

The Guide's Forecast - volume 13 issue number 34

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 26th – September 1st, 2011**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Have you booked your fall salmon seats on Tillamook Bay yet?

With the fall season fast approaching, large fall Chinook are destined for Tillamook Bay in the coming weeks. A good run is in the forecast with mid September to mid-October seeing the best results in recent years. Coho, both wild and hatchery, should provide some additional action during this time frame. And if the ocean weather cooperates, offshore crabbing should be excellent again this year. Rates for the fall season are:

1 to 4 people: \$175.00 each, full day trip. 5 to 6 people (only available on select dates) are \$150.00 each. Crabbing (weather pending) is included in your daily cost.

Call Bob at 503.812.9036 or e-mail brees@pacifier.com

Willamette Valley/Metro- As is commonly the case, catch rates in the Portland area don't reflect the large numbers of chinook passing Bonneville Dam. These earlier returning fish often don't fall to anglers working the gorge area as they focus more on migration than feeding and aggressive behavior. Catch rates in the gorge should improve in late September.

Anchor anglers however are witnessing improving catches from Portland to Longview as excitement grows with angler success and the quality of fish being taken in this fishery. Half of the sport boats working this stretch saw action between salmon and steelhead catches. This fishery should really take off this week.

Smallmouth bass fishing remains productive on much of the Willamette above the falls.

Trout catches are as steady as the water conditions on the McKenzie although there are very few anglers on the river.

The North Santiam is stable with the water crystal clear and fishing slow. The remaining, mostly-dark spring Chinook are off-limits as of mid-August.

Steelheading is near-standstill on the Clackamas. Banks are lined with litter and beer cans from Barton to Carver due to the carelessness of the inflatable plastics crowd.

Although the sandy is roiled from glacial runoff, a few fish are being caught. Coho will likely begin to show in catchable numbers by mid-September.

Northwest – The Buoy 10 fishery busted wide open this week with great catches of chinook and some coho around the Astoria/Megler Bridge on both sides of the river. Barbara Trinkle and her family of 5 took a 6 chinook limit by noon on Tuesday, finishing up above Tongue Point where numerous salmon were falling on both the incoming and outgoing tides. The group took most of the fish on plug cut herring, fishing within 7 feet of the bottom in about 30-foot of water.

Chinook retention is slated to close after Sunday, August 28th with numbers reportedly coming in as modeled. Anglers can continue to retain chinook above Tongue Point however although this area fishes best on the smaller tide exchanges, like the current one we are now experiencing.

Coho catches have been sparse but numbers are building with the peak of the "A" run coho due in the next 2 weeks. October can also provide excellent catches; these later running fish are deemed the "B" run.

The ocean out of the Columbia will remain open to coho but will close to the retention of chinook effective Monday, August 29th. There isn't much effort in the ocean with lower Columbia catches coming into full bloom. The weekend forecast offshore is calling for significant wind waves, further motivating anglers to stay inland.

Ocean crabbing should begin to pick up as males move closer to shore in preparation for fall feeding and spawning. They are still a bit light for meat recovery but that too should change next month.

Nehalem Bay anglers are finding fair success from Wheeler to Nehalem. Trolled herring are taking some fish and improving tides should bolster catches. Bobber tossers are starting to take fish above Nehalem.

The Nestucca and Tillamook districts should begin to see chinook staging this week with better catches occurring by mid-September. Both systems will have small quotas for wild coho this year but Tillamook Bay should see a fair return of hatchery coho as well.

Southwest – Offshore crabbing has resulted in excellent catches. Sorting of softshells is still required but dungeness are hardening. Bottom fishing has been fair to good for rockfish and lingcod. Coho salmon fishing resumes September 1st. Nearshore halibut fishing currently remains open.

Crabbing has been very good this week out of Waldport in Alsea Bay.

Boats fishing the bar at Winchester Bay are taking chinook but those trying should exercise caution in this hazardous area. Reedsport has started producing chinook to trollers. Fishing is fair to good for summer steelhead on the North Umpqua. Smallmouth bass fishing is good near Elkton and in the South Umpqua.

Chinook are being taken daily in Coos Bay while the chinook fishery is just starting to become productive in the lower Coquille.

As seas calmed and fog rolled in over the past week, albacore anglers found fish inside the 15-mile mark out of Gold Beach. Trollers in Rogue Bay have been averaging numerous chinook a day although the fishery is on one day, off the next with salmon moving upriver quickly.

Boats launching out of the Port of Brookings have made trips of 35 to 40 miles to find warm water and tuna but catches have been excellent. Rockfish catches have been excellent as well with lingcod results fair. Lingcod are being taken by jetty fishers in decent numbers.

Eastern – Summer steelhead are moving into the lower Deschutes in good number now with catches improving despite warm water. Early and late day results have been best.

At the Odell kokanee derby held over the past weekend, anglers made decent catches of fish averaging over 12 inches.

Jigging has been more effective than trolling at Paulina with kokanee schooled in good numbers.

SW Washington – Steelhead remain the primary focus for freshwater anglers working the Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers. Chinook will soon enter district rivers with regulations varying by watershed. Wild spawning chinook are depressed this year so handle with care.

The mouths of the Klickitat and White Salmon Rivers and Drano Lake are producing fair catches of summer steelhead. Some chinook are likely to be intercepted in the coming weeks.

Columbia River Fishing Report – This time of year always goes by the quickest. With Chinook catches going full speed ahead, no one wants it to slow. Through this week, there was no sign of slowing and most would agree, with the action we've seen in recent days, it seems the huge run of over ¾ of a million Chinook is likely to come to fruition. Action has been nothing short of fantastic.

Most recently, anglers have found good action in a variety of places. With an early morning flood this week, the Washington side above the bridge and to a lesser extent, below the bridge, has proven to be good places to run bait in 25 to 30 foot of water. Chinook have been the mainstay with a higher likelihood of a coho than other places anglers are fishing.

On Wednesday, the Oregon side above the bridge, along the green line produced a brief but good bite in the early morning, mostly for Chinook. There remains a lot of wild coho in the catches but a few more hatchery fish are beginning to show. Anglers were catching fish holding against the tide but also trolling with it for this early morning snap.

And then there's Tongue Point. The action started fast and furious up there on Monday and got even better on Tuesday. We had 5 Chinook in the box early on Tuesday but as the bite on the Washington side died close to high slack, I couldn't resist the reports any longer and made a run over to the Tongue Point bite. We did a short pass (of about 1 mile), had 4 bites, landed 3 Chinook and kept 2 before heading in knowing that coho would be hard to find.

For most, it's been a herring show. I've been using fresh herring but a few guides have been doing quite well on frozen blue and green label herring. Whatever your choice of bait, get it fishing near the bottom although many of our fish are coming a bit suspended off of the bottom. I've been putting out my bow rods (16 ounces of lead) on the bottom and reeled up 5 to 10 reel rotations off of the bottom, middle rods (12 ounces of lead) up 3 to 5 cranks off of the bottom, and back rods (10 ounces) right on the bottom. The middle and bow rods have been the most active and many the fish we have been marking on the fish finder have also been well off of the bottom.

Spinners are taking fish too. On my Tuesday trip, the first 3 bites came on a red/white Bob Toman spinner with a pink hoochie. Then my bait rods finally starting popping off closer to high slack and the spinner never got touched again. I can't explain it but I won't put a spinner on a rod until that angler has limited out.

With most anglers focusing on the river fishery, few are venturing offshore. But apparently, enough anglers are going offshore, at least out of Westport Washington, to justify a Chinook closure north of Cape Falcon. The Chinook quota has been eaten up quickly as of late and managers have decided to close the ocean Chinook fishery on the same day the Buoy 10 fishery closes to Chinook retention. That date is one hour after sunset, on Sunday, August 28th.

Chinook retention will remain open upstream of Tongue Point however, that is, after August 28th. There are strict regulations stating that anglers can NOT fish in waters closed to the taking of Chinook, with a Chinook on board. In other words, if you start your day off fishing above Tongue

Point and land a fish or two, or 6, you can NOT go downstream and target coho below Tongue Point no matter how hot the bite is. You can go the other way around however. Don't test these regulations, it's not worth it. Check the forecast section of this report for the prediction for the Chinook action next week.

Coho fishing offshore has been spotty but persistent anglers can produce a limit if they work hard enough for it. Catch rates actually dropped for the August 15 – 21 reporting period, with an average of just .87 retained catch per angler. I thought the fish were supposed to concentrate more this time of year instead of scatter. I'm glad to be sticking to the river these last few weeks.

Ocean crabbing is picking up and the commercial tally was one of the best in recent memory. Hopefully, that will translate into a productive fall season as well.

Tuna chasers haven't been too excited lately with fish far offshore. Although the weather has been somewhat cooperative this week, the long run makes most anglers weary of making the effort. Rumors of bluefin tuna are milling around although boats in pursuit didn't claim victory on any big fish. Some experts are saying the bite has slowed for offshore albacore.

Bottomfishing has slowed in the dog days of summer. Black rockfish remain a summer staple but the current tide series won't do much for anyone with the bigger swing narrowing down the window of opportunity.

Crabbing in the lower Columbia is fair but will get much better in a few months.

Upriver, anglers continue to produce good catches of Chinook in the Portland to Longview stretch. Anchor anglers are coming into their own as the run nears peak in the coming weeks. Like the estuary, good catches are expected as the run is certainly ramping up nicely. Target water 35 to 45 feet deep and know your tides to maximize your catch.

Here are the ODF&W statistics from last week:

Gorge Bank:

Weekly checking showed one fall chinook jack and nine adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus three unclipped steelhead released for 65 bank anglers.

Gorge Boats:

Weekend checking showed two fall chinook adults, one fall chinook jack and 15 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 15 unclipped steelhead released for 19 boats (57 anglers).

Troutdale Boats:

Weekend checking showed four fall chinook adults, one fall chinook jack and 13 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus seven unclipped steelhead released for 71 boats (151 anglers).

Portland to Longview Bank:

Weekend checking showed no catch for 28 bank anglers.

Portland to Longview Boats:

Weekend checking showed 43 fall chinook adults, one fall chinook jack, one adipose fin-clipped coho and 17 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two fall chinook adults and seven unclipped steelhead released for 119 boats (297 anglers).

Catches in the Portland to Longview stretch will only ramp up in this fishery. Wobblers are the key to success here as most anglers know. It's really all about tuning your wobblers to produce

the best results. Wobblers should go side to side to nearly 180 degrees in slower current and nearly straight when pulled through the water quickly. Tide speed varies over the course of the outgoing tide so constant tuning will produce the best results.

Don't expect the same type of results in the Bonneville area however. Action will likely be fair but by the time these fish reach the faster flows of the dam, they have passage on their minds primarily. This fishery will ramp up closer to the end of September.

Note the steelhead action in the above creel checks. In the Bonneville area in particular, action remains good but could further taper as water temperatures continue to climb and passage numbers continue to wane.

The Guide's Forecast – With the Buoy 10 fishery fast coming to a close, anglers will want to take advantage of what little time remains for the fishery. Patterns established in recent days will likely not transfer over to the tide series we're about to come into.

Low slack will be occurring close to day break over the weekend. Although the low slack bite has been good in the recent week, with Buoy 10 closing on Sunday, anglers will be hard pressed to find good action on low slack above Tongue Point. That may actually be a productive time to fish above Tongue Point but one thing rings true for the more extreme tide series (beginning this morning) the shorter the window of opportunity has been for biting fish. The same will likely hold true this weekend.

Traditionally, the slowest part of the day is always the last three hours of outgoing tide, low slack being the exception. There may be some fair-at-best fishing around the Desdemona Light Marker prior to low slack but with the low numbers of coho coming back, don't count on much. Chinook should start to show on the Washington side from the church and downstream around low slack but on the last large tide series, the strong flood produced little catches. There weren't as many fish in the system as there will be this week however and with the water continuing to warm, fish may be more willing to hold in the estuary instead of migrating into warm soupy river water. It should be an interesting week on the lower river.

For the flood tide, do pay attention to the river stretch from Buoy 21 to the Desdemona Light Marker, in the middle of the river (24 to 22 feet) on the peak part of the flood tide. Although this "program" didn't produce excellent results on the last strong tide series (around the weekend of the 13th), the upcoming tide series isn't quite as strong as the earlier one. There are obviously more fish in the river also.

As the tide nears high slack, be sure to be above the bridge for fast action including the first part of outgoing tide as well. This is traditionally the best part of the day to fish. The Washington side, above the bridge, has also been one of the most consistent producers all week as well.

Herring will likely remain a top bait but with the warming water temperatures, hardware may become an improved tool in the upcoming days. Whatever you use to entice bites, be sure to keep them close to the bottom under most circumstances. Two things have to happen to catch fish, keep the baits spinning (the tighter the better) and keep them fishing close to the bottom. Of course there's also knowing where to be during what part of the tide as well.

Still thinking about the ocean. Well, that may not be much fun. With Chinook season closing after Sunday and coho scattered, you'd think that would be enough to keep folks from trying. Well, the final straw may be the weather forecast. How about these for wind waves?:

FRI...N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT.
W SWELL 6 FT. PATCHY FOG IN THE MORNING.

.FRI NIGHT...NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND
WAVES 4 FT...SUBSIDING TO 2 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT. NW SWELL 6 FT.

.SAT...NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES
2 FT. SW SWELL 6 FT.

.SAT NIGHT...N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES
2 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

.SUN...N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

.MON...N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

Whether you want tuna, salmon or crab, the ocean won't be a very good option for recreating this week. Stick to the river.

Upriver, anchor fishing with wobblers should only get better for anglers working the Portland to Longview stretch. With warmer temperatures coming from above, target the deeper water but watch for ship traffic as they have the right-of-way. Thirty-five to 45 feet of water will produce the best results and results should become impressive for anglers in the right travel lane. The strong morning outgoing tides should produce good results for a long part of the first half of the day.

Bonneville is unlikely to produce good results for several more weeks. Steelhead action in the area should remain good however. Anglers targeting steelhead should use small spinners in the deeper water and warmer temperatures should have both salmon and steelhead seeking cooler water deeper in the river.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – The lower Willamette is low, clear with the water temperature climbing into the low 70s. That would mean there's nothing going on of any interest to the angling community below the Falls. A very few spring Chinook and summer steelhead are being counted daily with the runs, for all our intent and purpose, upstream and into tributaries for the most part. Coho counts, on the other hand, are gradually increasing as the fall season approaches. While fewer than 100 have crossed thus far, this will be the significant run soon.

While the McKenzie flows are good for late August and water temperatures should be conducive to decent results, action has slowed with summer weather finally settling in. Trout which were planted here again this week should cooperate with anglers.

According the ODFW, over 4,300 summer steelhead and 6,200 Chinook have made it to Foster fish trap on the South Santiam as of Aug. 10th. Water conditions on the North Santiam are excellent although lower river temps are getting high afternoons with the weather so warm.

A blue-green algae alert was issued on August 23rd for Dexter Reservoir southwest of Eugene.

Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Alton Baker Canal, McKenzie River above and below Leaburg Lake and Salmon Creek are scheduled for trout stocking.

The Guide's Forecast – Fishing on the Willamette is all above the Falls now with smallmouth

results good in many places and the Middle Fork producing fair to good results for trout early and late in the day.

Caddis patterns are most productive on the McKenzie. Dries will be effective at times with nymphs reliable otherwise.

Trout are being taken above the dam on the North Santiam. Fly anglers are taking rainbow with Caddis patterns. Steelhead fishing has been fair below the dam. Action has slowed with the hot weather so try early and late in the day for best results.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Clackamas water conditions are low but stable. The extended warm weather has made it difficult to get any action here. Despite ongoing recycling of summers from the hatchery at McIver to Riverside Park, catches are low. Fishing here from a boat has become the only real option; bank anglers are mostly out of luck in these conditions.

There has been little change in the milky condition of the Sandy River as glacial runoff continues to cause low visibility although a few fish are being taken.

The Guide's Forecast – Fishing for all species has slowed on the Clackamas. It may be time to wait for cooler weather which will improve prospects as well as reduce daytime traffic by the non-angling crowds.

Upper Sandy anglers, fishing from the Salmon River upstream, are taking the occasional steelhead as well as the occasional dark spring Chinook.

North Coast Fishing Report – With so much emphasis on the Columbia River, north coast anglers have little interest in the other options that are open to them. Thankfully, there isn't much reason to ponder other options but that will soon change.

Nehalem Bay remains a surprising bright spot on the north coast with anglers still catching some Chinook in the tidewater stretch of the river from Wheeler to Nehalem (the city). Trolled herring and some spinners are working and results may even improve on the upcoming tide series.

Some anglers have been working the bar just outside of the mouth as well and catching some nice Chinook. This is a treacherous area to fish in however so only experienced boaters should take part. The rough ocean forecast coming up will make this area dangerous in the wind chop.

Although Tillamook Bay should start to see some signs of life, there isn't much effort there. That will of course change in the coming weeks as some of the nicest salmon of the season will likely show in the next two weeks.

Offshore, with coho closed and limited Chinook catches, effort remains focused on tuna when boats can get motivated for the long run. Rumors of a school of bluefin stimulated conversation on the blogs but no angler admitted to taking a large one. The tuna remain far offshore and even though we just went through a small bout of south wind, the fish remain far offshore. Anglers are reporting slow action on trolled gear so a live bait operation has surfaced at the Garibaldi Boat Basin for those capable of keeping them alive in route to the tuna grounds.

Rivers remain low and clear with steelhead the best option at first light. The Wilson and Nestucca are the best options but plan on being challenged.

Few trollers are taking advantage of a healthy stock of sea-run cutthroat trout. Most estuaries and river systems should have fish available. Regulations vary by watershed.

Crabbing is good on Netarts Bay but participants talk about the high incidence of soft-shells in the catch. That should improve by mid-September.

The Guide's Forecast – Stronger tides and a rough wind chop should make the towns of Wheeler and Nehalem strong options for Chinook anglers. The season's first coho may make a weak showing, but a showing none-the-less. Spinners should be a part of the arsenal no matter what specie you are targeting. The nearshore ocean just off of the mouth of the Nehalem, will likely not be a great place to be this week due to offshore weather forecasts.

Tillamook should receive a shot of Chinook on this tide series with the upper bay the most likely producer for those willing to battle seaweed. Spinners, plugs and herring should all be viable options.

A unique offshore opportunity will open up on September 1st. The first offshore non-select coho fishery will open briefly for sport anglers for 6 days beginning on the first. Anglers will be allowed to keep any 2 salmon in this fishery, for the first time in well over a decade. It's a pretty exciting opportunity as wild coho numbers have rebounded nicely. More on this fishery and specific regulations here:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/salmon/Regulations/docs/2011_Ocean_Sport_Season_Regulation_Summary.pdf

The Nestucca should come on in another few weeks although this tide series is not out of the question either.

Sea-run cutthroat fishing should be peaking in most north coast tidewaters.

Although a softer tide series should produce better Chinook results on the Alsea River, some fish should be moving into the estuary this week. Herring will likely produce the best results.

Central & South Coast Reports – Central coast bottom fishing was great mid-week with most offshore boats taking limits of rockfish along with a few ling. Ocean crabbing has been excellent and while sorting of softshells is still required, there's evidence that Dungeness are starting to harden up. Ocean conditions allowed for tuna trips Wednesday this week but albacore were not in a biting mood.

The non-selective coho fishery (which allows retention of both wild and hatchery fish) opens offshore from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain on September 1st and was originally scheduled Thursdays through Saturdays through September 10th or a quota of 3,000 coho. in a bulletin dated today, August 25th, the ODFW announced NMDS approval for fishing to be allowed seven days per week for this fishery with a bag limit of two coho per day.

Chinook are being taken by anchor fishers sitting on Kwikfish in tidewater on the Siletz. It's not hot but fish are being landed daily here.

Tuna fishing out of Newport has produced fair to good catches recently. Hotspots far offshore are often crowded with boats. Ocean crabbing has been good.

Boats launching out of Waldport have been fishing the lower bay this week which has been producing Chinook to anglers using flashers and anchovies. Limits of Dungeness are being taken in the bay but use caution near the jaws and stay clear on an outgoing tide.

Chinook fishing has been fair to good this week in lower Winchester Bay and at the jaws with a fish being taken daily on herring. Occasional flurries of activity have produced a number of large Chinook. Some are using flashers, some not, both techniques have been effective at times. A few have been taken this week at Reedsport as well. Crabbing has been good in the bay with decent numbers of Dungeness even coming to dock crabbers recently. Those crabbing from a boat are predictably doing better while ocean crabbing is best of all. The Crab Bounty starting September 3rd means a chance at \$1,000 for landing a tagged Dungeness from the bay. Similarly, a \$10 tickets to the local Salmon Derby to be held Labor Day weekend will net \$650 for the largest fish. The Umpqua mainstem has been slow to spotty for Chinook. Steelheading is yielding fair but steady results in the North Umpqua. Now that the South Umpqua has dropped and the water warmed, smallmouth bass fishing is in full swing. Recent catches have included a decent number of good-sized fish with two and three pounders being landed with some regularity.

Coos Bay has been good at times for Chinook at Marshfield Channel. Boat traffic is expected to pick up for the season with results improving.

Trolled herring has hooked the greatest number of fall Chinook in the lower Coquille with this fishery just getting underway.

Trollers in Rogue Bay have reported fair to good results for Fall Chinook. With the Rogue running higher than normal, Chinook are also in the lower river although when they enter in these flows, they don't slow down, Half-pounders are being caught in the lower Rogue as well. Plugs are taking a few early fall salmon around Grants Pass. The upper Rogue has remained reliable for steady summer steelhead success although effort in this stretch has been light. The river between Dodge Bridge and the old Gold Ray dam site will close to Chinook fishing on the last day of August.

Albacore have been taken 40 miles out of Brookings this week. Fishing has been fair to good contingent upon locating warm water and jumpers.

Fishing has been fair at Diamond Lake with most catches short of limits but often with a fish or two north of the two-pound range.

A blue-green algae alert was issued on August 23rd for Gerber Reservoir which lies east of Klamath Falls.

The Rogue above Lost Creek will be planted again this week.

Central and Eastern Oregon – As steelhead numbers build on the lower Deschutes, trout results are slowing in the summer heat. Nymphing will be most effective for reddsides. On the other hand, steelhead are being hooked daily by both gear and fly fishers.

Trout fishing has been productive on the Crooked River with late day efforts most productive.

A six-fish bag limit will be allowed seven days a week when the Snake River opens for Chinook fishing (concurrent with the steelhead season) on September 1st. Fishing will be allowed from the Oregon/Idaho border down to the Hells Canyon Dam until October 31st or the ODFW shuts it down. Chinook jacks may also be kept here with no bat limit.

Crane Prairie has been producing decent numbers of rainbows to fly anglers. Trout are expected to move into the channels soon.

Wickiup Reservoir remains very slow for kokanee. Many trying are getting blanked and report seeing few fish caught by anyone.

Fishing is fair to good at Green Peter but with a 25-fish limit, few are filling. Kokes vary in size here so culling of smaller fish is a good idea if they're hot bleeding.

Smallmouth bass fishing is great for smaller fish, slow for the bigger ones. The water is considerably higher than average for this time of year as are many this summer.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for August 2011

North Puget Sound

Anglers are reeling in chinook and coho in Puget Sound, where crabbing is still an option and two additional marine areas open for salmon Aug. 1. Others are also having some success at Baker Lake, which recently opened for sockeye salmon.

Anglers fishing Baker Lake can retain up to three adult **sockeye salmon** that exceed 18 inches in length from the log boom barrier at Baker Dam upstream to the mouth of the upper Baker River. All other salmon, as well as bull trout, must be released.

"The fish are biting, it's just a matter of finding them," said Brett Barkdull, fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "Most anglers have done well once they get over them, and I expect that to continue into August as more sockeye make it into the lake."

The sockeye salmon fishery at Baker Lake is open until further notice, said Barkdull, who reminds anglers to check for any [rule changes](#) at WDFW's website.

Meanwhile, freshwater anglers are gearing up for upcoming salmon openers on select rivers. Those rivers include:

- **Skagit River:** Opens Aug. 1 from the mouth of the river to the mouth of Gilligan Creek. The Skagit from the mouth of Gilligan Creek to the Dalles Bridge at Concrete opens for salmon fishing Aug. 16. Anglers fishing those sections have a three-salmon daily limit, plus one additional pink salmon. All chinook and chum must be released.
- **Snohomish River:** Opens Aug. 16 with a three-salmon daily limit, plus one additional pink salmon. Chinook and chum must be released.
- **Green River:** Opens Aug. 20 from the 1st Ave. South Bridge to Interstate 405. Anglers fishing the Green have a daily limit of six salmon; up to three adult coho and chum (combined) may be retained. Chinook must be released.

Beginning Aug. 16, **Lake Sammamish** will also be an option for freshwater salmon anglers, who will have a daily limit of four salmon, and can retain up to two **chinook**. All sockeye must be released, and fishing is closed within 100 yards of the mouth of Issaquah Creek.

On Puget Sound, anglers can fish for **salmon** in marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton). Those fishing Marine Area 7 can keep one chinook as part of

their two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. They must, however, release wild coho and chum starting Aug. 1.

Anglers fishing marine areas 9 and 10 can keep hatchery chinook – marked with a clipped adipose fin – as part of a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. Wild chinook must be released. Anglers fishing Marine Area 9 also must release chum salmon, and – effective Aug. 1 – so will those fishing Marine Area 10.

August brings other opportunities in the region to catch and keep salmon. Beginning Aug. 1, marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) open for salmon. Anglers fishing those two areas will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chinook.

Check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for details on current salmon fishing opportunities.

Prefer shellfish? The **Puget Sound crab fishery** is under way in most marine areas. The exception is the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia) of Marine Area 7, which opens for crab Aug. 15.

Under new rules adopted earlier this year by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, all marine areas of Puget Sound will be open for crabbing Thursday through Monday of each week.

Information on the rules, including how to properly record and report catch information is available on [WDFW's crab fishing webpage](#). The page includes links to a printable "Crabbing in Puget Sound" brochure and a "Puget Sound Recreational Crab Guide," both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across.

Hunting: The general hunting season for **black bear** opens Aug. 1 in most of the region. Hunters are allowed two bear during the general season, but only one bear can be taken in eastern Washington. Check the [Big Game Hunting Seasons and Rules pamphlet](#) for details.

Successful black bear hunters must submit a bear tooth to WDFW for age data collection and report their hunting activity over the phone (1-877-945-3492) or [on-line](#). Successful bear hunters who report their harvest are entered in a drawing for special hunting permits.

Hunting opportunities on tap for next month include early archery seasons for **elk**, early archery and muzzleloader seasons for **deer**, and the general hunting season for **cougar** that gets under way with a statewide archery-only season followed by a muzzleloader hunt.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Summer salmon fishing is in full swing along the coast, where anglers are hooking bright chinook and nice-size coho.

"Fishing has been good for both **chinook** and **coho** in all marine areas," said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "In the coming weeks, I expect fishing to get even better as more salmon return to our coastal waters."

Anglers fishing marine areas 1 (Ilwaco), 2 (Westport-Ocean Shores), 3 (LaPush) and 4 (Neah Bay) can keep up to one chinook as part of their two-salmon daily limit, but must release any chinook measuring less than 24 inches and hatchery coho less than 16 inches. Wild coho must be

released unharmed. Marine areas 1, 3 and 4 are open to salmon fishing seven days a week, while Marine Area 2 is open Sundays through Thursdays each week.

Salmon fishing is scheduled to continue through Sept. 18 in marine areas 2, 3 and 4, and through Sept. 30 in Marine Area 1. However, fisheries in those areas could close early if catch quotas are reached. Milward reminds anglers to check for any [rule changes](#) at WDFW's website.

Anglers are reminded that regulations in Marine Area 4, east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line, change beginning Aug. 1. Anglers fishing that area will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus one additional pink salmon. But they must release chinook, chum and wild coho.

Elsewhere in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, anglers are still having some success hooking salmon in marine areas 5 (Sekiu) and 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), as salmon fisheries in marine areas 11 (Tacoma/Vashon), the southern portion of 12 (Hood Canal) and 13 (South Puget Sound) continue to gain momentum.

Because salmon fishing rules vary depending on the marine area, anglers should check the [Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet](#) before heading out on the water.

Meanwhile, the **Puget Sound crab fishery** is under way in most marine areas. The exception is the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia) of Marine Area 7, which opens for crab Aug. 15.

Under new rules adopted earlier this year by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, all marine areas of Puget Sound will be open for crabbing Thursday through Monday of each week.

Information on the rules, including how to properly record and report catch information is available on [WDFW's crab fishing webpage](#). The page includes links to a printable "Crabbing in Puget Sound" brochure and a "Puget Sound Recreational Crab Guide," both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across.

Halibut fishing is also still an option. The late season for halibut in Marine Area 1 opens Aug. 5. The fishery there will be open three days per week (Friday through Sunday) until the quota is taken or Sept. 30, whichever occurs first. Halibut fishing in Marine Area 2 (Westport/Ocean Shores) is currently open in the northern nearshore area seven days per week until the quota is reached or Sept. 30, whichever occurs first.

In freshwater, the recreational salmon fishery on the **Skokomish River** will get under way Aug. 1 downstream of the Highway 106 Bridge and Aug. 2 upstream of the bridge to the Highway 101 Bridge under regulations similar to last year. The daily bag limit on the Skokomish will be two salmon for anglers fishing from the mouth of the river to the Highway 101 Bridge through Sept. 30. Anglers must carefully release any wild chinook salmon they catch. They also must release chum salmon through Oct. 15.

Anglers will be required to release any salmon not hooked inside the mouth, and retain the first two legal salmon they catch. In addition, single-point barbless hooks are required and a night closure and anti-snagging rule will be in effect.

The Skokomish River from the Highway 106 Bridge upstream to the Highway 101 Bridge will be closed to recreational fishing on designated Mondays and Tuesdays to avoid potential gear conflicts with treaty tribal fishers. Those closures are scheduled for Aug. 1, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, 29-30 and Sept. 6.

Recreational fishing downstream of the Highway 106 Bridge will remain open seven days a week through the fishing season. For more information, see the [fishing rule change](#) on the WDFW website.

Several other rivers are open for **salmon** fishing elsewhere in the region, including the Bogachiel, Calawah, Hoh, Nisqually, Quillayute and the Sol Duc. Beginning Aug. 1, the Puyallup River, from the City of Puyallup outfall structure across the river from the junction of Freeman Road and North Levee Road to the Carbon River, also opens for salmon fishing.

The lower section of the Puyallup, from the 11th Street Bridge to the City of Puyallup outfall structure, opens to salmon fishing Aug. 16. Anglers should be aware that the lower section of the river is closed Aug. 28, 29 and Sept. 4, 5, 6, 11, 12 and 13.

For more information on the Puyallup River regulations, as well as rules for other fisheries open in August, check the [Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet](#).

Southwest Washington

This year's **fall chinook** fishery opens Aug. 1 on the Columbia River, where a strong run of upriver brights is expected to push the total return well above the 10-year average. Of the 776,300 "falls" included in the pre-season forecast, nearly 400,000 are projected to be upriver brights – the highest number since 1987.

Those fish, together with **hatchery coho** and **summer steelhead**, should make August a very good time to fish the lower Columbia River, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"We're definitely expecting a big turnout by anglers for these fisheries," Hymer said. "The fall chinook fishery usually starts slow, then accelerates quickly through the month of August. The great thing about upriver brights is they tend to keep biting as they move upriver."

While the fall chinook season opens upriver to Priest Rapids Dam, most of the action during the first few weeks focuses on the popular **Buoy 10 fishery** in the lower 16 miles of the river. Fishery managers estimate that anglers will catch nearly 11,000 chinook salmon by Aug. 28, when the retention fishery for chinook closes in the Buoy 10 area. They also estimate anglers will catch 7,000 coho in that area by the time that fishery closes at the end of the year.

The daily limit for the Buoy 10 fishery is two salmon, two hatchery steelhead, or one of each. However, anglers may retain only one chinook salmon (minimum size, 24 inches) per day as part of their daily limit through Aug. 28. Only those steelhead and coho marked with a missing adipose fin and a healed scar may be retained. This requirement does not, however, apply to fall chinook, which may be retained whether marked or unmarked.

Additional rules for the Buoy 10 area and other waters upriver are described in WDFW's [Fishing in Washington](#) pamphlet.

Bank anglers planning to fish near the mouth of the Columbia River should be aware they will need to purchase a Discover Pass to park on State Parks property near the North Jetty. With some exceptions, the pass is now required to park a vehicle on lands managed by State Parks, WDFW and the state Department of Natural Resources. The Discover Pass was created by the Legislature earlier this year to keep recreation lands open to the public in the wake of steep budget cuts.

An annual Discover Pass costs \$35 and a one-day pass is \$11.50, when purchased online from WDFW (<https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/>), by phone, or from retail license vendors. However, holders of most annual fishing and hunting licenses are not required to purchase a pass to use

WDFW lands and water-access sites. For more information, see the Discover Pass website (<http://www.discoverpass.wa.gov/>) or call 1-866-320-9933.

By mid-to-late August, the bulk of the chinook run usually begins to move upstream while increasing numbers of coho move into the Columbia River behind them. For anglers following upriver brights upstream, Hymer recommends fishing deep, between 40 and 50 feet down. For a lure, he suggests a wobbler anchored with a heavy weight.

"Chinook go deep when water temperatures are high so that's a good place to find them," Hymer said. "At the same time, anglers should take care not to drop anchor in the shipping channel. That can lead to real trouble."

While 2011 is not expected to be a banner year for hatchery coho, those fish will help to round out anglers' daily limits at Buoy 10, Hymer said. WDFW currently expects about 270,000 coho to return this year – similar to 2010 but down significantly from the exceptionally large run of three-quarters of a million fish two years ago.

"Coho will still contribute to the fishery," Hymer said. "At Buoy 10, they usually bite best on herring and spinners, and then bait and lures later in the tributaries."

Meanwhile, plenty of **hatchery steelhead** are still available for harvest, said Hymer, noting that the smaller "A-run" fish should keep biting through mid-August. By then, the larger "B-run" steelhead – many weighing in the teens – will start arriving to pick up the slack. Together, returns of both runs are expected to total about 367,000 fish, about the same size of last year's total run.

The succession of hatchery steelhead, fall chinook and coho salmon should also provide good fishing on area tributaries for months to come, Hymer said. Like the mainstem Columbia River, most tributaries open for fall chinook Aug. 1, although fishery usually doesn't take off until September. Meanwhile, Drano Lake and the White Salmon River are good places to try for steelhead looking for cooler waters.

Like last year, anglers will be allowed to retain up to six adult hatchery coho on all tributaries to the lower Columbia River with hatchery programs. Those rivers include the Cowlitz, Deep, Elochoman, Grays (including West Fork), Kalama, Klickitat, Lewis (including North Fork), Toutle (including Green and North Fork) and Washougal.

Chinook retention is limited to marked, hatchery fish on these river systems, except on the Klickitat and Deep rivers where unmarked chinook can also be retained. Mark-selective runs will also be in effect on the Wind and White Salmon rivers, plus Drano Lake. Anglers are advised to check the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet and any [emergency rules](#) applicable to specific waters before leaving home.

Of course, salmon and steelhead aren't the only fish available for harvest in August. **Walleye** fishing can be good in the Columbia River near Camas, as well as in The Dalles and John Day Pools. **Bass** fishing is also heating up from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam.

For **trout**, the high wilderness lakes around Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens offer unparalleled fishing experiences for those willing to brave the mosquitoes. Riffe Lake in Lewis County is still giving up some nice landlocked coho, and Goose Lake north of Carson has received 6,200 brown trout, 6,000 cutthroat and 500 rainbow since the end of June. Hatchery sea-run cutthroats should also provide some opportunity on the lower Cowlitz beginning in late August.

Anglers planning to fish **Northwest Lake** in Klickitat County should be aware that all boat access will be closed as of Aug. 15, when PacifiCorp will start drawing water from the lake in

preparation for decommissioning Condit Dam. Boat ramps at the campground and off Powerhouse Road will also be closed, effective July 29. Bank fishing will still be allowed, but PacifiCorp representatives caution anglers to be careful of mucky shoreline conditions. Crews are scheduled to breach the 123-foot dam in late October, opening up miles of salmon and steelhead habitat.

Eastern Washington

The month of August usually means a slow-down in fishing throughout the region, but this summer's cooler and wetter conditions are keeping the action decent on both trout and warmwater fish species.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) district fish biologist Chris Donley said the most successful trout fishing is still during very early morning or late evening hours. But mid-day anglers under cloud cover are also reeling in nice catches.

Some of the best **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** lakes close to Spokane are Amber, Badger, Clear, Fish, Williams, and West Medical lakes in Spokane County, and Fishtrap Lake in Lincoln County. The lower Spokane River has nice rainbows and browns, but river anglers need to be aware of catch limits, gear restrictions, and other rules listed in the fishing pamphlet.

Mixed species waters are also a good bet. Along with some trout, **yellow perch**, **largemouth** and **smallmouth bass**, and **crappie** can usually be caught at Coffeepot Lake in Lincoln County, Downs and Chapman lakes in southwest Spokane County, Newman and Liberty lakes in eastern Spokane County, Eloika Lake in north Spokane County, and the Spokane River reservoir of Long Lake and Deer and Waitts lakes in Stevens County.

In the north end of the region, rainbow trout, **kokanee** and **walleye** fishing continues to be good at Lake Roosevelt, the Columbia River reservoir off Grand Coulee Dam. Kokanee fishing is also productive at Stevens County's Loon Lake during night time hours.

Some of the high elevation lakes on U.S. Forest Service property in the northeast district that are stocked with rainbow and cutthroat trout may be good destinations for camping and fishing weekends. In Ferry County, try Davis, Ellen, Empire, Swan and Trout lakes. In Stevens County, try Gillette, Heritage, Sherry, Summit, and Thomas lakes. In Pend Oreille County, try Carl's, Cook's, Frater, Halfmoon, Leo, Mystic, Nile, No-Name, Petit, South and North Skookums, and Yokum lakes. Find specific locations and more about these mostly small fishing lakes in [WDFW's 2011 Fishing Prospects](#).

Catfish and **sturgeon** fishing is usually productive in the Snake River system in the southeast part of the region in August. Catfish are often landed in the backwaters and sloughs throughout the mainstem Snake, as well as in or near the mouths of tributaries like the Tucannon River.

Sturgeon fishers are reminded of the minimum 43-inch and maximum 54-inch tail fork length and daily catch limit of one sturgeon. The Snake and its tributaries upstream of Lower Granite Dam are catch-and-release only for sturgeon. The section of the Snake just east of the Tri-Cities, from the mouth to Ice Harbor Dam, is also catch-and-release for sturgeon starting Aug. 1.

On the W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area along the Tucannon River in Columbia County, anglers are still catching lots of hatchery-stocked rainbow trout in several of the area's man-made lakes. WDFW area manager Kari Dingman reports that cooler temperatures this summer have helped keep those fisheries productive longer than normal.

"Anglers who camp on the Wooten are reminded there are no campfires allowed at this time," Dingman said. "Even though it's still relatively green for this time of year here, especially on the

south end of the wildlife area, it's drying out fast and the grass is quite tall and thick. We recently had several campfires left unattended when the campers packed up and left."

Wherever anglers go, they are reminded to be extra careful with anything that could start wildfires. Outing plans should include a check on campfire restrictions on state or federal public lands.

The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a burn ban in effect through Sept. 30 on all forest lands under Department of Natural Resources jurisdiction. That means all outdoor burning is banned with the exception of recreational fires in approved fire pits within designated state, county, municipal or other campgrounds. The use of gas and propane barbeques and self contained stoves are allowed. Visit DNR's website for [fire information by county](#).

Northcentral Washington

Anglers fishing for **chinook** and **sockeye salmon** are starting to pick up fish on the mainstem Columbia River from Priest Rapids Dam upstream to below Chief Joseph Dam. Sockeye running three to four pounds and chinook up to 20 pounds are being taken in that area, reports Bob Jateff, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"Chinook are best caught on trolled plugs or cut herring," he said. "Sockeye are caught primarily with prawn spinners."

Jateff reminds salmon anglers of the night closure and anti-snagging rule in effect in three areas – from Rocky Reach Dam to the most upriver point of Turtle Rock, the Okanogan River from the mouth upstream to Highway 97 Bridge in Oroville, and the Similkameen River from the mouth to 400 feet below Enloe Dam.

Beginning Aug. 1, anglers can retain adipose-fin-clipped adult and jack summer **chinook salmon** in the lower mainstem Wenatchee River, where summer chinook returns are predicted to exceed spawning escapement needs. The daily limit is two adipose-fin-clipped summer chinook (adult or jack). All other fish must be released and selective gear rules and night closure are in effect.

The section of the Wenatchee River opening for chinook fishing Aug. 1 extends from the mouth (confluence with the Columbia River) to a point 400 feet below Dryden Dam is open through Oct. 15. From Sept. 1 through Oct. 15, the fishery will expand to include waters stretching from the confluence of Peshastin Creek to a line perpendicular to the river at a marker on the opposite shore, (approximately 1,000 feet above Dryden Dam) to the Icicle Creek road bridge on the west end of Leavenworth. All chinook with a floy (anchor) tag attached and/or caudal punch must be released.

On the Methow River, an increasing number of trout anglers are starting to show up as water levels start to recede after a prolonged period of high flows, Jateff said. "At this time of the year, weighted nymphs will be the choice for fly anglers, but large dry flies will also produce fish," he said, adding that anglers should still be extremely cautious when wading or floating the river.

Resident **rainbow, cutthroat, and whitefish** are the main species available in the Methow. All bull trout must be released and must not be removed from the water. Selective gear rules are in effect in this catch-and-release only. Jateff advises checking the current sportfishing pamphlet carefully as there certain sections on the Methow that are closed to all fishing.

WDFW habitat biologist Ken Bevis of Winthrop confirms that fly fishing can be highly productive as rivers and streams in Okanogan County drop into shape. "Try skittering a bushy dry fly across tail-outs of deep pools in the crystal clear streams," he said. "The action can be fast and furious,

even if the fish are only eight inches or so. But be sure you know the difference between trout, so you can follow the regulations.”

As water temperatures warm, some lowland lakes will provide angling opportunities for spiny ray fishermen, Jateff said. He notes that Patterson Lake, near Winthrop, has **yellow perch** as well as **smallmouth bass**. Spectacle Lake, southwest of Tonasket, has yellow perch in the 10 inch range as well as a sizeable rainbow trout population.

Leader Lake, near the town of Okanogan, has **bluegill** in good numbers, but yellow perch were illegally introduced there and are now threatening that fishery, Jateff said. “We are urging anglers to remove as many perch as possible from Leader Lake – regardless of size – to maintain the current quality bluegill fishery there.”

Southcentral Washington

Walleye fishing has been very good on Lake Umatilla this summer – and will likely heat up even more as water temperatures rise through August. Meanwhile, the summer heat is also clearing a way through the snow to trout fishing opportunities on dozens of alpine lakes.

As of late July, anglers were averaging more than three walleye per rod on Lake Umatilla, the 67-mile reservoir below McNary Dam on the Columbia River, according to Paul Hoffarth, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) stationed in the Tri-Cities.

“Fishing has been terrific at all the usual spots – Umatilla, County Line, Irrigon, Boardman and Paterson,” Hoffarth said. “Walleye really put on the feed bag when the water heats up, so we can expect to see some more great fishing in the weeks ahead.”

There is no minimum size limit for walleye at Lake Umatilla, although there is a daily limit of 10 fish, only five of which can measure over 18 inches and only one of which can be over 24 inches. There is also no minimum size for **smallmouth bass**, which are also showing up in the catch. There is a five-fish daily limit for smallmouth bass, only three of which can exceed 15 inches.

Still fishing for **sturgeon**? Be aware that sturgeon fisheries switch to catch-and-release rules Aug. 1 at Lake Wallula (the McNary Pool of the Columbia River) and the Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam.

On the other hand, anglers can catch and keep up to two **hatchery steelhead** – identified by a clipped adipose fin – from the mouth of the Columbia River to the Highway 395 bridge at Kennewick/Pasco. Fishery managers are projecting a strong run of 390,900 summer-run steelhead this year, many bound for the Snake River and mid-to-upper Columbia River.

The Snake River will open for hatchery steelhead fishing Sept. 1, and WDFW expects to open sections of the Columbia River above the Highway 395 bridge later this summer or early fall. Look for announcements at the [WDFW website](#).

Anglers can also look forward to good fishing for **fall chinook salmon** in the weeks ahead. A strong run of 760,000 “falls” are expected to return to the Columbia this year, including 175,000 upriver brights that are expected to cross McNary Dam -- many headed for the Hanford Reach.

“The fishery officially kicks off Aug.1 up to Priest Rapids Dam, but fishing doesn’t really catch fire in our area until September,” Hoffarth said. “With so many fish expected this year, fishing should be good once it gets going.”

The daily limit on the Columbia River is six chinook, of which two may be adults. Anglers are not required to release chinook with intact adipose fins, but must stop fishing after they retain two adult chinook. See the current [Fishing in Washington](#) rules pamphlet for additional information.

On the Yakima River, salmon fishing closes July 31 at the end of the day, but will reopen Sept. 1 for fall chinook in the lower river. Eric Anderson, a WDFW fish biologist in Yakima, said the spring chinook fishery in the upper section between Union Gap and Roza Dam finished strong, despite high flows in May and June.

"Catch rates for springers really picked up in July as water levels dropped and more fish moved into the area," Anderson said. "Now anglers are looking ahead to the fishery for fall chinook."

Water levels are also dropping in streams flowing into the upper Yakima and Naches rivers, improving fishing conditions for wild **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout**, Anderson said. Anglers should be sure to check the regulations for those streams, and release all salmon, bull trout, and steelhead, he said.

An increasing number of high lakes are also becoming accessible to trout fishing around White Pass, Chinook Pass and Snoqualmie Pass as the snow continues to melt under the summer sun. WDFW stocks some small, hike-in lakes with rainbow or cutthroat trout, and some also have naturally reproducing **eastern brook trout** populations. Specific information on trout stocking in area lakes is posted on the [WDFW website](#).

"Good fishing is now available for planted trout at Clear and Dog lakes in the White Pass area, and for **kokanee** averaging nine inches at Rimrock Lake off Highway 12," Anderson said. "Kokanee is also available at Kachess and Keechelus lakes off Highway 90, and fishing is good for both kokanee and cutthroat at Bumping Lake off Highway 410."

Anderson notes that all of those waters are closed to the taking of bull trout, "so anglers need to release any bull trout they intercept," he said. Anderson adds that hikers and anglers should check trail conditions before heading out, because some are still covered in snow. Information about current trail conditions is available from the U.S. Forest Service office in Naches and the Forest Ranger office in Cle Elum.

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

Write to the TGF staff:

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Portlanders cited for illegal taking of crab in Newport:

<http://news.lincolncounty.com/?p=32165>

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GOOD LUCK!