

The Guide's Forecast - volume 14 issue number 39

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **September 21st – September 27th, 2012**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- The Columbia's water temperature has cooled a few degrees since last week and one would expect the bite to improve, although most anglers reported "just average" fishing over the weekend. Although not at its peak yet, Bonneville Dam has been kicking out decent numbers of chinook although most recently Bonneville anglers have been complaining about a slow bite. The mouth of the Cowlitz has been fishing well and with a fraction of the usual crowd since regulations are now more complicated. Check the local area you wish to fish before venturing out. Just downstream from the mouth of the Sandy, anglers are also doing well for kings with wobblers and Kwikfish.

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "No reports from the lower Willamette and little to no angling pressure. Expect smallmouth bass fishing to improve when we have a spell of cooler weather."

Hatches are abundant on the McKenzie and the river is fishing very well. Caddis patterns and attractors are effective now.

Despite good numbers of summer steelhead and stable river conditions in the North Santiam, the bite has been off so fishing is slow.

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "No reports of silvers on the Clackamas yet but stay posted. Look for something to happen with the first freshet of rain."

"There are rumors of jumping silvers up at Cedar Creek, but expect the best opportunity casting Blue Fox spinners at the mouth of the Sandy."

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host a Family Fishing event Saturday, Sept. 22 at St. Louis Ponds from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Northwest – Although the lower Columbia is still producing some hatchery and plenty of wild coho, pressure is dropping off and soon, catches will too. Crabbing will only improve through November.

Tillamook is heating up with anglers able to take advantage of good ocean conditions, taking fair numbers of chinook but little sign of coho showing. Trolled herring is working well in the ocean and for most of the popular bay spots but upper bay trollers are using spinners with some success. There is a rare chinook or coho being taken in the west channel.

Tidewater of the Trask and Tillamook Rivers do have chinook available to bobber tossers but as always, are particular as to the time of the tide they will bite. The lower reach of the Wilson River likely won't harbor catchable numbers until early October.

The Nehalem is producing fair numbers of chinook and an occasional coho. This fishery should improve for both species but coho numbers should increase dramatically in the next few weeks. Like most systems, hatchery numbers are likely to be down this year but a limited wild coho fishery is underway here.

Southwest- A trip of greater than 50 miles out of central Oregon ports has been required to find

tuna over the past week. The reward was good numbers of albacore 25 to 35 pounds each.

The wild coho season opened September 15th on the Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos and Coquille systems. These fisheries are scheduled to continue through November 30th or fulfillment of quotas which vary from one system to the next as does the bag limit. Check the regulations.

Anglers on the Umpqua will be targeting coho. The South Umpqua closed to all fishing on September 15th.

Starting October 1, Tenmile, Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes open for wild coho. This is primarily a troll fishery with spinners and plugs effective. Coho grow rapidly and will be pushing the 20-pound mark at that time of year.

Chinook fishing has been good at Coos Bay for trollers using plug-cut herring with the area around McCullough Bridge particularly productive. Crabbing has also been good in the bay.

With the Rogue River dropping and water temperature up, fall chinook fishing is expected to improve. Coho are also in the mix here but must be fin-clipped to keep. Half-pounder fishing is good around Agness. The middle Rogue is fishing quite well for chinook with wrapped Kwikfish effective. Fly-rodders swinging streamers on the upper Rogue are enjoying a good summer steelhead fishery.

In addition to fine numbers of rockfish and large lingcod, Pacific halibut are being caught out of Brookings. Local angler Geoff Ashby took one estimated at 90 pounds over the past week. The Chetco Bubble chinook fishery opens October 1-14 and is expected to produce plenty of big fish. Completion of roadwork 13 miles up the north bank of the Chetco River has been delayed. Travelers will be subject to a detour for two additional weeks.

Chinook fishing on the Elk and Sixes will get underway when fall rains arrive.

Two tagged trout worth \$100 apiece remain available at Diamond Lake but only if caught before the 1st of October. Air temps have dipped below freezing at night but afternoons have been warm. Fishing is fair.

Eastern – Results for steelhead on the Deschutes has been variable but with fish spread through Maupin, there's plenty of productive water. Counts at Sherars Falls have been decent most days with about 75% of the steelhead of hatchery origin.

The Crooked River is fishing well for anglers using nymphs or dries, depending on hatches.

The challenging Metolius has been fishing particularly well lately with lots of bugs hatching. Green Drake and Golden stone patterns have been particularly effective at times.

SW Washington- Fall chinook success is improving with the Cowlitz, Lewis and Kalama all options. The Lewis is likely to offer the best opportunity for the next several weeks with a large forecast likely to come to fruition into November. Summer steelhead and soon coho are also options on these systems. Sea-run cutthroat trout numbers will be improving for another few weeks.

The Wind and Drano Lake fisheries are ramping up but most anglers are focusing their efforts just outside of these tributaries.

The White Salmon is beginning to produce fair numbers of chinook and the Klickitat River has seen some chinook per rod counts over the last week.

Columbia River Fishing Report – With the lower Columbia on the tail end of a mostly wild coho run, effort continues to decrease even though anglers still stand a chance at a hatchery coho limit on the lower river. The few guides still working the area are reporting fair success with mostly wild coho in the catch. None-the-less, decent hatchery numbers remain available and boats with 2 or 3 anglers are still catching close to their limit of fin-clipped coho.

It's become a bait show the last few days with fresh-jigged anchovies the most popular bait with coho. This is no surprise and is often required this time of year as bait shops typically don't carry fresh bait with the demand so low. Spinners are still producing an occasional fish but bait is clearly tops.

Offshore, the all-salmon fishery is also seeing limited effort although crabbing can make for a nice combination trip. The lower Columbia also has ample numbers of crab but strong incoming tides this week may put them down until the brief window near slack tide.

Upriver, **pro guide Chris Vertopoulos** reports, "The Columbia's water temperature has cooled a few degrees since last week and one would expect the bite to improve, although most anglers reported "just average" fishing over the weekend. Although not at its peak yet, Bonneville Dam has been kicking out decent numbers of chinook although most recently Bonneville anglers have been complaining about a slow bite. The mouth of the Cowlitz has been fishing well and with a fraction of the usual crowd since regulations are now more complicated. Check the local area you wish to fish before venturing out. Just downstream from the mouth of the Sandy, anglers are also doing well for kings with wobblers and Kwikfish."

ODF&W checks indicate that the gorge remains the place to be for chinook fishing although the latest reports from Monday and Tuesday indicate that is a lull in success as temperatures remain warm. Here is the ODF&W check from the week with over a fish per boat average for gorge anglers:

Gorge Bank:

Weekend checking showed 26 adult fall chinook, one adult chinook released and eight jack chinook kept for 98 bank anglers.

Gorge Boats:

Weekend checking showed 99 adult fall chinook, 34 jack chinook and one adipose fin-clipped coho kept, plus three unclipped summer steelhead released for 72 boats (219 anglers).

Troutdale Boats:

Weekend checking showed 37 adult fall chinook, one adipose fin-clipped steelhead, two fin-clipped steelhead, and 15 jack chinook kept, plus one adult chinook released for 204 boats (455 anglers).

Warrior Rock to Portland Bank:

Weekend checking showed no catch for 3 bank anglers.

Warrior Rock to Portland Boats:

Weekend checking showed 11 adult fall chinook and four jack chinook kept for 51 boats (119 anglers).

Wauna to Warrior Rock Bank:

Weekend checking showed one unclipped adult fall chinook released for 6 anglers.

Wauna to Warrior Rock Boats:

Weekend checking showed 27 fin-clipped adult fall chinook, two fin-clipped coho, one adipose fin-clipped steelhead and 10 chinook jacks kept, plus 64 unclipped adult Chinook, six unclipped coho, and one unclipped steelhead released for 118 boats (254 anglers).

Estuary above Tongue Point Boats:

Weekend checking showed one adult fall Chinook kept, one jack Chinook, and one fin-clipped coho kept, plus one unclipped coho released for 7 boats (25 anglers).

Estuary Bank (Jones Beach to Clatsop Spit):

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult coho kept and two unclipped adult coho released for eight bank anglers.

Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Buoy 10):

Weekend checking showed 23 coho kept, plus six Chinook and 27 unclipped coho released for 39 boats (101 anglers).

Overall, success for the anchor fishery isn't what most had hoped, especially given the magnitude of the run forecast this year. Although it will likely improve when water temperatures drop, anglers in this fishery are used to having much better success this time of year. Passage at Bonneville remains pretty impressive although a slight downturn in numbers has been witnessed recently. The jack count is very impressive however, hopefully, an accurate indicator for next year. Jacks are making up almost a third of the count at Bonneville. This fishery should get better with early October likely to pick up more significantly for Bonneville anglers.

The Guide's Forecast – For the few still participating in the lower Columbia River coho fishery, success is likely to wane in the coming weeks. Weak morning high tides should keep effort and success limited to the lower river below the Astoria/Megler Bridge although these weak tides have a history of producing fair to good catches of coho above Tongue Point as well. It would help however if there was a sizable run this year, which there is not. Spinners can often work best when fish get that high in the system. Keep in mind that chinook retention season is closed in this stretch as well as below Tongue Point to Buoy 10.

The ocean is calm but offshore salmon anglers are better off working the river. Tuna anglers however is a different story. Live-bait (anchovies) is taking large numbers of albacore 40 to 50 miles offshore. It's exactly that time of year.

Crabbing in the lower Columbia will be productive for those that hit the morning high tide. It could make for a good combination trip if you're willing to put in the effort.

Upriver, **pro guide Chris Vertopoulos** offers up this information: "As surges of salmon make their way up the Columbia, anglers are picking them off from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville dam. This section of river allows for a two fish limit, clipped or non-clipped for Chinook; coho and steelhead have to be clipped. From the downstream deadline up to Camas the wobbler is king, but from the mouth of the Sandy River upstream, enter the Kwikfish/flatfish lure. Use size K-14, 15 and 16 in the Kwikfish and U-20, T-50 and 55 in the Flatfish. The new Hognose size is a winner too. Plunked from the boat is the most common tactic, but up near Bonneville in the faster water, anglers are also using jumbo jet diver's and back trolling "wigglers" with great success. These lures work best when a small hunk of meat is strapped to the belly with stretchy

thread or a Bob's Bait Wrap. Sardine and tuna belly are the favorites but anglers have had good results using herring, anchovy, squid and even crawfish tail. Squid is a great choice and resourceful salmon fishers should take note. Squid is a large part of a salmon and steelhead's diet out in the salt and they have a strong, peculiar smell and taste that the wily salmon is no stranger to. Most fish markets sell 2.5 or 5 lb. boxes of California squid or calamari. If you are willing to spend an hour or so putting up some excellent bait, squid is great option that is easy to handle and has a super shelf life. Thaw the squid, then with scissors, cut the head (mantle) into pre-cut bait size strips. Throw them in a bowl with a generous amount of Kosher salt and a tablespoon of Pro Cure Bad Azz dye in chartreuse, green or pink. Mix it up and pack them in small tupperware type containers (yogurt containers work great) that hold enough for your typical day's use of bait fillet's. Store the containers in the freezer for up to two years, now you have a couple years supply of baits and you can pull them out as needed. Don't throw away the tentacles as you can trim the legs shorter, cure them the same way and use them for tributary salmon and they make awesome steelhead baits in smaller size chunks. The great thing about squid is that it's durable and doesn't easily tear up after one fish and the strong smell lasts a long time. This equates to less time changing fillet's on the water and more time fishing."

Anchor anglers will likely continue to feel frustration as the wobbler bite will vary from day to day but anchored in the right spot with the proper amount of lead, leader and dropper line, one can get pretty consistent with this technique. The airport stretch is quite popular this time of year and is producing some of the more consistent success rates for wobbler anglers in the Portland area.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Willamette Falls water temperature is at 64 degrees, the lowest for quite some time. Fall Chinook are passing in ever-increasing number as are coho. In the next few weeks, numbers of coho over Willamette Falls will pick up, creating a fishery in upstream tributaries such as the Tualatin, Santiam and Yamhill rivers. Fish passage will peak in September but will continue well into October. Coho don't have to be finclipped to keep above the Falls but it's a good idea to check the fishing regulations for particulars. Smallmouth bass fishing has been good in the upper Willamette recently and will improve over the weeks to come as these fish shift into their fall feeding in order to pack on weight for winter.

Water level and flow on the McKenzie has been stable for nearly two weeks. Fly fishing has been good with cloudy days best and results will only be improving as fall comes on.

Despite the North Santiam being at pretty good level and flow, steelheading has been slow.

Foster Reservoir, Mt Hood Ponds, North Fork Reservoir and Small Fry Lake are scheduled to be planted with trout.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Not much going on in the lower Willamette other than mediocre smallmouth bass fishing. As of Sept 18, water skiing and wake boarding is still popular here on the river indicating summer has not left us just yet."

Water levels on the Middle Fork Willamette, combined with additional season hatches, has created an excellent opportunity for fly fishers. October Caddis are evident as are stoneflies. Try a nymph on a dropper for additional action. A few summer steelhead are being taken on the Town Run although many are starting to show some color. If the meat is a little pale, run 'em through the smoker for a tasty treat.

With cloudy (or at least partially cloudy) days in the forecast over the coming weekend, fishing is expected to be good on the McKenzie. Swing soft hackles or throw Green Drake imitations and expect steady action if the sun stays obscured, October Caddis are just getting started so be prepared for them.

Trout fishing is fair to good on the upper North Santiam with a variety of trout available although they run on the small side.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – The water is summer level low on the Clackamas minus a little for a dry fall. Try McIver Park on the Clackamas for some late summer steelhead action. Spoons and spinners have been effective over the past week. Morning have been most productive but the upcoming cloudy days should extend the hours of productivity.

As of Thursday this week, there's still very little evidence that the coho run has started on the Sandy River and those fish will run, rain or shine.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Still no reports of any silvers in the Clackamas, but that should change when we get some rain. Don't expect a banner year on the Clack as the huge hatchery coho plants of the 80's, 90's and early 2000's are a thing of the past.

"There are some silvers flopping and rolling around up at Cedar Creek but the fish haven't made themselves easy to catch. Cooler weather and a touch of rain will turn them on for a day or two. Some silvers and a few Chinook have been caught at the mouth by anglers casting blue fox spinners. Some hot reports have come in from the hog lines just below the mouth of the Sandy, with Chinook being caught on both wobblers and Kwikfish."

North Coast Fishing Report – Tillamook chinook remains the big fishery on the north coast with consistent catches coming throughout the estuary. The ocean has been most friendly recently so effort is strongest at the mouth. It's been a friendly month to fish in the salt. Crabbing is over-the-top, especially in the ocean.

The morning bite in the ocean has been disappointing although the first light bite is responsible for a few deaths every morning. The better fishing along the jetties, both inside and out has been near high slack in the late afternoon. Some nice fish have come from the jetties recently but it's consistently at high slack or the very first part of outgoing tide. Just prior to high tide, the green can has been producing some good catches and some large fish are showing in the fishery. Fish in the high 30's are occasionally being produced. There are good numbers of smaller fish too with several fish coming in at a mere 10 to 15 pounds. Although the early morning bite seems to be coming from along the south jetty (ocean side), the afternoon bite seems to be closer to the green can and most certainly inside the jetty (north side) as we near high slack and the first part of outgoing tide. This likely won't change for the weekend.

In the upper bay, fish are being caught with some regularity but seaweed and eelgrass can hamper success for brief periods of time. First light is most productive here too with anglers using spinners with fair success. The west (south) channel is also producing some catches but it's early here and little sign of coho as of yet. The earlier run of hatchery fish is not expected to be big.

There have been fish at Bay City and the Ghost Hole during the middle part of the incoming tide this week. Herring is largely responsible for catches here too.

Tidewater anglers are finding some success dunking eggs and shrimp in their favorite haunts. The larger tides have aided anglers in these lower stretches of the Trask and Tillamook River, including the slough (South Fork of the Trask River) that runs from just above the 5th street ramp on the Trask to the handicap dock on the Tillamook. There are some great bobber holes in this slough. The Wilson won't pick up for another few weeks.

The Nehalem is a hit or miss fishery with mostly chinook showing now. Wheeler seems to be producing some of the better catches but jaws fishing can be good too when the ocean is calm and the tides soft. Tidewater near the city of Nehalem is also producing fair catches of chinook but action for coho should improve when they actually show up, maybe later this month and early October.

And speaking of coho, offshore anglers will have one more chance for wild coho (actually, ANY salmon) this Friday, September 21st before the limited season closes for the year as it's likely that the quota will have been met. The fishing has been just fair out of Garibaldi, targeting coho between 160 and 180 foot of water using trolled herring for bait.

Further south, the Nestucca and Salmon Rivers continue to put out fair catches of chinook with the Salmon River maybe producing better results right now. Chinook should fall to trolled herring at the mouth but spinners and bobbers and bait should produce in the upper reaches of the estuary or lower tidewater sections of these rivers.

Cape Meares Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Lost Lake (Clatsop County), Sunset Lake and Town Lake are scheduled to be stocked with hatchery trout.

The Guide's Forecast – With the weak tide series nearly upon us, options should abound for weekend anglers. Let's start with the ocean forecast, even though this can't be trusted outside of 15 minutes from its latest update:

FRI

SW WIND 5 KT...BECOMING 5 TO 10 KT IN THE AFTERNOON.
WIND WAVES 1 FT. SW SWELL 4 FT...SHIFTING TO THE W 3 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. PATCHY FOG.

FRI NIGHT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 3 FT.
PATCHY FOG.

SAT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT.
PATCHY FOG.

SAT NIGHT

N WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT.
PATCHY FOG.

SUN

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

MON

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 9 FT.

That's a pretty friendly forecast, assuming it holds true. Although many will be excited to pursue chinook in the salt, the jetty at Tillamook should also produce some great catches. High slack is at sun-up and that has been a productive time to fish in the jaws lately. That high tide has been in the evening but couple up a morning high tide, a soft outgoing tide and peak run timing and it could spell some pretty good catches of chinook in the near future. Add in very productive ocean crabbing and there should be some pretty happy people coming down to the coast this weekend. With Columbia fishing a bit on the skids, there could be some large crowds of people coming in.

The upper bay typically doesn't produce large numbers of biters on these soft tide series. That's the same with the tidewater sections. The low flow exchange just doesn't seem to motivate biters but there are always exceptions to every rule. The south channel may produce some catches but we're all looking forward to a little reprieve from the sea-weed and eelgrass. It's been challenging on most days.

The same holds true for estuaries throughout this district. The low tide exchange will keep the best action towards the lower ends of the estuary. Jetty or fishing near the mouths with herring should produce ample catches on the Nestucca, Nehalem, Salmon and Alsea Rivers. This should be a very productive weekend for chinook fishing.

Anglers may want to take advantage of the last opportunity for wild coho offshore. Any salmon may be taken on Friday, September 21st and coho should be abundant anywhere from nearshore to 180 foot outside. These fish are starting to put on some weight right now with some 12 pounders likely in the catch.

Bay crabbing should be excellent this weekend but ocean crabbing will remain too good to be true.

Albacore fishers will have lots to hoot about too. Astoria seems to be the best port to work out of but even this slam dunk fishery has its ups and downs this time of year. Live bait is a must right now. The Port of Illwaco is one of the few places with this option.

Central & South Coast Reports – Ocean coho for finclipped or wild fish will take place on Friday, September 21st, then close for the year with only 1,490 coho remaining in a quota that started at 11,800. The National Marine Fisheries Service determined that while the remaining poundage deserved one more effort, it was insufficient to merit an opening the fishery longer than one additional day.

In a surprise announcement, the ODFW has stated that nearshore halibut will re-open off the central coast from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain on September 24th and is scheduled to run through the end of October or until the remainder of the quota is taken. Nearshore, in this case, is 40 fathoms or less with 4,800 pounds remaining to be caught. For a complete rundown on this fishery, see **Random Links**, below.

Offshore conditions for albacore fishers are improving with warm water at 30 miles off the central coast early this week which will create additional late season opportunities to chase tuna. Tuna in Oregon. In mid-September, no less. What a great place to live!

The catch-and-keep wild coho fishery started September 15th and will continue through November 30th or various quotas as follow: Siletz, 1,200, Yaquina, 800, Alsea, 950, Siuslaw, 1,200, Umpqua, 3,000, Coos, 1,200 and Coquille, 1,500. Only one per day may be retained although seasonal bag limits vary so be certain the check the regulations for the specific fishery you choose to target.

According the ODFW, the Siletz gave up only a couple over the past weekend while 57 wild coho were taken on the Siuslaw (which is an impressive number) and Umpqua anglers caught 13 with no other catches reported from elsewhere southwest.

Salmon fishing has been unpredictable on the lower Siletz which is normal here and common for fall Chinook. Catches have been fair to good one day, poor the next. One thing is clear; trolling has been more effective than anchor fishing. If a particular spot looks conducive to bobber fishing, go for it.

Ocean salmon fishing has been very good out of Depoe Bay for boats starting early mornings and fishing over 250 to 300 feet of water. Crabbing offshore has been reliable a rewarding.

Salmon fishing has been slow to fair for the Yaquina River. Trolling a herring behind a flashers is practiced almost exclusively here. Reports from the Alsea are somewhat better.

Trollers on the Siuslaw have seem a marked improvement in Chinook catches over the past week. Add to that the remarkable coho numbers (if accurate), this seems like a worthwhile destination but be aware it's also popular and has been very crowded with boat traffic.

Boats launching out of Reedsport to try for albacore have had to travel 50 miles or more over the past week but, in addition to tuna, have encountered a few mahi-mahi and yellowtails. Those species would certainly indicate they found warm water. Long rodders casting spinners off the jetty are catching coho and one anglers even hooked a steelhead. Osprey Point and Half-Moon Bay have produced fish for bank-bound anglers and results have been fairly impressive at times.

Chinook fishing has been spotty although productive at times for trollers around Reedsport or near the jaws. For this fishery, generally, six to eight ounces of lead goes on a one-foot dropper, a plug-cut herring is rigged on a six-foot leader with or without a flasher and is trolled slowly for best results. Drop traps or rings in the bay to enjoy the good crabbing available in the bay. While warm water in the mainstem Umpqua has kept most Chinook kegged in Winchester Bay, a few have made it upstream. Afternoons and evenings have been best for smallmouth fishing on the upper mainstem. Steelheading is fair on the North Umpqua while the South Umpqua is closed to all fishing as of September 16th and will not re-open until the 1st of December.

Chinook fishing is considered good at Coos Bay, the ODFW estimates and average of 13 hours of effort is required for each fish landed. Trolling a herring behind a flasher has been the most productive method with best results coming from Marshfield Channel, the Millicoma River, and the South Fork Coos River. Crabbing in the bay has been well worth the efforts with crab numerous and in good condition.

Trollers on the lower Coquille report fishing is fair but steady.

Results have slowed for trollers dragging anchovies in the Rogue estuary recently but with the river level low, numbers of fish will improve and results should follow. Although half-pounders are scattered throughout the Rogue River, fishing has been particularly good near Agness. Despite numbers of Chinook improving on the middle river, the bite has been slow. Cured eggs have been most productive although plugs are taking a few. Only artificial flies are allowed on the Rogue above the old Gold Ray Dam site although any type of tackle may be used as long as no weight is involved with casting. In the midst of an excellent return of summer steelhead, fishing remains good on the upper Rogue. The river is down slightly with reduced flows out of Lost Creek Reservoir.

Halibut remains open out of the Port of Brookings and fishing has been worthwhile and, as mentioned in Fisheries Forecast, above, is producing some very large fish. Give it a try if the opportunity presents itself but do so before the clock runs out with the closure of this fishery on October 1st. As the window of opportunity closes on halibut, however, another opens and it's an eagerly-anticipated event; the awkwardly-titled Chetco River Fall Chinook State Waters Terminal Area Recreational Fishery or to which most refer to as simply the Chetco Bubble Fishery. From October 1st through October 14th, we can safely predict that some of the largest fall Chinook of the year will receive a boat ride back to the dock. On the other hand, with seasons changing, wind and wave have an impact on the success of this two-week season which starts in just 10 days.

Fishing has been fair to good at Diamond Lake for trout averaging over 16 inches with trout over 20 inches not uncommon. Best results are coming from the south end of the lake.

Lost Creek Reservoir is on the trout stocking schedule.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Deschutes fishers should be prepared for the possibility of smoky conditions in places as the fire near Sisters was reported as only 10% contained as of Wednesday this week. Fishing has been slow to spotty at Sherars Falls although it was fair to good on Wednesday this week. The counts have improved although it appears the peak of the run will occur later this month.

Despite summer steelhead returns over Bonneville well below average and counts off even further at Granite, a few steelhead have been caught on the Grande Ronde over the past week. To further hamper efforts, the water level is 20% below normal here in hot, dry weather. Yet the fish endure.

Callibaetis have started hatching in fair to good number with insect activity improving in weeks to come. Trout fishing is fair with the occasional large brown being hooked.

Kokanee fishing is done for the year at most locations with fish colored up and ready to spawn but Green Peter has been producing good numbers of table quality kokos on the troll and should continue for another couple of weeks.

Odell has also been producing decent numbers of kokanee on the troll recently with most in good condition.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for September 2012

North Puget Sound

Anglers are hooking some bright **ocean coho** in portions of Puget Sound, where more ocean salmon are expected to arrive in September.

Point No Point, Jefferson Head, Possession Bar and Shipwreck should be good spots to catch ocean coho, said Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Anglers fishing those areas – or other waters of marine areas 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) – have a daily limit of two salmon, but must release chinook. In Marine Area

10, anglers also must release chum salmon through Sept. 15, while those fishing in Marine Area 9 must release chum through Sept. 30.

"We've seen tremendous coho fishing the last two weeks of August in central Puget Sound," Thiesfeld said. "Fishing should continue to be good as more of those ocean coho make their way into the area."

Marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) are also open for salmon. Anglers fishing those two marine areas have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release chinook salmon.

Another option is Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), where anglers have a daily limit of two salmon, but can keep only one chinook. Anglers in Marine Area 7 must release chum and wild coho.

Thiesfeld said the best bet for **freshwater anglers fishing for coho** salmon in the region might be the Nooksack, Snohomish and Green rivers. Other options for coho include the Skagit and Stillaguamish rivers.

Meanwhile, most areas of Puget Sound close to **recreational crab fishing** at sunset on Labor Day (Sept. 3). However, Marine Area 7-North (Gulf of Georgia) and 7-South (San Juan Islands/Bellingham) will remain open through Sept. 30.

Sport fishers who crab in marine areas 7-North and 7-South after Labor Day must record their catch on winter catch record cards. Winter cards are now available at sporting good stores and other license vendors across the state.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across. See WDFW's [sport-crabbing website](#) for more information.

Crabbers are reminded that their summer catch record cards are due to WDFW by Oct. 1 and must be returned whether or not the cardholder caught or fished for crab during the season. Crabbers who fail to file catch reports for 2011 will face a \$10 fine, which will be imposed when they apply for a 2012 Puget Sound crab endorsement. Completed cards can be mailed in or recorded online. Additional information is available on [WDFW's website](#).

WDFW will announce winter crab seasons for Puget Sound in early October, after completing its assessment of the summer fishery.

Elsewhere, **Lake Sammamish** is open for salmon fishing, with a daily limit of four salmon, of which two may be chinook. All sockeye must be released, and fishing is closed within 100 yards of the mouth of Issaquah Creek. Nearby **Lake Washington** opens Sept. 16 to coho fishing. Anglers will be allowed four coho per day (minimum size 12 inches) but may only fish in waters north of the Highway 520 Bridge and east of the Montlake Bridge.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

The ocean salmon fishing season is in its final stretch, but anglers should continue to hook bright fish into late September.

"As we move into the final weeks of the season, fishing should continue to be good," said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "That's especially true for coho, which tend to be larger later in the fishery."

Anglers have a two-salmon daily limit in all four marine areas off the Washington coast. Up to two chinook may be retained in all areas.

Milward reminds anglers that regulations for coho change in early September in Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) and Marine Area 2 (Westport). Anglers will be allowed to retain both hatchery and wild coho salmon beginning Saturday, Sept. 1, in ocean waters off Westport and Monday, Sept. 3, off Ilwaco.

In addition, anglers fishing off Westport will be allowed to retain only one coho as part of their two-salmon daily limit beginning Sept. 1, while the coho catch limit in Ilwaco will remain two fish. Those changes do not affect ocean salmon fisheries off LaPush (Marine Area 3) and Neah Bay (Marine Area 4), where anglers can continue to retain hatchery coho but must release wild coho.

All ocean areas (marine areas 1-4) are open to salmon fishing seven days a week.

Ocean salmon fisheries are currently scheduled to continue through Sept. 23 in marine areas 2, 3 and 4, and through Sept. 30 in Marine Area 1. However, salmon 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](#).

In the Strait of Juan de Fuca, anglers fishing marine areas 5 (Sekiu) and 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca) have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release chum, chinook and wild coho. Regulations change in Marine Area 5 on Sept. 15, when anglers will be allowed to retain wild coho.

Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound salmon manager for WDFW, said fishing for hatchery coho has been good in the Strait and expects that to continue in early September. "Effort typically drops off after Labor Day and then picks up again the middle of September, when anglers fishing off Sekiu can retain any coho," he said. "But anglers might not want to wait until then because fishing for hatchery coho has been pretty darn good."

Farther south, salmon fishing opens Sept. 1 north of Ayock Point in Hood Canal (Marine Area 12), where the daily limit is four coho. All other salmon species must be released. The same rules apply to the Quilcene/Dabob bay fishery, which opened for salmon fishing Aug. 16.

Salmon fishing is currently open south of Ayock Point, where anglers can retain two hatchery chinook as part of their four salmon daily limit. However, they must release wild chinook and chum salmon.

In the **southern portion of Puget Sound**, anglers fishing Marine Area 11 (Tacoma/Vashon) have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook. Anglers fishing Marine Area 13 (South Puget Sound) have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook and wild coho.

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

Meanwhile, most areas of Puget Sound will close to **recreational crab fishing** at sunset on Labor Day. The only two areas of the Sound that will remain open to crab fishing after Labor Day

are marine areas 7-North (Gulf of Georgia) and 7-South (San Juan Islands/Bellingham). Crabbing in those two areas is open through Sept. 30.

Sport fishers who crab in marine areas 7-North and 7-South after Labor Day must record their catch on winter catch record cards. Winter cards are now available at sporting good stores and other license vendors across the state.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across. See WDFW's [sport-crabbing website](#) for more information.

Crabbers are reminded that their summer catch record cards are due to WDFW by Oct. 1 and must be returned whether or not the cardholder caught or fished for crab during the season. Crabbers who fail to file catch reports for 2012 will face a \$10 fine, which will be imposed when they apply for a 2013 Puget Sound crab endorsement. Completed cards can be mailed in or recorded online. Additional information is available on the [WDFW website](#).

WDFW will announce winter crab seasons for Puget Sound in early October, after completing its assessment of the summer fishery.

In freshwater, the popular salmon fishery on the **Puyallup River** is in full swing. Anglers are reminded that the Puyallup River is closed to fishing Sept. 2, 3, 9, 10 and 11 from the 11th Street Bridge to the City of Puyallup outfall structure across the river from the junction of Freeman Road and North Levee Road.

Thiesfeld reminds anglers that the salmon fishery on the Skokomish River, from the Highway 106 Bridge to the Highway 101 Bridge, closes at the end of the day Sept. 3. Although, the salmon fishery for the lower Skokomish River, from the mouth to the Highway 106 Bridge, runs through Sept. 5 and then reopens Sept. 16. Check the [Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet](#) for details.

Elsewhere, **several rivers** around the region open to salmon fishing Sept. 1, including the Carbon River in Pierce County; Copalis River, Van Winkle Creek and Joe Creek in Grays Harbor County; and the Bear and Niawiakum rivers in Pacific County. Salmon fishing on the Nisqually River is already under way.

Recreationists should be aware that WDFW's access site at Ward Lake in Thurston County will be closed beginning Sept. 1 due to poor water quality at the lake. Recent tests conducted by the City of Olympia and Thurston County show fecal coliform bacteria levels that are unsafe for swimming and water recreation. Once water quality improves, WDFW will reopen the access site. For more information, check Thurston County's [website](#).

Southwest Washington

September is prime time for salmon fishing in the Columbia River Basin, as large numbers of fish move upriver and into tributaries on both sides of Bonneville Dam. At the Buoy 10 fishery near the mouth of the river, the catch of **chinook salmon** is expected to be the highest in more than two decades. Although that chinook fishery ends there Sept. 3 at the end of the day, anglers still have a lot of options to catch both chinook and **coho salmon** upriver from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line.

"Prospects are good for salmon fishing this month, but it's important to remember these fish are on the move," said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and

Wildlife (WDFW). "As the month goes on, successful anglers will follow the fish upriver and into the tributaries."

Of the 655,000 fall chinook included in the pre-season forecast, about 350,000 are projected to be upriver brights – the fourth largest return since record keeping began in 1964. This year's coho salmon run is fairly modest, but will help to round out the catch, Hymer said.

Through Sept. 9, the daily limit is six fish per day – including two adult salmon, two adult steelhead or one of each – from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to the deadline below Bonneville Dam. Only one of the adult salmon may be a chinook. Anglers may keep any chinook, but must release any coho salmon or steelhead that is not marked with a clipped adipose fin.

Starting Sept. 10, rules for adult chinook retention in those waters will change in at least two ways.

- Anglers can retain two adult chinook as part of their daily limit from a line from the Warrior Rock lighthouse through Red Buoy #4 to the orange marker atop the dolphin on the Washington shore at Bachelor Island upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- Below this line, permanent rules require anglers to release chinook salmon through Sept. 30 – although there may be an exception to this rule. Fishery managers have agreed to allow a pilot mark-selective fishery for chinook Sept. 10-16 from Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to the Warrior Rock line – *if all other sport fisheries can meet their management objectives*. That question has not yet been answered because those sport fisheries are still under way. In any case, anglers will be allowed to retain two adult chinook in that area beginning Oct. 1.

WDFW will update this report and issue a news release about the proposed selective fishery once that decision is final.

"Our hope is that we can move forward with the weeklong mark-selective fishery below the Warrior Rock line, but first we have to make sure enough chinook are available for harvest in the regular fisheries on the lower Columbia River," said Cindy LeFleur, WDFW Columbia River policy manager. "We're still waiting to see how that turns out."

In the meantime, Hymer has a couple of tips for anglers fishing for chinook salmon in the Columbia River.

"Anglers targeting chinook do best in fairly deep water – 40 to 50 feet down," he said. "Some of the best fishing for both salmon and steelhead will be at the mouth of tributaries, where the fish hold up before heading upstream. When anchoring in deeper water, anglers should be alert for ship traffic."

As the month progresses, salmon fishing will heat up farther upstream in the tributaries, Hymer said. He reminds anglers of several new rules that will be in effect on various rivers this season:

- **Release wild chinook** – Anglers must release all wild chinook on the Tilton River from mouth to West Fork; the Cispus River from mouth to North Fork; the Cowlitz River from posted signs on Peters Road to mouth of Ohanepecosh and Muddy Fork; plus Mayfield Lake and Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir).

However, anglers may keep up to 10 hatchery rainbows at Lake Scanewa starting Sept. 1.

- **North Fork Lewis River from mouth of East Fork to the overhead powerlines below Merwin Dam** – Wild chinook may be kept beginning Sept. 15.
- **Drano Lake** – Any chinook or coho salmon, with or without a clipped adipose fin, may be retained. Effective Sept. 15, anglers with a two-pole endorsement can put it to use.
- **Klickitat River from mouth to Fisher Hill Bridge** (located about 3 miles upstream from the mouth) – Night closure and anti-snagging rules are in effect. Only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.
- **Washougal River** – Fishing is closed from 200 feet (or posted markers) below to 200 feet above the temporary weir (when in place).

Like last year, anglers may retain up to six hatchery adult 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. Regulations for these and other fisheries are described in WDFW's [Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet](#).

Apart from salmon, anglers are still catching **walleye** above and below Bonneville Dam. **Trout** fishing is also still an option at a number of lowland lakes, including Swift and Merwin reservoirs where anglers can take advantage of increased catch limits for rainbow and kokanee approved in early August. At Swift Reservoir, anglers must release all salmon larger than 15 inches in length. For anglers who don't mind a hike, September is also a great time to head for the **high wilderness lakes** around Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens. Hymer recommends three such lakes – Goose, Council and Takhlakh – that all offer drive-in access.

"The mosquitoes should die down around the high mountain lakes after the first frost arrives," Hymer said. "Sure, the fish are usually small, but the leaves are beginning to turn, the air is crisp and you can really experience the change of season."

Eastern Washington

Sept. 1 is the traditional opening of the catch-and-keep season for hatchery-marked Snake River **steelhead**. For a second consecutive year, hatchery-marked **fall chinook salmon** are also fair game then.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) district fish biologist Glen Mendel says the steelhead run appears to be coming in weak this year. As of late August, the A-run of upriver summer steelhead was about 61 percent of the preseason forecast. The B-run steelhead passage was also tracking less than expected so far.

However, a large run of upriver bright hatchery fall chinook is expected to return to the Snake River, so anglers should have good opportunities, said Mendel.

Up to three hatchery-marked steelhead (those with clipped adipose or ventral fins and a healed scar at the clipped fin location) can be retained daily. The salmon daily harvest limit in the Washington portion of the Snake River is three adipose fin-clipped fall chinook adults (24 inches in length and larger), and three adipose fin-clipped jack fall chinook (less than 24 inches). Minimum size for chinook is 12 inches.

Barbless hooks are required when fishing for steelhead or salmon. All wild steelhead and chinook, which are protected under the Endangered Species Act, must be released immediately without removing them from the water. Once anglers have retained three hatchery steelhead, they must cease fishing for salmon and steelhead for the day, regardless of whether the salmon daily limit has been retained.

Mendel reminds salmon and steelhead anglers of the change in the Snake River boundaries for catch record card codes for zones 648 and 650 near Clarkston. The upper end of code 648, and the lower end of 650, was the interstate bridge. But that was moved to the state line, from the Greenbelt boat launch to the state line sign on the north shore, as relayed in the current fishing rules pamphlet. Mendel said this change allows separation of harvest data for the boundary waters with Idaho.

The steelhead season runs through March 31, but the chinook season closes Oct. 31, or earlier, depending on monitored harvest rates and run size.

This month is the last chance to fish several of the region's best **rainbow** and/or **cutthroat trout** fishing lakes. Closing Sept. 30 is Badger, West Medical, and Williams lakes in southwest Spokane County, and Fishtrap Lake in Lincoln County. Two other southwest Spokane County lakes change seasons soon -- Amber Lake shifts to catch-and-release-only on Oct. 1 and North Silver Lake switches to catch-and-release-only on Nov. 1.

Randy Osborne, WDFW central district fish biologist, said that if conditions are right, September fishing at these lakes can almost rival the first weeks of the season in the spring. "Air and water temperature changes during this month can trigger late summer/early fall insect hatches, which can equate to some pretty productive fishing conditions all month long," he said.

Spokane County's Downs Lake and Lincoln County's Coffeepot Lake also close at the end of the month but can yield good catches of **yellow perch**, **black crappie**, and **rainbow trout** during September.

Plenty of other lakes throughout the region remain open through October or year-round. Clear Lake, near the town of Medical Lake in Spokane County, typically produces good catches of **brown trout**, **crappie**, and **largemouth bass** as fall advances. Lake Roosevelt and Sprague Lake both offer good-size rainbows. Stevens County's Deer and Loon lakes continue to provide a variety of fish, from bass to kokanee.

Anglers heading for a weekend of camping near the Tucannon River, or its trout-stocked impoundments on WDFW's Wooten Wildlife Area in Columbia County, need to keep fire restrictions in mind. Wooten manager Kari Dingman said that with hot, dry conditions, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has a campfire ban in effect until further notice.

The 63,000-plus-acre, lightning-caused Cache Creek wildfire, adjacent to the Snake River on the Washington-Oregon stateline, was still burning in late August, with expected containment sometime in early September. Most of the fire is in Oregon, but anyone recreating in Washington's southeast corner may want to check out possible road closures [online](#).

Northcentral Washington

A **chinook salmon** fishery opens Sept. 1 in the Lake Chelan Project Tailrace area near Chelan Falls and runs through Oct. 15. Up to three chinook may be kept daily (only one of which can be a wild adult fish), and fishing is allowed from the railroad bridge to the Chelan Public Utilities District (PUD) safety barrier below the powerhouse.

WDFW Chelan District Fish Biologist Travis Maitland said up to 3,000 adult chinook salmon—released as juveniles from net pens just below the Chelan PUD powerhouse—are expected to return to the waterway.

“Last year when we were able to open this area for the first time, fishing pressure was very light, due to the fishery being new and confusion over fishing access,” said Maitland. “Chelan County ordinance prohibits the use of internal combustion engines, so last year we did not allow fishing from a floating device of any kind. This year floating will be allowed, so this could be a great little fishery for the angler with a kayak or a small pontoon boat.”

This year there’s also some bank fishing on the north shore, although anglers must stay downstream of Chelan PUD boundary signs on that shoreline. Fishing along the southwest shoreline is limited to wading only with no fishing from the bank.

Anglers planning to participate in this fishery must have WDFW’s Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement and should check other [specific rules](#) for the fishery.

The Lake Wenatchee **sockeye salmon** fishery that has provided great opportunities since early August closes on Labor Day (Sept. 3). The daily limit was increased from three to five fish in mid-August and since then limits have been taken by many happy anglers.

The Wenatchee River hatchery summer **chinook salmon** fishery—open from the river mouth to below Dryden Dam—continues through Oct. 15. Angling pressure has been relatively light, Maitland said, but there have been a few nice hatchery chinook harvested. As of Sept. 1 the fishery extends upriver to the Icicle River road bridge that crosses the Wenatchee River. Check [fishery rules](#) on the WDFW website.

Chinook fishing in the Columbia River from Priest Rapids to Wells Dam is still producing, although anglers need to work a lot harder now to get the fish to bite, Maitland said. Chinook also are still being caught off the mouth of the Okanogan River, WDFW Okanogan District Fish Biologist Bob Jateff reports.

“Catch rates are lower than anglers experienced earlier this summer, but the fish are continuing to average 12 to 15 pounds,” Jateff said. “As water temperatures cool in the tributaries, fish will start to move upstream and out of the mainstem Columbia River. During September, reduced numbers of chinook will continue to be caught in upstream areas just below Chief Joseph Dam.” Anglers are reminded that the salmon fishing section of the mainstem Columbia River—from Wells Dam to the Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster—closed Aug. 31 to protect steelhead.

Meanwhile, **trout** fishing on the Methow River can be at its best in September, when other river users start to thin out and only anglers are left, Jateff said.

“At this time anglers can do well with surface flies, lures and nymph patterns,” he said.

Trout anglers are reminded that the section from Lower Burma Road Bridge to the Highway 153 Bridge at McFarland Creek closes at midnight on Sept. 15. The rest of the river upstream to Foghorn Dam closes at midnight on Sept. 30.

The Methow River trout fishery is conducted under a permit with NOAA Fisheries and can close at any time if limits on incidental encounters with steelhead are reached.

Okanogan County's Davis, Campbell, and Cougar lakes in the Winthrop area open Sept. 1 for catch-and-keep fishing for rainbow trout.

"These lakes provide a nice fall fishery to mix things up between fishing the Methow River for trout and fishing the mainstem Columbia for salmon," Jateff said.

Southcentral Washington

September is prime time to fish for **trout** on one of the many high-elevation lakes or rivers in the region, said Eric Anderson, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) based in Yakima. As temperatures begin to drop, waters ranging from the Yakima River to Taneum Creek come alive with fish eager to feed.

"After months of high water, the conditions are perfect for fishing many area lakes and streams," Anderson said. "Most of the mosquitoes burned off in the summer heat, and it's just a great time to be out catching fish."

Anderson noted that most rivers and creeks have statewide trout catch limits of two trout with an 8-inch minimum size. Most also have special regulations, including selective gear rules that prohibit bait. Rules for specific waters are described in the Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet, available [online](#) and from license vendors throughout the state.

Meanwhile, counts of **chinook salmon** and **steelhead** passing McNary Dam have been climbing day by day, setting the stage for popular fisheries throughout the region. While those fisheries often start out slow, they can ramp up quickly by mid-September as more fish move past the dam, said Paul Hoffarth, a fish biologist based in Pasco.

"There's a lot of anticipation out there right now," Hoffarth said. "Anglers are catching fish here and there, but they know a lot more are headed our way. By the middle of the month, we could have several thousand upriver brights in the Hanford Reach."

According to the preseason forecast, 650,000 fall chinook salmon will enter the Columbia River this year, and about two-thirds of them will keep moving past Bonneville Dam. Most areas of the Columbia River have been open for salmon fishing since Aug. 1, and two major tributaries will open in September.

The Yakima River opens for salmon fishing Sept. 1 from the Columbia River upstream to Prosser Dam, although the area around the Chandler Powerhouse will remain closed, as in previous years. "The best fishing on the Yakima is in October, but some fish will start moving in this month," Hoffarth said.

Anglers have also been catching some **hatchery steelhead** both above and below McNary Dam, and the harvest should pick up throughout the month, he said. Anglers can retain two **hatchery** steelhead per day, identifiable by a missing adipose fin with the healed scar, measuring at least 20 inches. Steelhead fishing above the Highway 395 Bridge at Kennewick is not scheduled to open until Oct. 1, but could open earlier if the numbers pick up, Hoffarth said.

Farther east, the Snake River also opens Sept. 1 for hatchery fall chinook and steelhead above the Highway 12 Bridge. Anglers must use barbless hooks when fishing for salmon and steelhead in the Snake River. Anglers are advised to check the *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet and [emergency rules](#) for all waters before heading out.

"As with salmon, look for steelhead fishing to improve as the water cools and more fish move upriver," Hoffarth said. "Steelhead move fast. They don't stay in one spot very long, so anglers have to be there when they are passing through."

Walleye fisheries are already in full swing, producing nice catches in the Columbia River below McNary Dam as well as in the Snake River. **Sturgeon** fishing is restricted to catch and release in most of the Columbia River, including Lake Wallula and the Hanford Reach.

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

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Random Links

Here's the lowdown on the coastal wild coho fishery:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/docs/2012_Coastal_Coho_Salmon_Sport_Regulations.pdf

Join ODFW on September 22 to view chinook spawning in South Santiam River:

<http://dfw.state.or.us/news/2012/Septemer/091712b.asp>

Umpqua Fly Tying Festival September 22nd: <http://uvff.org/Festival.html>

GOOD LUCK!