

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 25<sup>th</sup> – July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** Despite large numbers of chinook crossing at Bonneville Dam, sport boats fishing in the gorge are struggling for bites. Bank anglers on the other hand are doing well near the Oak Tree Hole close to Bonneville Dam. Spin-n-glos are taking the bulk of the fish. Although the run is technically "summer chinook", the fish being caught resemble springers more than the white-bellied summer fish.

With all the high flow, bank anglers riverwide are scoring decent results on steelhead and incidentally caught sockeye salmon. Sockeye, like steelhead travel close to the bank but must be released unharmed. The run however is clearly much higher than anticipated.

Expect to find water temperatures in the high 50s and fairly clear on the lower Willamette. Though lagging a week behind, Falls counts indicate steady springer and steelhead movement. On Saturday, anglers fishing near Fred's Marina believed they witnessed better than a fish per boat average with herring and spinners working equally well.

Shad fishing is slow to fair at Oregon City. Try eggs under a bobber below Dexter but expect to join many other anglers.

Willamette, Clackamas and Sandy River fishers may now keep three salmonids per day, two of which may be springers.

Caddis patterns have been most effective on the McKenzie above Leaburg Dam. Still a little high, a few summers are falling for spinners.

The Clackamas is producing a few steelhead on spinners and jigs. Springers have been caught in Eagle Creek.

Sandy level and flow are fishable with springer responding to plugs. Bobber tossers working the upper river are finding fair concentrations of fish using eggs and shrimp.

Steelhead are being caught on the South Santiam at Waterloo. Expect some company here.

**Northwest –** Sturgeon fishing in the estuary remains poor although better numbers of fish are coming from downstream of the Astoria Bridge. Cold water temperatures are creating catch rates found in mid-May, not mid-June. Managers met today to discuss the fate of the fishery; an extension through July 11<sup>th</sup> was granted with a possibility for more days when a final tally is taken.

Offshore salmon anglers out of Astoria have been few and far between but commercial trollers are scoring good results both north and south of the Columbia River. The season closes on June 30<sup>th</sup> and seas look friendly enough to enjoy a day offshore. Herring and hardware should produce results.

Another excellent set of tides should produce great razor clam digs north of Tillamook Head at Seaside. A calm surf should keep clams near the surface.

The minus tide series should also produce good catches of steelhead and a rare summer chinook from lower Columbia River beaches. Cooler water temperatures and fast flows may provide good opportunity for plunkers working spin-n-glos and plugs near shore. Beginning Saturday, sport anglers will be allowed to keep sockeye salmon if caught. Run numbers at Bonneville are breaking records.

The Tillamook district has slowed for spring chinook although fish remain available in the Trask, Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers. Fish will be wary in the dropping flows but should respond to small egg clusters in the early morning. A few summer steelhead should also be available in these systems.

Crabbing remains poor along much of the north coast but offshore action should improve by July although many of the keepers are likely to remain in a softshell state.

**Southwest** – Morning minus tides and soft seas are forecast for the weekend but high mid-day & afternoon wind may hamper boaters. Bay clamming will be good although recreational razor clam harvesting is closed from Coos Bay to Bandon.

Ocean chinook salmon fishing remains very slow. Commercials are getting very few at depths beyond a recreational boat's capabilities. The offshore coho season opens Saturday, June 26th, at which time anglers may keep either specie.

The Umpqua has dropped dramatically over the past week but fishing for everything has been slow. It appears the shad run is winding down early.

Spring chinook are still being taken on the Rogue. The Gold Ray Dam removal project got underway on Tuesday last week. The \$6 million project should be completed in September.

Very early launches will allow boats to get out of the Port of Brookings while the tide is still coming in. Those who do will not only dodge potentially hazardous outgoing tides but also higher late-morning winds to enjoy excellent nearshore bottom fishing. Smelt and sardines are hitting jigs in the harbor.

Diamond Lake is in prime condition and is providing excellent fishing for nice trout.

**Eastern** – Trout around Maupin on the Deschutes are responding to Golden Stone dries afternoons with underwater offerings effective otherwise.

Spring chinook are starting to hit spinners on the Imnaha River.

Kokanee fishing is slow to fair at Wickiup with the better bite in the early morning.

Green Peter is improving for kokanee and the fish are getting fat.

**SW Washington** – Summer steelhead numbers are on the increase on all district streams but the Lewis is a top bet this time of year. The Cowlitz is also an option but numbers should improve early next month. The fishery at the mouth of the Cowlitz should begin to kick in anytime but it won't peak for several more weeks.

With steelhead numbers on the increase at Bonneville Dam, the steelhead troll fishery should kick in on Drano Lake in coming weeks. The Klickitat and Wind River remain options for steelhead and spring chinook respectively.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – The summer Chinook fishery opened with high expectations but anglers targeting this specie are finding unusually high and colder water conditions than they are used to in the Bonneville area. Anglers are “fishing in the trees” to find water soft enough to hook Chinook in as fish are migrating close to shore in order to preserve valuable calories to migrate upstream. Most anglers are trying to find water shallower than 8 feet to fish in and that alone has been challenging given the water heights in the recent week. To put it bluntly, fishing has been poor for boat anglers with some professionals going strike-less for a full days effort. Bank anglers on the other hand are finding fair success for the shore-driven adult Chinook and taking some quality fish on spin-n-glos around the Oak Tree Hole near Bonneville Dam. It’s a nice shallow flat on Bradford Island with good bank access from the Oregon side of the river. Bank anglers are having some nice double-digit days for the group of anglers fishing the area.

Sockeye are also making up a portion of the catch in the gorge but more frequently in downstream bank fisheries like Jones and Prescott Beaches. Anglers targeting steelhead using coon shrimp are picking up the incidental sockeye along with some nice summer run steelhead. Beginning Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, sockeye salmon are allowed to be taken in the sportfishery but you must still adhere to the daily bag limit.

Here is the run-down for last weekend’s creel check:

**Gorge Bank:**

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult summer chinook kept for 27 bank anglers; and 94 shad kept for 52 shad anglers.

**Gorge Boats:**

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult summer chinook kept for 14 salmonid boats (48 anglers); and 68 shad kept for 13 shad boats (40 anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed no catch for 15 salmonid boats (36 anglers); and no catch for one shad boat (six anglers).

**Portland to Longview Bank:**

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult summer chinook, and three adipose fin-clipped summer steelhead kept, plus two unclipped summer chinook, one unclipped summer steelhead, and five sockeye released for 83 bank anglers.

**Portland to Longview Boats:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult summer chinook, two adipose fin-clipped summer chinook jacks, and two adipose fin-clipped summer steelhead kept, plus two unclipped adult summer chinook released for 41 boats (97 anglers); and no catch for two shad boats (four anglers).

**Estuary Bank (Jones Beach to Clatsop Spit):**

Weekend checking showed nine adipose fin-clipped adult summer chinook, and 25 adipose fin-clipped summer steelhead kept, plus two sockeye released for 94 bank anglers.

**Estuary Boats (Puget Island to Tongue Point):**

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult summer chinook, and two adipose fin-clipped jack summer chinook kept, plus one unclipped adult summer chinook, and two unclipped summer steelhead released for nine boats (23 anglers).

Note the number of Chinook taken by bank anglers, especially in the estuary and you should realize that that's a relatively high interception rate for a group of anglers that traditionally doesn't have this kind of access to these quality fish. It's a clear sign that water temperatures remain more spring-like as well as flows. One bank angler reported sliding a K-13 Kwikfish down his plunking line (remember, you can fish up to 3 hooks on the Columbia; 2 on a Kwikfish and one on a spin-n-glo for example) and getting a steelhead and a Chinook on this rigging. Also important is the use of scent as plunking is the ONLY technique we use in the NW where the fish have to come to you. Scent can play an important role in success.

Coon shrimp have only more recently come into the scene for steelhead anglers. Whether plunking or bobber fishing, this technique sure seems to produce the benefit for those that use it. Again, when plunking, we encourage anglers to attempt to properly tune their rigging so as to minimize the amount of roll in your offering. A truer spinning outfit produces more strikes.

Shad fishing in the gorge remains productive with numbers at Bonneville still quite favorable. On average, between 13,000 and 24,000 fish per day are crossing the dam with the high likelihood of another 1 million plus year of adult returns. Great action is being had by both bank and boat anglers for a fish that comes highly prized as either crab or sturgeon bait.

Sturgeon fishing for oversize fish in the gorge has been productive. Fish are falling to whole shad with nearly a fish per boat average. This fishery has become much more restrictive in recent years so anglers can only fish downstream of Marker 82. This is a good per boat average for this fishery. Keeper action is next to non-existent in the gorge.

Sturgeon fishing isn't much better in the Portland to Longview stretch either. Only 3 keepers were tallied for 12 boats in this area as high cold flows for this time of year also plague anglers here. In recent years, this section has not produced the results that it used to, especially since the disappearance of the Cowlitz smelt run.

The estuary is our final sturgeon surprise of this section. Catches continue to be really light with reports of only a fraction of the quota being taken to date. Latest numbers suggest only about 3,000 keepers have been taken out of a 9,600 fish quota for the estuary leaving the bulk of the catch remaining. Fishery managers met on Thursday to discuss the possibility of further sport opportunity in the estuary and granted an extension through July 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 days per week. Additional days may be sought if there is a large number of fish remaining on the quota. It's been a tough go for all anglers in this section for both shakers and keepers. A few oversize fish continue to be caught.

Although action has improved downstream of the Astoria Bridge, it's still far from impressive. Some fish are coming from the middle slot and on the Washington side both just downstream and just upstream from the bridge. If you fish this water, don't expect a lot of action but do expect to go through a lot of bait to produce some results. The crab and sculpin are consistently bad. Upstream, there is no consistent area producing but the islands above Tongue Point will produce a keeper on occasion if you stay on the move. Success rates clearly have effort on the down but as I've consistently told my customers, when the water temperature finally warms up to what it should be, fishing should pick up. The question is, will that take place before the river closure? The other question is, are the fish really in the river? According to my fish finder, they are and ODF&W test netting and commercial gillnet catches also indicate decent numbers of fish present. Also a point to consider, with all the cold, high water, anchovies that are traditionally in the river right now are absent. This would account for the poor bite in the lower river. Some fish are clearly feeding on anchovies but many of the sturgeon have bellies packed with fresh water clams.

Offshore, some sport effort is finally underway for Chinook anglers but this fishery never had a chance to gain momentum. With all the early season rough weather, the commercial fisher had the upper hand and they have done well. Most recently, trollers working south of the Columbia River mouth have fared exceptionally. It's just not clear whether they were fishing south of Tillamook Head but it's likely that they were. They were certainly north of Cape Falcon near Manzanita. Trollers to the north have done well too. Westport Washington boats are producing good numbers of Chinook, fish that aren't necessarily Columbia River bound summer Chinook either. It's pretty clear that there are a lot of Chinook in big blue this year.

And this just in from ODF&W in regards to the offshore halibut fishery:

#### **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Columbia River halibut sport fishery to close June 26**

**NEWPORT, Ore.** –The Pacific halibut sport fishery off the Columbia River will close effective Friday, June 25 at 11:59 p.m., fishery managers announced today.

The spring fishery from Leadbetter Point in Washington to Cape Falcon in Oregon opened on May 1 and was scheduled to be open through July 17 or until the harvest of 9,405 pounds of Pacific halibut, whichever came first.

Preliminary estimates and projections indicating the quota will be reached by June 26 prompted the decision by NOAA Fisheries to close the sport fishery. Anglers will not be able to land halibut into Columbia River ports until the fishery reopens Aug. 6.

The summer fishery will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Sept. 26, or until a combined spring and summer harvest quota of 13,436 pounds is reached.

Opportunities to fish for Pacific halibut remain open in other areas of Oregon: Off central Oregon between Cape Falcon (near Manzanita) and Humbug Mountain (near Port Orford), anglers may fish for halibut inside the 40-fathom line seven days a week through Oct. 31 or attainment of the harvest quota for that fishery. The all-depth halibut fishery off central Oregon is nearing the attainment of the spring quota. Fishery managers will discuss the status of this fishery tomorrow and announce future open dates. A second season is scheduled to begin in August. The high-relief area of Stonewall Bank, west of Newport, is closed to all halibut fishing. The area south of Humbug Mountain is open in all-depths for Pacific halibut through Oct. 31, seven days a week.

Days on which Pacific halibut fishing is open will be announced on the NOAA Fisheries hotline (1-800-662-9825) and posted on the ODFW Marine Resources Program Web site at [www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP).

**The Guide's Forecast** – More high flows are predicted for the mainstem Columbia which is likely to hamper angler success at Bonneville, at least for boat anglers. Anglers will have to continue to target shallow water in hopes of intercepting an adult staying out of the faster flows. Spinners will likely continue to be the lure of choice but plugs should also be effective. Until water flows drop however, anglers shouldn't have high hopes to score on summer Chinook. If you're a bank angler however, the Bonneville area could be pretty friendly to you. Fish spin-n-

glos using scent or bait close to shore and you do stand a fair chance at a quality fish. The most popular destination is near the Oak Tree Hole but plan on joining all of your favorite friends.

Beach plunkers downriver should also fare well with a morning minus tide and strong flows from upriver driving fish close to shore. Hot colored spin-n-glos should continue to take steelhead from the bank while those motivated enough to work a plug down their line stand a chance at a summer Chinook as well. This is a great fishery for beginner anglers and we're coming up on peak season. Numbers of steelhead adults are rapidly on the rise at Bonneville indicating the bulk of the run is not far away. Numbers have rapidly rose to over 1,000 fish per day.

Gorge shad and sturgeon anglers should continue to produce good results. Especially shad anglers that take advantage of the sunny forecast this week. Oversize fish should remain receptive to whole shad as the run is peaking right now.

Downriver, the Portland to Longview stretch will only produce consistent results to anglers well versed in productive areas and techniques in this area. For the general angler, it's best to utilize the estuary fishery although action here certainly won't be a barn burner either.

But if you do plan on heading to the estuary this weekend, plan on using a lot of bait if you fish below the Astoria/Megler Bridge. Action doesn't seem to be any better below the bridge versus above the bridge. It's consistently challenging in both areas. Both the Washington and Oregon sides just above the bridge is attracting a fair bit of effort but with the minus tide series now upon us, the most productive time of the tide is on the incoming later in the morning/early afternoon. For anglers fishing more sane (shallow) water, the first part of incoming and the first part of outgoing are producing the best results. The lower river, downstream and across from Hammond does appear to have a lot of fish but competing with the crab and sculpin will drive one to drink. It would be worth the effort if you knew the fish were going to take off at some part of the tide but that is clearly not the case, at least in a consistent fashion.

For anglers fishing out of Tongue Point, plan on moving a lot and hopefully, you'll land in a sturgeon super-highway at the right part of the tide (also the first part of the incoming or outgoing tide). Again, no one area is producing the best but Miller Island and well upstream of the old Marker 5 are some of the best bets. Be very cautious of dead heads as there are a few real hazards around. These "dead heads" were named this for a reason. One boat overturned last year about this time, killing one of the two anglers on board. Proceed with caution!

You may also want to bring along your beach plunking gear as the tides and timing are just right for good steelhead action here. An occasional Chinook or steelhead may also take a smaller size plug run down your line. There are numerous beaches between Portland and Astoria so pick your poison and use hot colored spin-n-glos to target your quarry.

Offshore, anglers will have just a few more days to take advantage of a select Chinook only fishery north of Cape Falcon. This fishery closes on June 30<sup>th</sup> and anglers willing to work the nearshore should be able to find some fish. Herring or spoons should produce some results where Chinook should be near the surface in the morning and down deeper as the sun rises in the sky. Fish near the bottom the later into the morning you go and anglers may want to target fish in 40 to 90 foot of water. Calm seas are in the forecast, giving offshore anglers some pretty nice opportunities over the weekend. The forecast is as follows:

**FRI** NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 5 FT.

**FRI NIGHT** NW WIND 10 KT. GUSTS UP TO 15 KT IN THE EVENING. WIND WAVES 3 FT. SW SWELL 5 FT.

**SAT** NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 5 FT.

**SAT NIGHT** NW WIND 10 KT WITH GUSTS TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 5 FT. SLIGHT CHANCE OF RAIN AFTER MIDNIGHT.

**SUN** NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

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

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – As of June 24th, the water temperature at Willamette Falls is nearly 60 degrees as the level and flow continue to moderate. Daily counts of spring Chinook and summer steelhead remain solidly into triple digits. Over the past week, the ODFW reported 60 boats checked with 50 spring Chinook adults and 5 Chinook jacks while bank anglers brought in 10 Chinook and one summer steelhead for 86 rods. Last week, there were some really good catches in the Oregon City area but action has tapered since.

Shad fishing has been spotty. Over 47,000 springers and nearly 14,500 summer steelhead have crossed the Falls. While these fish can be intercepted in the Middle Fork, it's usually more productive to target them in the tributaries.

McKenzie level and flow continues to drop with the river running 3,000 cfs and the water temp over 51 degrees at Vida as of Thursday this week. Some decent catches of Chinook have been reported lately.

With the North Santiam flow less than 2,500 cfs and steelhead counts far above average, optimism for a hookup here is high. Even better prospects exist for the South Santiam, which is in even better shape, has good numbers of summer steelhead and more are being caught here.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Shad fishing should be worthwhile this weekend on the lower Willamette at Oregon City as these fish like to bite on bright, sunny days. Try small green curly-tail grubs, tiny Dick Nite spoons or even a shiny bare hook in nickel or gold. This is a good time of year to mention to those not familiar with shad behavior that they run upstream nearly single file and almost nose-to-tail. For this reason, a later movement (toward one bank or the other) can make the difference between multiple hookups and blanking. Find that 'procession' of shad, anchor directly in their migration route, then just rotate through lures to see what's working best. Spring Chinook are being hooked occasionally and these hookups are coming as often on shad rigs as they are on gear intended for springers.

Trout fishing remains productive at most locations on the McKenzie with steelhead and springer catches improving here with plug-pullers and back bouncers taking fish.

Despite decent numbers of steelhead per river mile, expect to work for a hookup on the North Santiam. Try around Fishermen's Bend where bank fishers are hooking a few. First light is always the best bet for summer steelhead on a bright, sunny day. It can only get better. Try below Foster on the South Santiam for a better chance of a steelhead encounter.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – The Clackamas has been a tough nut to crack even as the water level, color and flow are improving. There are fish in the system but they seem unwilling to bite.

Sandy River level and flow are good and the water is exhibiting fine color. There are summer steelhead and spring Chinook present with either or both being landed at times. Up to three fish per day may be retained on the Clackamas and Sandy rivers, two of which may be Chinook.

**The Guide's Forecast** - Put in your time for a long shot at a steelhead or spring Chinook. The hatchery has recycled about 400 of each species so there are definitely fish present. Try very early or late in the day for the best chance of a hookup.

Try the Sandy around Oxbow with drifted, good-quality cured eggs, spinners or bobber and jigs. There are decent numbers of steelhead in the river although they've been slow to take bait or lures. Try the deep pools or the mouth of Cedar Creek with bobber and bait for a chance at a spring Chinook hookup.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – After a rip-snortin' spring Chinook run on Tillamook Bay earlier this month, action has slowed down, mostly due to prime river conditions on north coast streams that allowed salmon to slip upstream and out of reach for most estuary fishers. The action has slowed significantly although some hatchery fish remain available mixed in with a few wild ones. Soft tides this week did produce some light catches of a few quality Chinook however but the action was a long ways away from what this fishery produced 2 weeks ago. It's definitely on the downturn.

Most of the action has switched to the river systems with the Trask, Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers putting out fair numbers of springers and an occasional steelhead. With severely dropping water flows, small baits, fast water and early mornings are pretty important for success. All river systems should be pretty seeded with fish but for those systems that support hatchery runs, the action should be best near the release points themselves. Of course anglers will have to respect the implemented boundaries now in place where the heaviest concentrations of fish are now holding. The Trask and Three Rivers are prime examples of good bank possibilities but do expect crowds in these places.

There's not much else going on in this district but some offshore opportunities do exist. Near-shore halibut and bottomfishing are strong options but halibut seem to disperse a bit more as the summer wears on. What? Is summer actually coming? With the exception of a strong morning outgoing tide, the ocean should be a friendly place to fish. The offshore forecast is in the Columbia River forecast section that is available to you.

Estuary crabbing remains poor with very few keepers coming in. It should improve as males move back inshore in July but the best action for the remainder of the summer should be in the ocean. It will be tough crabbing conditions for most bay crabbers.

The current minus tide series offers up some great clamming opportunities for north coast diggers. From Seaside to Astoria, the beach should be quite primed with catchable razor clams. A small swell will bode well for diggers. The tide series is peaking as you read this.

**The Guide's Forecast** – With bay salmon fishing on the downturn, anglers may want to focus more to the west. Offshore anglers will soon get the opportunity to target coho in the ocean but the fish are usually quite small this time of year and well distributed. No port is that likely to be outstanding compared to another.

Spring Chinook seekers will have some opportunity in upper Tillamook Bay as tides are prime for plug pulling or spinner or herring trollers. The last few hours of outgoing tide will be best but

with the bulk of the run upstream, don't go with high expectations. If you're serious about pursuing Tillamook district salmon, you had better explore bank angling options as low flows will have them well concentrated in deeper holes and slots. They'll be most susceptible to eggs and shrimp (combination is best) but you'll have to go down to light leaders and long ones too. Spinners fished deep in the run/hole may also produce a strike from a rabid salmon. Jack fishing was pretty good last year at this time but it's unlikely we'll have the jack numbers this year that we did last year.

Target steelhead in much the same way but look for them in the pocket water of faster moving drifts. Light lead will be important when fishing these shallower areas as they are quite snaggy but that's where the steelhead will be lying this time of year. There can be some good trout opportunities as well using this method. Check local regulations to see if your favorite body of water is open for retention or catch and release opportunities.

Don't waste your time crabbing but if you're into bivalves, go clamming! Either bay or ocean beach clamming should be productive!

**Central & South Coast Reports** – During the last All-Depth Halibut fishery June 17th through 19th, anglers landed 26,611 pounds off the central Oregon coast, leaving only 15% in the spring quota. Most offshore fishers have speculated that the remaining poundage will be rolled into the summer fishery which is open every other Friday and Saturday starting August 6th but fisheries managers decided today, June 24th, to allow two more all-depth strong season opportunities; July 1st and 2nd.

As of June 24th, offshore forecasts provide reason for optimism with soft swells at long intervals and (best of all) a moderate offshore breeze. Later morning launches are required to beat the turn of the tide from a minus but it should be a pleasant crossing. Bottom fishing remains excellent for rockfish, good for lings.

There should be some meat in catches when the ocean opens for coho this coming Saturday, June 26th. Many boats are expected to participate in this opener and every port on the coast will be busy this weekend.

While a few Chinook have been hooked offshore out of Winchester Bay, citations have been issued to those returning with undersized fish. Ocean crabbing has been fair to good and as the river drops, crabbing in the bay has been improving. Perch fishing has been good at times in the bay but consistent off area beaches as well as off the south jetty where bottom fish are also being landed. Spring Chinook fishing is worthwhile and improving on the Umpqua above Scottsburg where smallmouth bass catches are also ramping up. Shad fishing is gradually picking up at Yellow Creek with most anglers taking a few. Smallmouth bass fishing is just starting to recover from high, cool water conditions on the South Umpqua but will continue to improve with warmer weather.

Coos Bay jetty fishing has been good for rockfish and with this week's coastal conditions should be worth a shot. Try it on the incoming and be there at the turn of the tide if possible.

Chinook are being caught by boats out of Florence that run downrigger equipment capable of fishing 350 to 450 foot depths.

Rogue Bay is plugged with baitfish which means plenty of sea lions but can also mean larger Chinook with a mix of spring and summer Chinook entering now. With Rogue River water temperatures once again approaching 60, anglers have been trolling the bay with various

degrees of success. The sea lion patrol will begin on July 4th, during which time boats will use non-lethal means to discourage pinnapeds from entering the bay during daylight hours. Anglers in the Grants Pass stretch have endured marginal success as springers are on the move, heading for the upper river without stopping to consider offerings. Fishing on the upper Rogue is good and expected to remain decent through the second week of July with excellent springer counts and good summer steelhead numbers at Gold Ray Dam. Only fin-clipped Chinook and summers may be kept above the dam. Try drifting from the bank for other species although steelhead are taking all manner of bait and lure. From a boat, either back-bounce cured eggs or pull plugs for springers. Try above Shady Cove.

Diamond Lake is scheduled to receive 315,000 fingerlings this week which will be larger-than-legal next season.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Golden Stones are few on the lower Deschutes although trout remain keyed to them and will still respond to imitations. Caddis are hatching in the evenings. The White River is low and clear. ODFW starts counting fish at Sherars Falls in July. Counts at the Columbia dams look promising for a great summer season.

Benefiting from a wet spring this season, the Crooked River is in excellent shape and fishing well for trout.

Not everyone can catch the next state or world record but for those who are fishing Wallowa, they're making some pretty good catches for a location that's supposed to have dwindling numbers of over-sized fish.

Kokanee limits of fish averaging 12 inches are coming from Pauline with jig fishing taking better numbers than trolling.

Green Peter is fishing well for kokanee.

### **Washington fishing reports:**

***From the WDF&W Weekender Report June 23<sup>rd</sup> – July 7<sup>th</sup>***

#### **North Puget Sound**

Fishing has been slow for anglers on the saltwater, but catch numbers could rise as more marine areas open for salmon in July. On the rivers, anglers continue to cast for steelhead and spring chinook, and some have recently hooked a few nice fish.

Meanwhile, the **crab** 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), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton), 11 (Tacoma/Vashon Island) and 12 (Hood Canal). Fisheries in those areas will be open on a Wednesday-through-Saturday schedule, plus the entire Labor Day weekend.

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.

In Marine Area 8-2, fishing continues to be slow at the **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery** , said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. The fishery is currently open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 6. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit.

Chinook must measure 22 inches in length to retain.

The catch-and-release **salmon** fishery in the northern portion of Marine Area 10 continues through June 30. However, beginning July 1, anglers fishing in the marine area can retain up to two salmon daily with no minimum size limit. Anglers must release chinook salmon. Another option is Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), which also opens July 1 for salmon. Anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon but can only keep one chinook. "The San Juans really started off strong last year," Thiesfeld said. "Hopefully, the opener will be just as good this year."

Looking for some competition? The **Bellingham Salmon Derby** is scheduled for July 9-11 with a top prize of \$5,000. For more information on the derby, which is hosted by the Bellingham Chapter of the Puget Sound Anglers in association with the Northwest Marine Trade Association, is available at <http://www.bellinghampsa.com/derby.htm>.

In freshwater, portions of the Skagit, Cascade and Skykomish 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).

The Skykomish is open from the mouth to the Wallace River through July 31. Anglers fishing that portion of the river have a daily limit of two hatchery chinook salmon. Jennifer Whitney, WDFW regional fish biologist, advises anglers to keep checking WDFW's website for information about potential fishing regulation changes on the Skykomish River. "Returns to the Wallace River Hatchery so far have been way down this year," she said. "We will continue to watch this run closely and if it doesn't improve we may need to close the river to salmon retention to ensure the hatchery gets enough fish to meet its spawning goals."

The Reiter Ponds section of the Skykomish River is also open for fishing and some anglers have had success hooking hatchery **steelhead** there recently. That section of the river (1,500 feet upstream to 1,000 feet downstream of the Reiter Ponds Hatchery outlet) opened June 12 after the hatchery collected enough steelhead broodstock to meet spawning goals.

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.

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

### **South Sound/Olympic Peninsula**

Anglers will have more options to catch salmon in the days ahead as coastal area open to retention of hatchery coho and unmarked chinook, and new fisheries open on the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Crabbers will also be able to drop pots in seven popular areas of Puget Sound, starting July 1.

Through June 20, salmon anglers had caught 2,759 marked chinook salmon in the state's first selective chinook fishery off the Washington coast. All but a few hundred of those fish were

taken in Marine Area 2 (Westport), where three in four anglers took home a fish. Mark rates for chinook have been averaging about 70 percent.

"The ocean fishery has been up and down from one day to the next, but anglers have definitely been taking home some nice chinook salmon," said Doug Milward, WDFW ocean fisheries manager. "Chinook caught off Westport have been averaging around 15 pounds, which is big for this point in the season."

Starting July 4, anglers fishing off Westport will also be able to count hatchery coho and unmarked chinook toward their daily limit. The new rule will take effect July 1 in marine areas 1 (Ilwaco), 3 (La Push) and 4 (Neah Bay).

"Like the chinook, this year's coho have been bigger than usual," Milward said. "This fishery should keep getting better and better."

Wendy Beeghley, a WDFW fish biologist who monitors the catch, asks that all anglers return completed logbooks after each day's trip to help fishery managers keep track of the catch. "If you like this fishery, you can help keep it going by filling out the logbook and returning it to WDFW," she said. Logbooks can be returned to fish checkers or by pre-paid mail.

Elsewhere, a chinook fishery will open in marine areas 5 and 6 (Strait of Juan de Fuca) on July 1. The daily limit in those two areas is two fish at least 22 inches in length. All wild Chinook and wild coho must be released, and all Chinook must be released east of Ediz Hook.

Meanwhile, recreational **halibut** fishing went out with a bang June 19, when anglers fishing off Neah Bay and La Push closed out the season by catching most of what was left of this year's quota.

The one-day opening, plus good weather, gave coastal anglers the chance to catch both salmon and halibut on the same day, and some took advantage of that unique opportunity, said Erica Crust, WDFW's ocean port sampler.

Looking ahead, seven popular areas of Puget Sound will open to fishing for crab July 1, including marine areas 6 (Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 8-1 (Deception Pass/Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan/Port Gardner), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton), 11 (Tacoma/Vashon) and 12 (Hood Canal).

Dungeness and red rock crab seasons include:

- Marine areas 4 (east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 and 13: Opened June 18 and run through Jan. 2.
- Marine areas 6, 8-1, 8-2, 9, 10, 11 and 12 (much of Puget Sound) - Will open at 7 a.m., July 1 and are open Wednesday through Saturday through Sept. 6, and open the entire Labor Day weekend.

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.

**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/>.

Tanwax Lake in Pierce County is off to a good start for **largemouth bass** and **rainbow trout**. In Kitsap County, Wildcat, Buck, Island and Wye lakes have all received high marks from anglers fishing for largemouth bass and trout. Duck Lake in Grays Harbor County also has been getting accolades from anglers fishing for trout and **crappie**.

### **Southwest Washington**

Summer **chinook salmon** are entering the lower Columbia River in large numbers, although catching them is proving to be a challenge. High, turbid water and floating debris have been giving anglers - especially boat anglers - a workout during the opening days of the season, said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist.

"Conditions are definitely tough for boat anglers," Hymer said. "People have been catching some nice fish, but they have to deal with some extra challenges due to the high water and debris." Under these conditions, fishing from the bank has some advantages, Hymer said. During creel checks conducted during the first week of fishing, 1,463 bank anglers caught 62 adult chinook and released 25. The 572 boat anglers checked that week reported catching 33 adult summer chinook salmon and releasing 15 others.

Under new rules effective this year, anglers may retain only hatchery-reared chinook with a clipped adipose fin and healed scar. All wild, unmarked fish must be released. That is also the case with **steelhead**, which are showing up in the catch from the mouth of the Columbia River to Bonneville Dam.

"The trade-off is that this year's summer chinook fishery is scheduled to run straight through July, rather than just a couple of weeks like last year," Hymer said. "That wouldn't have been possible without moving to a selective fishery."

During the first week's creel check, bank anglers reported catching 61 steelhead and releasing 13 others. Boat anglers surveyed that week caught eight steelhead and released five more. Anglers fishing the Cowlitz River have also been catching some hatchery steelhead.

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.

Under this year's rules, anglers may retain up to two adult hatchery chinook or hatchery steelhead (or one of each) on the mainstem Columbia River from the Megler Astoria Bridge

upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco All other salmon - including **sockeye** - must be released.

That may change, however, given the unexpectedly large number of sockeye counted at Bonneville Dam in recent days, said Cindy Le Fleur, WDFW Columbia River policy coordinator. As of June 22, just over 134,000 sockeye had been tallied at the dam - already more than predicted - and the 26,873 counted the previous day was the second-highest on record for a single day since 1938.

"The rule requiring anglers to release sockeye was adopted because Lake Wenatchee was not expected to reach its escapement goal this year," Le Fleur said. Given the strong return, fishery managers from Washington and Oregon may reconsider that decision during a teleconference scheduled Thursday (June 24) at 3 p.m.

The scheduled closure of the **sturgeon fishery** downstream from the Wauna powerlines will also be up for reconsideration during that meeting, Le Fleur said. Sturgeon fishing has been slow in that area - and throughout the lower Columbia River - for a number of weeks, which may allow fishery managers to extend the season, she said.

Any changes in the sockeye retention rule or the sturgeon season below the Wauna powerlines will be announced on WDFW's website ( <http://wdfw.wa.gov/> ), the statewide Fishing Hotline (360-902-2500), regional hotline (360-696-6211 ext. 1010) and in a statewide news release.

For anglers hungering for **shad** , the Dalles Pool is clearly the place to be. During the week ending June 20, bank anglers averaged nine shad per rod although fishing was slow for boat anglers. Below Bonneville Dam, anglers have been averaging between zero and two shad per rod.

Rather catch warmwater fish? Boat anglers fishing The Dalles Pool have been averaging two **walleye** and a **bass** per rod. In the John Day Pool, 10 boats reported catching 15 bass and seven walleye.

At Riffe Lake, bank anglers fishing at the dam and Taidnapum have been averaging two **landlocked coho** per rod, kept or released. Anglers should also be aware that Goose Lake north of Carson was stocked with 2,500 catchable-size **brown trout** and 3,000 catchable-size **cutthroat** June 15.

### **Eastern Washington**

This is the time to fish Lake Roosevelt, including the Spokane River arm, for some of the tastiest freshwater fish - **walleye** . Bill Baker, WDFW northeast district fish biologist, said walleye are distributing throughout the waterway now that they've spawned. The daily catch limit is eight walleye and there's no minimum size, although only one over 22 inches may be retained.

The Seven Bays area and many other spots upstream on the big reservoir are also good for **kokanee** and **rainbow trout** fishing. The daily catch limit for kokanee is six fish, although no more than two can be wild fish. The limit on trout is five, but only two over 20 inches may be retained.

With all three species of fish very catchable, it's a good time to purchase the new \$24.50 two-pole endorsement, which allows anglers to use two poles while fishing at Lake Roosevelt and many other lakes throughout the state. For more information about the endorsement, visit <http://wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/twopole/> .

Anglers might want to consider spending a weekend camping at one of the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area's campgrounds - Evans, Fort Spokane, Gifford, Hunters, Keller Ferry, Kettle Falls and Spring Canyon. Most are on a first-come, first-served basis, but groups need to reserve camp sites. For details see <http://www.nps.gov/laro/>.

Baker also noted that fishing has been good at many **rainbow trout** lakes in the northeast district. For example, Pend Oreille County's Big Meadow Lake, about seven miles west of Ione on the Meadow Creek Road, is yielding catches of up to 16-inch rainbows.

At the opposite end of the region, the Tucannon River impoundments are cranking out catches of hatchery-stocked **rainbow trout**. The Tucannon River itself, from the mouth to the Tucannon Hatchery bridge, is also open to fishing. Anglers who have purchased the new \$8.75 Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement can retain up to three **hatchery-marked steelhead** from the Tucannon's open waters through October. Selective gear rules and a prohibition on internal combustion motors are in effect upstream of the Turner Road bridge at Marengo.

WDFW's W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area Manager Kari Dingman said Tucannon lake or river anglers, and other outdoor recreationists who camp on the area, are finding everything very green and lush, thanks to recent rains. But that ample vegetation will be fuel for wild fires soon, so she reminds visitors, including Fourth-of-July holiday celebrants, to comply with the area's restrictions on fires and a ban on fireworks. All WDFW wildlife areas and water access sites throughout the region are under the same fireworks ban and similar fire restrictions. For details by area, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/>.

Anglers can get a little bit extra out of their fishing license at the Spokane Indians Baseball Club's fifth annual "Fish and Wildlife Night" on Tuesday, July 6, when game tickets are discounted with the presentation of a valid fishing or hunting license. The game will feature fish and wildlife activities between innings and stadium fish and wildlife displays.

### **Northcentral Washington**

Bob Jateff, WDFW district fish biologist, said lowland lake fishing for **rainbow trout** has been holding up pretty well in the Okanogan district. "Cooler, wetter weather has been keeping the water temperatures down a bit, and that has contributed to better than average catch rates for the month of June," he said.

Jateff said good selective-gear waters are Chopaka, Aeneas, and Blue lakes in the Sinlahekin, and Big and Little Twin lakes near Winthrop. Other waters that are still providing decent fishing are Wannacut, Pearrygin, and Alta lakes.

WDFW Enforcement Officer Cal Treser recently reported checking numerous limits of trout on Lake Pearrygin, along with large crayfish. "If you want to try spiny ray fishing, fish Patterson Lake in the Winthrop area for **yellow perch** and Leader Lake west of Okanogan for **bluegills** and **crappies**," he said.

Jateff also noted the Methow River is still running high, but as water levels start dropping, resident rainbow and **cutthroat trout** will be catchable. Smaller creeks and rivers can provide fishing opportunities even when the major rivers like the Methow are still running high. "Anglers should pay close attention to the regulations on the Methow because there have been a few changes this year," he said.

**Chinook salmon** fishing on the mainstem Columbia River and selected tributaries above Wells Dam is scheduled to start July 1. New daily bag limits put in place this year will allow anglers to keep up to three adult chinook salmon, but only one of those can be a wild adult. Anglers should consult the current sportfishing rules pamphlet, because there are certain areas that anti-snagging and night closure rules are in effect.

### **Southcentral Washington**

High water contributed to a slow start in the fishery for **hatchery summer chinook** salmon on the Columbia River downriver from Priest Rapids Dam and for **hatchery steelhead** downstream from the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco. None of the 60 anglers surveyed in the John Day Pool had caught any salmon or steelhead, although fishing was good for other species.

During the week ending June 20, anglers fishing the John Day Pool caught 259 **shad** from 15 boats and 15 **bass** and seven **walleye** from 10 boats.

"The Columbia, Snake, Yakima and Walla Walla rivers are all running high, improving some fisheries, such as **catfish**, but making most of the fisheries, especially salmon, problematic," said Paul Hoffarth, a WDFW fish and wildlife biologist in Pasco.

Hoffarth is optimistic that fishing will pick up for salmon and steelhead as river conditions improve and more summer chinook move past McNary Dam into the mid-Columbia and its tributaries.

Hoffarth reminds anglers that all wild, unmarked chinook salmon and steelhead must be released. The daily limit is six hatchery chinook, up to two of which may be adults. Anglers must stop fishing once they retain the adult portion of their daily limit. Any steelhead retained counts toward the daily limit of two adult fish, Hoffarth said.

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

The spring chinook fishery runs through June 30 on the Yakima, and anglers continue to catch fish in the area between Union Gap and Roza Dam. Surveys indicate that the best fishing is between the Naches River and Roza Dam. There is a daily limit of two hatchery salmon with a clipped adipose fin; wild chinook must be released unharmed.

Water levels in the upper Naches and upper Yakima tributaries are continuing to drop and clear up. Eric Anderson, WDFW fish and wildlife biologist in Yakima, said his trend should continue in the weeks ahead into the summer months, when fishing in most tributaries should be good for wild trout, cutthroat, rainbow and brook trout.

Even though waters in the Columbia and Snake rivers remain high, fishing for smallmouth bass and **walleye** should improve as those waters recede and get warmer, Anderson said.

**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).

Anderson reminds anglers that most streams have reduced catch and size limits for trout. In addition, 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. In most

large mainstem rivers and streams in the Yakima basin, anglers must use single barbless hooks and no bait.

Lake fishing in Central Washington remains strong, and WDFW is continuing to stock many lakes in the days leading up to the long Fourth of July weekend. Alpine lakes are also an option in the weeks ahead.

"The high country is starting to open up as the snow levels recede," said Anderson. "There are many excellent opportunities to fish high mountain lakes, most of which are hike- to only." Information on high lake stocking in Yakima and Kittitas counties can be obtained from the website link at [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg3/r3\\_highlakes.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg3/r3_highlakes.htm) . Anglers need to check directly with WDFW's regional offices for high lake fish stocking information in other areas. Meanwhile, **kokanee** are biting at Keechelus and Rimrock lakes. While they generally run small (9-11 inches), Anderson points out that anglers can keep up to 16 of them daily.

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

Jumbo triploid trout are being planted at Lost Lake in Kittitas County, as well as in Dog and Leech lakes in Yakima County. These fish are running about 1.5 pounds each. Leech Lake is fly-fishing only. Also in June, 4,500 catchable-size trout and 200 jumbos are being planted in Easton Pond in Kittitas County.

Other recent lake stocking reports can be checked at the WDFW website <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/stocking/weekly/> .

WDFW advises anglers to always check the fishing rules pamphlet for details on a specific river or stream, including what gear is allowed and catch limits. The *Fishing in Washington Sportfishing Rules* guide is available free at stores that sell fishing licenses. The pamphlet 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.

### **TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail**

A reader wrote this week to ask, "On the Columbia near Kalama Washington do you fish for summer chinook like you do spring chinook, lures, water depth, any thing else? "

Pro guide and TGF co-editor Bob Rees responded: "Yes, you can fish for summer chinook in this manner but due to the relative lack of abundance of summer chinook compared to spring chinook, don't expect the same kind of results that you might for springers. The summer chinook concentrate in much greater numbers at Bonneville Dam and therefore, they are targeted more in that area. In a year like we have this year, cooler water may illicit a better response in these downstream areas but again, as it always is with salmon, more is better and you'll see higher concentrations of fish in the Bonneville area. Good luck!"

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

### **Write to the TGF staff:**

Bob Rees: [brees@pacifier.com](mailto:brees@pacifier.com)

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com  
Michael Teague: Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com

**Random Links**

America's Most Endangered Rivers - #7 Chetco River:

<http://www.americanrivers.org/our-work/protecting-rivers/endangered-rivers/2010-endangered-chetco.html>

Venting Deep Caught Bottom Fish:

<http://www.sschapterpsa.com/ramblings/Venting.htm>

**GOOD LUCK!**