

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 7th – 13th, 2009**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Do you have your copy of Technical Report #4: Columbia River Estuary Salmon Fishing? It's available to you online at:

<http://www.theguidesforecast.com/store/cart.php?cat=Tech+Reports>

Willamette Valley/Metro- Steelhead counts dropped sharply recently although respectable numbers are still crossing Bonneville Dam. The action had been good but warming water temperatures is likely to slow the action except for a morning bite.

Chinook numbers should begin to swell in the coming weeks but action doesn't pick up until early October when water temperatures drop and a more local stock of salmon utilize the area. This fishery is forecasted to remain open during this time but may change if another mis-prediction is realized.

While sturgeon anglers in the Bonneville to Wauna stretch are currently regulated to catch and release only until October 1st, oversize seekers now have access to the sanctuary above Marker 85 to target oversize sturgeon. Although effort remains low, early August can produce good action for those able to find "floater" shad for use as bait.

Water temperature at Willamette Falls and the lower river is in the mid 70s. Fishing for all but warmwater gamefish is at a standstill.

Steelheading is fair while trout fishing remains good on the McKenzie.

Water fluctuations on the North Santiam will be sporadic this week as the Corp of Engineers work on spill gates at Big Cliff. Avoid it. The South Santiam is low, clear and slow.

The Clackamas is low with only a very few steelhead hitting small spinners.

Fishing on the Sandy is slow with the water running glacial in color.

Scheduled for trout planting are Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Small Fry Lake and Leaburg Lake.

Northwest – Ocean action out of Astoria is excellent with limits common both north and south of the Columbia River mouth. Larger chinook are starting to show in the offshore catches and anglers are allowed two chinook or two coho in this fishery right now. The fish are running noticeably larger and will continue to grow at about a pound per week with baitfish plentiful in the area.

Not surprising given the predicted number of returning adults, coho made up the bulk of the catch since the August 1st opener in the Buoy 10 fishery. Although some quality chinook are being taken, catches are likely to remain only fair until mid-month. The final gillnet opener below Tongue Point is scheduled for August 9th. Five more openers will occur upriver of the Kalama River from August 18th through the 27th.

Coho fishing picked up recently out of Garibaldi. Hatchery fish were plentiful west of the Nehalem

Bay entrance in 200 feet of water on Tuesday and numbers should continue to build for another few weeks. The coho are running 7 to 12 pounds now.

Coho and a few chinook should begin migrating into north coast estuaries in the coming weeks. Several new regulation changes are now in place for both chinook and coho. Be sure to check the regulation updates from the ODF&W website.

The farther north you are on the Oregon coast, the further west you have to go to find albacore tuna. Fishing has been fair at best.

Crabbing remains excellent in the ocean and good in Tillamook, Nehalem and Netarts Bays. Soft-shell crab are still prevalent but beginning to fill out.

Summer steelheaders are finding challenging conditions on the Nestucca, Wilson and Three Rivers.

Southwest – Offshore coho fishing has remained good although more than half the fish hooked have been wild, requiring release. Over fifty percent of the quota remains to be taken.

The summer all-depth halibut season begins August 7th, 8th and 9th. Many boats opt for combination trips for halibut, coho and tuna. Be sure to drop crab pots on the way out; catches have been good.

Chinook season opened August 1st but many rivers are temporarily restricted and some are closed. Check www.dfw.state.or.us for a complete list.

A couple of large chinook were taken in Winchester Bay on the opener. A few steelhead are being taken on the North Umpqua.

Boats launching out of Charleston are catching (and releasing) mostly wild coho, taking good numbers of tuna at 25 to 30 miles out and pulling crab limits on the way in. Bottom fishing has been great.

Anglers must register by August 9th for the Oregon Tuna Classic taking place on August 15th out of Charleston. Register online at <http://www.oregontunaclassic.org/>.

Trollers in the Rogue estuary are enjoying good results from one of the best chinook runs in years. Straight or plug-cut baitfish are accounting for most hookups.

Fishing for albacore has been good out of Brookings. Over the past weekend, tuna were inside 20 miles of shore and catches were heavy. Tuna should be bled and iced as soon as they are landed to maintain quality. Launching this weekend should present no problems with good offshore conditions and mild tides but be aware of a morning ebb.

Diamond Lake trout fishing is worthwhile early mornings but the bite shuts down by 7 AM.

The Rogue above Lost Creek and Marie Lake are scheduled to be stocked with trout.

Eastern – Trout are active and feeding on the surface at the Deschutes. Try caddis imitations from Trout Creek to Maupin for steady early morning action.

Steelhead catches have been good on the lower Deschutes River and the mouth of the Deschutes should remain fair for plug trollers into mid-September.

SW Washington – The Lewis and Cowlitz Rivers are seeing about half as many hatchery steelhead return to facilities this year compared to last. The Kalama is up but still a fraction of the other 2 favorite river systems.

Coho are beginning to show in the Cowlitz but the fishery is still several weeks away from peaking.

Drano Lake trollers continue to take good numbers of steelhead.

Columbia River Fishing Report – As expected, the Buoy 10 fishery is off to a mediocre start. Coho made up the bulk of the catches and this is also not unexpected given the size of the run that is forecasted back to the river this year. Chinook have been caught in the river with some anglers reporting some quality sized fish coming from the sawdust pile on the Oregon side. Action has certainly been sporadic as most of the effort continues to head west to the ocean where friendly bar and ocean conditions have made salt chuck fishing quite exciting and comfortable this time of year. We'll detail more on ocean fishing later.

The Buoy 10 fishery this time of year can offer mixed results. With coho being a major focus this year (due to the large predicted return), "line-huggers" (those boats that hover at the Buoy 10 deadline) should expect to see fair action when the first rip comes through and into the middle part of the incoming tide. With abundant bait nearby, fish are likely to still be in the feeding mode when both salmon and anchovies get swept into the river on the strong incoming tide. The morning incomings will be the best as that is when the salmon feed the heaviest. Look for that detail in The Guide's Forecast section of this newsletter.

Meanwhile, we're still waiting for numbers from the last gillnet opener on the lower Columbia, stand by.....

Ocean fishing has been nothing short of fantastic. It's easy limits for those willing to venture out and even though we're currently on a swing of low tides which could make bar crossings a bit more challenging, for the most part, the bar and ocean have been friendly places to fish. We started to spend some time to the north recently. An easy exit and turn to the Washington side of the river has yielded easy limits last weekend. There are more chinook showing in the catches as well although not many larger fish have been taken recently. The chinook catch overall has been low, prompting the departments to allow for a 2 fish chinook bag limit in the ocean right now. That may be an attainable goal in the near future but those are not realistic catches right now. Chinook in the 20-pound range are coming with more consistency from the charter fleet however. They're clearly staging at the river entrance. One charter boat reported 3 chinook over 20 pounds taken near the CR Buoy.

North or south, which way do you turn? This time of year, it shouldn't really make a difference with the number of fish available. As we progress into August, we should be able to catch great numbers of fish near Buoy 10 and close to the jetty. You just have to respect the conservation zone and watch your bar conditions. Early morning will still produce the best results as you'll be competing with a LOT of other baitfish out there. These fish are filling up and biting less aggressively as the morning wears on.

Motivated anglers are trying for bottomfish on the south and sunken jetty after tagging out on salmon. With increased pressure at the jetty, catches are down but black seabass and kelp greenling are still available. Only a rare ling cod is coming from the jetty.

Ocean crabbing is excellent but most of the crab remain in a soft-shelled state. They are beginning to fill out more now however and will greatly improve in the coming weeks. River crabbing is not as good as it is in the ocean but there are a few more hard-shelled crab available.

With the sturgeon retention season closed, river anglers are now focused on summer steelhead along the beaches in the lower river and in the Columbia River Gorge. Recent creel checks showed tough fishing this week for steelhead with the likely culprit warm water and air temperatures. Bonneville counts have taken in unexpected and dramatic dip in recent days but there are certainly enough fish in the system right now to make fishing interesting. Somewhere between Bonneville Dam and The Dalles Dam, there are over 100,000 steelhead waiting to make their move upstream. The Deschutes River, in the river itself and at its mouth are good bets. The cooler water will draw fish into the river during the dog days of summer.

We'll see beach fishing for steelhead slow dramatically in the warmer temperatures and angler focus will turn to salmon, especially with the coho forecast, in the coming weeks.

Although there will be little interest in wrestling with a big behemoth this time of year, oversize fishing in the newly opened sanctuary will produce good catches if you have the right bait. Floater shad will readily take sturgeon in this upper area; which hasn't been fished for a couple of months now. As fall wears on, keeper sturgeon will become readily available in this area with October being the peak month.

The Guide's Forecast – There's no denying, it's salmon time! The ocean will continue to be the primary focus for many anglers near the mouth of the Columbia River. Ocean and bar conditions through the weekend look like a fun place to be:

FRI

SW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 4 FT.
AREAS OF DRIZZLE IN THE MORNING.

FRI NIGHT

W WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL
4 FT.

SAT

SW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 4 FT.

SUN

W WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 5 FT.

Can we actually handle 2 weeks of great ocean conditions? I think so! This time of year, it shouldn't make a bit of difference whether you head north or south. Many theorize however that if you head north, you're more likely to encounter more chinook in your catches. In my observation, this seems to be true and with a 2 fish bag limit now for ocean chinook, it may be worth checking into.

The ocean is loaded with baitfish. Herring, anchovies, sardines and even salmon smolt are making up the diet of many of these fish. Fish anything small and shiny and you'll get into fish. The earlier that you get out there, the better the fishing will be.

For river fishers, tides this week are relatively soft so don't expect great fishing anywhere upstream of Buoy 14. There will certainly be fish migrating upriver and traditionally, the earlier

fish are the larger ones returning so you have a fair chance at one of the nicer fish of the season. Gillnets will also be working the river on the 9th so it's clear that your best chances will be downstream, closer to the Buoy 10 deadline.

Early morning low tides will grace Buoy 10 anglers. This is convenient for a few reasons. Just before low slack and the first part of incoming tide, chinook make their way across the bar and into the river. Action should be fair at the Buoy 10 deadline early in the morning. If you are not pleased with your results, you can go into the ocean and simply get all the fish you need in no time flat. Just bring lots of bait. It'll be so crazy with salmon, you'll just giggle yourself silly. This would be a good time to try something different, like jigging lures for strikes or flyfishing for them if you want a real thrill. It simply won't get any better than this.

If you choose to stay in the river, begin your day at Buoy 10 (before low slack) and follow the incoming tide upstream to at least Hammond. The later low slack is, the later you can start your day. Beginning at sunlight over the weekend will be a waste of time unless you plan on going to the ocean. The least productive time in the river will be the last 3 hours of outgoing tide and there certainly won't be a lot of fish around this week to justify fishing during this time of the tide.

Just for clarification, here is a recent press release in regards to sport fishing the Columbia:

NEWS RELEASE

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: John North (971) 673-6029
Chris Kern (971) 673-6031
Rick Swart (971) 673-6038

Internet: www.dfw.state.or.us

For Immediate Release Aug. 5, 2009

Strong returns expected for Columbia River fall salmon seasons

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – Anglers can look forward to large numbers of coho and improved returns of chinook salmon this year during the fall fishing season on the Columbia River, which kicked off Aug. 1.

Fisheries managers are forecasting a return of more than 500,000 adult fall chinook this year, which is comparable to the 10-year average and the largest return since 2005. The total includes five major runs of chinook salmon, each with its own management guidelines. The big story is the projected return of 700,000 coho salmon to the Columbia River, which would be the largest return since 2001. Ocean anglers have been reporting good numbers of coho since the ocean fishing seasons opened in late June, according to John North, fisheries manager with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Ocean Salmon and Columbia River Program.

Anglers are reminded that Columbia River fisheries are managed to quotas based on Endangered Species Act limitations on wild fish. The flexible nature of these fisheries allows managers to maximize fishing opportunities under the ESA but this also means that regulation changes can happen quickly.

ODFW recommends that anglers make sure they understand the latest season dates and regulations before they head out to the river to pursue these prized fish. Anglers are advised to

stay tuned for changes that can take place as new information becomes available. Updates can be found on the ODFW Web site at www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/reg_changes/columbia.asp and on the ODFW telephone hotline at 1-503-947-6000.

Based on an expected catch of about 10,700 chinook, the Buoy 10 chinook fishing season is scheduled to continue through Aug. 31 or until the management guideline is met. The daily bag limit is two adult salmon per day, of which only one may be a chinook.

The expected large return of coho salmon this year means anglers can expect the coho fishing season to continue through December. ODFW increased the bag limit at Buoy 10 to three coho per day, beginning Sept. 1. The department expects anglers will catch up to 119,000 coho in the Buoy 10 fishery.

For the Columbia between Tongue Point and Bonneville Dam, the chinook season opened Aug. 1 with an expected catch of about 15,000 fish. That fishery is divided into two sections. In the lower section, from Tongue Point (River Mile 18) upstream to the Lewis River, the chinook retention season is scheduled for Aug. 1 – Sept. 13. From the Lewis River upstream to Bonneville Dam, chinook retention will be allowed Aug. 1 – Dec. 31, or until management guidelines are met. In both cases, the bag limit is two fish per day, of which only one may be a chinook.

The 2009 fall seasons and regulations were established based on extensive deliberations between state and federal agencies, tribal representatives, and recreational and commercial fishers through a public forum known as the "North of Falcon" process, which takes place each spring. Harvest management is complicated by Endangered Species Act listings on several fish stocks.

The following dates and rules apply to Columbia River fall fisheries:

Buoy 10 upstream to Tongue Point

- Adult chinook (>24") retention allowed Aug. 1 – Aug. 31, or until management guidelines are reached.
- Adult coho retention (>16") allowed Aug. 1 – Dec. 31.
- Through Aug. 31, the daily bag limit is 2 salmon/steelhead in combination, but only one may be a chinook. Chinook may be fin-clipped or not, but coho and steelhead must be adipose fin-clipped.
- Beginning Sept. 1, the daily bag limit will be increased to include up to 3 adult coho (bonus coho bag).

Mainstem Columbia River from Tongue Point upstream to Bonneville Dam

- Open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and adipose fin-clipped coho Aug. 1 – Dec. 31.
- Open to retention of chinook (adults and jacks) Aug. 1 – Sept. 13 from Tongue Point upstream to a line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse (Ore.) through red buoy #4 to a marker on the lower end of Bachelor Island (Wash.).
- Open to retention of Chinook Aug. 1 – Dec. 31 from a line at Warrior Rock through red buoy #4 to a marker on Bachelor Island (Wash.) upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- Daily bag limit is two adult salmon/steelhead in combination and five jacks, but only one adult fish may be a chinook. Chinook adults and jacks may be fin-clipped or not, but coho and steelhead must be adipose fin-clipped.

Mainstem Columbia River above Bonneville Dam

- Open for steelhead, coho, and chinook salmon (adults and jacks) Aug. 1 – Dec. 31.

- Daily bag limit is two adult salmon/steelhead in combination and five jacks. Chinook adults and jacks may be fin-clipped or not. Steelhead must be adipose fin-clipped, and coho retained downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be adipose fin-clipped.

With the warmer water temperatures, spinners should be an effective tool but last year, bait produced better for me than hardware. Every year is different and you need to prepare yourself for both techniques. It's too early to tell you what colors will work best but red/white and the chartreuse/green dot is a favored stand out. Just remember, if you're targeting chinook, send them down deeper (20 to 35 feet deep) while coho will be anywhere from 5 to 35 feet deep.

There will be chinook and coho heading back to Young's Bay as well making the Oregon side up to Young's Bay a good option this time of year. There has already been coho crossing at Bonneville Dam so the run is underway!

The soft tide series we're currently on will allow folks to utilize their crab gear while fishing this week. But be aware, there is a lot of boat traffic out there and you do run a higher risk of people running over your gear and chopping off your buoy lines. Crab thieves can also be an issue although I haven't heard of much this season.

Upriver, steelheaders won't have a great tide series to work with this week but water temperatures won't be all that favorable either. It would be best to target steelhead in the Bonneville area for both boaters and bank fishers. Prawns behind spinners or spin-n-glos should draw the attention of willing biters but if you go by dam counts, action should be down from previous weeks. The mouth of the Deschutes River should be picking up now and last into mid-September. Plug trollers will do best here.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Water in the lower Willamette remains in the mid-70s, effectively shutting down most all but warmwater fishing. On a brighter note, smallmouth bass have been cooperative, particularly at any spot where a tributary, even a small one, dumps in to the main river. Sturgeon fishing has been slow to fair for mostly undersized fish but it's all catch-and-release. Retention will resume on October 1st.

Water at the McKenzie is reasonably cool for the first week in August with decent level and flow. Fishing has been consistent.

With no update on the North Santiam situation (see Fisheries Forecast, above), we must assume that wild fluctuations are still occurring and fishing or even safely navigating the river is not a possibility.

The Guide's Forecast – Well into the summer dog days, fishing early and late in the day is the order for everywhere now. We'll mention it here rather than repeating it along with every other recommendation in every instance.

Nymphs will take trout afternoons on the Middle Fork Willamette with hatches of caddis and Yellow Sallies occurring evenings. Trout fishing is also good above Dexter Dam. Warm water temperatures have stalled the steelhead bite on the upper Willamette. Fishing for smallies has been fair to good.

Try for steelhead on the McKenzie above Leaburg Dam to Deerhorn now. Steelhead catches have improved over the past week. Trout fishing remains good with best results during evening

hatches on the upper river.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – With the water in the lower Clackamas low and in the mid 60s, fish early, late and high on the river.

There are steelhead to be had but maximum stealth is required. Small spinners or dark, wet fly patterns will tempt these fish if presented in such a way so as to avoid spooking these skittish steelies. Chinook may not be retained below the Highway 99 bridge until August 16th.

Fishing is slow in the low water of the Sandy. There is an occasional fish being caught around Cedar Creek but this is common knowledge and often crowded for such slow fishing.

North Coast Fishing Report – It's still an offshore salmon show on the north coast. With calm seas and good fishing, effort is on the rise and success rates are good for those willing to hunt for hatchery fish. I last fished on Tuesday out of Garibaldi and we managed to find 5 keepers and released at least that many wild fish. One boat came in just after me with a 12 fish limit for his passengers. They were fishing a bit deeper than I (he stated 27 to 35 feet deep was his lucky depth) along the 200 foot line. Another guide boat reported great action for hatchery fish further north than where I was, he was off the mouth of Nehalem Bay. It seems the most consistent depth was around 200 feet deep and to the north of the Garibaldi (Tillamook Bay) entrance.

Even with the good ocean forecast, you'll still want to pay attention to where you go first thing in the morning. If a wind comes up in the late morning/early afternoon, you'll want to ride the waves/swell back to port versus bucking it in all the way. I found myself north of the Columbia River entrance on Monday with a south wind to ride back to port from the Long Beach Peninsula. It took us an hour to get back to the river entrance and it was a bumpy, wet ride home.

Most northern ports are posting great catches of coho. Good reports continue to come from Pacific City and Depoe Bay as anglers haven't had this kind of salmon opportunity for quite some time in recent history. If the weather lasts, we're in for some serious harvesting in the coming weeks.

Ocean crabbing is excellent also but like most other areas, softshelled crabs are an issue but they are beginning to fill out a bit more. Bay crabbing is picking up also with quality crab coming from Tillamook, Netarts and Nehalem Bays.

Freshwater fishers are still fighting low, clear waters when in pursuit of summer steelhead but a few are being caught in the Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers. It won't be long when anglers working the jetty can have a reasonable opportunity to catch hatchery and depending on what bay you're on, wild coho casting jigs on the outgoing tide. Here is a recent press release in regards to fall fishing opportunities on the north coast:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Contact: Ron Boyce (971) 971-6081
Jessica Sall (503) 947-6023
www.dfw.state.or.us Fax: (503) 947-6009

For immediate release Wednesday, July 29, 2009

Coastal fall chinook regulations take effect Aug. 1

SALEM, Ore. -- As fall chinook season approaches on Oregon's coastal rivers and streams, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is reminding anglers that temporary regulations go into effect on many of these waters beginning Aug. 1.

For a second year in a row, biologists are predicting weak returns of fall chinook to coastal rivers and streams.

"We've tried to craft some recreational fishing seasons that maximize fishing opportunity while still protecting weak stocks," said Ron Boyce, ODFW ocean salmon/Columbia River program manager.

This year, ODFW biologists have set river-by-river daily and seasonal bag limits based on the relative strength of the predicted return to that river. Harvest limits range from one wild adult chinook per day and two fish for the season on rivers with weak stocks, to two fish per day and 10 for the season on rivers with more robust populations.

In addition, there is a seasonal limit of 10 non fin-clipped chinook salmon for all waters (Northwest and Southwest coastal rivers and open ocean terminal areas at the Elk and Tillamook rivers). This seasonal bag limit does not include the Buoy 10 or Columbia River fisheries. Three fisheries, the Nehalem and Winchuck rivers and the Chetco terminal area, will be closed to the harvest of chinook salmon.

Rivers with a bag limit of one per day and two per season: Siletz, Yaquina, Yachats, Alsea, Floras, Sixes, Hunter Creek, Pistol and Chetco.

Rivers with a bag limit of one per day and five per season: Necanicum, Tillamook Basin, Tillamook ocean terminal area, Nestucca, Salmon, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coquille, Elk River and Elk ocean terminal area.

Rivers with a bag limit of two per day and 10 per season: Coos and Rogue.

The coastal fall chinook season for rivers and streams begins Aug.1 and continues through the end of the year.

Anglers can see a complete description of the temporary regulations by going to the fishing page on the ODFW Web site www.dfw.state.or.us

The Guide's Forecast – Look for another great week of coho harvest out of the north coast. Garibaldi, Nehalem and Pacific City should all be great options through the weekend for those targeting growing coho. There is no other easier fishery, just troll a shiny bait fish close to the surface early in the morning and drop it down deeper as the morning progresses. If you are not into fish after 15 minutes of trolling, you should consider moving a short distance in a different direction. Just because you see a pack of boats, doesn't mean they are onto fish. With the best bite occurring the earlier in the morning you fish, you will want to maximize your morning effort the most. Don't leave biting fish, especially if they are hatchery fish, to go find biting fish. These fish are noticeably larger right now. Don't mistake a small chinook for a coho as there are some showing in the catches.

It's still a bit early for good opportunity along the jetties for returning coho but keep in mind, when larger returns are forecasted back to our area rivers, the peak run timing on both sides of the run is extended and fish should be available as early as this week on these systems. The softer tides we're experiencing right now could produce some fair action for fish along the jetty.

Cast Point Defiance or Megabait jigs working the top 25 feet of water. Aggressive fish should strike on the down swing.

For those still seeking solitude in the upper reaches of our watersheds, steelheading will be a challenge for the persistent. Low, clear water will make morning times the most productive and target trout and steelhead in the broken surface waters early in the morning. Tidewater trolling for searun trout is a lost art but should still produce good catches of an increasing population of fish.

Bring your crab gear, it's worth it. If you can get your hands on some fresh salmon carcasses, it will be worth it.

Central & South Coast Reports – Say it ain't so! Today we read the phrase, "As summer winds down" (thanks a bunch, ODFW). But, denial aside, with Back to School sales everywhere, it seems to be true. Go grab yourself a chunk of it in the form of excellent fishing opportunities before the leaves start to turn.

Launching out of central and southern Oregon ports should present no problems as wave and wind action is predicted to be mild. Tides are soft but boaters are advised that it will be outgoing during morning launches.

Tuna fishing has been great at varying distances offshore depending on the port and the whims of ocean currents and location of 60+ degree water. Albacore catches have been reported in water in the high 50s occasionally. Over the past week, anglers launching out of Charleston reported the best catches. A handful of bluefin have been taken out of Newport, Depoe and Coos bays.

Coho catches are reported as "the best in years." Although sorting of wild fish is required everywhere, the percentages vary from one port to the next. The limit is three hatchery coho per day with the average take two per rod.

The summer all-depth halibut season begins Friday, August 7th and will continue every other Friday through Sunday through the end of October or fulfillment of a 165,681 pound quota.

Ocean crabbing has been very good with many limits although most of the crabs are soft at this time of year. The better ports have been Winchester and Coos bays.

Newport coho fishers are taking limits but report just over half are of non-hatchery origin one day, two to one the next. Silver hookups have occurred 12 to 13 miles northwest out of port. A run of 30 miles over the past weekend got boats into 62 degree water and plenty of albacore. Crab pots dropped on the way out were yielding good catches of Dungeness which are less than hard had this time of year.

Albacore catches have been worthwhile out of Depoe bay. Limits of coho are coming to ocean trollers. As with many ports this year, sharks have been a problem at times for both tuna and coho anglers.

With Chinook trickling into southwest rivers, the Siuslaw will start to fish in a few weeks ... a month, tops.

Winchester Bay has been fair to good for crabbing. Fall Chinook have started entering the lower river and catches have been fair. Smallmouth bass fishing is still hot for numbers, fair for large

fish on the Elkton stretch on the mainstem Umpqua. Unfortunately, there are few opportunities here for bank fishers so it's mostly a boat show. The North Umpqua is picking up for summer steelhead in the areas where bait is allowed and some spring Chinook are being taken as well. The flies-only area is a mess and many roads are closed due to the Williams Creek fire.

The lower Coquille has been fair for sturgeon and striped bass.

Trollers in the Rogue estuary are taking good numbers of fall Chinook to 40 pounds now. A green-bladed Rogue River Rig is the top producer when paired with an anchovy. As long as the river remains at 70 degrees, the Chinook will remain keged in the bay where anglers can target them between the jaws and the Highway 101 bridge. Half-pounders are entering now providing an additional opportunity in the lower river. Steelheaders on the Grants Pass stretch are making good catches of smallish adult steelhead while anglers on the upper Rogue are catching steelhead and Chinook on the stretch from Gold Ray Dam to up to Dodge Bridge, the stretch which is open to salmon retention. Steelhead are hitting all manner of bait and lure.

Boats out of the Port of Brookings are running five to 10 miles west to fond coho. Expect to release seven or eight wild fish for every hatchery keeper here. Many anglers report hookups right on the surface just as they check how the bait or lure is running. Soft plastics on jig heads have been effective for a variety of rockfish with mostly seven-fish limits reported. Catches of ling cod have been fair to good on baits of herring. Tuna catches are good and improving. As good as it is, fishing for all species will only get better through August. Area beaches continue to provide good fishing for surf perch.

A few limits of fat trout are being taken at Diamond Lake but the average catch per rod is three. Power Bait in 30 feet of water seems to be the best bet.

Central and Eastern Oregon – The Deschutes River opened August 1st for the retention of Chinook salmon from the mouth at the I-84 bridge upstream to Sherars Falls. The season will remain open through the end of October. Steelhead are entering with the best prospects from Macks Canyon to the mouth. Trout fishing has been good and is expected to remain so for fly anglers. Carry a wide variety of caddis adult patterns, cased and be sure to include pupa patterns in various colors. Trout are biting well on the upper Deschutes.

Davis Lake fished well for largemouth bass through the heat wave and should be pleasant this weekend in milder conditions. Most fly-rodders are taking a dozen or more every day.

Green Peter has been hot one day, cold the next, but when it's good, anglers are taking 25-fish limits with the algae problem (and the water) cleared up, kokanee are being taken by trollers using downriggers.

Smallmouth bass fishing is good on the John Day River but plan to wade for them as the water is low.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report August 5-18, 2009

North Puget Sound

For the most part, salmon fishing in the region has tapered off recently. But the bite could pick up again in the coming weeks as a parade of pink salmon begins to make its way into Puget Sound.

"We're starting to see **pink salmon** show up in the catch throughout north Puget Sound," said Steve Thiesfeld, a fish biologist for WDFW. "In the next couple of weeks, I expect we'll see more and more pink salmon push into the region."

"Humpy Hollow," a portion of Puget Sound stretching from Shipwreck to Mukilteo, should be a good bet in the next few weeks for anglers who want to catch pink salmon, Thiesfeld said. Fish biologists are predicting that 5.1 million pink salmon - also known as "humpies" - will enter Puget Sound this year and a good portion of them will pass through those waters, he 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. The regulations are the same for neighboring Marine Area 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay).

Elsewhere, fishing has "cooled" recently in marine areas 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton), Thiesfeld said. "Fishing has been pretty slow, except in inner Elliott Bay, where the bite has shown some improvement," he said.

Anglers fishing marine areas 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release wild chinook and **chum salmon**. Those fishing inner Elliott Bay - which is open Fridays through Mondays only - have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chum.

Another option is Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), where anglers have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but can only keep one chinook. Anglers in Marine Area 7 also must release wild coho and chum.

"Fishing has been great at Neah Bay and Sekiu the last couple weeks," Thiesfeld said. "Hopefully those fish are heading into the region, and fishing will get better in the coming days."

Meanwhile, the **crab** fishery is under way in marine areas 8-1, 8-2, 9, and 10, as well as the eastern and southern portions of Marine Area 7. Fisheries in those areas are open on a Wednesday-through-Saturday schedule, plus the entire Labor Day weekend. The northern portion of Marine Area 7 opens for crab Aug. 12, under the same regulations.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across. See WDFW's sport-crabbing website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/>) for more information.

For freshwater anglers, only a few days remain to catch and keep chinook on the Skagit River. The Skagit is open through Aug. 9 from the mouth of the river to the mouth of Gilligan Creek from noon Thursday through Sunday. Anglers have a daily limit of two salmon, only one of which may be an adult chinook, but must release coho and chum.

However, a portion of the Skagit River re-opens Aug. 16 for salmon fishing. The Skagit will be open from the mouth of the river to the Dalles Bridge at Concrete. Anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chinook and chum.

The Snohomish and a portion of the Skykomish River also open for salmon Aug. 16. Anglers fishing those rivers will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chinook.

Before heading out for a day of fishing, anglers should check the rules and regulations for all fisheries on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> .

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Salmon fishing continues to clip along off the coast where anglers may now keep up to two chinook as part of their daily limit. Meanwhile, pink salmon are making their way from the ocean to Puget Sound, where Hood Canal recently opened to crab fishing.

From Ilwaco to Neah Bay, anglers are consistently catching their limits due to good weather and a slug of coho salmon, said Erica Crust, WDFW ocean port sampler.

"Folks are mainly catching coho, but some **chinook** in the 30-pound range have been caught off Westport with the coho weighing about six pounds," Crust said. In Ilwaco, the catch makeup has been about one chinook for every nine coho, while anglers fishing off La Push and Neah Bay are catching a mix of coho and **pink salmon** .

Crust reminds anglers that the limit for chinook is now two fish per day in all ocean areas. "There was enough fish remaining in the quota to ease the one-chinook limit, which is good because we're still in the midst of some primetime fishing," Crust said
All coastal areas are open seven days a week, including Ilwaco and Westport (marine areas 1 and 2), and La Push and Neah Bay (marine areas 3 and 4).

The daily limit in all marine areas is two salmon - two chinook, or two hatchery coho or a combination of both. All wild coho must be released. Westport anglers may add one pink salmon to their limit, while those fishing the north coast may add two. As of Aug. 1, all chum and chinook must be released east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line in Marine Area 4 (Neah Bay).

On the Strait of Juan de Fuca, anglers will be required to release all chinook salmon in marine areas 5 and 6 (Sekiu and the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca) after the end of the day Thursday, Aug. 6, which is earlier than scheduled. The decision to end the fishery was based on conservation concerns for wild chinook, which must be released if encountered by anglers, said Pat Pattillo, salmon policy coordinator for WDFW.

Pattillo reminds anglers that fishing opportunities for **pink salmon, hatchery coho** and **sockeye** still abound on the Strait. "The fishing has been excellent and anglers should enjoy a good season through September," Pattillo said.

Creel checks conducted during the Aug. 1-2 weekend near Sekiu (Marine Area 5) showed 762 anglers catching 406 pink salmon and 328 coho. The salmon fisheries in marine areas 5 and 6 are open seven days a week, with a two-fish daily limit. All chum, chinook and wild coho must be released. In addition, anglers may add two pink salmon to their daily catch.

Pink salmon heading for the Puyallup River basin should help boost fishing success near Tacoma (Marine Area 11), where a creel check taken Aug. 2 at the Dash Point Dock showed 94 anglers with 20 pink salmon. Salmon fishing in Commencement Bay got under way Aug. 1.

The salmon fishery in Marine Area 11 runs seven days a week, with a two-fish daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. The minimum size for chinook is 22 inches with no minimum limit for other species. All wild chinook must be released.

Area rivers may also be an option for salmon anglers. The Skokomish River in southern Hood canal is now open and anglers can fish from the mouth of the river to the Hwy. 101 bridge. The daily limit is one salmon; all chum must be released. In northern Hood Canal the Quilcene River

opens Aug. 16 from Rodgers Street to the to the Hwy. 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.

The Puyallup River, which empties into Commencement Bay, also opens Aug. 16. Before heading out, anglers are advised to check the 2009-2010 Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> for details on size and catch limits.

For those interested in winning a boat, some cash or just getting out on the water, three derbies in the Northwest Salmon Derby Series are coming up in Puget Sound. On Aug. 8, participants in the **Gig Harbor Salmon Derby** can try for the \$1,000 first prize for catching the largest chinook or coho salmon. For more information, contact psa-gh07derby@earthlink.net .

The ninth annual Hood Canal Salmon Derby will be held on Aug. 15 and 16. Tickets are \$25 and participants can try for a first prize of \$1,000. Weigh-ins will be at the Port Dock near Hoodport. Contact Clint Muns at 360-490-8482. Coming up Aug. 22-23 is the Sinclair Inlet Salmon Derby, located near Bremerton on the Kitsap Peninsula. Contact Gramdiok@msn.com for more information.

Participants in all of these derbies will be entered in a raffle for a 20-foot Stabi-Craft fishing boat, motor and trailer. For more information, visit <http://www.discovernorthwestfishing.com> .

In other derby news, The Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce is hosting a **Summer Beach Perch Fishing Derby** Aug. 15 along the beaches around Westport. The event starts is sponsored by Angler Charters at 2401 Westhaven Drive, across from Float 8 at the Westport Marina. Participants can register for the derby by calling 1-800-422-0425, or visit www.anglercharters.net .

Meanwhile, the Hood Canal (Marine Area 12) **Dungeness crab** fishery is now under way and will run through Jan. 2. Marine Area 7 North (Lummi Island/Blaine) will be open Aug. 12-Sept. 30. Both are open Wednesdays through Saturdays only, plus the entire Labor Day weekend. Crab fisheries in marine areas 6, 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10 and 11 are open on a Wednesday-through-Saturday schedule, plus Labor Day weekend, closing the evening of Sept. 7. Crabbing is open seven days a week in marine areas 4 (Neah Bay east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 and 13 through Jan. 2.

Crab fishers may retain male Dungeness crabs only with shells measuring at least 6¼ inches. The daily limit is five crabs. All undersized crabs, female Dungeness crabs and softshell crabs of either sex must be returned to the water. Additional information is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/> or <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> .

Southwest Washington

The Buoy 10 salmon fishery near the mouth of the Columbia River got off to a characteristically slow start Aug. 1, but is expected to pick up in the days ahead. Meanwhile, anglers fishing for hatchery steelhead are changing tactics to adapt to high water temperatures on the big river.

Salmon were scarce during the first few days of fishing at Buoy 10, but that's not uncommon for the popular fishery in the Columbia River estuary, said Joe Hymer, WDFW fish biologist. "Buoy 10 often starts slow, then ramps up quickly and peaks in mid-to-late August," he said. "The fishery can come alive in a single tide, so it's important to keep track of what's going on."

To track the fishery's progress anglers can check daily catch-sampling reports posted on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regions/reg5/buoy10.htm> . The site also includes links to area web cameras, along with marine forecasts and information on water temperatures and salinity.

The Buoy 10 fishery takes place in the last 16 miles of the Columbia River, where fishery managers are predicting the largest run of coho salmon since 2001. Based on that forecast, they are planning for a catch of 119,100 **hatchery coho** and 10,700 **chinook** in the Buoy 10 fishery alone.

The daily catch limit in August is two salmon (but only one chinook) or hatchery steelhead or one of each. All salmon other than chinook and adipose-fin-clipped hatchery coho must be released. Barbed hooks are allowed. The north jetty is open for fishing seven days per week when the Buoy 10 area or Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) are open for salmon fishing. The daily limit and minimum size limits for the north jetty follow the most liberal regulations of either area.

The catch limit for adult fish at Buoy 10 is the same as that for anglers fishing from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to Bonneville Dam, where fishery managers are planning for a catch of 15,100 chinook and 1,900 coho. Fishing rules for these and other areas are described in WDFW's Fishing in Washington pamphlet at (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs>).

Anglers fishing for hatchery steelhead in those waters might want to focus their efforts near the mouths of major tributaries, where the water is cooler, Hymer said. After a near-record catch of summer steelhead in July, the bite dropped off quickly when water temperatures below Bonneville Dam climbed into the low to mid-70s, he said.

"The situation will improve once we get some rain or a heavier cloud cover, but fishing near the mouths of tributaries is a good tactic in the meantime," Hymer said. Good bets are the mouth of the Cowlitz, Lewis, Wind or White Salmon rivers, plus Drano Lake, he said.

Anglers are also catching increasing numbers of hatchery steelhead farther upstream in many of those rivers. At Drano Lake, boat anglers averaged nearly a fish per rod during a recent creel check. Boat anglers have also been reeling in fish at Wind River, while catch rates for hatchery steelhead continue to improve around Blue Creek on the Cowlitz River.

Hymer said fall fishing rules for area tributaries, also described in the pamphlet, reflect both the expected size of this year's coho return and the transition to mark-selective chinook fishing in those rivers. "The rules are basically designed to protect wild chinook, while giving anglers a chance to remove as many excess hatchery fish from spawning areas as possible," he said. "Rules regarding release of wild adult chinook and jacks vary, because some hatcheries began fin-clipping fish earlier than others. So we're still a year or two away from the day when all returning chinook will be marked."

Below is a summary of the new rules now in effect on various tributaries to the Columbia River:

- **Bonus hatchery coho retention:** Anglers may retain up to six hatchery adult coho on all lower Columbia tributaries with hatchery programs, including the Cowlitz, Deep, Elochoman, Grays (including West Fork), Kalama, Klickitat, Lewis (including North Fork), Toutle (including Green and North Fork) and Washougal rivers. Last year, the Cowlitz River was the only system with a daily limit of six hatchery adult coho.
- **Release all wild chinook:** Anglers must release all wild chinook (adults and jacks) on the Elochoman and Kalama rivers, where mass-marked fall chinook that are two, three and four years old will be returning this year. Very few five and six year-olds are expected, so this regulation provides additional protection for wild chinook adults with a minimal loss of sportfishing opportunity for older unmarked hatchery fish.
- **Release wild chinook jacks:** This rule will be in effect on the Cowlitz, Toutle (including Green and North Fork), Washougal, Wind and White Salmon rivers, plus Drano Lake. Two and three year-old mass-marked fall chinook will be returning to the Cowlitz, Toutle and

Washougal rivers, while two, three, and four year-olds will return to the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery. Some strays from various hatcheries also can be found in the Washington tributaries above Bonneville Dam.

- **Hatchery chinook strays on the Lewis River:** Anglers may retain stray hatchery chinook on the Lewis River and North Fork Lewis through September. While no fall chinook are released from Lewis River hatcheries, some stray tules are found in the system.
- **Boat angling restriction on the North Fork Lewis River:** This regulation, which applies to the Cedar Creek area, will be delayed until October to give anglers greater access to the large number of hatchery coho expected to return to the river. The restriction on boats will still take effect in time to protect wild fall chinook, which are expected to return in improved numbers but just above the minimum escapement goal.
- **Grays and Elochoman rivers opened Aug. 1:** The starting date for fall salmon fisheries was moved up to allow anglers to catch early arriving fish, particularly Select Area Bright fall chinook that stray into the Grays River.

While high water temperatures may not suit salmon and steelhead, they don't seem to be a problem for **walleye, bass** and other **warmwater fish**. In the John Day Pool, boat anglers have been averaging 1.5 walleye and four bass per rod. Below Bonneville Dam walleye fishing is also heating up in the Gorge and in the Camas/Washougal area.

Meanwhile, **trout** anglers should be aware that Council Lake was recently stocked with 3,760 catchable-size rainbows, while Takhlakh Lake got 4,025. Skate Creek and the Tilton River were each scheduled to get 2,000 catchable-size rainbows during the first week in August. For more information about trout-stocking schedules, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/> on the WDFW website.

Eastern Washington

Fishing for some species is heating up with air and water temperatures. Debbie Milks, WDFW fish biologist, said **catfish** and **sturgeon** fishing has been productive in the Snake River system in the southeast part of the region.

"Fish have been landed near Lyons Ferry Hatchery as well as upstream by the railroad bridge," she said. "Catfish have also been caught up the Palouse River and near the mouth of the Tucannon River."

Sturgeon fishers are reminded of the minimum 43-inch and maximum 54-inch tail fork length, and daily catch limit of one sturgeon. The Snake and its tributaries upstream of Lower Granite Dam are catch-and-release only for sturgeon.

In the central district of the region, **largemouth** and **smallmouth bass** fishing continues to be productive during early and late hours at many mixed species fisheries, including Downs and Chapman lakes in southwest Spokane County. Long Lake, the reservoir off the Spokane River in northwest Spokane County continues to be good for both bass species, along with **crappie** and **perch**.

Kokanee fishing continues to be good at Lake Roosevelt and Stevens County's Loon Lake during evening hours.

Some of the high elevation lakes on U.S. Forest Service property in the northeast district that are stocked with **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** may be good destinations to beat the heat. In Ferry County, try Davis, Ellen, Empire Swan and Trout lakes. In Stevens County, try Gillette, Heritage, Sherry, Summit, and Thomas lakes. In Pend Oreille County, try Carl's, Cook's, Frater, Halfmoon, Leo, Mystic, Nile, No-Name, Petit, South and North Skookums, and Yokum lakes. Find out specific

locations and more about these fishing lakes in WDFW's 2009 Fishing Prospects webpage at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/prospects/index.htm> .

Wherever anglers go, they are reminded to be extra careful with anything that could start a wildfire in the region. Plans should include a check on campfire and even road restrictions on public lands. For fire information by county, see the Washington Department of Natural Resources website at <http://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/firedanger/BurnRisk.aspx> . Current wildfire conditions from the National Interagency Fire Center are available at <http://www.inciweb.org/> .

Northcentral Washington

Lake Wenatchee in Chelan County opened Aug. 5 for **sockeye** salmon fishing, which will remain open until harvestable fish numbers have been caught. WDFW district fish biologist Art Viola said the 2009 return of sockeye is sufficient to meet spawning escapement goals and allow this special (not listed in the fishing pamphlet) sport fishing opportunity. "The sockeye run is late throughout the Columbia River, but we have a very robust Lake Wenatchee run," Viola said.

The daily limit per angler at Lake Wenatchee is two sockeye, 12 inches in length or greater. Single-point barbless hooks are required, and no more than three hooks may be used. The hooks may not be baited or scented and knotless nets are required. Legal angling hours are one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. Bull trout, steelhead, and chinook salmon must be released unharmed without removing the fish from the water.

Viola also notes that Lake Wenatchee anglers are required to release sockeye marked with one or more round, quarter-inch holes punched in the tail or caudal fin. These fish are part of a study and have been anesthetized, resulting in a 21-day ban on consumption by humans.

The special season comes just in time to provide some action when other local salmon-fishing options are dwindling. "Sockeye fishing in the upper Columbia River is almost done now, because most of the fish have migrated out of the area," Viola said. "Fishing for upper Columbia **chinook salmon** is very hard right now. The fish seem to have 'lock-jaw,' due to high water temperatures. They just aren't biting."

But in Okanogan County, salmon fishing in the mainstem Columbia River above Wells Dam continues to be good. WDFW district fish biologist Bob Jateff reports near limits of sockeye in the two- to five-pound range, and chinook averaging 15-18 pounds, with larger fish running around 25 pounds. Jateff reminds anglers the daily catch limit is six salmon, only four of which may be adults and of those four adults only two may be chinook. Anglers who intend to release salmon are also reminded the fish must be kept in the water at all times during release.

Starting Aug. 7, anglers will be able to retain adult sockeye salmon in the Washington portion of Lake Osoyoos, 300 yards south of the US-Canadian border (marked with large fluorescent orange signs). Sockeye salmon returns above Zosel Dam are predicted to be in excess of needs for wild fish escapement to the spawning grounds. Minimum size is 12 inches and the daily catch limit is four sockeye salmon. All chinook salmon, and sockeye with colored anchor (floy) tag attached, must be released. The fishery is scheduled to run through Aug. 30.

Jateff says fishing on the Methow River for resident **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** has been good recently with reported catches of fish in the 10-16 inch range. Selective gear rules with catch-and-release requirements are in effect for the Methow and selected tributaries (Twisp and Chewuch). "Water temperatures are starting to rise in the river," Jateff said, "so anglers should bring fish to hand as quickly as possible and avoid taking any fish out of the water for any purpose."

Fishing is also good for **yellow perch** at Patterson Lake and for **bluegill** at Leader Lake, Jateff said. There are no bag limits and no minimum size requirements for either of these species in Okanogan County lakes.

Wherever anglers go, they are reminded to be extra careful with anything that could start another wildfire in the region's extremely hot and dry conditions. Outing plans should include a check on campfire and even road restrictions on public lands. Information by county is available at <http://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/firedanger/BurnRisk.aspx> on the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website. See current wildfire conditions from the National Interagency Fire Center at <http://www.inciweb.org/> .

Southcentral Washington

Paul Hoffarth, WDFW district fish biologist from Pasco, reports recent creel checks on the Columbia River below the Tri-Cities showed the majority of the effort was focused on **walleye** . Creel staff interviewed 23 walleye-fishing boats with 51 anglers who had 80 walleye. That averages out to one walleye caught for every 3.6 hours of fishing.

Hoffarth noted the **sturgeon** sanctuary below McNary Dam on the Columbia was lifted Aug. 1 and numerous boats began fishing catch-and-release over the Aug 1-2 weekend. Creel staff interviewed seven sturgeon-fishing boats with 23 anglers who had caught 31 sturgeon at a rate of one sturgeon for every four hours of fishing.

No boats were sampled for **salmon** or **steelhead** in the John Day Pool, but boat activity is picking up in the McNary Dam forebay. One steelhead boat was interviewed above the dam with no catch.

Hoffarth reminds anglers the anti-snagging rule went into effect for the John Day Pool Aug.1 for all salmon and steelhead fishing.

The maximum size limit for **kokanee** , or land-locked sockeye salmon, is now 14 inches in Kittitas County's Cle Elum Lake. The change is due to WDFW's effort with the Yakama Nation to reintroduce anadromous sockeye salmon into the upper Cle Elum Basin. A thousand adult sockeye trapped at Priest Rapids Dam on the Columbia River will be transferred to Cle Elum Lake. Some will be radio-tagged for tracking to learn pre-spawning behavior and fall migration.

Few anadromous sockeye are smaller than 16 inches, and few landlocked kokanee are greater than 12 inches. Therefore, a 14-inch size threshold will allow the kokanee fishery to proceed this summer without inadvertently harvesting valuable sockeye dedicated to the reintroduction effort. The kokanee daily catch limit remains the same at 16 kokanee, with no minimum size.

Wherever anglers go, they are reminded to be extra careful with anything that could start another wildfire in the region, which is experiencing extremely hot and dry conditions. Outing plans should include a check on campfire and even road restrictions on public lands. See Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fire information by county at <http://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/firedanger/BurnRisk.aspx> . See current wildfire conditions from the National Interagency Fire Center at <http://www.inciweb.org/> .

TGF Inbox – Reader Email

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

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: bree@pacifier.com
Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com
Michael Teague: Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

2010 Licenses and fees:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/budget/docs/Post_Legislation_Final_Fees.pdf

Record Breaking Rainbow Trout taken in Idaho:

<http://reeltaleslodge.com/2009/08/05/record-breaking-rainbow-trout/>

Fishing Lakes, Tips, & Resources:

<http://www.fishingworks.com/>

Seafood Recipes (commercial site):

<http://welovefish.com/recipes.htm>

GOOD LUCK!