

The Guide's Forecast - volume 14 issue number 24

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 8th – June 14th, 2012**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Spring chinook counts have topped 20,000 at Willamette Falls while over 12,000 summer steelhead have crossed. Interest in spring chinook has waned in the lower Willamette but persistent anglers are still catching their share at Oregon City. As the shad run continues, anglers are stocking freezers with these big bait fish that help them to catch halibut, sturgeon and crab. Expect the shad to be plentiful through the end of the month.

Both spring chinook and summer steelhead are available in the Clackamas in good numbers but the springers are playing hard to get. Anglers focusing their attention on steelhead in the riffles and tailouts are having better days than the salmon fishermen.

The Sandy River has been keeping anglers busy this season with surprising consistency. The lower river continues to kick out chinook while steelhead are present in all the usual hang-outs from Dabney park upriver. Expect chinook fishing to shift to the middle and upper river soon.

While the water level of the McKenzie had been dropping over the past week, it spiked on June 4th and has been rising since that date. It will fish well for trout, steelhead and springers as the flow moderates.

Although spring chinook numbers remain low, summer steelhead counts have been ramping up at Foster Dam. South Santiam levels are high but forecast to be dropping into the middle of June.

No license, tag or permit is required to fish, crab or clam anywhere in Oregon during Free Fishing Weekend June 9th and 10th.

Northwest – Tillamook area spring chinook fishing remains challenging. Anglers had high expectations based on the previous year's success and although quality fish are available, success rates aren't as good as most were expecting. The 9th annual Bounty on the Bay event, held on Saturday, yielded just 7 fish compared to 18 last year. The largest fish, a 21-pounder, was landed by Tim Leatherman, founder of Leatherman Tool group. Ironically, he was awarded a Leatherman Tool which he promptly donated back to event volunteer Richard Knutsen.

Calm seas on Sunday and Monday produced fair chinook catches just outside of the Tillamook Bay entrance. Bottomfishers had a harder time catching sea bass at Three Arch Rocks over the weekend but lingcod responded well at the tide change.

Area rivers, particularly the Trask River, do have fish available although area streams remain low and clear, compromising success rates. The Wilson and Nestucca systems also have fish available and a predicted rain freshet over the weekend could bolster catch rates. The Hatchery Hole remains open through the month of June but new regulations are now in effect that deter snaggers from illegal activities. Check the ODF&W web site for more detailed information.

There were reports of fair fishing at the mouth of Nestucca Bay but fish are likely to move upriver on the current tide series.

The ocean remains most productive for quality crabbing but Lee Richey and fellow angler Charles reported taking 35 keeper crab for 2 days effort near Crab Harbor in Tillamook Bay. Bay clam digging has been excellent and razor clam digging along Clatsop area beaches was productive

early this week also.

Sturgeon fishing is picking up on the lower Columbia although anglers should still expect to work for your catches. Sand shrimp remains a top bait for anglers fishing above Tongue Point and will likely remain that way until water levels come down. Anchovies will likely begin producing in the near future.

Southwest – The last all-depth halibut opener yielded limits for some while others blanked. While the status of the quota won't be available until June 8th, it's very likely the fishery will open again on June 14-16.

Bottom fishing has been excellent out of central Oregon ports and ocean crabbing has been good.

Limits of large pink-fin surf perch are being taken from south coast beaches, particularly near river and bay mouths.

Crabbing is fair in Winchester Bay while sturgeon fishing has been slow. Spring chinook fishing has been fair to good on the mainstem Umpqua near Elkton. Rising earlier this week, the water level will be dropping in the coming weekend.

Gold Beach charters are limiting out on lingcod and rockfish. With salmon catches improving, combo trips are becoming a regular event. The lower Rogue has been slow to fair over the past weekend but picked up this week for chinook. Wild fish may be kept here as of June 1st. Water conditions are decent but catches are slow on the middle river while the upper Rogue has been reliable for springers.

Boats launching out of Brookings have seen the chinook bite picking up daily. Some of the salmon are short of the 24-inch minimum length but are getting larger with plenty of feed in the ocean. Anchovies trolled at 30- to 120-foot depths are getting bit. Sea-run cutthroat fishing is good in tidewater on the Chetco.

Eastern – Dries and nymphs were taking redsides on the Deschutes over the past weekend as the bite was on although the salmonfly hatch is about done. An emergency closure for spring chinook anglers takes place after today's effort. Chinook numbers back to the Deschutes are much lower than anticipated.

With the water temperature in the mid-60s, the John Day River has been fishing very well for smallmouth bass.

Green Peter has been producing limits of kokanee on various lure combinations and at depths from 30 to 60 feet.

Bait has been effective for kokanee at Wallowa Lake although fishing has been slow.

SW Washington – The Cowlitz is the best spring chinook option for the district and catches of steelhead are ramping up as well.

The Kalama River remains closed to the harvest of spring chinook but remains open to summer steelhead fishing.

Catches of salmon and steelhead on the Lewis remains fair with peak season upon us. Backbounced eggs is working best for salmon while backrolled plugs is working well for

steelhead.

Bank anglers have the best access to fish on the Wind River and Little White Salmon. Bag limits are generous now but check regulations for more important details.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Despite the good tides, action for steelhead was slow for beach plunkers along the lower Columbia River. Although still weeks away from peak season, give the early season catches of steelhead, it's a bit surprising that there was a downturn in this weekend's activity, especially given the minus tide series we're currently on. Spring chinook catches closely mirrored steelhead success and counts at Bonneville would indicate a higher presence of chinook in the systems and catches further upriver (Multnomah Channel) indicate the larger, summer run fish have entered the system.

Standard, hot-colored spin-n-glos are the rule here and that's what most people are using to find success. Many anglers are tipping their lures with coon-shrimp. Here's the weeks creel report from ODF&W:

Gorge Bank:

Weekend checking showed 1,278 shad kept for 186 shad anglers.

Gorge Boats:

No report.

Troutdale Boats:

Weekly checking showed six shad kept for two boats (three anglers).

Portland to Longview Bank:

Weekend checking showed eight adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped steelhead, five spring chinook adults, and one spring chinook jack released for 55 salmonid anglers; and five shad kept for five shad anglers.

Portland to Longview Boats:

Weekend checking showed one spring chinook released for eight salmonid boats (18 anglers); and 112 shad kept for 19 shad boats (46 anglers).

Estuary Bank (Wauna Power Lines to Clatsop Spit):

No report.

Estuary Boats (Wauna Power Lines to Buoy 10):

No report.

As you can see, shad are gaining in popularity and for good reason, they're slayin' `em. **Pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)** is reporting the brass/chartreuse tip is working very well for shad with double digit shad days very common. Bonneville is the place to be for shad but has oddly produced poorly for oversize sturgeon. Dan reports if you get 2 oversize opportunities a day, you're doing quite good. He has been targeting keeper sturgeon a bit downriver and doing quite well, reporting 15 keepers in his last 4 trips. Sand shrimp is producing the best results for sturgeon in the reach he is fishing. Here is the ODF&W check for the upper Columbia:

Gorge Bank (below Marker 82):

No report.

Gorge Boats (below Marker 82):

Weekly checking showed three sublegal sturgeon released for one boat (three anglers).

Troutdale Bank:

No report.

Troutdale Boats:

Weekly checking showed 20 sublegal sturgeon released for three boats (five anglers).

Portland to Longview Bank:

Weekend checking showed three sublegal sturgeon released for four bank anglers.

Portland to Longview Boats:

Weekend checking showed 25 legal white sturgeon kept, plus one legal, two oversize and 161 sublegal sturgeon released for 79 boats (193 anglers).

Sturgeon fishing in the estuary is fair at best although action over the weekend was pretty good. Unfortunately, the catch rates don't reflect what's been going on most recently however. Here is the weekend creel check from ODF&W:

Estuary Bank (Wauna Powerlines to Clatsop Spit):

Weekend checking showed no catch for two bank anglers.

Estuary Boats (Wauna Powerlines to Buoy 10):

Weekend checking showed 71 legal white sturgeon kept, plus one green, two oversize and 262 sublegal sturgeon released for 113 boats (349 anglers); and one legal white sturgeon kept, plus three sublegal sturgeon released for 25 charter boat anglers.

Most recently, action has slowed and effort is light. One guide boat reported just 3 sturgeon for an all-day effort on Wednesday with 2 of their 3 fish of keeper size. Those types of ratios aren't uncommon for this time of year and neither is the inconsistent fishing. It will be good for a few days and drop flat on its face for the next several. Regardless, action remains best upriver of Tongue Point with many of the more successful boats fishing up around Woody Island. Sand shrimp remains a top bait although a few guides are using anchovies with limited success.

Although there has been a rare flurry of activity in the river below the Astoria/Megler Bridge, in particular, at the stink hole, as you can see, charter boat success has been limited indicating that there are not a long of fish in the lowest reaches. That's not likely to change in the very near future.

The tides have been too extreme to expect good results for bottomfish on the south jetty out of Astoria. That should change next week as there are willing participants.

The Guide's Forecast – Starting with salmon, June 9th begins some extended opportunity for chinook in the ocean north of Cape Falcon. In years past, this may or may not be a productive fishery. The season is open to any salmon except coho but chinook must have an adipose fin-clip. Here is the actual wording on the season:

Leadbetter Point, WA to Cape Falcon, OR:**Selective Chinook Season:**

Open June 9 through earlier of June 22 or 8,000 marked Chinook quota. **Bag Limit:** All salmon except coho. Two salmon per day, all retained Chinook must have a healed adipose fin clip.

These fish have historically responded pretty well to trolled spoons but bait will obviously work and some have expressed Apex lures as quite effective on these ocean fish. It's too early to tell if this is going to be productive for the sport fleet but it's nice to have another option however the ocean forecast doesn't look all that fun for folks but I have seen worse:

FRI

SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 7 FT. SHOWERS AND A SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS.

FRI NIGHT

SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT...BECOMING W 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 9 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND A SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS.

SAT

W WIND TO 10 KT. GUSTS TO 15 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 1 FT...BUILDING TO 3 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. W SWELL 8 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SAT NIGHT

W WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 7 FT.

SUN

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

MON

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

As these fish are north turning, north seems to be the way to go but when action has been good for these fish before, they were targeted in the same traditional areas we target for coho. Read: CR Buoy and Buoy 2. It's a big pond out there, you'll have to depend on some luck to get it done.

As for in-river chinook, you'll have to wait until June 16th to try for those authentic Columbia River summer run chinook. Summer steelhead will be a poor option for 2 reasons: 1) tides will wane and keep higher concentrations of fish off of the beach and 2) it's still early for peak season fishing; it really starts on the last good tide series of this month.

Now, we can focus on sturgeon. Weak tides don't do much for estuary sturgeon unless they are in the deep water in pursuit of baitfish. That's not the case right now as most sturgeon are in the flats, feeding on shrimp and clams. Shrimp is king right now and with the soft tides and still high river flows, the outgoing tide will produce the best results, when there is actual flow. The head of Woody Island is a fairly consistent producer (that's deep water) this time of year but don't plan on big numbers of keepers hitting the deck this early in the season. I don't think I would bother with the river below Astoria right now.

Despite big seas, offshore fishing, or even nearshore bottomfishing may once again be a bright idea shortly after the weekend. For those willing to pursue an early morning start, the south jetty should produce some results on the soft tide series next week. Early morning high tides, particularly at slack, should create some good opportunities for lingcod and sea-bass fishers. Heavy jigs will still be necessary on the sunken jetty but jigs should produce good results along the jetty.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Although salmon continue to cross Willamette falls by the hundreds daily, interest has waned and anglers are directing their attention to the shad run. Persistent spring Chinook anglers are still catching their share at Oregon City, but finding an anchor spot can be difficult with the hordes of shad fishermen. Down river, the majority of salmon hot spots are void of pressure but the Multnomah channel continues to put out a few chinook for herring and spinner trollers. A portion of the fish caught here are late spring and summer Chinook making their way up the Columbia that end up with a detour up the channel before they find their way back out to the big river. Some of these fish are hefty in size and will push the 30 pound mark. As the shad run continues, anglers are stocking freezers with these big bait fish that help them to catch halibut, sturgeon and crab. Expect the shad to be plentiful through the end of the month."

Fish counts at Willamette Falls are falling behind, as they commonly do at this time of year. Video surveillance is used to get an accurate, 24-hour picture of fish passage with counters looking at the recording to determine actual numbers. When passage picks up, the data lags behind. As of the latest figures available on June 2nd, over 21,000 spring Chinook and 12,500 summer steelhead had been counted. The majority of these are bound for the Santiam and McKenzie systems.

Caddis. PMDs and Green Drakes are hatching on the McKenzie. Results this week have been good for fly casters who are aiming for bank-side brushy areas to tempt wild trout with floating offerings. Drifting shrimp or fishing cured eggs with a Spin 'N' Glo has been produced decent spring Chinook catches earlier this week.

Santiam levels rose this week with precipitation. The North Santiam came up considerably higher than predicted. Expect high but dropping water over the coming weekend.

Among the many waters stocked for Free Fishing Weekend are Alton Baker Canal, Big Cliff Reservoir, Blue River above Reservoir, Blue River Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Carmen Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Fall Creek above Fall Creek Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake, Roaring River Park Pond, Salmon Creek, North Fork Santiam River above Detroit Lake, Sunnyside Park Pond, Walter Wirth Lake, Middle Fork Willamette River above Hills Creek Reservoir, Benson Lake, Estacada Lake, Harriet Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Huddelston Pond, North Fork Reservoir, Sheridan Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Timothy Meadows and the South Fork Yamhill River.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Expect shad fishing to be the main point of interest on the Willamette at Oregon City for the next 3 to 4 weeks. Shad can be finicky so having a good selection of lures in varying colors can make the difference between a decent day and a fabulous day. Tiny Dick Nite spoons, shad darts and curly tail grubs are the standards. Boat anglers will use Jet Divers and cannon ball sinkers while bank fishermen prefer pyramid sinkers to hold their offerings down in the swift current. Springers are still present and will continue to bend rods for anglers anchor fishing with wobblers and spinners in the O.C. stretch. The lower Willamette might be a tough sell for springer fishing but the lower Multnomah channel is a strong option as decent numbers are taken daily from Scappoose, Santosh and Rocky Point. Rainbow spinners and plug cut herring being the lure de jour. Most years springers will be available in fishable numbers till the 4th of July"

Chinook fishing has been predictably slow this week in the lower Willamette. The head of Multnomah Channel and Oregon City amidst the shad fishers has produced the occasional fish this week. All reports indicated with water temps in the mid to high 50s that herring behind a

flasher has done the trick. Shad fishing is seasonably productive with a chartreuse grub on a jig head the top lure. Some days will be better than others. Smallmouth bass fishing is heating up in the lower Willamette. Try soft plastics near hard bottom breaks to hook up with these hard fighting spiny rays.

Don't let mixed weather forecasts discourage efforts on the McKenzie. Hatches are ongoing, rain or shine and dry fly fishing for large reddsides is as good as it gets. High water will be dropping through the weekend and the freshet this week is sure to bring in additional fresh, bright summer steelhead. Bobber and Jig or side drifting will produce hookups. Spring Chinook catches are expected to pick up in the next couple of weeks as Willamette Falls counts build. It's a trip of 10 days to two weeks from the Falls to the McKenzie and Middle Fork. Bobber fishing will be productive when more Chinook arrive.

Spring Chinook counts picked up at Foster Dam this week, pushing the cumulative total to nearly 900. Add a couple of thousand summer steelhead to that plus those recycled from the hatchery and prospects are looking good, but only when water level and flows allow for safe and productive fishing.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Both spring Chinook and summer steelhead are available in the Clackamas in good numbers but the springers are playing hard to get. Anglers focusing their attention on steelhead in the riffles and tailouts are having better days than the salmon fishermen. Springers are present in good numbers but "getting them to take a bait has been a challenge" reported a veteran Clackamas river guide. A change in weather, flow or water temperature is sometimes all it takes to change that. Steelhead anglers continue to spend their days in the upper stretches from Rivermill to Carver while fishermen intent on catching a springer are plying the lower river from Carver down to the mouth. Some may speculate that the springer run is a bust this season but it's one month to soon for that prediction. Some years, the best fishing happens around July 4th.

"The Sandy River has been keeping anglers busy this season with surprising consistency. The lower river continues to kick out chinook while steelhead are present in all the usual hang-outs from Dabney Park upriver. Expect Chinook fishing to shift to the middle and upper river soon, so look to the Oxbow and Dodge park areas for springer action in the coming weeks. Trollers continue to take a few Chinook at the mouth and drift boats working diver and bait set-ups in the deeper holes and tail out upstream."

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "The Clack is worth the effort but fish both the steelhead water and the salmon water if you want some action. The springers have been tougher to come by but are here for the taking if you can coax them. The steelhead have been easy pickings, if you offer them a bait in the water they prefer to hold in. The flats and broad tail outs hold steelies while the heads of runs and deeper holes will hold the Chinook. Whole sand shrimp is a favorite bait for both species but roe, prawn tails and various lures will all take salmon and steelhead alike. Expect the Carver to Riverside segment to produce decent numbers of spring Chinook but the river upstream will be a better option for steelhead. This week, look to Rivermill, Dog Creek and Feldheimers to produce good catches of summers but anglers wanting salmon will work Carver Park down to High Rocks and everything in between.

"A good bet for salmon and steelhead this week, the Sandy River shouldn't disappoint. With the rain and showers earlier in the week the water level should remain stable and keeping good color. Trollers rigged with small spinners and prawn/spinner combos will continue to take

Chinook at the mouth while Columbia River "dip-in's" will also supplement the catch here. Upstream, drift boaters running diver/ bait combinations and small plugs will have the best luck from Oxbow Park to Dabney Park. Bank fishermen would be wise to hike in at Oxbow Park, Cedar Creek and Revenue Bridge. Run bobber and jig or drift fish with a drift bobber and bait combo, but casting weighted spinners will take a few fish as well. Summer steelhead will be available to fishermen throughout the summer and into early fall and expect springer fishing to hold up through the middle of July."

While the Clackamas will be high over the coming weekend, it's forecast to be on the drop and should produce summer steelhead. Try bobber and jigs in darker colors on the upper river. Summers on the Clack are aggressive and will readily take flies on the swing as well. Try a sink-tip line with a soft wet fly and cover as much water as possible.

North Coast Fishing Report – Salmon fishers are still awaiting that second "mother-lode" of fish to enter Tillamook Bay but if they were coming, we would have expected to see them by now. Action has remained somewhat scarce on this recent tide series but that doesn't mean we won't see that last good batch of fish on the upcoming soft tide series.

Most serious anglers have been concentrating on the upper estuary on this strong tide series. With little exception, it's been a tough grind to find a pod of good biters. There was a flurry of brief activity in the upper bay on Tuesday but it didn't last long as is typically the case.

I fished plugs mainly on the strong tide series, taking just an occasional springer in the corral through the weekend. One hampering scenario is the incredible amount of moss coming out of the Tillamook River the last few years with the fouling vegetation originating well up the Tillamook in some farmers field as the result of a diverted water duct. It has made the upper bay from the Oyster House to the opening of the picket fence nearly unfishable. Plugs and spinners get fouled nearly immediately and don't even think about fishing a herring. Most of this weed gets sucked out to the south channel on the outgoing tide, allowing anglers downstream to take advantage of relatively clean water to pursue springers. Hopefully, this issue will get remedied in the near future.

Saturday's Bounty on the Bay produced just 7 fish with almost all of them coming from the upper estuary. Of course that's where most of the effort was with the big tides but compared to last year's meaty 18 fish showing, it indicates the difference between this year and last. Most recently, action was slow on Wednesday in the upper bay with only a few fish falling to anglers.

On lower Tillamook Bay, trollers did find some success outside and on the south side of the south jetty for spring chinook. There were brief periods of success on Sunday and Monday with some springers tilting the scales at over 20 pounds. One boat produced 3 springers during the Bounty on the Bay event but they were all of wild origin.

Area rivers remain low and clear but that could change in the near future. I floated the Wilson River and had the entire river all to myself; and I found out why. Although I still had expectations for some kind of action, I fell way short of finding a biter, either salmon or steelhead in the low velocity flows of the Wilson. I didn't even see a fish roll on the stretch and felt as if the river was a bit barren of life. The Trask hasn't been much better recently but there are higher concentrations of fish closer to the hatchery. The Hatchery Hole fish-a-thon is well underway if you want to see some real antics. Thankfully, the anti-snagging regulations are in effect.

Offshore, bottomfishing has slowed at Three Arch Rocks off of Oceanside. One boat reported a surge in lingcod success as high tide approached however. It seems the rockfish are becoming hard to find.

Few anglers are pursuing salmon out of Garibaldi but commercial trollers are taking fair catches of fish fairly close in. Far from consistent, if the return to the Klamath and Sacramento Basins is accurate, there should be ample numbers of chinook to pursue off our coast over the next few months. Fish where the commercial fleet is, it could pan out.

Big Creek Reservoir-1 & 2, Cape Meares Lake, Cleawox Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Hebo Lake, Olalla Creek Reservoir, Thissel Pond, Town Lake will be stocked with trout.

The Guide's Forecast – With a waning tide series and the end of peak season near, Tillamook Bay will slowly fade from what most would call an already challenging year for spring chinook catches. There were some limited times of fair to good fishing recently but overall, this fishery fell short of previous year's production. There are fish present however and those fish will remain present in the system for a few more weeks.

Anglers can still take advantage of upper bay low tides through the weekend but if the rain shows as expected, fish may shoot up the system leaving bay anglers behind. Spinners plugs and herring will all work up there but you'll still have to be aware that the moss may be a limiting factor in your effectiveness to fish. The last half of outgoing tide will likely continue to be the best time to target springers but don't overlook high slack either. Some of those high slack periods will happen near daybreak and they could produce some fair catches in the upper bay.

As we get later into next week, the soft morning high will be followed by a weak low tide, making for some strong possibilities along the jetty at the jaws. It's a herring show here and target the last half of the outgoing tide.

If driftboaters get their wish, the predicted rain freshet could open up some nice opportunities for float boaters on the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. All of these systems should have springers (and steelhead on the Wilson and Nestucca) following the rain freshet. Here is how the hydrograph read on early Thursday morning:



It's fairly uncommon to get a June rain freshet on the north coast, at least one that rises the river enough to float a boat downstream with a reasonable chance of catching fish. This may be exactly what the river fishery needed. A fast and large rise will put them off the bite but this 1/2 foot rise won't send them racing upriver but they should move and still be susceptible to harvest for the savvy angler.

When the rivers are on the rise and fish are moving, it's almost more effective to strategically anchor with plugs and/or eggs out the front than to try and hunt down stationary fish; mostly because they likely won't remain stationary. The Trask will remain the top option but the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers should be fair targets as well. As long as the rivers don't rise much over a 1/2 foot or a foot, the lower reaches will remain the best places to intercept these fish. This presents a rare opportunity for the weekend angler.

As far as offshore opportunity goes, here is the forecast through the early part of next week:

FRI

SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 7 FT. SHOWERS AND A SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS.

FRI NIGHT

SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT...BECOMING W 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 9 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS AND A SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS.

SAT

W WIND TO 10 KT. GUSTS TO 15 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 1 FT...BUILDING TO 3 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. W SWELL 8 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SAT NIGHT

W WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 7 FT.

SUN

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

MON

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

There will be no all-depth halibut opener this Thursday – Saturday but there will be the following week. This leaves bottomfish as the best offshore option for white fleshed fish seekers. Lingcod remains fair in the nearshore but sea bass have become more challenging. This likely won't change anytime in the near future.

Ocean crabbing will likely remain fair to good and with the weakening tide series, inshore (Tillamook Bay in particular) may begin producing more consistent catches this week. Bay clamming has been excellent but the tide series is fading.

Central & South Coast Reports – Offshore bottom fishing out of central Oregon ports has been productive for rockfish but lingcod catches stalled mid-week along with Dungeness takes. Fishers blamed strong tides or ripping currents but no one knows for sure. That's just fishing.

Nearshore halibut have been off the bite this week following good catches in deep water during the all-depth opener over the past weekend.

As mentioned in the Fisheries Forecast, the halibut quotas were updated today. For the week ending June 3rd, 56% of the nearshore quota remained with 48% of spring all-depth 'butts yet to be taken after the last opener. The next scheduled June 14-16 Spring All-Depth opportunity will be a go.

Ocean salmon fishing has been non-productive for the most part at all but southern ports.

For those looking to stock up and bait, herring are in at Yaquina Bay. The numbers aren't great but there are enough to make jigging worthwhile.

Offshore forecasts are marginal for Saturday, June 9th but look very friendly for this coming Sunday. Tsunami debris is appearing offshore and boaters are advised to be aware of possible ocean going navigational hazards. A section of Japanese dock 17 feet wide and 70 feet long washed ashore in Agate Beach on Wednesday this week. It weighed 16 tons and there are three additional sections out there somewhere. See **Random Links**, below, for story and photos.

The pressure has picked up for pinkfin surf perch on Winchester Bay and catches have been good. These fish come in every year around this time and will respond to various baits and lures. Local fishers in the know have been taking decent numbers of striped bass from upper Winchester Bay and the lower Umpqua. Sturgeon fishing remains slow, however. Rain storms in

the southwest pushed the Umpqua mainstem up nearly two feet at Elkton overnight on June 5th. It has been dropping since that date and while it's forecast to continue to drop through the coming weekend, expect higher-than-normal flows. Spring Chinook are moving into the North Umpqua where catches have been steadily improving. South Umpqua anglers have started targeting smallmouth but this fishery will remain fairly slow until the water warms.

Chinook catches have been good out of Charleston with nearly everyone trying taking a fish. Coos Bay crabbing has been good and catches of rockfish and greenling are worthwhile from the jetties. Clamming has been excellent during minus tides with the next series starting June 16th.

Spring Chinook fishing has been slow to spotty in the lower Rogue. While there are summer steelhead in the river, few are targeting them with springers available and summers have become an incidental catch by salmon fishers. The water level is up from rainfall this week but is predicted to be dropping over the coming week. Either wild or hatchery Chinook can be kept in the lower and middle Rogue as of June 1st. Catches are fair in the Grants Pass stretch. Above the old Gold Ray Dam site, only fin-clipped springers may be retained but fishing has remained good whenever flows from Lost Creek Reservoir are moderate.

Brookings has been a productive port for ocean Chinook with catches averaging one fish per angler according to the ODFW.

Popular Diamond Lake will be crowded over Free Fishing Weekend. There's a free kid's event taking place on Saturday from 6 AM to 2:30 PM. Sign up at the Marina. The bugs have been getting thick but trout seem to still be on the bite.

Clearwater Forebay #2, Cooper Creek Reservoir, Galesville Reservoir, Hemlock Lake, Herbert's Pond, Lake of the Woods, Lemolo Reservoir, Loon Lake, Marie Lake, Plat 1 Reservoir, Red Top Lake, Upper and Middle Empire Lake, Millicoma Pond, Powers Pond, North and South Tenmile Lake, Libby Pond, Howard Prairie Reservoir, Hyatt, Lost Creek Reservoir, Medco Pond, Lake Selmac, Expo Pond and the Rogue above Lost Creek are being planted with trout,

Central and Eastern Oregon – The lower Deschutes has been fishing very well for reddsides. Although hatches of Salmonflies and Golden Stones are winding down around Maupin, trout are still keyed on them. While there are still a fair number of big bugs around Warm Springs, Caddis will soon be the insect of interest on the Deschutes. Originally scheduled through July 31st, Chinook will close at the end of day today, June 7th due to poor returns this year. Historically, 65% of the run has returned by now but only 150 of a projected 1859 wild Chinook have been counted. Hatchery returns are off by about two-thirds.

Kokanee catches are fair to good at Odell for trollers using downriggers. Effective terminal tackle has included hoochies and Sling Blades with best results early in the day.

Good catches of kokanee are being taken by trollers using hoochies at Green Peter. Most fish are coming from around 60 feet of water and while these fish run 10 inches or a little better, the limit here is 25 per day.

Paulina Lake has been giving up good catches of kokanee as well as a few large brown trout.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for June 2012

North Puget Sound

June offers several fishing opportunities, including the opening of river fishing, a chance to fish for free, and special jumbo trout plants in more than a half-dozen regional lakes.

Hatchery chinook salmon fishing runs through the month on a portion of the Skagit River, from the Highway 530 bridge at Rockport to the Marblemount Bridge at Cascade River Road. The hatchery chinook fishery also is open on the Cascade River, from the mouth to the Rockport-Cascade Road Bridge. In both locations, anglers have a daily limit of four fish, including up to two adults.

Sockeye salmon fishing opens June 16 on the Skagit River, from Highway 536 (Memorial Highway Bridge) at Mount Vernon to the mouth of Gilligan Creek. Anglers have a daily limit of three sockeye, with a minimum size of 12 inches.

Most of the region's rivers and streams open for both game fish and trout fishing June 2 (the first Saturday of the month). The action starts a day earlier (June 1) on some waters, including the Skagit River, portions of the Skykomish and Cascade rivers and Fishtrap Creek in Whatcom County. In most rivers and streams there is a two-fish daily limit and a minimum size of eight inches under statewide rules. However, some of the region's rivers and streams require that trout be at least 14 inches long to keep. For details on all fishing opportunities, check the Fishing in Washington pamphlet.

The Reiter Ponds area of the Skykomish River opens June 1 for steelhead fishing, earlier than in previous years. Reiter Ponds anglers are reminded that fishing is not allowed from any floating device from 1,000 feet downstream to 1,500 feet upstream of Reiter Ponds outlet from June 1 through July 31. The rule is aimed at avoiding conflicts with bank anglers.

In Puget Sound, lingcod fishing remains open through June 15, with a one-fish daily limit and a 26- to 36-inch size limit.

Meanwhile, the Tulalip Bay "bubble" salmon fishery continues Fridays through noon Mondays each week. The exception is June 9, when the area is closed for the Tulalip Tribes salmon ceremony. Salmon anglers fishing the bubble this year will be allowed to use two fishing poles from June 10 through Sept. 23, with the purchase of a WDFW two-pole endorsement. For details, check the WDFW fishing rule change. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit.

For those wanting to give fishing a try, Free Fishing Weekend is coming up June 9-10. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any state waters open to fishing. Also during Free Fishing Weekend, no Discover Pass or vehicle-access pass will be required to park at any water-access site 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. Before heading out, anglers should check the Fishing in Washington pamphlet for all regulations.

June offers a special opportunity to try for large "triploid" trout, when WDFW fish hatchery crews stock 5,000 additional triploid rainbow trout in selected lakes just before Father's Day weekend (June 16-17). Specially stocked waters in the North Puget Sound region — and the number of triploid trout they'll receive — include: Green Lake (870), Lake Geneva (450), Bitter Lake (100),

and Echo Lake (100) in King County; Blackmans Lake (300) and Gissburg Ponds, also known as Twin Lakes, (350) in Snohomish County; and Whistle Lake (300) in Skagit County.

"We encourage families to get Dad out fishing, especially if he hasn't been for awhile," said WDFW Inland Fish Program Manager Chris Donley. Lakes that will be stocked with these large trout have good shore and boat access. More details are available at the Father's Day fishing page on WDFW's website.

Washington fishing licenses make a great Father's Day gift. They can be purchased online, toll-free by phone at 1-(866) 246-9453 or at any of 600 license dealers statewide.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Summer fisheries get under way in June, when numerous rivers and streams open for trout and the salmon season starts up off the coast.

The popular ocean salmon season opens with a hatchery chinook selective fishery June 9 in marine areas 1 and 2 and June 16 in marine areas 3 and 4. The selective fishery will run through June 22 in Marine Area 1, June 23 in Marine Area 2 and June 30 in marine areas 3 and 4, or until a coastwide quota of 8,000 hatchery chinook are retained.

In all marine areas, the fishery will be open seven days a week with a daily limit of two salmon. Anglers will be required to release wild chinook and all coho during the selective fishery.

"We've seen chinook up and down the coast during the troll fishery," said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "That's a good sign for the sport fishery, which I expect to be very good once again this year."

Recreational ocean salmon fisheries for both chinook and hatchery coho will continue June 23 in Marine Area 1, June 24 in Marine Area 2, and July 1 in marine areas 3 and 4. Anglers fishing marine areas 1 and 2 will be allowed to retain one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit. Anglers fishing marine areas 3 and 4 will have a daily limit of two salmon. Fishing will be open seven days a week, except in Marine Area 2 where fishing will be open Sundays through Thursdays.

Before heading out, anglers should check the Fishing in Washington pamphlet for all regulations.

In Puget Sound, Marine Area 13 is open for salmon, while salmon fishing gets under way June 1 in Marine Area 11. Anglers fishing those areas have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook.

Halibut fishing in most of Puget Sound is coming to a close. The fishery is set to close June 2 in most areas. The exception is Marine Area 5 (Sekiu), where anglers can fish for halibut three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday through June 23.

On the coast, Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) is open three days a week (Thursday through Saturday). However, Marine Area 2 (Westport/Ocean Shores) is already closed except in the northern nearshore area, said Heather Reed, a WDFW fish biologist.

Farther north, La Push and Neah Bay (marine areas 3 and 4) will open for two more days of fishing May 31 and June 2. "Once we tally the catch during those two days of fishing, we'll see if we can provide another opening," she said.

In all marine areas open to fishing, there is a one-fish daily catch limit and no minimum size restriction. Anglers may possess a maximum of two fish in any form, and must record their catch on a WDFW catch record card. For more information on the halibut fishery, check WDFW's website.

Anglers have through June 15 to fish for lingcod in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. However, the lingcod season on the coast remains open through mid-October. Meanwhile, freshwater anglers might want to head out to the Chehalis River, where a spring chinook fishery is open through June 30. Anglers fishing the Chehalis, from the mouth to the Highway 6 Bridge in the town of Adna, have a daily limit of one salmon.

Anglers should be aware that a portion of the fishing regulations for the Chehalis River in the new Fishing in Washington pamphlet are incorrect. Anglers fishing the Chehalis, from the mouth to high bridge on Weyerhaeuser 1000 line approximately 400 yards downstream from Roger Creek (south of Pe Ell), are not required to follow selective gear rules.

A couple of other rivers are also open for salmon fishing, including the Hoh, Quillayute and Sol Duc.

Elsewhere, trout fishing will open at several rivers and streams beginning June 2. 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. Check the Fishing in Washington pamphlet for details.

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 9-10. 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 access pass or Discover Pass 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.

The following weekend offers anglers another unique opportunity. WDFW fish hatchery crews will be stocking 5,000 triploid rainbow trout in 14 lakes just before Father's Day weekend, June 16-17. "We encourage families to get dad out fishing, especially if he hasn't been for awhile," said Chris Donley, WDFW Inland Fish Program manager. "Giving dad a fishing license as a gift and taking him out to catch one of these big fish is a great way to spend the weekend."

In addition to the 14 lakes that will be stocked with triploids, hundreds of other lakes have been stocked in Washington with millions of trout over the past year, said Donley.

Lakes stocked in the region and the number of triploids that will be stocked, include:

- Kitsap County: Island Lake, 300.
- Grays Harbor County: Vance Creek (Elma) Ponds, 100.
- Pierce County: American Lake, 1,200.

More details are available at WDFW's website.

Southwest Washington

Anglers may still get a few days in early June to catch spring chinook salmon, but many are shifting their attention to the next big opener on the lower Columbia River. That begins June 16, when fishing opens for summer chinook and fishing for hatchery steelhead and sockeye expands upriver from the Interstate 5 Bridge.

Pre-season forecasts anticipate a strong run of 91,200 summer chinook and an even stronger run of 462,000 sockeye this year, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"This year's fishery offers anglers a chance to catch chrome bright trophy-sized fish weighing up to 40 pounds," Hymer said. "There's a good reason why these fish are known as 'June hogs,' and this season will give anglers a good chance to catch some."

The Columbia River will open to fishing for salmon and steelhead from the Megler Astoria Bridge upstream to Priest Rapids Dam. The daily limit is six fish, including two adult salmon, or two adult hatchery steelhead, or one of each. Only sockeye salmon, adipose-clipped chinook and adipose-clipped steelhead may be retained. All sockeye count as part of the adult daily limit.

Anglers can also catch shad, which have been open without size or catch limits since mid-May. Bank anglers have been catching shad in good numbers just below Bonneville Dam and at the public dock in Washougal. Boat anglers can do well in shallower water from Longview upstream.

Above Bonneville Dam, the season for summer chinook and steelhead is scheduled to run through July 31. Below Bonneville, the initial season will run through July 1, but anglers may get additional time on the water if the fish come through as expected, said Cindy LeFleur, WDFW Columbia River policy coordinator.

"Last year's summer chinook run came in at 12 percent below forecast," she said. "We need to make sure we're on target before we start adding fishing days in the lower river."

The same is true for spring chinook, LeFleur said. "We'd like to add a few days to the start of the summer chinook season, but we'll have to see what the run forecast for spring chinook does between now and then," she said.

Below Bonneville, anglers can still catch hatchery spring chinook and hatchery steelhead in several tributaries, including the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers. The Cowlitz River is the best bet for spring chinook, and Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) opens for hatchery spring chinook June 1. Nearly 500 fish were planted in the lake as of May 26.

Summer run steelhead can also be found on the lower sections of the South Fork Toutle, Green, Washougal, and East Fork Lewis rivers, where bait is prohibited until the general season starts June 2. Though closed for spring chinook, the lower Kalama remains open for hatchery steelhead.

Anglers fishing any of those waters should check the Fishing in Washington pamphlet and WDFW's emergency rule website for additional regulations. As noted in the pamphlet, anglers with a two-pole endorsement can use two poles to fish for spring chinook salmon and other species on sections of the Cowlitz, Lewis and Wind rivers and at Drano Lake.

The daily limit for salmonids has been increased to six fish at Drano and on the Wind River upstream from the railroad bridge. Up to four may be adults, of which no more than two may be hatchery steelhead. Any chinook – whether adipose-fin clipped or not – may now be retained on

the Wind upstream from Shipherd Falls. The daily limit on the Wind River below the railroad bridge remains two hatchery origin chinook, two hatchery steelhead, or one of each.

Starting June 1, the Klickitat River from the mouth to the Fisher Hill Bridge will be open seven days per week with a six-salmon daily limit, of which no more than two may be adults. Wild chinook must be released. Anglers may also retain two hatchery steelhead there and – starting June 1 – on the upper Klickitat River. Hatchery chinook jacks may also be kept from 400 feet above fishway #5 to the boundary markers below the salmon hatchery.

Rather catch sturgeon? Below the Wauna powerlines, the retention fishery is open daily through July 8 (or when the quota is met) with a one-fish daily limit, fork-length requirement of 41 to 54 inches. Above the powerlines, sturgeon retention is allowed Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with a fork-length requirement of 38 to 54 inches. Fishing is prohibited in spawning sanctuaries below Bonneville, John Day, McNary and Priest Rapids dams.

In the Bonneville Pool, fishery managers have approved four additional days of retention fishing: June 15-16 and June 22-23. Based on public input, WDFW carried forward 1,060 fish from the fishery that ended Feb. 18 in those waters to provide a summer season, said Brad James, a fish biologist for WDFW. Anglers will be allowed to retain one white sturgeon a day between 38 inches and 54 inches fork length on the mainstem Columbia and its tributaries between Bonneville Dam and The Dalles Dam on those days.

When fishing for sturgeon, all anglers are limited to one single-point barbless hook

Anglers looking to catch some trout should check the region's trout stocking schedule for good spots to go in June. Canyon Creek, Klineline Pond, Rowland Lake and Spearfish Lake are some of the waters scheduled to receive fish this month.

Starting June 2, anglers also have the option of catching trout in a number of rivers and streams throughout the region. Many of those waters – ranging from Skate Creek to the Little White Salmon River – are being stocked with fish from area hatcheries. Information about fish plants is available on WDFW's website.

For walleye and bass, fishery managers suggest casting a line between Bonneville and McNary dams. For tiger muskie, try Mayfield or Merwin reservoirs.

Those who don't have a fishing license but would like to try fishing will get their chance June 9-10 during Free Fishing Weekend. During those two days, no license will be required to fish any waters open to fishing in Washington state. No vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required to park at WDFW wildlife areas or water-access sites those days.

During Free Fishing Weekend, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will host a public fishing event at Spearfish Park near Dallesport June 9 from 9 a.m. until noon. Co-sponsors include WDFW and the Klickitat Chapter of Trout Unlimited. For more information, call (541) 506-7819.

Eastern Washington

June is the start of river and stream fishing in many regional waters, from Asotin Creek and the Walla Walla River in the southeast, to the upper section of the Spokane River and LeClerc Creek in the northeast.

Anglers should check the WDFW Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet for special regulations that apply to rivers that open in June, as well as those rivers that opened earlier.

Many of the region's best trout lakes that opened in late April continue to produce good catches through June, including Spokane County's Amber, Clear, Fish, Williams and West Medical lakes and Lincoln County's Fishtrap Lake.

As snowpack melts further north in the region, additional waters are becoming productive. In Stevens County, the Little Pend Oreille chain of lakes—Gillette, Heritage, Sherry and Thomas—are providing catches, as are Pend Oreille County's Skookum and Yocum lakes and many others at higher elevation. Northeast lakes that produced well on the late April opener continue to see action, including Cedar, Loon, Mudgett, Rocky, Starvation and Waitts lakes in Stevens County, and Curlew and Ellen lakes in Ferry County.

Waters open year-round are good bets through June not only for trout, but also for warmwater fish species that begin to bite as air and water temperatures rise. Lake Roosevelt, the Columbia River reservoir off Grand Coulee Dam that extends along the Stevens, Ferry and Lincoln county lines, has big rainbow trout, kokanee, walleye and smallmouth bass. Sprague Lake, on the Lincoln-Adams county line, is producing catches of rainbow trout, largemouth bass and catfish. Rock Lake in Whitman County has rainbow and brown trout, largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie.

In the south end of the region, the Tucannon River impoundments—Big Four, Blue, Curl, Deer, Rainbow, Spring and Watson lakes—continue to be stocked with hatchery rainbow trout and are still providing lots of catches, reports WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area Manager Kari Dingman.

June 9-10 is Free Fishing Weekend statewide when no fishing licenses are required. Discover Pass or vehicle-access pass also are not required June 9 and 10 at WDFW water-access sites.

"Free Fishing Weekend is the perfect time to take a non-fishing friend or family member along on your fishing trip," said WDFW Eastern Regional Fish Program Manager John Whalen. "In this region we're also offering an opportunity for un-licensed adults to learn how to fish."

The fishing class will be held on Thursday evening, June 7, and Saturday morning, June 9. Registrations may be made through June 6 at WDFW's Spokane Valley regional office or by calling (509) 892-1001. Class space is limited.

On Father's Day weekend, June 16-17, Williams Lake in Spokane County will receive 365 extra triploid rainbow trout to encourage families to take dad fishing. Williams is one of 14 lakes across the state to receive extra jumbo trout; it was chosen for its excellent public and private shore and boat access. Learn more about the Father's Day fishing opportunity on the WDFW website.

Northcentral Washington

A new **trout** fishery in the region opens June 1 on the Columbia River from 400 feet below Chief Joseph Dam to the Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster, (Okanogan County).

"This new fishery allows anglers to fish for and keep **triploid rainbow trout** that wash down river from Rufus Woods Lake," said WDFW Okanogan District Fish Biologist Bob Jateff. "It could be quite a fishery if the numbers of fish in there are as high as we think they are."

The new fishery, which is listed in the Special Rules section of the WDFW [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet, is scheduled to run through August 15, with a daily catch limit of 10 fish, minimum size 12 inches.

June is also the start of river and stream fishing in many waterways throughout the region. Check the [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet carefully to make sure of all special regulations on rivers

and streams, like catch-and-release, selective gear restrictions, minimum size, and daily catch limits.

Jateff also reports that Okanogan County lakes have been producing well for both boat and shore anglers. Trout-producing waters such as Spectacle, Wannacut, Pearrygin, and Conconully lakes, plus Conconully Reservoir, all are providing good fishing for **rainbow trout**. Selective-gear waters, such as Big Twin, Blue (Sinlahekin) and Big Green lakes are predominately rainbow fisheries. Anglers should consult the current sportfishing rules, Jateff notes, since some of the selective-gear lakes have varying bag limit restrictions.

Kokanee anglers should try Palmer, Bonaparte, and Patterson lakes in Okanogan County for fish in the 10 to 13-inch range.

"Spiny ray fisheries will pick up as water temperatures warm," Jateff said. "Some of the best bets would be Patterson and Palmer lakes for **yellow perch** and Leader Lake for **bluegills** and **crappie**."

Columbia Basin year-round waters, such as Banks Lake, Moses Lake and Potholes Reservoir, provide good fishing through June for **smallmouth** and **largemouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, crappie** and other species.

June 9-10 is [Free Fishing Weekend](#) statewide, when no fishing licenses are required. WDFW Northcentral Regional Fish Program Manager Jeff Korth says Free Fishing Weekend is a great time to take an unlicensed friend or family member along on a fishing trip. Discover Pass or vehicle-access pass are not required on June 9 and 10.

Southcentral Washington

Anglers have a variety of options available in June, starting with **hatchery** spring chinook salmon on sections of the Yakima River, then summer chinook on the Columbia River. Meanwhile, hatchery crews are still stocking trout in area lakes, and many rivers also open for trout fishing Saturday, June 2.

Smallmouth bass and walleye are also warming up to anglers' lures, and sturgeon fishing is still an option

"This is the time of year when you see boats on trailers heading in every direction," said Eric Anderson, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) based in Yakima. "June is a good time to catch fish in this part of the state."

Two sections of the Yakima River are currently open to **spring chinook** fishing. Although the river was swamped by high water after the fishery opened, Anderson said the flows have dropped and the river is in good condition.

"Anglers are definitely catching springers now," he said.

In the lower river, the fishery will likely remain open through June 30 from the Interstate 182 Bridge in Richland to the Grant Avenue Bridge in Prosser, Anderson said. The upper river, from the Interstate 82 Bridge at Union Gap to the railroad bridge below Roza Dam, is expected to remain open through July 31.

Anglers may keep two adipose-fin-clipped hatchery chinook per day. All wild salmon, identifiable by an intact adipose fin, must be released unharmed and must not be removed from the water prior to release. The same is true for all steelhead, as noted in the fishing rule on [WDFW's website](#).

Anglers are required to use single-point, barbless hooks with a hook gap from point to shank of 3/4 inch or less when fishing for salmon. Use of bait is allowed, and anglers have the option of purchasing a two-pole fishing endorsement.

Fishery managers are predicting a return of approximately 5,000 adult hatchery chinook to the Yakima River this year.

John Easterbrooks, regional WDFW fish manager, noted that the department is seeking anglers' cooperation in two aspects of the fishery – a hooking-mortality study and an effort to ensure continued access across Roza Dam to the popular fishing area downstream from the railroad bridge boundary. Both are described in a [news release](#) on the WDFW website.

To participate in the fishery, anglers must possess a Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE), which supports maintaining and expanding fisheries in the Columbia River Basin.

That is also the case with the **summer chinook** fishery, which gets under way June 16 upriver to Priest Rapids Dam. The daily limit is six hatchery fish, of which up to two may be adult hatchery chinook.

Fishery managers are anticipating a strong return of 91,200 summer chinook and a record return of sockeye to the Columbia River this summer.

"Anglers often have a tough time landing summer chinook," said Paul Hoffarth, a WDFW fish biologist based in the Tri-Cities. "But with the high water and cooler temperatures this spring, anglers might be able to boat a few before the fish reach the Upper Columbia."

Meanwhile, anglers have been reeling in **channel catfish** from the lower reaches of the Yakima and Walla Walla rivers. Fishing has been good for "channel cats," which typically run 2-8 pounds but can easily weigh twice that amount, Hoffarth said.

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

Steelhead fishing will remain closed until fall in the Columbia River upstream of the Highway 395 Bridge and in the Snake River, but Hoffarth recommends several other fisheries now under way on those river systems:

- **White sturgeon:** Fishing remains open in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids/Ice Harbor Dams) through July 31 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.

Rather catch some **trout**? WDFW will continue to stock lakes and ponds through June in the region, including Cooper, Easton, FioRito and Quartz in Kittitas County; and Bear, Clear, Dog and Indian Flat in Yakima County.

Starting June 2, a number of rivers will also open for fishing around the region. Anderson reminds anglers that most streams have reduced catch and size limits for **trout**, and there are catch-and-release zones on the Yakima River above Roza Dam, in sections of the Naches River and in Rattlesnake Creek where all trout must be released unharmed. Also, in most large mainstem rivers and streams in the Yakima basin, anglers must use single-point barbless hooks and no bait.

Always check the fishing rules pamphlet for details on a specific river or stream. The *Fishing in Washington Sportfishing* Rules guide is available free at stores that sell fishing licenses. It also can be downloaded from [WDFW's website](#).

Those who don't have a fishing license but would like to try fishing will get their chance June 9-10 during **Free Fishing Weekend**. During those two days, no license will be required to fish any waters open to fishing in Washington state. No vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required to park at WDFW wildlife areas or water-access sites those days.

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

TGF Subscriber Jim F. writes, "I love your report. I am only asking for a clarification from this week's mailing (Updated for June 1st - June 7th, 2012)

In the "Southwest" section it says: "Charters out of Gold Beach took limits of halibut on two of three days during the all-depth opener last week."

I know that the guys @ 5-star charters (of Gold Beach) take clients up to Port Orford and fish the all depth days. Is that what the above comment meant? There are no "all depth days" out of Gold Beach. I assume they didn't launch from Gold Beach and head all the way up to "above Humbug Mountain."

Thanks for your help,"

TGF co-editor Michael Teague replied, Good catch, Jim! You are correct that 5-Start hauls boats to Port Orford for all-depth. I musta had a mental lapse. Thanks for the correction and for subscribing to TGF.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Free Fishing Weekend Activities:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/education/angling/free_fishing.asp

West Coast prepares for Japanese tsunami debris:

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-06-07/tsunami-debris-japan/55443002/1>

Good Luck!