

The Guide's Forecast - volume 13 issue number 22

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 3<sup>rd</sup> – June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** Unprecedented flows are keeping salmon and steelhead from effectively being harvested. Beaches would be most productive but it's hard to find a beach to fish on. Flows are expected to remain high through the week so fishing will remain challenging despite the current liberal opportunities. Jack counts continue to show promise for next years adult return.

Sturgeon effort is spread throughout the lower Columbia although the bulk of the effort is taking place downstream of the Wauna Powerlines near Westport, Oregon. Catches remain light but anglers targeting keepers in the extreme deep water are pulling in a few keepers. Success should improve when flows drop and temperatures warm.

Spring chinook and summer steelhead are crossing Willamette Falls in good number, providing opportunities for upstream mainstem and tributary anglers. Flows are up a little on the lower Willamette this week but water temperatures remain good. Catches in the Multnomah Channel were good early in the week. With the high spring flows, the bulk of the run has yet to pass upriver, giving anglers an unusual late season opportunity in the lower river. Action could stay good through the month of June.

The Clackamas and Sandy are improving for spring chinook but flows remain high so target soft water where calorie conscious adults will hold between runs upriver. Bait is the most effective tool under these conditions with eggs and shrimp likely to produce the best results. Don't overlook steelhead type water for chinook in these flows. Summer run steelhead should also make a significant show in the coming two weeks.

Levels have dropped this week on the McKenzie River with water temperatures in the mid-40s. Hatches are ongoing with the coming weekend looking worthwhile.

Water levels on the Santiams are high and will remain that way for a while. The South Santiam has produced springers and summer steelhead but it's spotty.

**Northwest –** Success rates uncharacteristically dropped off in Tillamook Bay this weekend. The soft tide series drew excited anglers to the lower bay to troll herring along the jetty. Results were spotty at best with the most consistent action at Lyster's Corner at the upper most end of the north jetty. The Ghost Hole and Coast Guard Station in the lower estuary also booted out fair catches over the weekend near high tide.

Unlock the secrets of preparing your herring and fishing them on Tillamook Bay by signing up for the Friday night "how-to" seminar by local pro guide John Kirby. Kirby spills his information at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Bounty on the Bay fundraiser benefiting the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership this weekend. Go to [www.tbnep.org](http://www.tbnep.org) for more info.

This weekend on Tillamook Bay, anglers are likely to utilize the incredible minus tide series by working upper Tillamook Bay as another wave of Trask River bound salmon are due to hit the system. Returns have been so bountiful this season that the hatchery hole on the upper Trask will remain open through June 30<sup>th</sup> instead of the typical closure date of May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Spring chinook and steelhead have been caught on the Wilson River recently. The recent rise in

river level should have ample fish in most north coast systems. The Nestucca and Three Rivers should also fare well in the coming week.

More rough seas in the forecast for the weekend, keeping offshore anglers from recreating. Crabbing improved slightly this week but limits are unlikely no matter what grade of bait you're using.

Razor clam digging should be good north of Tillamook Head in the early morning hours. Good tides will last into the weekend.

**Southwest** – Predictions for ocean conditions during the coming weekend look good for offshore launches in this district. Ocean salmon trolling has been fair but will be picking up. Catches of various colorful rockfish and lingcod are expected to be good. All-depth halibut will open again June 2nd through 4th provided the spring quota has not filled.

Crabbing has been improving in Winchester Bay as Umpqua flows moderate. There's still plenty of water in the river, although the North Umpqua is producing fair to good catches of spring chinook.

Tidewater stretches of the Coquille have been producing fair catches of striped bass early and late in the day.

Boats launching out of Gold Beach for bottom fish have made good catches of rockfish along with fair to good catches of lingcod. Ocean chinook anglers have been taking fish daily on anchovies and rotary flashers. Salmon will be easier to target as they start to school in the coming weeks. Chinook fishing is poor on the lower Rogue, fair on the middle river with upper Rogue results best.

Brookings launches have resulted in spotty ocean chinook catches five to seven miles out. Bottom fishing results have remained solid. Forecasts for offshore launches look quite positive late this week.

The weather was cold with blowing snow over the Memorial Weekend at Diamond Lake. Chunky trout were caught steadily, however, with bait, lures and flies all effective.

**Eastern** – Golden Stones and Salmonflies are evident below Warm Springs on the lower Deschutes and seem to be winding down around Maupin. Redsides are keyed on the big bugs and fishing is good but this is a limited-time opportunity.

Hatchery chinook may now be kept from the Imnaha and Wallowa rivers although district rivers remain high and challenging to fish.

**SW Washington** – The Cowlitz remains the best option for spring chinook although catches have only been fair. Steelhead should start to make a fair showing in the coming weeks.

Due to poor returns, the Lewis and Kalama Rivers are now closed to the taking of spring chinook. These systems remain open for steelhead however, action likely won't improve for several more weeks.

The Klickitat River should produce some chinook and steelhead over the next several weeks. Action is fair now but should improve, especially for steelhead, later into June.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – It's full steam ahead (but it really isn't) for lower Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishing. An unprecedented late season opener is giving much more opportunity than usual to sportanglers but conditions are keeping anglers from taking advantage of the great options.

Flows are huge right now, tipping the scales at over half-a-million CFS and it has fish slowing down and thinking about what they're doing. Dam passage at Bonneville is beginning to tick up again after numerous days of fewer than 700 fish. Tuesday's count was over 2,000 fish with jack counts continuing to impress. It should be a return to the "good 'ol days" next year.

Here is the lower Columbia creel check for the weekend from Bonneville Dam downstream:

**Gorge Bank:**

Weekend checking showed no catch for seven salmon anglers; and no catch for two shad anglers.

**Gorge Boats:**

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jack kept for two boats (eight anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adult, and one adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jack kept, plus one unclipped spring chinook released for seven boats (17 anglers).

**Portland to Longview Bank:**

Weekend checking showed five adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adults, 11 adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jacks, and eight adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus three unclipped spring chinook adults, two unclipped spring chinook jacks, and one unclipped steelhead released for 161 bank anglers.

**Portland to Longview Boats:**

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jacks kept, plus one unclipped spring chinook jack released for nine boats (21 anglers).

**Estuary Bank (Jones Beach to Tongue Point):**

Weekly checking showed three adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adults, four adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jacks and 13 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept for 74 bank anglers.

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

Weekend checking showed no catch for three boats (nine anglers).

Although disappointing, it's not surprising that catch rates remain low under these circumstances. Not only is it difficult to catch fish in these conditions, but it's hard to figure out how to target fish in these conditions since Columbia River anglers aren't used to dealing with water volumes of this magnitude.

Anglers will just have to face the fact that no matter how many salmon and steelhead are in the system right now, nothing but a drawdown of high water levels will improve fishing, and that's not in the near term cards.

Sturgeon fishing isn't all that much better although persistent anglers working the lower river are beginning to see better catches for keeper sturgeon. That surprises me somewhat, given the high, cold water conditions currently in place in that stretch of river. Some oversize fish are beginning to show in the gorge fishery. Here is the counts from the weekend:

**Gorge Bank (below Marker 82):**

No report.

**Gorge Boats (below Marker 82):**

Weekend checking showed four oversize and 10 sublegal sturgeon released for three boats (eight anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed no catch for one boat (two anglers).

**Portland to Longview Bank:**

No report.

**Portland to Longview Boats:**

No report.

**Estuary Boats (Puget Island to Buoy 10):**

Weekend checking showed 13 legal white sturgeon kept, plus one legal, one oversize and 113 sublegal sturgeon released for 54 boats (178 anglers).

As you can see, effort in the estuary is beginning to grow but anglers must remain diligent in their quest for keepers. The best action (if it can be called "best") is in the deep holes around Woody Island and Svenson Dike. These deep holes may be some of the few places where current exists on an incoming tide. Shrimp is a dominant bait right now.

There is some fair effort in the Wauna area as well. With the transition zone just a few miles downstream, sturgeon appear to be holding in this area, reluctant to go into the estuarine zone until a better food source shows up.

Crabbing and offshore fishing has been a poor option lately. Rough seas have kept many boats at bay although not too many as the halibut season offshore out of the mouth of the Columbia closes on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Here is the official news release:

**NEWS RELEASE**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Lynn Mattes or Patrick Mirick 541-867-0300

Internet: [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us) Fax: (541) 867-0311

For immediate release

May 27, 2011

**Columbia River halibut sport season closes June 4**

NEWPORT, ORE. –The spring Pacific halibut sport fishery off the Columbia River will close effective Saturday, June 4, 2011 at 11:59 p.m.

This fishery, from Cape Falcon, Ore. to Leadbetter Point, Wash., opened on May 5 and was scheduled to last through July 16 or until the quota of 10,793 pounds was harvested, whichever came first.

Preliminary projections indicate the quota will be harvested by June 4, prompting the decision by NOAA Fisheries to close the spring fishery.

Anglers will not be able to land Pacific halibut into Columbia River ports again until the summer fishery opens on Aug. 5. The summer fishery occurs on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from Aug. 5 to Sept. 30 or until the combined spring and summer quota of 15,418 pounds is harvested, whichever comes first.

In the meantime, other areas of the Oregon coast remain open to halibut fishing:

The central Oregon coast, between Cape Falcon (near Manzanita) and Humbug Mountain (near Port Orford), is open for Pacific halibut inside the 40-fathom line (defined by waypoints) seven days a week through Oct. 31 or until the quota of 13,800 pounds is harvested, whichever comes first. The spring all-depth halibut fishery off central Oregon is open June 2-4 and June 9-11. The high-relief area of Stonewall Bank, west of Newport, is closed to all halibut and bottomfish fishing.

The area south of Humbug Mountain is open 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).

#### **NEWS RELEASE (6/2/11)**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Chris Kern (971) 673-6031  
Jessica Sall (503) 947-6023

Internet: [www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)

For immediate release

**June 2, 2011**

#### **Managers extend salmon fishing above Bonneville Dam**

CLACKAMAS, Ore. –Columbia River fishery managers yesterday extended the spring chinook fishery above Bonneville Dam through June 15, 2011.

The area from the Tower Island power line (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to the Oregon/Washington border AND the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines will be open from Friday, June 3 through Wednesday, June 15. The area had been scheduled to close on June 2.

Anglers fishing above Bonneville Dam can keep sockeye salmon, adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. The daily bag limit is two adult salmon or steelhead in combination, and an additional five fin-clipped jack chinook. Sockeye salmon count towards the adult limit regardless of size.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Don't expect in-river Columbia fishing to jump off the page this week. High flows will keep fish moving and they'll be close to shore. The problem for anglers, there won't be much shore. If you are going to fish, stick very close to the bank, especially given the upcoming tide series we are just now coming upon. The river flows should be smokin', keeping adults hugging the shoreline.

The fishing should be great right now as it's traditionally never open this time of year. With ample quota left for sportanglers, the opportunity exists, we just can't take advantage of it and no sign of a reprieve in the near future. Did I mention fish close to shore? The fish are there. And, oh yeah, use lots of scent and bright colored spin-n-glos.

Anchoring at Bonneville is a dangerous proposition right now. USE extreme caution in these fast flows and wear your life jacket all the time. Not only are the flows swift but the water temperatures are cold. It's a dangerous place to recreate right now.

Sturgeon fishers stand a better chance at taking home a prize. With high flows hampering an incoming tide bite, fishing up higher in the estuary is a necessary evil. Many anglers don't have an intimate knowledge of how to fish in the islands around Woody Island so if you do go explore, use caution when navigating. Shrimp will remain a top bait but anchovies may prove productive during certain tide swings. Effort is growing here in the estuary.

If the offshore forecast remains accurate throughout the weekend, it doesn't look like all that much fun in the days ahead:

**Fri...**S wind 15 to 20 kt...backing to E in the afternoon. Gusts up to 25 kt. Wind waves 4 ft. W swell 5 ft. Chance of showers in the morning...then slight chance of showers in the afternoon.

**Fri Night...**N wind 10 to 15 kt...becoming 15 kt after midnight. Gusts up to 25 kt. Wind waves 2 ft. W swell 6 ft. Chance of showers in the evening. Slight chance of showers after midnight.

**Sat...**N wind 15 to 20 kt with gusts to 25 kt. Wind waves 4 ft. W swell 6 ft.

**Sat Night...**N wind 15 to 20 kt with gusts to 25 kt. Wind waves 4 ft. NW swell 6 ft.

**Sun...**NW wind 15 to 20 kt. Wind waves 4 ft. NW swell 7 ft.

**Mon...**NW wind 10 to 15 kt. Wind waves 2 ft. W swell 7 ft.

Lower Columbia River crabbing is still an option but don't count on limits with all the fresh water coming down the creek.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – The lower Willamette has remained high and has been gradually rising this week. The water temperature has been steady at 50 degrees over the past several days. Over 19,000 spring Chinook and 7,500 supper steelhead have crossed at Willamette Falls. Expect to see even more water in the lower river through the weekend with the water level rising to about 17 feet. Flood Stage is 18 feet. Combined with the backup from the Columbia, much of the lower Willamette resemble a lake rather than a river. This creates a challenging situation for those who prefer anchor fishing to trolling. A few springers are being taken daily, the vast majority of which are hatchery keepers.

Shad fishing is slow in Oregon City but it's possible to catch a few. The shad fishery will come into its own in a week or two.

There's not been much change in water conditions on the McKenzie but warm, dry weather through the weekend will improve conditions and results. Water temperature hasn't varied significantly from the mid-40s for weeks.

Yeah, we know you're as tired of reading it as we are of writing it but the Santiam system remain high and swift.

Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Timothy Meadows, West Salish Pond, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Hills Creek, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River below Leaburg Lake, Quartzville Creek, Salt Creek, North Fork Santiam River above Detroit Lake and Trail Bridge Reservoir are scheduled for trout stocking.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Without a great deal of flow on the lower Willamette, spring Chinook results have slowed. Additionally, results are on one day and off the next, though nothing that could be considered good on any day this week. Wrapped Kwikfish and rainbow spinners have taken fish this week in the lower Willamette and in Multnomah Channel. Backbouncing eggs will work where there's sufficient current for this technique. With water conditions still good above the Falls (that is, no algae yet), spring Chinook and summer steelhead are being taken, primarily by boaters sitting on anchor near a tributary mouth. Spinners are the preferred lure in these situations.

McKenzie anglers rejoice! If, that is, long-range forecasts for the water level and flow to steadily drop over the next couple of weeks remains accurate. In the meantime, all is not lost for fishers who seek out the more moderate areas of flow and a little softer water. Fishing will be good river-wide with various caddis and Golden Stones hatching. Where trout aren't looking up, nymphing will be effective. Stocked trout along with native rainbows and cutthroat are available in good number here.

Despite too much water in the Santiams, there are also a pretty darn good population of fish despite the fact that much of the system is hazardous to boats. The South Santiam offers the best chance of an encounter with a steelhead or the prized spring Chinook. Several have been taken this week with bait allowed on the South Santiam throughout the season.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Level and flow at the Clackamas has been up and down over the past week, resulting in yet another situation (which is typical this wet spring) of a river unseasonably high. Combined with water temperatures which are below normal creates a difficult fishing situation.

The Sandy River is high with the level at this writing on Thursday, June 2nd, at just under 11 feet and 4,200 cfs. On the other hand, the water color has been quite good all week. Steelheading has produced fair, steady catches with the heaviest pressure near Cedar Creek.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Summer steelhead will be the primary target in the next few days and with catches improving this week, there's reason for restrained optimism. Try spinners or drift a jig below a float. As the weather warms, the water temperature will follow, improving fish metabolism, hence, catch rates. Try the lower Clackamas for spring Chinook as they are starting to enter but this fishery will improve this month as springers enter in earnest. Look Chinook to be entering Eagle Creek as recent catches near the mouth would indicate.

It's a mixed bag for the weekend to come on the with water level and flow moderating but, as always on the Sandy, the possibility that sunshine and warmer weather will trigger glacial runoff, causing the water to run milky grey. While a few anglers don't mind the extra color, most don't like to fish it in that condition. Providing the water doesn't turn completely opaque, there are springers near the mouth and fair to good numbers of summer steelhead upstream. ODFW fish checkers confirm catches of both.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – What was once here, is now gone. Spring chinook on Tillamook Bay remains a strong option but last weeks precipitation brought a lot more opportunity to bank anglers working the hatchery hole on the Trask than boaters working the upper bay on Tillamook. Fish are still present and catchable but the horde of them that were holding in the upper bay are now holding up in the hatchery hole and I'm told it's a bloody snag-fest up there. It's getting to be an ugly scene and anglers may not know how close they are to wrecking a good thing with litter and poor sportsmanship rearing its ugly head in this area.

The lower bay option on the weekend's optimum tides didn't pan out like I had thought either. In recent years, this low tide exchange as been the big money producer but I think the mother lode went through just prior to these tides hitting the deck. There were some fish caught but high tide near the Coast Guard Station proved to be one of the better time slots instead of just past peak outgoing tide along the jetty.

Good numbers of springers have been absent in the estuary for about 5 days now. It is reasonable to expect however another strong shot of fish coming back in the coming week. The question is, what day will they arrive and in what quantity?

The ocean has been an on again/off again option with few salmon fishers taking advantage of offshore opportunity. We went out there on Monday although the bar was a little rough. We spent our time crabbing to the tune of 6 keepers for 2 pots and scores of undersize and females in the catch. Fresh frozen spring chinook carcasses made crabbing productive.

Not many people took advantage of the last halibut opener. A bad wind chop quelled optimism. A few charters are still going out for bottomfish and catches are good when weather allows.

River fishers on the Wilson and Trash have been treated to good fishing this week. The small rise in river levels brought in fish for bankies to cast at. Driftboaters were frustrated under perfect conditions as they couldn't get fish to bite despite them being present. Spring chinook and some summer steelhead should be distributed in the lower reaches of the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. Three Rivers should also have some chinook and a few steelhead available.

River and bay trout fishing is open now. Check regulations for the consumptive option. There are some big fish present. Not many people are taking advantage of this great option as the long-time closure slowed any momentum built over the years.

Sturgeon are still present in the estuary but few people are fishing for them. If you get too low in the west channel, count on crabs competing for your baits. Crabbing in most north coast estuaries is slow.

**The Guide's Forecast** – With springers largely absent on the last weak tide series that we're just coming off of, the current round of minus tides should once again prove productive for anglers working upper Tillamook Bay this weekend. Good timing with the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Bounty on the Bay fundraiser for the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership getting underway.

Spinners, plugs and herring should produce ample opportunities throughout the weekend but a surprising amount of moss is present on the strong outgoing tides in the upper bay. We don't expect to deal with this at this time of the year but it's a real problem during the peak part of the outgoing tide. That's what anglers will be experiencing for a good part of the early morning hours well into the weekend.

Adult salmon will bite best through low slack with a tapering of the bite until the flows pick back up again halfway through the incoming tide. Herring will produce well on both tides but spinners seem to do best on outgoing, as well as bait wrapped plugs. You'll need to clean your plugs often to expect results.

River anglers can expect the best results on the Trask River but the Wilson and Nestucca should have fish too. Three Rivers should be a good small stream option. Drifting eggs and shrimp will produce the best but spinners presented right may also produce some action. Early morning will become increasingly important as flows drop. Bobber fishing in tidewater and the deeper, slower holes in the upper reaches of the aforementioned systems should also produce results for those soaking eggs.

Offshore, early morning minus tides will make bar crossings dangerous. Use extreme caution if you plan on going out. The offshore forecast is listed in the Columbia River section, it isn't pretty. Crabbing will remain poor inside all north coast estuaries but razor clamming on Clatsop Beaches should be productive.

Trout fisherman, especially those working the lower reaches in tidewater and the estuary, should produce nice catches. Cutthroat are likely in the saltwater area feeding on juvenile salmonids or perch.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Charter and recreational boats have been doing well when ocean conditions have allowed offshore access. Limits of rockfish have been the rule while ling catches of lings have been good if short of filing out limits. A few boats have managed to take salmon and halibut while bagging ocean Dungeness on the trip back to port. Offshore predictions indicate mixed but mostly mild conditions this weekend.

Spring all-depth halibut is open today, June 2nd, through Saturday, June 4th with the 9th, 10th and 11th of June scheduled for the next deep-water opportunity. If the quota holds up, additional days will be available in late June into July with the summer season beginning August 5th and 6th. Halibut quota updates were not available as of 4 PM on June 2nd, the time of this writing.

Surf anglers have been enjoying good results for striped and pinkfin perch as catches continue to improve. There is a 15-fish daily bag limit on surf perch. Use discretion to ensure catches don't go to waste.

Most of the boats launching out of Reedsport for ocean salmon have been returning with a fish or two. Winchester Bay has been generally slow for crabbing with fresh water flushing out of the mainstem Umpqua River again this week. Surf perch are making their annual migration into the bay but catches have been spotty despite good numbers of fish. Sturgeon fishing has improved in tidewater and striped bass fishing has been productive in the lower river. Shad are being taken in the mainstem Umpqua although fishing continues to be hampered by high, swift water. Conditions are predicted to improve through the weekend and into the coming week. Catches will improve with less water flow and warmer temperatures. Spring Chinook catches have been fair to

good at Cleveland Rapids and Elkton. Springers are also being taken on the North Umpqua with Chinook being counted at Winchester Dam for nearly two months. Springers are continuing to enter and results will improve as more fish arrive. Smallmouth bass fishing is fair but will turn on with warmer water temperatures.

Coos Bay crabbing has been slow although anglers are picking up the occasional sturgeon. Clamming is good during minus spring tides.

Unclipped Chinook may now be retained on the Rogue River below the old Gold Ray Dam site. Anglers may keep two per day in this stretch. There may be a few Fall fish starting to enter but this recent change in the rules is effective for all Rogue Chinook. Lower Rogue spring Chinook catches picked up a little over the past weekend with improving water conditions and temperature. The lower river started rising again on Wednesday this week but is forecast to be dropping over the weekend. Wrapped plugs have provided fair, steady springer catches to anchor fishers on the middle Rogue. Good catches of spring Chinook are being taken on the upper Rogue with the stretch just below the hatchery a popular spot.

Most streams and rivers are now open for trout fishing with the star of this show is the not-so-elusive sea-run cutthroat. These fish are wide spread, therefore available in most locations and are pushovers for anglers who know where they hold in rivers. Sea-runs will also take a take with steelhead-like aggression spoons, spinners, brightly-colored flies (suggesting Royal Wulff or Spruce Fly) and various baits. If there's a 'trick,' it's to avoid riffles and seams where rainbows might like to hold, targeting cutties on dark, soft, boiling water above those areas. This is often referred to as 'frog water' but is preferred habitat for cutthroat. Don't neglect overhanging limbs or brush as these will frequently hold these fish. Among others, waters recently open for trout include the Coos, Coquille, Umpqua mainstem, North Umpqua, South Umpqua, Sixes, Elk and Chetco river as well as Tenmile Creek with only artificial lures allowed above tidewater.

With warmer temperatures promised for the coming weekend, Diamond Lake will fish well for football-shaped rainbows.

With the weather warming, temperate southwest coastal warmwater lakes are producing good and improving catches of bass and panfish. Tenmile Lake has been worthwhile with a bonus of stocked and larger holdover trout available.

Clearwater Forebay #2, Ben Irving Reservoir, Galesville Reservoir, Hemlock Lake, Herbert's Pond, Lake in the Woods, Lemolo Reservoir, Loon Lake, Plat I Reservoir, Red Top Lake, and the Rogue above Lost Creek.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Despite a drop in flow on the Deschutes from 6,800 cfs at Vida on May 26th to just over 5,850 cfs on Wednesday this week, trout fishing reports are spotty. Some anglers are doing well while others are complaining about the slow fishing. Fact is, Stoneflies and Salmonflies are hatching en masse this week from Maupin to Trout Creek. In addition to the dry equivalent, pack nymph versions then locate holding water for hookups.

Clear Lake near Mt. Hood is producing good catches of brook trout and fair catches of rainbows.

Limits of kokanee are being taken at Crescent Lake although lake trout catches are slow. Campgrounds are scheduled to be open this coming weekend.

Wallowa Lake has been producing decent numbers of kokanee along with a nine-pounder which was landed on the troll Wednesday this week.

Kokanee fishing is expected to get a boost over the weekend with the weather forecast predicting temperatures in the 80-degree range.

Rowe Creek Reservoir, 7th. Street Pond, Olive Lake, Morrow Co. Pond 1 and 2 and Anson Wright Pond are scheduled for trout planting this week.

### **Washington fishing reports:**

***From the WDF&W Weekender Report for June 2011***

#### **North Puget Sound**

Anglers have their pick of several fishing opportunities in June. On Puget Sound, the Tulalip Bay bubble fishery gets under way June 3, while the lingcod fishery remains open through mid-month. In freshwater, numerous rivers open for trout June 4 and – in a few waters – salmon fishing opens at the beginning of the month.

Portions of the Skagit and Cascade rivers opened for hatchery **chinook salmon** fishing June 1. The Skagit is open to hatchery chinook retention from the Highway 530 Bridge at Rockport to the Cascade River Road. 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).

Fishing for salmon, as well as **trout** and other **gamefish**, also opened June 1 on portions of the Skykomish River.

Elsewhere, **trout** fishing will open at several of the region's other rivers and streams beginning June 4. Under the statewide rule for trout, there is a two-fish daily limit and a minimum size of eight inches in rivers and streams. However, some of the region's rivers and streams have a rule requiring trout to be at least 14 inches in length to keep. For details on river fishing opportunities, check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

Meanwhile, lake fishing for **bass, bluegill, perch** and **crappie** is steadily improving as water temperatures increase and fish become more active, said Danny Garrett, fisheries biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). When fishing for these species, focus on areas where there are bridge pilings, boat docks, rock, submerged trees and bushes, grass beds, lily pads, and flooded vegetation along the shoreline, he said.

"Smallmouth bass use many of the same habitats as largemouth bass, but smallmouth are often more abundant around rocky points, riprap, and offshore rock piles," Garrett said. "Both species are highly adaptive to specific lake conditions, and habitat use will vary from lake to lake." For smallmouth and largemouth bass, Garrett recommends using spinnerbaits, jerkbaits, crankbaits, jigs, and plastic baits that include worms, tubes, and creature baits.

Perch and bluegill can also be caught with an assortment of artificial jigs, spinners, and flies, although many people prefer to use live worms under a bobber, he said. Anglers fishing for perch and bluegill should try fishing around several different pieces of cover in the lake until a group of fish is found. "Generally, a single, small area will produce many individuals, since both species tend to congregate in large groups," he said.

Lakes where anglers can find quality bass and panfish fishing include Lakes Whatcom and Terrell in Whatcom County; Lake Goodwin in Snohomish County; Big Lake in Skagit County; Lakes Washington, Union and Sammamish in King County.

On Puget Sound, the northern portion of Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) opened June 1 to catch-and-release fishing for salmon. Fishing is allowed north of a line from Point Monroe to Meadow Point.

Farther north, the **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery** begins June 3. The fishery is open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 5. The exception is June 12, when the bubble is closed for the Tulalip Tribes salmon ceremony, said Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound salmon manager for WDFW. "They recently rescheduled their salmon ceremony, so the one-day closure was moved to June 12," Thiesfeld said. "That means the bubble will be open June 19 this year." For details, check the [emergency fishing rule change](#). Anglers fishing the bubble will have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon.

The **halibut** fishery in the region is closed, but fishing for **lingcod** is still an option. The lingcod fishery runs through June 15 in the region. 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.

Before heading out, anglers should check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for all 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 11-12. 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.

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.

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

Some fisheries are winding down in the region, but anglers have other options as numerous rivers and streams open for trout June 4 and salmon fishing gets under way mid-month off the coast.

The popular **ocean salmon season** opens June 18 with a mark-selective fishery for hatchery chinook in all ocean areas. The selective fishery will run seven days a week, with a daily limit of two salmon, through June 25 or until 4,800 hatchery chinook are retained. Anglers will be required to release wild chinook and all coho during the selective fishery, said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"It looks like there are a lot of chinook out there," said Milward. "And from what we are seeing in the troll fishery, I expect fishing to be much like last year, which was pretty darn good."

Ocean salmon fisheries for chinook and hatchery coho will open June 26 in marine areas 1, 2, 3 and 4, where anglers will be allowed to retain one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit. Anglers also are allowed one additional pink salmon each day in marine areas 3 and 4. Salmon fishing will be open seven days a week, except in Marine Area 2 where anglers can only fish for salmon Sundays through Thursdays. Before heading out, anglers should check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for all regulations.

In Puget Sound, marine areas 11 and 13 are open for salmon. Anglers fishing those areas have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook.

**Halibut** fishing is closed in most of Puget Sound. The exception is Marine Area 5 (Sekiu), where anglers can fish for halibut three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday through June 18. On the coast, Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) will close to halibut fishing June 5, and then re-open Aug. 5 and continue three days a week (Friday through Sunday). Marine Area 2 (Westport/Ocean Shores) is already closed except in the northern nearshore area.

Farther north, La Push and Neah Bay (marine areas 3 and 4) will open for two more days of fishing June 2 and 4. "We will evaluate the quota after these dates to determine if there's enough quota for additional openings in those two areas," Reed said.

All areas open to halibut fishing have a one-fish daily catch limit, with no minimum size, a possession limit of one fish while on the vessel, and a possession limit of two fish in any form once the angler is on the shore. For more information on the halibut fishery, check [WDFW's website](#).

Anglers have through mid-month to fish for **lingcod** in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, where the fishery closes June 15 in both areas. However, the lingcod season on the coast remains open through mid-October.

Anglers are reminded that work will limit parking facilities for boaters through June at **Twanoh State Park**, a popular access site on Hood Canal. The State Parks and Recreation Commission encourages fishers to use an alternate launch site.

Meanwhile, a couple of rivers are open for **salmon** fishing, including the Hoh, Quillayute and a portion of the Sol Duc. For details on those and other fishing opportunities, check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

Elsewhere, **trout** fishing will open at several rivers and streams beginning June 4. Under the statewide rule for trout, there is a two-fish daily limit and a minimum size of eight inches in rivers and streams. However, some rivers and streams have a rule requiring trout to be at least 14 inches in length to keep.

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 11-12. 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.

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.

### **Southwest Washington**

The spring chinook fishery runs through June 15, followed the next day by a promising six-week summer chinook season. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of sockeye salmon and hatchery summer steelhead are moving into the lower Columbia River Basin, where anglers can also catch and keep white sturgeon in most areas.

But high water will present an ongoing challenge for anglers engaged in all of these fisheries, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "The river has been up in the trees for several days, and the snow pack hasn't even started to melt," said Hymer during the last week of May. "These high-water conditions could be with us for a while."

Anglers can check area river conditions on websites maintained by the [Fish Passage Center](#) and the [Northwest River Forecast Center](#).

Apart from their effect on fishing conditions, high flows and floating debris present a safety risk to anglers – particularly boat anglers – fishing the mainstem Columbia River. So long as the river is high, Hymer suggests that anglers leave their boats at home and take up a position on the bank.

"Success rates for bank anglers were higher than those for boat anglers fishing for **spring chinook** during the last week of May," he said. "There's a lesson in that."

Through June 15, fishing is open to both boat and bank anglers from Rocky Point/Tongue Point upriver to Bonneville Dam. Fishery managers opened the four-mile area from Beacon Rock to the dam to boat angling in late May to give anglers more access to upriver spring chinook still available for harvest.

The fishery above Bonneville Dam has also been extended through June 15 for boat and bank anglers from the Tower Island power lines upriver to the Washington/Oregon state line, 17 miles upriver from McNary Dam. Bank fishing was also reopened through June 15 from Bonneville Dam upriver to the power lines, located six miles below The Dalles Dam.

During the spring chinook season, anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam may retain one adult spring chinook salmon marked with a clipped adipose fin as part of their daily catch limit. Above Bonneville, the daily limit can include two marked hatchery adult chinook salmon. **Sockeye salmon** and hatchery-reared **steelhead** also count toward anglers' adult daily limit.

In both areas, all unmarked chinook and steelhead must be released unharmed.

That is also the case in the **summer chinook salmon** fishery, which gets under way June 16 from the Megler Astoria Bridge up to Priest Rapids Dam. One difference is anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam can retain two adult hatchery-reared chinook after June 16, rather than one. Like last year, the six-week mark selective summer chinook season is made possible by the additional revenue produced by the new Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement fee. "In the past, the cost of adequately monitoring and sampling a six-week fishery was prohibitive," Hymer said. "The extended summer chinook fishery was one of the first uses the department made of those revenues."

Based on the pre-season forecast, this year's summer chinook season looks promising, Hymer said. Approximately 92,000 upriver fish – the highest number since 1980 – are expected to return, including a high percentage of five-year-olds running 20-40 pounds. Anglers can also top off their daily limits with sockeye salmon and summer-run hatchery steelhead, which are also expected to return in high numbers this year.

Many of the early returning **steelhead** are headed for the Elochoman, Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, Toutle, Washougal, and Klickitat rivers, where they should provide good fishing through the summer. Fishing for hatchery spring chinook is also open on a number of area tributaries,

including Drano Lake and the Wind River, where anglers can now retain four adult hatchery spring chinook as part of their six-fish daily limit. Those fishing Drano Lake should be aware that Wednesday closures have been extended through June. In addition, the Kalama and Lewis rivers were recently closed to fishing for spring chinook due to low returns.

On the Klickitat River, salmon fishing is now open seven days a week downstream from the Fisher Hill Bridge, where anglers may retain two adult hatchery spring chinook plus two hatchery steelhead. Anglers fishing 400 feet upstream from the #5 fishway to the boundary markers below the Klickitat Salmon Hatchery may retain hatchery chinook jacks and hatchery steelhead. New rules will also take effect June 4 on the following rivers:

- **Elochoman River:** Opens for retention of hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead from the mouth to the West Fork.
- **Grays River:** Opens for retention of hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead on the mainstem from the mouth to the South Fork, and the West Fork from the mouth to the hatchery intake/footbridge.
- **South Fork Toutle River and the Green River:** Opens for hatchery steelhead on the entire South Fork Toutle, plus the Green River from the mouth to the 2800 Road Bridge. Bait may be used. All tributaries to the South Fork Toutle and Green rivers will remain closed to all fishing.
- **East Fork Lewis River:** Opens for hatchery steelhead from the mouth to 400 feet below Horseshoe Falls (except closures around various falls). Bait may be used.
- **Washougal River:** Opens for hatchery steelhead from the mouth to Salmon Falls Bridge. Bait may be used.

For more information about these and other fishing rule updates, check for [Emergency Rule Changes](#) on WDFW's website.

Rather catch a **sturgeon**? Boat anglers have been catching some legal-size fish around Camas, Longview and Cathlamet on the Columbia River. The retention fishery below the Wauna powerlines runs seven days a week through June 26, then resumes July 1-4. The daily limit is one white sturgeon with a fork-length requirement of 41 to 54 inches. Above the powerlines, sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through July 31 up to Navigation Marker 82, nine miles below Bonneville Dam. The daily limit is one fish with a fork-length requirement of 38 to 54 inches.

And don't forget **shad**. While not as highly prized as sturgeon or salmon, they can put up a good fight and make for good eating, said WDFW biologist Joe Hymer. Even though their numbers may be down this year, more than a million of them will likely mount a charge up the Columbia this month. There are no daily limits or size limits for shad, the largest member of the herring family.

Fishing for **walleye** and **bass** should also pick up this month as water temperatures rise. During the last week of May, boat anglers averaged eight bass and eight walleye per rod fishing in The Dalles Pool. More than a dozen lakes, rivers and reservoirs – from Mayfield Reservoir in Lewis County to the Little White Salmon River in Skamania County – will be stocked with trout this month. See the [WDFW website](#) for a complete listing.

Those interested in fishing but don't have a fishing license will be able to get in on the action during **Free Fishing Weekend**, scheduled June 11-12. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. While no

licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as season closures, size limits and bag limits will still be in effect.

### **Eastern Washington**

June is usually one of the best months of the year for a variety of fishing opportunities throughout the region, with river and stream seasons opening and warmwater fish species beginning to bite.

But this year, with extended cooler temperatures and greater than usual spring rain and runoff flooding some areas and putting many waterways out of shape, anglers are advised to use caution and plan ahead by checking access conditions with local sources.

Many northeast district rivers, including the Colville, Kettle, Little Pend Oreille, and Lake Roosevelt tributaries, opened to fishing May 28. Most other rivers and streams in the region will open June 4, the first Saturday of June. However, portions of the Spokane River open June 1, and some waterways are open year-round. Anglers should check the fishing rules pamphlet for details.

Two areas of the Snake River – near Little Goose Dam and Clarkston – are open to **spring chinook salmon** fishing through June 2. For details see the [emergency rule change](#).

Lakes that have been open since late April continue to produce good catches of **rainbow, cutthroat** and other **trout**. In the central district, good bets are Fishtrap Lake in Lincoln County; and Amber, Badger, Chapman, Clear, Fish, West Medical and Williams lakes in southwest Spokane County. Many mixed-species waters that are open year-round or opened earlier this spring are starting to produce catches of **bass, bluegill, crappie, perch** or **catfish**, along with trout. These include Spokane County's Eloika, Liberty, Long, Newman, and Silver lakes.

In the northeast district, many **trout** fishing lakes are on U.S. Forest Service or other public lands with campgrounds – perfect for family weekend outings. In Ferry County, that includes Davis, Ellen, Ferry and Swan lakes; in Stevens County, Gillette, Pierre, and Thomas lakes; in Pend Oreille County, Bead, Cook's, Mystic, No-Name, Skookum, Sullivan and Yocum lakes. Anglers need to keep in mind that seven lakes where loons breed and nest in the northeast district have new rules prohibiting the use of lead weights and jigs that measure 1 ½ inches or less along the longest axis – these are Ferry, Long and Swan in Ferry County; Pierre in Stevens County; and Meadow, South Skookum and Yocum in Pend Oreille County.

Stevens County's Cedar, Rocky and Starvation lakes continue to be among the best trout producers in the region, but anglers need to keep in mind that Rocky and Starvation shift to catch-and-release only on June 1.

**Free Fishing Weekend**, June 11-12, is the best time to invite your non-fishing family or friends to join you on the water because that's when no fishing licenses are required of anyone. With Washington State Tourism's "[Share Your Washington](#)" campaign, you can even be eligible for air travel prizes when you invite others to fish with you in Washington. The contest runs through June 15.

WDFW is piloting a **free adult fishing class** on June 11 with help from Inland Northwest Wildlife Council volunteer instructors and Bunkers Resort on Williams Lake in southwest Spokane County. The class will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., mostly with time on the water to learn how to catch fish, but also with instruction on cleaning and cooking fish. Limited class space is filling fast with a registration deadline of June 6; call WDFW Eastern Region office at 509-892-1001 or e-mail [teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov).

### **Northcentral Washington**

River and stream **trout** fishing is scheduled to start the first Saturday in June, but WDFW Okanogan District Fish Biologist Bob Jateff says higher than normal flows will make fishing difficult at best – at least for the first few weeks of the month. “Anglers should focus on some of the smaller tributaries which have a tendency to clear up much quicker than larger rivers,” Jateff said.

**Spring chinook salmon** fishing on the Icicle River in Chelan County should improve considerably in June as more fish move up into the river. “There should be a number of fish available as the pre-season forecast for the Icicle calls for a run of approximately 9,000 fish,” Jateff said. Daily limit is three salmon, minimum size 12 inches. Standard gear rules are in effect and there is a night closure. Anglers must release all fish with one of more round holes punched in the tail (caudal) fin.

“Lake fishing should improve during the month as a later than normal spring has kept lake waters cooler than normal,” Jateff said. **Rainbow trout** waters to check out are Pearygin near Winthrop, Alta near Pateros, Conconully Reservoir and Lake near Conconully, Spectacle near Loomis, and Wannacut near Oroville. Anglers can expect to catch rainbows in the 10-13 inch range with larger carryover fish in the 15-16 inch range in all of these lakes, Jateff said.

Fly-fishing only waters in Okanogan County worth visiting in June are Aeneas Lake near Tonasket and Chopaka Lake near Loomis. Jateff reports Aeneas Lake has rainbow and **brown trout** 12-18 inches, and Chopaka has rainbows in the 12-17 inch range. Electric motors are not allowed on fly-fishing only waters, unless a special use permit has been issued. Selective gear waters to try would be Big Twin Lake near Winthrop, Blue Lake on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, Buzzard Lake near Okanogan, and Rat Lake near Brewster. All of these lakes are planted with rainbow trout fingerlings and/or catchables and should provide good fishing for 12-16 inch fish. Both Rat and Blue also have brown trout available.

For spiny ray anglers, Patterson Lake near Winthrop has **yellow perch** as well as **smallmouth** and **largemouth bass**. Expect perch in the 6-9 inch range in Patterson with an occasional fish up to 11 inches. Leader Lake, near Okanogan, has a mix of **black crappie** and **bluegill**, as well as largemouth bass. You can expect bluegill in the 6-7 inch range and crappie in the 6-9 inch range. Both Patterson and Leader Lakes are also planted with rainbow trout catchables up to 13 inches.

Wapato Lake in Chelan County continues to provide good fishing for rainbows in the 12-13 inch range, with a few larger fish up to 17 inches. Jameson Lake in Douglas County has been fishing well for rainbows in the 10-11 inch range along with a number of spring planted triploid rainbows in the 16-17 inch range.

On June 1, Grimes Lake near Mansfield will open for trout fishing under selective gear rules and a one fish daily limit. Anglers can expect good fishing for Lahontan cutthroat in the 12-18 inch range, with some fish in the 20-inch category. Float tubes, pontoon boats, and small row boats can be launched at the south end of the lake under an access agreement with the local land owner. The fishing season at Grimes Lake continues through Aug. 31.

In the Columbia Basin district of the region, fish biologist Chad Jackson said **trout** fishing has been very good during this cool, wet spring and warmwater fish species should begin biting more later this month. "Pretty much all of the catch-and-release or fly-fishing or selective gear waters in the basin are fishing quite well with these conditions," Jackson said. "Lenice and Dry Falls lakes are the most popular and some anglers are catching and releasing 12 to 20 or more trout per day, and the fish are running up to 20 inches."

Jackson reported that Quail, Dusty, Lenore, and Nunnally lakes are also fishing well. So are the "production waters," like Warden, Blue, and Park lakes in Grant County. "These fisheries appear to be holding up well since the late April opener, but that's based on just a few reports," he said. "The weather, especially wind, plays a big factor in successful fishing at those lakes."

Jackson also noted that **bass** and **walleye** fishing should be heating up this month in the usual big three waters in the basin – Banks Lake, Potholes Reservoir and Moses Lake. "I'm already hearing some good reports, especially for smallmouth and largemouth bass," he said.

**Free Fishing Weekend**, June 11-12, is the best time to invite your non-fishing family or friends to join you on the water because that's when no fishing licenses are required of anyone. With Washington State Tourism's "[Share Your Washington](#)" campaign, you can even be eligible for air travel prizes when you invite others to fish with you in Washington. The contest runs through June 15.

### **Southcentral Washington**

Area anglers have been reeling in **channel catfish** from the lower reaches of the Yakima and Walla Walla rivers, while fishing in the Columbia and Snake rivers has been choked by high water. Fishing has been good for "channel cats," which typically run 8-10 pounds but can easily weigh twice that amount, said Paul Hoffarth, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"Put some cut bait on your hook and leave it on the bottom," Hoffarth advises. "That's about all there is to it."

**Trout** fishing in area lakes is another alternative for anglers waiting for heavy flows to subside in the Columbia River. Powerline Lake and Marmes Pond, two walk-in lakes in Franklin County, were planted with trout in early spring and cooler temperatures should "keep the bite going" for several weeks, Hoffarth said.

In addition, more than a dozen waters – ranging from Bear Lake in Yakima County to Easton Ponds in Kittitas County – are scheduled to receive fresh plants in June. Many of those waters will receive an assortment of catchable and jumbo-size fish, the latter weighing up to 1½ pounds apiece. See the [WDFW website](#) for the full lake-stocking schedule in June.

Out on the Columbia River, fishing prospects look good for salmon, sturgeon and shad – after the river drops to fishable levels. Meanwhile, anglers should exercise caution in venturing out into the big river.

"Flows on the mainstem Columbia have been nearly twice the seasonal average, and there's a lot of debris in the water," he said. "It's not just a matter of fishing conditions, it's a safety issue." Anglers can keep tabs on water conditions on the Fish Passage Center's [website](#). Once they flows subside, they'll have several good options for catching fish:

- **Chinook salmon:** June 16 marks the start of the fishery for hatchery-reared summer chinook salmon upriver to Priest Rapids Dam. The daily limit is six hatchery fish, up to

two may be adult hatchery chinook. Anglers must stop fishing when their adult portion of the daily limit is retained. Anglers fishing the Columbia River downstream from the Highway 395 bridge at Pasco/Kennewick can retain **sockeye salmon** or **hatchery steelhead** as part of their daily bag limit.

- **White sturgeon:** Fishing remains open in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids/Ice Harbor Dams) through July of this year. Fish must measure 43 inches to 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. Anglers should be aware that sturgeon fishing is prohibited in sturgeon sanctuaries in the Snake River from Goose Island upstream to Ice Harbor Dam and in the Columbia River upstream of the Priest Rapids Hatchery outlet to Priest Rapids Dam.
- **Shad:** By mid-June, **shad** should reach McNary and Ice Harbor dams in numbers that make for great fishing. While not as prized as salmon or sturgeon, they can put up a good fight and make for good eating, Hoffarth said.
- **Smallmouth bass** and **walleye:** Fishing for both species should improve in the Columbia and Snake rivers as those waters warm. One veteran angler from Richland recently pulled a 18 pound, 4 ounce walleye out of the McNary Pool.

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

Those interested in fishing but don't have a fishing license will be able to get in on the action during Free Fishing Weekend, scheduled June 11-12. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as season closures, size limits and bag limits will still be in effect.

## TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

Reader **Heather L.** sent this notice (her note to us and report follows):

Report for The Guides Forecast for Hagg Lake Results, 2 days fishing, 5-24 & 5-25-2011

As of yesterday, the Hagg Lake General Store owner reported that at least 1 of the 15 tagged bass have been caught that were planted by ODFW, Cabela's, and The Outdoor Channel. See ODFW site for the million dollar OR bass mystery:  
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2011/may/051311b.asp>

The lucky fisherman kept the bass and brought it to the general store for their photo. Cabela's will not confirm what any tag is worth until at or near the end of the contest. They told him 6 to 8 weeks to find out what he won after he logged it onto Cabela's web site.

"Fishing on Tues 5-24 and Wed 5-25 at Hagg Lake was very slow. On the (nice weather) Tuesday there were 35 boats!!!! on the lake by 9:00am. Half of them were trout fishing, the other half were bass fishing. I have never seen 35 boats at Hagg Lake on a Tuesday. (maybe a Sat in July with all the ski boats and fishermen)

"By sharp contrast, there were only 5 boats!!! (including ours) in the rain yesterday, on the lake by 9:00am; or all day for that matter.

"The disappointing news: On Tues, we (2 of us) anchored in 4 of our favorite spots, casting over a 5 hour period, and caught a total of 6 trout. Four were newbie's (released), and 2 were decent holdovers from the fall. Over the last 4 years we have fished from a boat, we have

limited out (with mostly nice 12" or better fish) in any one of those spots in a few hours in May, June, early July, late Sept, Oct, and early Nov. Not this time.

"Trolling was a disaster on Tues. Using the same gear and bait that we have caught scores of trout while trolling the past few years in May and June, we did not have a single bite Tues afternoon, trolling over 2 hours in our favorite spots. Since we both have our 2 rod license, were trolled with 4 lines out at various depths, length, and lures. All last Spring and Fall we would have had 8 to 10 hits and brought 6 or 7 in the boat in in 2 hours trolling. The most important thing here was the fact that we did not even see any fish on the fish finder (1 or 2 fish every half hour). We always see hundreds of trout while trolling this time of year, suspended between ~15' and 35' in ~30' to 50' of water.

"Everyone we spoke to on Tues were disappointed with their results. We found no one with a limit. Some fishermen had no fish at all after 6 to 7 hours, both from the bank and in boats.

"Wed Results: Three of went on Wed in the rain, and caught just 5 trout in 4 hours, anchored, in our 4 favorite spots again. Not so good. We decided to troll and finally find the fish in the lake, to see where they are this year.

"We trolled for 3 hours determined to find the fish in the lake. We covered the lake, searching in 15', 20', 30', 40' 50', and even 60' of water throughout the lake. We have never covered the entire lake looking for fish. Instead of seeing hundreds, suspended as usual, we literally saw just 10 to 15 trout (the 3 hour total) suspended at 20' to 25' when we scanned the 30' and 40' waters.

"We did not get a single bite on any of the 4 lures while trolling that have been so successful for us the past few years. We spoke to a few bank fishermen on the way in, and 1 fish was caught between the 3 groups of people on the bank in 7 hours. One boat had no fish, they were trolling all day.

"We can't figure it out. Where are they hiding? Is Hagg Lake finally being over fished? I see that ODFW has stocked 54,000 trout as of this week for the year-to-date total, plus another 16,000 late last fall. 70,000 trout since last Sept. 2010 !!! (We are not finding the 12" to 13" holdovers this year as in the past either)

"ODFW is scheduled to stock another 3,000 trout this week (week of 5-23-11), and another 4,000 trout at Hagg the week of 6-6-11.

"Maybe the fish just were not in the mood to bite, and they have learned to hide from our sonar. :-)

"I am hoping the trout will be very hungry by Sat. June 4th when we will have 115 soldiers for Oregon's 2'nd annual "Take A Soldier Fishing day", with the 40 captains and 40 fishing boats that will be there to take the soldiers on the lake for the day.

"There should be 75 to 80 boats total on the lake that day, a Henry Hagg Lake record for sure!!!!!!

Thanks, Heather!

**Write to the TGF staff:**

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Doug Rees: [doug@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:doug@TheGuidesForecast.com)  
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### **Random Links**

Maupin weather:

<http://home.comcast.net/~jfdresser/maupin/weatherstation.htm>

How To Sharpen Your Knife With A Cup [VIDEO]:

<http://www.dump.com/2010/12/08/how-to-sharpen-your-knife-with-a-cup-video/>

**GOOD LUCK!**