licensed to fish for crab in Puget Sound are reminded that they have until Sept. 15 to report their summer's catch to WDFW - whether or not they fished or were successful in catching Dungeness crab during the season. Completed cards can be mailed in or information reported online. Additional information is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/crabindex>.

Those who file their catch reports by the deadline will be entered in a drawing for one of 10 free 2009 combination fishing licenses, which allow the holder to fish for a variety of freshwater and saltwater species.

Southwest Washington:

Now that the Buoy 10 fishery is closed for the season, hundreds of Columbia River anglers have moved upriver to fish for **salmon** - including chinook - from Rocky Point/Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam. Fishing started fairly slow Sept. 1, but could pick up quickly in the days ahead if past years are any indication.

"The bite can pick up fast, because the run tends to move through that part of the river fairly quickly," said Wolf Dammers, a WDFW fish biologist. "Anglers who don't want to miss the peak of the run are advised to get a line in the water sooner rather than later."

Creel checks conducted during the second day of the fishery indicated catch rates of about one salmon - most of them chinook - for every one to two boats, Dammers said. Most boats, and there were plenty of them, were concentrated between Longview and Washougal, he said. Through Sept. 16, anglers fishing between Rocky Point and Bonneville Dam may retain two adult salmon - of which only one may be a chinook - as part of their six-salmon daily limit. After Sept. 16, only **hatchery coho** may be retained in that part of the river.

Dammers reminds anglers that all chinook must be released this year on the mainstem Columbia River in the eight-mile fall chinook sanctuary area near the mouth of the Lewis River. That area is defined on page 79 of the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

Several tributaries to the Columbia River also opened for chinook fishing Labor Day. On the Elochoman River, anglers may now retain up to two adult chinook as part of their daily salmon catch limit. On the Toutle River System, which includes the North Fork Toutle and the Green River in Cowlitz County, anglers may retain one chinook per day.

Including hatchery coho, the daily catch limit on those rivers is six fish per day, of which four may be adults. Anglers may retain any adult chinook, but must release any chinook jacks not

marked as a hatchery fish by a clipped adipose fin. Areas of those rivers open to retention of chinook are:

- Elochoman River from the mouth to the West Fork.
- Mainstem Toutle River from the mouth to the confluence of the North and Southfork Toutle.
- North Fork Toutle River from the mouth to the deadline below the Fish Collection Facility.
- Green River (Cowlitz County) from the mouth to the 2800 Bridge.

Salmon fishing also opened Sept. 1 on the Grays River (including the West Fork), but chinook caught there may be retained only if they have a clipped adipose and/or ventral fin. For more information on that fishery, check the *Fishing in Washington* rule pamphlet at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

Anglers should also be aware of new rules adopted during the North of Falcon season-setting process to conserve chinook salmon in those and several other area tributaries, including:

- **Lewis River:** Anglers are required to release all chinook salmon intercepted on the Lewis River, where wild chinook returns are expected to reach only about half of the 5,700-fish escapement goal. The requirement to release chinook is in effect in the Lewis River, the North Fork Lewis River and in the chinook sanctuary area on the mainstem Columbia River noted above. Fishing for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead remains open, but fishing from boats is prohibited on the North Fork Lewis from Johnson Creek upstream to Merwin Dam to minimize chinook handling.
- **Cowlitz River:** Anglers must continue to release all chinook - except marked, hatchery-reared jacks - because hatchery returns are not expected to meet management goals. Anglers may still retain hatchery steelhead and hatchery coho caught in both rivers.
- **Kalama, Washougal, Wind and White Salmon rivers, plus Drano Lake:** Anglers may retain any adult chinook salmon on all or part of these waters, but must release any wild, unmarked chinook jacks they encounter. For specific area boundaries, see the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

In addition, the lower portion of Mill, Abernathy, Germany, and Coal creeks and Coweeman River will be closed to all fishing in September and October to protect spawning fall chinook.

Eastern Washington:

Chris Donley, WDFW central district fish biologist, said this is a great time to seek out panfish by working flies, lures or bait around the margins of weed beds in many local mixed-species fishing lakes. "Try Bonnie, Downs, Eloika and Long lakes in Spokane County for **perch, crappie and bass**," Donley said. "Rock Lake in Whitman County has some nice bass, too."

Donley also recommended hitting Loon Lake in Stevens County and Horseshoe and Sullivan lakes in Pend Oreille County for the last of good **kokanee** fishing. "Kokanee will be spawning in October, so now's the time to catch them."

Most of the best-producing **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** lakes in the region close at the end of September, so Donley also advises taking in a trout trip or two. Amber, Badger, Williams, West Medical and Fishtrap are still producing well.

Donley reminded trout anglers that Sprague Lake is in excellent shape now, with water temperatures down, algae growth dying, water clarity good and early fall hatches of insects drawing fat rainbows to the surface.

Snake River **steelheading** just got under way Sept. 1, so there's no data on catch rates yet. But forecasts called for abundant early runs, and the mouths of tributaries like the Tucannon and Grande Ronde, and the confluence with the Clearwater on the Idaho border, are expected to be hot. Steelheaders are reminded that the daily trout catch limit of six fish includes up to three hatchery-marked steelhead (healed scar at clipped adipose or ventral fin) and barbless hooks are required.

North Central Washington:

Salmon fishing on the mainstem Columbia River has slowed considerably in the last week with a few catches of chinook being reported. Most of the success has been located near the Bridgeport area of the river. The fishery will remain open until Oct 15th.

Good catches of **rainbow trout** were reported for three Methow Valley lakes on the Sept. 1 opener. Davis, Campbell, and Cougar lakes are now open for catch and keep trout fishing. There is a five-fish limit and the use of bait is permitted. Anglers should be aware that when using bait the first five fish caught count as part of the daily limit whether kept or released.

During September, as the water cools down, selective gear lakes in Okanogan County will start to pick up as well. Big Twin (Winthrop) and Blue (Sinlahekin) lakes should both be good bets for rainbow up to 16 inches. Chopaka Lake above the town of Loomis should also be good for rainbow trout to 15 inches. Chopaka is a fly-fishing only lake.

Salmon are returning to the Wenatchee River system and that means it will soon be time for the 18th annual award-winning **Wenatchee River Salmon Festival** in Leavenworth. This year's event is Sept. 18 - 21, with the first two days devoted to school groups. The festival is based at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and features salmon and other wildlife watching at the hatchery and in the stream, plus a lot more. There are nature-related art and craft booths, "recycled" salmon sculpture, an animal costume parade, the amazing salmon maze, a Native American encampment, outdoor recreation exhibits and hands-on educational activities. Call (509) 548-6662 for more information, or see <http://www.salmonfest.org/>.

South Central Washington:

High lake **trout** fishing is excellent this month says Jim Cummins, WDFW fish biologist. Rainbow, westslope cutthroat and eastern brook trout generally will hit small spinners or flies, he said. Most lakes can be fished from the bank, but anglers may want to consider taking a light-weight inflatable raft or float tube for large lakes and lakes with extensive shallow water near shore. Be sure and take a personal flotation device.

Rimrock Reservoir has been providing excellent **kokanee** fishing with fish up to 10 inches, Cummins said. "Fish in the top 20 feet of water early and late in the day and deeper during mid-day hours," he said. Trolling with a wedding ring spinner and hook baited with maggots has been the most productive method. Cummins noted the other Yakima Basin reservoirs also have kokanee, but with the possible exception of Bumping, none are as productive as Rimrock. The water level at Lake Cle Elum in the fall makes launching trailered boats difficult if not impossible. Kachess Lake has been slow.

Fishing in rivers and streams should also be productive for trout anglers, Cummins said. "Rainbow at the lower to mid-elevation streams and west slope cutthroat trout in the higher elevation streams - most in the eight to 10-inch range - are often best caught-and-released with fly-fishing gear," he said.

Most streams in the region have special regulations, including the requirement to use single barbless hooks and no bait. A few areas are closed to protect bull trout and spawning spring

chinook salmon, such as a 10.4-mile stretch of the American River from the Hwy. 410 bridge downstream of Hells Crossing campground upstream to the Mesatchee Creek trail crossing (USFS Trail No. 969). This American River section re-opens for fishing, after the bull trout have completed spawning, on Sept. 16 for cutthroat and eastern brook trout extending through the end of the regular season on Oct 31. Check the fishing regulations pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for all details.

Reader Email -

It's always great to get reports from readers and this week, subscriber Mark Z. wrote to tell us, "Just Crabbed Tillamook bay on Thurs. Good numbers of Crab. Some are still soft, but caught 13 solid keepers."

Thanks Mark!

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

Learn about different locations along the Willamette River:

<http://www.portlandonline.com/river/index.cfm?c=37781>

How-to Library from the Rod Crafters Guild - Good Stuff Here:

<http://www.rodguild.com/howtos/>

Weekly Quote – "However angling may be classed by others, whether as a fool's pastime or as a wise man's recreation. I have always found great pleasure in recognizing what its indulgence costs me as so much saved from my doctor's bill." - George Dawson

GOOD LUCK!