

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 18th – June 24rd, 2010**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Anticipation for a good summer chinook season has anglers preparing spinners for Bonneville area salmon. Although salmon fishing is open upstream of Tongue Point, the majority of effort will take place in the gorge. With counts on the upswing, action should be good for fin-clipped salmon into mid-July. The first of two mainstem gillnet seasons begins tonight.

Summer steelhead fishing above I-5 is also now open and better numbers are entering the Columbia each week. Although boaters in the gorge will score better results in July, bank anglers downstream of the mouth of the Willamette should continue to find fish when the tides improve next week.

Shad anglers in the gorge are doing well and run numbers should now be peaking. Fresh shad continue to take oversize sturgeon in the gorge below Marker 82. Only a rare keeper is in the catch.

With water temps in the upper 50's, springers and summer steelhead have resumed crossing the Falls, having stopped when the water was high. The lower river should be fishable by the weekend with the best action likely to come from the lower Portland Harbor. Hardware will become most effective for salmon when water temperatures exceed 60 degrees.

With the McKenzie at 41 degrees and down to 5,000 cfs at Vida, trout fishing is good.

The water has dropped and cleared on the Clackamas but has still been higher than most like to fish it. A few fish are being landed on cured eggs.

The Sandy River has been very slow with most leaving empty-handed. Summer steelhead will make up the bulk of the catch when flows drop.

The Santiam system will be dropping throughout the week with the North producing hatchery steelhead. Warmer water temperatures should drastically improve catch rates.

Northwest – Catches have slowed dramatically on Tillamook Bay as peak season has passed. Hatchery fish will remain available but wild fish may soon make up a larger portion of the catch. Softer tides will focus effort in the lower bay for anglers using herring for bait.

Although district rivers performed well after the last rain freshet, river levels have dropped and fish are concentrating in deeper holes awaiting the next rain. They will become increasingly more challenging to pursue but early risers and stealthy tactics will take salmon and steelhead on the Trask, Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers. The Wilson and Three Rivers offer the best access to bank anglers but the Trask is a top bet for salmon anglers near the hatchery. The Hatchery Hole deadline is now in effect.

The offshore chinook season has not performed well and anglers wishing to recreate in the ocean will not enjoy the forecasted wind chop this weekend. Commercial troll catches out of Astoria indicate good numbers of chinook are in the area.

High flows and relatively cold water continue to keep sturgeon action from breaking loose in the lower Columbia. Astoria area anglers didn't quite average a keeper for every other boat over the weekend. The best action remains in the deep water where anchovies are faring best. Fresh ocean fish, recognized by whiter skin coloration and even an iridescent sheen on their sides, are making up a larger portion of the catch now. The best fishing remains upstream of the Astoria Bridge but a few fish are beginning to fall out of Hammond.

Southwest – Another round of all-depth halibut opens June 17, 18 and 19 off the central Oregon coast between Cape Falcon and Humbug Mountain with 40% of the quota remaining. Mild early morning incoming tides are forecast.

Ocean launches provided good bottom fishing out of Bandon and Charleston. The Coast Guard was particularly cautious about opening the bar out of Reedsport, keeping boats inside.

There has been some improvement in catches of ocean chinook but it's still slow with salmon deep.

Impact of the last storm has springer fishing at a standstill with water muddy on the Umpqua. Shad and smallmouth fishing is also poor. It may be a week or longer before it will be fishable.

On the Rogue, spring chinook fishing was off and on over the past week but shut down on Sunday, June 13th, when the water temperature topped 60 degrees. Fish upstream for best results but stay clear of the river above and below Gold Ray Dam which is closed for the dam removal project.

Eastern – The latest giant kokanee, taken over the past weekend at Wallowa Lake by Ron Campbell of Pendleton, is on track for the new world record at 9.67 pounds. The state record has now been broken 4 times this spring.

The Umatilla River is an option for spring chinook as flows subside after snowmelt. The Wallowa and Imnaha Rivers should also provide some opportunities in the coming weeks.

Kokanee fishing is fair at Odell with few filling the generous 25-fish limit here.

SW Washington – District anglers continue to leave area rivers disappointed. The Cowlitz remains the best spot to intercept a spring chinook with the Barrier Dam producing the best.

Summer steelhead numbers should start to build in the Cowlitz, Lewis and Kalama Rivers and increasing water temperatures should stimulate the bite. The Washougal is another good bet that not many anglers pay attention to.

The Wind River remains a good bet for anglers targeting salmon at the coffer dam. The Klickitat should also produce a few salmon. Summer steelhead numbers at Bonneville will determine when the effort is worthwhile on this system.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Close to Portland, the summer Chinook fishery is underway and action started out good for anglers in the Bonneville area. Although most anglers will target Chinook from the deadline to the shad rack, there are other areas to intercept these quality fish downstream. Anglers choose to target these fish in the Bonneville area because they concentrate in heavier numbers with the dam as a barrier to fish passage. Passage at Bonneville indicates there are good numbers of fish present with days topping 2,000 fish most recently. Anglers are most likely to use small spinners with a combination of metallic and green or red incorporated

into the blade. The most popular area to fish, the shad rack, anglers typically anchor in 10 to 24 foot of water but with ripping flows, anglers must fish much shallower and with a lot of lead right now. Most boats are fishing water shallower than 8 to 10 foot to avoid the heavy flow and action started out fair for boats fishing at the shad rack. Rumored reports indicate a little better than a fish per boat on average, taking into account that some boats produced much better than others. It's clear however that the high water is having an impact on success rates now and anglers are anxiously awaiting lower flows. The good news is, it's a wide open season that will stretch into the non-select fall Chinook season so you don't have to go when the water conditions aren't right.

Steelhead are an option as well and bank anglers fared decent last week, likely due to the high flows of the Columbia concentrating fish close to shore. Weekend checks for anglers downstream of Portland are as follows:

Portland to Longview Bank:

Weekend checking showed 16 adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and one adipose fin-clipped jack spring chinook kept, plus five adult spring chinook, one unclipped jack chinook, two unclipped steelhead, and 12 sockeye released for 87 bank anglers.

Portland to Longview Boats:

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped steelhead released for six boats (11 anglers).

Estuary Bank (Jones Beach to Clatsop Spit):

Weekend checking showed 24 adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and one adipose fin-clipped jack chinook kept, plus one adult spring chinook, and 10 sockeye released for 113 bank anglers.

Estuary Boats (Puget Island to Tongue Point):

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept for eight boats (15 anglers).

Sturgeon fishing in the gorge remains best for anglers seeking the leviathans of the deep. Oversize sturgeon are making up the bulk of the catch with anglers scoring fairly regularly using whole shad for bait. Weekend checking showed one legal white sturgeon kept, plus 16 oversize, and 67 sublegal sturgeon released for 21 boats (64 anglers). The fast water hasn't seemed to slow the sturgeon bite much but you'll have to choose your water accordingly and plan on using a lot of lead to keep your baits fishing where they need to be, on the bottom.

The Longview area for sturgeon anglers is a different story however. Swift, cold water has keeper sized fish off the bite with anglers perplexed on where to effectively fish. It's not likely to get much better in the coming week either.

In the estuary, the same cold, high water clearly has a grip on sturgeon success near Astoria. Anglers continue to struggle for consistency with grass and debris plugging lines during peak outgoing tide. Most anglers are finding success when the current slows near low slack and into the incoming tide.

It's been hard to find big numbers anywhere but the downtown bite in Astoria has been one of the more consistent locations. Anchovies have performed well in both shallow and deep water recently although sandshrimp is still an essential when fishing more shallow water. Some anglers are bouncing around in the islands above Tongue Point but again, without any consistent results but some quality keepers are being taken. It's not uncommon however to go for hours without a bite and a good flurry consists of 4 to 6 fish these days. The bite has improved downstream of the Astoria Bridge but like other parts of the estuary, one can't count on any prolonged bite.

Some of the better action lately has been near the Desdemona Light marker near low slack but crabs and sculpin infiltrate the area on the incoming tide. Don't count on an easy limit in this water.

Offshore fishing and crabbing was not a possibility this week as rough weather kept most boats at bay. It's hard to say what the ocean salmon fishing would be like but anglers were hopeful to take a stab at it. Not to be this week.

The Guide's Forecast – Summer Chinook excitement will be forefront on many anglers' minds but with the water conditions the way that they are, many may wait out softer flows. Anglers that are motivated to fish in the higher water should focus their efforts in shallower water, as in less than 10 foot as long as flows remain high. Use spinners on the bottom and don't expect one "lane" to consistently produce fish day after day. Flows will dictate what lanes the salmon will travel in each day and if you think one spot will produce day after day, you'll likely come back disappointed. Anglers fishing downstream of the gorge will only find an occasional fish as the total number of returning summer salmon should only number around 90,000 fish. Good passage is clearly underway and it's shaping up to be a good start if the water cooperates.

Continued high water may be beneficial for bank anglers as this group of anglers are more likely to score the best results. Hot colored spin-n-glo's will remain a top bet. Serious anglers will really want to consider rigging their bobbers on heavy line or even better yet, rigged with heavy gauge wire to keep the lure spinning true. Less wobble will entice more strikes. Use scent too with shrimp a favorite amongst steelheaders. Don't be afraid to tip your bobbers with coon shrimp as well and if you can do this without compromising your true spin, you should have an effective lure. Minus tides should prove even more beneficial for bank anglers.

Oversize sturgeon seekers should still score good results in the gorge as long as you're using shad for bait. Shad cut into strips may take an occasional keeper but most keepers have headed west for the summer anchovy season in the estuary. Shad fishing should remain good for anglers using gold and green Dick Nite spoons.

Sturgeon fishing should begin to ramp up in the estuary when water temperatures begin to climb. We're looking for temperatures above 60 degrees but that hasn't happened yet. There's only been a rare day when water temps have exceeded 59 degrees. Until temperatures do warm, the deep water will likely continue to produce the best results with anchovies a top bait. Another set of heavy tides will bring grass and debris with it so anglers will want to look for softer flows out of the main current to keep fishing effectively. Fresh, ocean fish have made up a considerable number of the keepers recently indicating a strong influx from downriver. This, coupled with the strong tides may make fishing downstream of the bridge a good option. Bring lots of bait however as the crab and trash fish have been voracious.

Offshore angling doesn't look all that favorable for the upcoming weekend but early next week may offer up some opportunity for those seeking offshore Chinook. The forecast is as follows:

FRI N WIND 10 KT...RISING TO 15 TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 FT...BUILDING TO 4 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. W SWELL 6 FT.

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

SAT NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 6 FT. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SAT NIGHT NW WIND 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 7 FT.

SUN NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. NW SWELL 7 FT.

MON NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – As water in the lower Willamette drops and slows, the water temperature is climbing in to the high 50s. Spring Chinook are once again on the move over the Falls with counts once again in the hundreds every day. Over the past weekend, 28 boats in the lower river caught 30 spring Chinook and 60 bank anglers caught five. The water level and flow have improved quite a bit since then so the coming weekend shows promise.

McKenzie water level has been steadily declining with anglers taking some spring Chinook.

According to the ODFW, about 2,500 summer steelhead along with a few springers have been counted at Foster Dam. Water levels are still high but they're dropping and the entire system is fishable.

ODFW sez, "FREE YOUTH FISHING EVENT: Saturday, June 19, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Trillium Lake off Highway 26, approximately 3 miles east of Government Camp. For more information, call Robbie Walsh (503) 503-622-3191 ext. 677."

The Guide's Forecast – The lower Willamette still has springers and catches have improved. Meldrum Bar is a possibility for bank fishers as a few have been landed there recently. Shad fishing started picking up again this week with decent catches as recently as Wednesday. If the sun shines this weekend, trying at Oregon City should be good. Chinook are being caught below Dexter on the upper Willamette with some anglers taking limits. Try a bobber and good-quality cured eggs.

Try backbouncing cured salmon eggs if targeting springers on the McKenzie. It has been the most effective technique here.

Try the Mehama to Stayton drift. That stretch has good numbers of fish now. Try the South Santiam. It should be holding a few surprises of the fishy kind. Spring Chinook are moving in fairly well. Boaters should avoid the stretch from Shelburn to Green's Bridge until downed trees can be cleared.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – The Clackamas level and flow are dropping and the color is very good now. Springers have been running upriver since the rain storms with catches improving. With school out and the weather warming, think first-light fishing as productive fishing areas will soon be full of happy-splashers.

Following high water in the first week of June, waters of the Sandy have dropped and allowed anglers to pick up summer steelhead as well as a few springers.

The Guide's Forecast - Try the Clack below Barton where some steelhead are being picked up. Expect Chinook and summer steelhead catches to pick up through the remainder of the month.

Springers have been taken on steelhead drift rigs and a few have hit spinners intended to tempt summers. Regardless, targeting spring Chinook will be more productive if that's your intended

quarry. High water scattered fish and now that the river is in shape, chase them in your favorite stretch.

North Coast Fishing Report – Salmon fishers in the Tillamook district have seen the best of the run in Tillamook Bay itself. Poor results were reported early in the week despite the fact it's clearly a very good run this year. Upper bay anglers haven't done all that well either recently although tides are improving this week.

The fact of the matter is we're just coming off an excellent rain freshet and most of the salmon have taken advantage of the excellent migrating conditions and moved into the rivers. The Trask is plugged with springers and good fishing has also been reported from the Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers as well. River levels are dropping so fish are beginning to stage up in the deeper holes where only stealthy anglers have access to them. The early morning is proving to be best when fish are moving the most but late afternoons can also prove effective when traffic has mostly passed through the river system. Drifted eggs will prove most effective but tipped with shrimp, can be most effective. Most anglers will be using bobbers and bait in the dropping flows but it will be important to go light under these conditions.

Summer steelhead are also present in the Nestucca, Wilson and Three Rivers but most anglers will be focusing their efforts on salmon with the run we're experiencing on the north coast this year. Steelhead will be found in faster water, especially water with a broken surface.

A few sturgeon begin to seek food in the lower Tillamook River this time of year although this fishery hasn't been nearly as productive in recent years. None-the-less, sturgeon seekers may find some success as sturgeon were spotted late this spring in upper Tillamook Bay. Sand or mud shrimp would be the ticket.

Offshore conditions don't look too favorable for anglers looking for salmon, halibut, bottomfish or crab, at least until Monday. This weather pattern is quite common for this time of year but most would agree that the cooler weather is having a negative impact on their psyche. Once the ocean does calm down, nearshore halibut and bottomfishing should be some of the best options for anglers. Crabbing will likely remain poor until July and later if you want your males to be harder shelled.

The Guide's Forecast – A weak tide series over the weekend will have herring trollers back near the mouth working the bottom of the bay for the last good push of hatchery Chinook on Tillamook Bay. The jaws and the coast guard station at Garibaldi should prove the most effective on the outgoing tide with the weak series peaking early next week with as little as a 2+ foot runoff gracing the lower bay. These are ideal trolling conditions.

For anglers more comfortable fishing in the upper bay, another early morning minus tide begins on Tuesday. Spinners and plugs as well as herring should be a good option near the Memaloose Boat Ramp.

Some of the highest concentrations of fish will be in the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers with Three Rivers another great option. The fish will be concentrated in deeper holes and quite skeptical to take baits in the dropping and clearing waters. Stealthy anglers, especially ones that work the early morning waters, have a real possibility of scoring. Boaters should work the Trask, Nestucca and Wilson, especially the lower stretches while bank anglers have good access on Three Rivers and the Wilson River as well. The tidewater stretches of the Trask and maybe the Nestucca should also get a look from experienced bobber tossers. In years past, the lower Trask tidewater has held fish in lower flows where trollers can take them with some consistency using

spinners or bobber and bait. With the previous high water however, the majority of fish could be in upstream lairs.

Although summer steelhead won't be high on many anglers bucket list, the Nestucca and Wilson are the best bets and in the low water, fish should be pocketed up and willing to bite. Not many anglers will be in competition with you.

Crabbing is poor in Tillamook Bay and not much better offshore. Hopefully a window of opportunity will open up for offshore anglers early next week. Halibut and bottomfish will offer up the best opportunities for a good harvest.

Central & South Coast Reports – Rough seas kept halibut catches very low during the last all depth opportunity June 3rd through 5th when boats landed only 17,843 pounds. Consequently, there will be another opener June 17th through 19th for 42,393 pounds, about 40% of the quota. Ocean conditions are predicted to be much friendlier for this round of All-Depth Halibut and catches are expected to be good.

With warm water edging ever slower to the beach, members of the Big Boat Club with long-range capabilities are thinking all day and dreaming all night about just one thing: Albacore. It won't be long.

With offshore Chinook catches poor to slow, many fishers are looking forward to the coho opener June 26th as that species has accounted for the majority of hookups and they've been pretty fair-sized for so early in the year.

Fishing for sea-run cutthroat has been slow on the Coos and Coquille. No word has come in on shad catches.

Ocean crabbing is fair out of Winchester Bay in fairly shallow water just beyond the freshwater influence of the Umpqua. The river has been slow to recover from the last series of storms, resulting in poor bay crabbing. Roiled water dumping into the bay has shut down the perch fishery here but local beaches are putting out decent numbers. The South Jetty has been fishing well for greenling and rockfish. One would logically conclude that muddy water is a result of an upriver mud slide. It would also be logical that sturgeon fishing would improve but that has not been the case. While Umpqua Chinook anglers may keep one wild fish per day, it looks as if that will become two later this season. Shad fishing is expected to be good once the sun comes out and the water clears. South Umpqua smallmouth bass fishing has shut down with the water high and cold. A similar situation has stalled spring Chinook catches on the North but catches will improve as the water drops and clears.

It's getting late for spring Chinook on the Rogue. Fishing has been slow on the lower river with a handful taken here and there. Chinook fishing has been fair on the middle Rogue but with good numbers crossing Gold Ray Dam, the upper river has been productive. Anglers will find a mix of springers and summer steelhead here. Back-bouncers and plug-pullers are seeing success with bank anglers catching some as well. Early summer steelhead are responding to a variety of baits and lures and must be fin-clipped to be retained. Keep in mind the Rogue is closed 500 feet below Gold Ray Dam and 1,000 feet above as preparations for dam removal are being made.

First-light launches are in order out of Brookings Harbor as the ocean will be most calm and the tide favorable at that time and it will give boats a chance to enjoy excellent fishing for ling cod and rockfish but also be able to head in before the wind kicks up. The Chetco has been

worthwhile for sea-run cutthroat trout at the top of tidewater where may is allowed. Area beaches have been good for surf perch with some anglers taking 15-fish limits.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Even though the stonefly hatch is pretty much over on the lower Deschutes, reddsides remain keyed on them with long rodders taking some dandies on dries as recently as Wednesday this week.

Both jig fishers and trollers are taking good numbers of kokanee at Odell. Mornings have been most productive with action slowing into mid-day.

Largemouth bass are staging to spawn at Davis Lake which means good fishing at this flies-only destination.

Washington fishing reports:
From the WDF&W Weekender Report for June 9th

North Puget Sound

As summer approaches, anglers have their pick of several fishing opportunities. On Puget Sound, a portion of one marine area recently opened for salmon retention and a few days remain to hook lingcod in the region. In the rivers, the trout season is open and, on a few streams, fisheries are under way for hatchery chinook salmon.

Portions of the Skagit and Cascade rivers are open for **hatchery chinook salmon** fishing. The Skagit is open to hatchery chinook retention from the Highway 530 Bridge at Rockport to the Cascade River. On the Cascade, anglers can fish for salmon from the mouth of the river to the Rockport-Cascade Road Bridge. Both stretches are open through July 15. The daily limit on the Skagit and Cascade rivers is four hatchery chinook, two of which may be adults (chinook salmon at least 24 inches in length).

Anglers also can fish for salmon on the Skykomish River, where there have been recent reports of anglers hooking some bright hatchery chinook. The Skykomish is open from the mouth to the Wallace River through July 31. Anglers fishing there have a daily limit of two hatchery chinook salmon.

Meanwhile, lake fishing for **bass, bluegill, perch**, and **crappie** is steadily improving as water temperatures increase and fish become more active. "Early summer can be a tricky time for anglers given the abundance of natural food and unstable weather patterns," said Danny Garrett, WDFW fisheries biologist. "As we move into summer and temperatures rise, fish tend to feed in shallow water - about 2 to 5 feet - early in the morning and late in the evening." When fishing for lunker bass, Garrett recommends topwater baits, such as buzzbaits, frogs, and poppers, and soft plastic twitch baits, including stick baits and flukes. During the heat of the day, bass often move to deeper water near structures or other cover, Garrett said. In clear, deep lakes, such as Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, anglers should focus on the outside edge of boat docks and along the weed line in 15 to 20 feet of water, he said, noting that a drop-shot technique with plastic bait is a good approach. Anglers should be aware that a section of the **South Fork Stillaguamish River** was mistakenly omitted from the new sportfishing rules pamphlet. That section of the Stillaguamish, from Mountain Loop Highway Bridge upstream, opened for gamefish June 5. Fishing regulations include catch and release, except two hatchery steelhead may be retained. Selective gear rules also apply, and fishing from a floating device with a motor is

prohibited.

Out on the saltwater, fishing has been slow at the **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery** . Except for a one-day closure on June 19, the fishery is open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 6. The fishery will reopen Sept. 11 on a Saturday and Sunday-only schedule through Sept. 26. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit. Chinook must measure 22 inches in length to retain.

Fishing for **lingcod** is still an option. The fishery runs through June 15 in the region's marine areas. During the hook-and-line season (May 1-June 15), there's a one-fish daily limit for lings, with a minimum size of 26 inches and a maximum size of 36 inches.

The region's spot shrimp fishery is closed, but shrimpers can fish for **coonstripe** and **pink shrimp** in some marine areas. For details on shrimp fisheries check WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/shrimpreg/shrimpindex.shtml> .

Crab fishing is just around the corner. The fishery opens July 1 in marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton). Fisheries in those areas will be open on a Wednesday-through-Saturday schedule, plus the entire Labor Day weekend. See WDFW's sport-crabbing website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/>) for more information. Before heading out, anglers should check the rules and regulations for all fisheries on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations> .

Washingtonians who are interested in fishing but haven't actually given it a try have a perfect chance to do so during **Free Fishing Weekend** , scheduled June 12-13. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. Also, no vehicle use permit will be required during Free Fishing Weekend to park at any of the water-access sites maintained by WDFW.

In addition, anglers will not need a Two Pole Endorsement to fish with two poles on thousands of lakes statewide, nor will they need a Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement, otherwise required to fish for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as size limits, bag limits and season closures will still be in effect. Anglers will also be required to complete a catch record card for any salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or halibut they catch. Catch record cards and WDFW's Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet are available free at hundreds of sporting goods

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Many Olympic Peninsula and south Sound rivers opened June 5. Lakes are still full of catchable size **rainbow trout** , and the openers for **salmon** and **crab** are just ahead. Erica Crust, WDFW's ocean port sampler, spent June 5 in Neah Bay watching anglers reel in **halibut** , a few of which were in excess of 100 pounds, and **lingcod** in the 30 pound range.

Anglers may yet get one additional day to catch halibut. Some sport quota remains and WDFW is considering reopening the fishery off La Push and Neah Bay for one day. A decision is expected soon, so fishers should watch the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/> for an announcement.

Even as anglers were battling halibut June 5, many were looking ahead to salmon. "We are hoping to see some nice fish landed on the recreational boats come Saturday," Crust said, referring to the June 12 sport chinook fishery opener.

This is expected to be a banner year for anglers fishing for chinook. Nearly 653,000 fall chinook are forecasted to return to the Columbia River this season, about 234,000 more chinook than the number returning last year. Based on that estimate, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PMFC) in April adopted a recreational ocean quota of 61,000 chinook, three times last year's level.

In April, the PMFC also established a pilot mark-selective fishery for hatchery chinook in Washington's ocean areas. From June 12-30, anglers will be allowed to catch and keep abundant hatchery salmon, which are identified by their missing adipose fin. The daily limit is two hatchery chinook. All wild salmon must be released.

"This is the first season we will have a selective fishery for hatchery chinook in the ocean," said Phil Anderson, WDFW director, when he announced the new fishery. By using this management tool we can meet our conservation goals and give anglers an additional opportunity to fish for hatchery chinook in the ocean."

The recreational ocean salmon fisheries for chinook and hatchery coho will begin July 1 off LaPush, Neah Bay and Ilwaco, and July 4 off Westport. This year's recreational quota for **coho** is 67,200, down considerably from last year's ocean quota of 176,400 fish.

Already open to salmon fishing is Marine Area 11 (Tacoma-Vashon Island), which opened relatively strong on June 1. Creel checks that day at the Point Defiance marina counted 79 anglers catching 27 chinook.

As the salmon season gears up, so too will the season for **crab**, with the first opening June 18 between the mouth of the Strait of Juan de Fuca east to Low Point, and in Marine Area 13 at the south end of Puget Sound.

Dungeness and **red rock crab** seasons are:

Marine areas 4 (east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 and 13 - open at 7 a.m. on June 18 and run through Jan. 2.

Marine areas 6, 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10, 11 and 12 - open at 7 a.m., July 1 and are open Wednesday through Saturday through Sept. 6, and open the entire Labor Day weekend.

Marine areas 7 South and East - open July 14 through Sept. 30, Wednesday through Saturday, and the entire Labor Day weekend.

Marine Area 7 North - open Aug. 11 through Sept. 30, Wednesday through Saturday, and the entire Labor Day weekend.

Pacific Ocean - open Dec.1 to Sept.15 for pot gear, and year-round for other gear.

There is a daily limit of five Dungeness crab in Puget Sound. Minimum size is 6 ¼-inches and only males in hardshell condition may be kept. In the Sound, all gear must be removed from the water on days when the fishery is closed.

The daily limit of red rock crab is six in all marine areas. Minimum size is five inches and

either sex may be kept.

Crab fishing rules can be found on pages 137-139 of the 2010-11 edition of Washington's *Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet*, which contains maps of all the marine areas and sub-areas. The pamphlet is free and available at the more than 600 stores where hunting and fishing licenses are sold. The pamphlet also can be downloaded from WDFW's web site at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations>.

Before heading out, crabbers should check for any emergency rule changes adopted since the fishing pamphlet was published. Those changes can be found on WDFW's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/> or by calling the Shellfish Rule Change toll-free hotline at (866) 880-5431.

While many seasons are opening, the season for lingcod in Puget Sound is winding down and will close June 15. On the coast, the lingcod season remains open through Oct. 15.

In marine areas 4 and 5, east of Tatoosh, creel counts in early June indicate that anglers have been reeling in **halibut, rockfish, Pacific cod** and the occasional **kelp greenling** and **lingcod**.

At the north end of Puget Sound, creel reports from the first week of June indicate that greenling and lingcod were about the only thing on the business end of fishing lines at Coronet Bay public ramp and the Washington Park launch.

Flatfish and, to a lesser extent, lingcod dominated fishing from Everett south to the Shilshole marina, according to creel checks through June 7.

And in south Sound, off Point Defiance, creel checks conducted the first week of June indicate that chinook and the occasional lingcod and flatfish were being reeled in.

Trout and **steelhead** fishing got under way June 5 in area rivers, including the Skokomish, South Fork Skokomish and Dungeness. Anglers should note that selective gear rules are in effect on those rivers to protect wild summer steelhead. Details on rules and limits are online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations>.

Southwest Washington

This year's fishery for adult **summer chinook salmon** opens June 16 on the mainstem Columbia River with high expectations and a whole new management approach. For the first time in years, anglers can look forward to a full season running through July, rather than just a few weeks. To make that possible, a mark-selective fishery will be instituted for hatchery chinook this year, requiring anglers to release any wild chinook they encounter.

For their part, the fish are expected to show up in large numbers. According to the pre-season forecast, 88,800 summer chinook will return to the Columbia this year - the largest number since 2002. About a third of those salmon are estimated to be five-year-olds, some weighing up to 40 pounds.

"This year's fishery offers anglers a chance to catch chrome bright trophy-sized fish right through July," said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist. "There's a good reason why these fish are known as 'June hogs,' and this season will give anglers a good chance to take one home."

Starting June 16, anglers may retain up to two **adult hatchery chinook** or **hatchery**

steelhead (or one of each) caught on the mainstem Columbia River from the Megler Astoria Bridge upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco. All other salmon must be released - including sockeye, which are not expected to meet escapement goals at Lake Wenatchee this year.

Hymer said high-water conditions on the Columbia River may favor bank anglers over boat anglers fishing for summer chinook. "The river is running about twice as high as it was during the spring chinook fishery, which could present a challenge for boat anglers," he said. "Boat anglers had the advantage during the spring chinook fishery, but fishing for summer chinook could be better - and safer - from the bank."

Hymer said the six-week season scheduled for summer chinook would not be possible without new selective rules designed to preserve wild salmon. Although wild summer chinook stocks are considered healthy, fishery managers plan to conserve naturally spawning fish and set aside some summer chinook for use as broodstock at the new Chief Joseph Hatchery, scheduled for completion next year on the upper Columbia River.

Another major factor in this year's extended summer chinook fishery is the additional revenue produced by the new Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement fee, Hymer said. "In the past, the cost of adequately monitoring and sampling a six-week fishery was prohibitive," he said. "This year's extended summer chinook fishery is one of very first uses the department has made of those revenues."

During the run-up to the summer chinook season, Columbia River anglers have been catching **hatchery steelhead, hatchery chinook jacks** and **shad** from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to the Interstate 5 Bridge. Growing numbers of shad are also available for harvest upriver to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco. On June 7, the single-day count of shad passing Bonneville Dam was 81,656. For information on shad, including fishing tips and recipes, see the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/outreach/fishing/shad/shad.htm>.

Like the mainstem Columbia, most area tributaries have been running high and fast, complicating fisheries on some rivers. The spring chinook run is fading fast in most rivers, but the fishery for hatchery-reared summer steelhead is still on the upswing, Hymer said. The summer steelhead run on most rivers should peak this month on most rivers, although the Cowlitz doesn't top out until July, he said.

For up-to-date information on fishing rules throughout the region, call the WDFW Region 5 Hotline at (360) 696-6211 ext. 1010 or see the department's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regions/reg5/hotline.htm>.

Sturgeon fishing is also picking up, particularly in the Columbia River estuary, downriver from the Wauna powerlines At Deep River and the Knappton ramps, anglers averaged a legal-size fish for every two boats. At the ports of Chinook and Ilwaco, charter boat anglers averaged a legal-size fish kept per every 5.1 rods while private boat anglers averaged one per every 7.4 rods. Approximately 37 percent of the fish caught were keepers. The retention fishery continues daily through June 26 (or when the quota is met), then switches to catch and release.

Meanwhile, bank anglers fishing at Riffe Lake have been averaging 1.5 **landlocked coho** per rod. Virtually all of the fish were caught near the dam and at Taidnapam. Those angling for **trout** should be aware that Mayfield Lake will be planted with 10,000 catchable-size rainbows this month. In addition, the Tilton River was planted during the first week of

June and will continue to get fish through the summer. Other area streams are expected to be planted once flows recede. For weekly stocking reports, check the department's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/stocking/weekly/>.

Prospective anglers who are interested in fishing but haven't actually given it a try have a perfect chance to do so during **Free Fishing Weekend**, scheduled June 12-13. During those two days, no license will be required to fish in Washington waters nor will they need a Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement, otherwise required to fish for salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as size limits, bag limits and season closures will still be in effect. Anglers will also be required to complete a catch record card for any salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or halibut they catch. Catch record cards and WDFW's Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet are available free at hundreds of sporting goods stores and other license dealers throughout the state.

Eastern Washington

Free Fishing Weekend, June 12-13, couldn't be at a better time, says WDFW District Fish Biologist Chris Donley of Spokane, because there are so many good fishing opportunities throughout the region.

"If you can't catch a fish now," Donley said, "you're not even trying."

Donley reports all trout-stocked lakes are good fishing now. Near Spokane, the best are probably Williams and Badger lakes, in southwest Spokane County. Anglers are averaging more **rainbow trout** at Williams, but larger fish at Badger. Sprague Lake, on the Lincoln-Adams county line, continues to provide good catches of rainbows, and Rock Lake in Whitman County is good for both rainbow and **brown trout**.

Kokanee fishing is very good now at Chapman Lake in southwest Spokane County and Loon Lake in southern Stevens County, Donley says.

"Kokanee fishing is also picking up on Lake Roosevelt as the weather warms," he said, "especially in the Keller Ferry and Sanpoil areas. Rainbow trout fishing on Roosevelt also continues to be good."

Walleye fishing is productive now in the Spokane Arm of Lake Roosevelt, Donley says, and the Spokane River itself is good for all fishing.

Yellow perch and **crappie** fishing is good at Bonnie Lake near the Spokane-Whitman county line, he says. Eloika Lake in north Spokane County, Long Lake (Spokane River reservoir), and Downs Lake in the southwest corner of Spokane County, all have nice crappie, too.

WDFW northeast district fish biologist Bill Baker of Colville agrees that the month of June provides some of the best fishing in the region.

Baker says rainbow trout fishing continues to be especially good at two Ferry County lakes -- Curlew Lake, northeast of Republic, and Ellen Lake, 14 miles north of Inchelium.

Stevens County's Rocky, Waitts and Starvation lakes are also fishing well, but anglers need to remember that Starvation Lake is catch-and-release only now.

Anglers who use boats are reminded to clean and inspect their vessels and trailers anytime they are moved from one body of water to another. The precaution is needed to avoid introducing or spreading aquatic invasive plant and animal species, from milfoil to zebra mussels.

Fish diseases and juvenile stages of some invasive species also can be transported in bait buckets, live fish well water and ballast tanks; all of which need to be cleaned and dried. Learn more at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/you_can_help.htm.

There's no fishing from motorized boats, but bait is allowed. The Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement is required.

WDFW estimates over 800 hatchery-origin spring chinook are returning to the Entiat River and this selective fishery will remove excess hatchery fish to increase the proportion of wild spring chinook on the spawning grounds.

Bob Jateff, WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist, said several **rainbow trout** lakes continue to provide good fishing through June. Pearygin, Wannacut, Conconully Reservoir, Conconully Lake, Spectacle, and Alta are producing rainbows in the 8-12 inch range with winter-carryover fish up to 15 inches.

Jateff reminds anglers that when fishing with bait, the first five fish caught are considered part of the daily limit whether kept or released. "This rule is in place to minimize hook and release mortality on fish caught with bait," Jateff said.

Several lakes in Okanogan County are under selective gear rules with catch-and-release regulations during the summer months. These waters - Big and Little Green, Rat, Campbell, Davis, and Cougar lakes - all have rainbows. Rat Lake also has **brown trout**.

"Aeneas Lake is a fly-fishing only water that has provided good fishing for rainbows 14-16 inches with an occasional brown trout up to 18 inches," Jateff said. "Aeneas has several campsites, a boat launch, and toilet, so it's a good choice for a family weekend outing.

Recreational boaters and anglers should always carefully inspect and clean their boats and equipment before moving their vessels from one body of water to another to avoid introducing or spreading aquatic invasive plant and animal species, from milfoil to zebra mussels. For more information, see http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/ans/you_can_help.htm.

Southcentral Washington

June 5 marked the opening of many of Washington's rivers, and considering that some Central Washington streams are running high, the fishing has been fairly good. It's likely to remain that way through Free Fishing Weekend, which runs June 12-13 for those who either are experiencing the sport for the first time, or want to revive an old hobby.

"River conditions will continue to improve as summer approaches," says Eric Anderson, WDFW fisheries biologist in Yakima.

Anderson reminds anglers that most streams have reduced catch and size limits for **trout**, and there are catch-and-release zones on the Yakima River above Roza Dam, in sections of the Naches River and in Rattlesnake Creek where all trout must be released unharmed. Also, in most large mainstem rivers and streams in the Yakima basin, anglers must use single barbless hooks and no bait.

Always check the fishing rules pamphlet for details on a specific river or stream. The *Fishing in Washington Sportfishing* Rules guide is available free at stores that sell fishing licenses. It also can be downloaded at http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations_. That web page also contains a link to emergency rules that have been enacted since the pamphlet was published.

Anderson said that changing the opening date for rivers to the first Saturday in June gave **juvenile salmon** and **steelhead** more time to migrate from local rivers and streams to the ocean, and allowed adult trout and steelhead to spawn without being disturbed.

"It also allows anglers to start the season on a weekend day," he said.

Spring chinook fishing continues to be good in the upper section of the Yakima River between Union Gap and Roza Dam despite the high water conditions. In May, anglers harvested an estimated 695 hatchery adults and 37 jacks in this section of the river. All wild fish must be released unharmed.

Fishing for **channel catfish** in the lower reaches of the Yakima and Walla Walla rivers has been very good in recent weeks and those two rivers should provide excellent fishing through the summer months. The fishery on the Yakima River upstream from the I-82 bridge at Union Gap to Roza Dam will remain open through June 30.

Fishing for **smallmouth bass** and **walleye** should improve in the Columbia and Snake rivers as those waters warm.

Sturgeon fishing remains open in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids/Ice Harbor Dams) through July of this year. Be aware sturgeon fishing is prohibited from Goose Island upstream to Ice Harbor Dam in the Snake River and upstream of the Priest Rapids Hatchery outlet to Priest Rapids Dam in the Columbia River (white sturgeon sanctuaries).

Shad have been pouring through Bonneville Dam in huge numbers, and should be passing John Day and McNary dams in numbers that make for great June fishing, said Paul Hoffarth, a WDFW fish and wildlife biologist in Central Washington.

Hoffarth notes that Powerline Lake and Marmes Pond were planted with **rainbow trout** earlier this spring, and that the cooler temperatures should "keep the bite going" in these two waters for a couple more weeks. Both of those lakes are walk-in only.

On June 16 the Columbia River upstream to Priest Rapids Dam opens for **hatchery summer chinook**. All salmon other than hatchery chinook must be released. Daily limit is six hatchery fish, up to two may be adult chinook. Anglers must stop fishing when their adult portion of the daily limit is retained.

The Columbia River downstream from the Highway 395 bridge at Pasco/Kennewick will also open for the retention of **hatchery steelhead** on June 16. Any steelhead retained will count toward the daily adult salmon limit of two fish.

Steelhead fishing will remain closed in the Columbia River upstream of the Highway 395 bridge, and in the Snake River until the fall.

See the *Fishing in Washington Sportfishing* Rules pamphlet for more details. The pamphlet is available free at stores that sell fishing licenses. It also can be viewed and downloaded

athttp://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations_. That web page also contains a link to emergency rules that have been enacted since the pamphlet was published At http://wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/diversty/soc/recovery/sharptailed_grouse/.

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Write to the TGF staff:

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Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

2010 Oregon Ocean Salmon Seasons:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/salmon/docs/2010_ocean_salmon_map.pdf

Family razor clamming workshop is June 26:

<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/article/20100609/OUTDOORS/100609002/1034>

GOOD LUCK!