

The Guide's Forecast - volume 15 issue number 15

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **April 5th – April 11th, 2013**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- The spring salmon run on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers has been slow to materialize. Small flurries of fresh chinook salmon have been reported for weeks now, but the strength of the run has yet to make its showing. The typical Portland hot spots like Davis Bar, I-5, Head of Multnomah Channel and Sellwood are giving up a few fish daily, but anglers still await the big push. The later than normal smelt run could be the culprit, but the lower Columbia has been virtually void of salmon until recently when sport and test net catches improved. A compact call today will determine any possible extension for mainstem Columbia sportanglers.

Anglers looking for some faster action might consider catch and release sturgeon fishing in the Portland harbor.

The McKenzie has been fishing well with redsides taking nymphs and wet flies. The water level will rise with rain this week but when the sun returns and air temperatures warm, look for March Brown hatches.

The next "learn the river" trip on the North Santiam will take place on April 6th. Telephone (503) 897-3301 for additional information. Fishing has been slow to fair but will improve as numbers build.

The Clackamas River continues to produce winter steelhead and anglers can expect the action to continue through the middle of the month. A few summer steelhead are also showing up in the catch and those numbers should increase through April. Rumors of an early spring chinook are circulating but remain unconfirmed. Good salmon fishing is still a month and a half away.

On the Sandy River, water levels remain good for steelhead fishermen. Both winter and summer steelhead are showing up and angling pressure has been described as "average". Many of the winter steelhead landed are in spawning mode and care should be taken to release them as quickly and easily as possible. The stretch between Oxbow Park and Dabney Park will have the most opportunity as well as the most of the effort.

Northwest – A mix of summer and late winter steelhead, both pre and post-spawn are available on the north coast. Several streams closed to fishing on April 1st. Rivers containing hatchery summer steelhead and spring chinook remain open but are still weeks away from viable catches. Spring chinook season opened on April 1st although no springers have been confirmed.

Another rain freshet is due by the weekend, which could stimulate steelhead action for one last time on larger systems such as the Wilson, Trask and Nestucca Rivers. Hatchery broodstock fish should still be available with an occasional summer steelhead likely too.

Coastal anglers remain motivated by excellent sea bass and lingcod catches in the ocean or near bay entrances. Seas were flat calm at mid-week but are expected to blow up by the weekend with the storm front coming ashore.

Bay crabbing remains challenging.

Southwest- Offshore bottom fishing out of central Oregon ports was excellent in calm seas over

the past week with depth restrictions looming. Plenty of large lings were available and rockfishers filled limits. As a visual bonus, the northward whale migration has started. Boats must stay inside the 30 fathom line as of April 1st.

Spring chinook fishing has been picking up on the mainstem Umpqua with a 23-pounder landed near Elkton late last week. Cold water has been keeping bites light; perhaps rain this week will serve to raise water temps which should improve fishing.

While ocean crabbing has been spotty and opportunities sporadic, Coos Bay has been producing good catches of Dungeness. Ballard Beach has been giving up large pinkfin to surf casters.

Bottomfishing has been excellent offshore out of Gold Beach. Spring chinook catches have been spotty but a few have been reported every day from the lower Rogue. Springer fishing will improve in the coming weeks. Expect variable flows this week although rainfall may finally trigger the spring chinook run. Fishing for winter steelhead has been fair to good with drift-boaters doing best side-drifting cured eggs. Bank anglers will score following a freshet as the river drops. Steelheading has been fair on the upper Rogue.

A flat ocean and mild breezes combined to create a banner weekend for bottomfishers out of the Port of Brookings. Lingcod are migrating to shallow water in preparation for spawning which will make them available to nearshore boaters and jetty anglers. The Chetco River closed on April 1.

Large pinkfin surf perch are being caught from the stretch of beach near the mouth of the Sixes River. The Elk and Sixes river are closed to fishing.

The spring thaw is in progress at Diamond Lake with snow on the ice-covered surface turning slushy. Ice fishing won't be an option but it will soon be possible to launch boats.

Eastern – The lower Deschutes has been fishing well below Maupin with Blue-Winged-Olives and March Browns hatching. Middle Deschutes levels are a little high but the March Brown hatch has started here and some nice browns have been landed on nymphs.

Crooked River levels have started rising as predicted. This will compromise the fine fishing enjoyed here in low water conditions. It will fish if water conditions stabilize.

Kokanee fishing was decent over the past weekend for trollers fishing with hoochies in calm conditions.

SW Washington- With most anglers focused on salmon in the mainstem Columbia, district rivers are getting little attention for viable steelhead returns. The Cowlitz is a top prospect with late winters and early summers starting to show. A spring chinook has also been confirmed.

Other area rivers will see restrictions this spring as returns are forecast to be low.

Salmon passage at Bonneville is becoming more consistent but interest remains low. That should change as we near mid-month as passage is likely to peak in about a month from now. Low flows are more conducive to early passage.

Columbia River Fishing Report – After a painstaking run of poor salmon fishing, catches are finally beginning to ramp up from top to bottom. The lower river has recently as Wednesday produced the best catches of the season although still far from its potential. Guides working out of Westport were getting more frequent opportunities using plugs in most cases. Trolled herring

of course continued to produce some catches but anglers still had to put in long hours to witness just fair results.

I-5 trollers will still struggling mid-week but catches will likely ramp up with the increase in success witnessed just downstream.

Fishery managers extended the sport season on Wednesday, stating better than 60% of the quota to go. With water temperatures and flows quite ideal, managers were well aware that catch rates could ramp up quickly. None-the-less, sport anglers were granted a 7-day extension with officials to closely monitor the fishery on a daily basis. Projected catch through the extension may still not get us our full quota but managers will review that by the middle of next week.

The Troutdale and lower gorge have been quite productive in recent years but are plain dead this season. Effort will likely remain from Davis Bar (across from the mouth of the Willamette River) downstream to Tenasillahe Island and even below that. Bank anglers have not been faring all that well as the lower flows better distribute fish throughout water depths. It is noteworthy however that plugs have been effective for a good part of this season but frustration looms in the face of the new barbless hook rule. Anglers should not have as frustrating a time with trolling herring as the heavier lead provides good leverage for salmon hooked on barbless hooks.

Passage at Bonneville continues to ramp up but remains relatively low given the current water conditions. Of course only time will tell but discrepancy remains as to what the actual run size will be this year. A hefty buffer is in place to insure sport and commercial fishers do not overshoot their impact rates but anglers won't see full blown opportunity until proper dam passage occurs.

The Guide's Forecast – Not many anglers anticipated a season extension when the fishery first started but it is with great joy that we got one! Catch rates are certain to improve under these ideal conditions as flows and water temperatures are expected to remain stable.

Look for action to ramp up from I-5 to Astoria although it's important to note success rates seem to be slightly better from the I-5 Bridge to Davis Bar. It's possible that the predicted rain freshet could muddy up the Willamette by early next week which could put Columbia River springers off a bit. Even if that is the case, the reach above Davis Bar will remain open and numbers will be on the increase. It may be a toss-up between Kwikfish and trolled herring but both should produce opportunities well into the current proposed closure. That closure by the way, is April 12th.

Tides are going to soften this week so trolling may be a stronger option as the more water that you cover, the better the chances of you finding a biter. After this storm system pushes through, fish should be motivated to be on the move.

Bank anglers will still have a hard go of it as a weak tide series and low flows are not conducive to high catch rates. None-the-less, from Sauvies Island to Westport Oregon, bank angling opportunity will improve from previous weeks. Bank anglers near the dam should also start to see improved catches but will likely remain challenged no matter how long we get to fish this season.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "The spring salmon run on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers has been slow to materialize. Small flurries and occasional spurts of fresh Chinook salmon have been reported for weeks now, but the strength of the run has yet to make its showing. The typical close to Portland hot spots like Davis Bar, I-5, Head of Multnomah Channel and Sellwood are giving up a few fish daily, but anglers are twiddling their thumbs in anticipation of the big push.

The later than normal smelt run could be the culprit, but the lower Columbia has been virtually void of salmon as well. Nonetheless, handfuls of fish are there to be caught and herring trollers are picking up a few fish. The anticipation continues. Anglers looking for some faster action might consider catch and release sturgeon fishing in the Portland harbor."

RECENT UPDATE (Thursday afternoon)- Action has picked up significantly in the recent two days (including Thursday) as anchor anglers were getting consistent bites on the afternoon outgoing. Trollers didn't seem to be doing as well as plug fisherman but it's clear that the run is in and it should be a productive week-long extension.

Water levels are decent on the lower McKenzie and with low snowpack and valley reservoirs yet to fill, rainfall this week shouldn't cause too much of an increase in flows. March Browns were evident but hatches were light on Monday this week.

The North Santiam is forecast to rise a little this week with rain but will be dropping into the second week of April. Nearly 1,100 summer steelhead have been counted at Willamette Falls, most of which are bound for the Santiam system. The South Santiam is predicted to take quite a wallop from precipitation this week, more than tripling in flow over the coming week with recovery slow to occur.

As reported in the Oregonian today (and reiterated here for those who may have missed it, Clark County has eliminated parking fees at Frenchman's Bar, Vancouver Lake, Salmon Creek/Klineline Pond and Lewisville parks and Daybreak and Haapa boat launches. Kudos to the Commissioners David Madore and Tom Mielke who pushed the decision through despite opposition from Commissioner Steve Stewart and more than a dozen residents.

Canby Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Huddelston Pond, St. Louis Pond, Trojan Ponds, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Creswell Pond, Detroit Reservoir, Dorena Reservoir, Foster Reservoir, Freeway Lake East, Roaring River Park Pond, Sunnyside Park Pond, Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake are scheduled for stocking with hatchery trout.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "News of an upturn in the catch on the Columbia River is welcome, while reports of Dogwood's blooming are also in the air. Strange correlation? Likely not. The old-time saying that the spring Chinook will show up when the dogwood's bloom goes without saying in my book of adages. Anyhow, the Columbia came alive on Wednesday between the airport and Davis Bar. Many boats reported putting 2-5 keeper salmon in the box. Now the river is set to stay open through April 12th, giving anglers a bonus week of fishing. The Willamette has yet to see a spike in the already slow fishing but anticipation is high and it could happen any day now. On the Columbia, there were also a few fish reportedly caught in the Beacon Rock area up near Bonneville Dam. Boat fishermen up there prefer anchor fishing with sardine wrapped Kwikfish and some will also back-troll the flats with jumbo jet divers. Back in 2001 and 2002, I remember having some impressive success up there fishing small spinners on anchor. The water we fished was 12-20 ft deep with a gravel/rock bottom and moving at a quick pace. I also recall it being lower water, so conditions were somewhat similar to this year. As of Wednesday, the water temp on the Columbia is 48-50 degrees so that just confirms the similar conditions. Myself and other successful spinner fishermen were using size 4-6 Clearwater Flash spinners by Luhr Jensen. Two colors stand out as producers, the pearl white blade with green and blue tip and gold with a green and blue tip. Blue has always been a favorite color of mine whether it be for salmon or steelhead. We fished a 40" leader, 18" dropper and 3-8 ounce cannonball sinkers, depending on the prevailing depth and current. One particular banner day, a dab of Mike's anise scent on the spinner seemed to be the ticket as we put eight salmon to the boat by noon. Down river from there, trolling herring downstream is the preferred method. A small to medium size flasher, with a green label plug cut

herring, dangled 40 inches behind, with a 3-8 ounce sinker is the standard fare. Flasher color seems to be a hot topic these days. Chartreuse/green, chartreuse/ruby red, blue, silver prism/ruby red, pink/silver prism and ANY of those listed colors in conjunction with UV tape will produce from day to day. My vote is with the UV tape, as I am seeing a pattern that UV gets them regardless of what the secondary color is. In a nutshell, any flasher color works as long as it has UV tape on a portion of it. Then again, we used to catch plenty of salmon before the in-line twirly flasher even hit the tackle market. The question always arises, is a flasher necessary? Especially when its extra added costly gear, that when not regularly checked or properly deployed can and will give you a line twist you won't soon forget. I have my own opinions but will say it should be left to personal preference, if you feel confident with a flasher, by all means use one. Besides, the fish don't seem to mind them. I will just as easily agree that the addition of a flasher is just an expensive line twister, looking for a snag and many, many salmon are taken without them. Nonetheless, flasher manufacturing and sales are growing and you cannot knock success.

"We at The Guides Forecast anticipate the salmon fishing to improve substantially through the week on both the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. All indications point to the biggest week the Columbia has yet to see and the dam counts at Bonneville should spike drastically. The Willamette is a bit more of a crapshoot, but I'm putting my money on a big improvement in the next couple of days. With the extension at hand, boat traffic, effort and success are about to explode. Unfortunately all that will have to take place with rain in the forecast. Could be worse right?"

The March Brown hatch moved into overdrive on the McKenzie starting Tuesday this week with redsides anxiously responding. On some stretches, caddis were thick which bodes well for fly fishing in the coming weeks. As the weather turns cloudy and wet, March Browns will appear in good number but as the skies clear and the sun once again warms the river. Caddis will appear in droves. This is a great time to be on the lower McKenzie River or Middle Willamette with March Brown and Caddis imitations in your arsenal.

Results for steelhead have been slow to fair on the North Santiam with locals seeming to have the best luck with them. As more summers move up the Willamette, catches are sure to improve. According to the April 4th update, Foster Dam fish counters on the South Santiam have seen 123 winters and 82 summer steelhead this season.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports —Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "The Clackamas River continues to produce winter steelhead and anglers can expect the action to continue through the middle of the month. A few summer steelhead are also showing up in the catch and those numbers should increase through April. Rumors of an early spring Chinook have circulated and that shouldn't be a surprise, as the month of March typically gives up a spring Chinook or two for the Clack. However, good salmon fishing is still a month and a half away. The pleasant weather has brought out the crowd and pressure here has been reported as heavy at times, especially on the weekends. Plug pullers are scoring well as are bank fishermen working hardware and bobber and jig set-ups.

On the Sandy River, water levels remain good for steelhead fishermen. Both winter and summer steelhead are showing up and angling pressure has been described as "average". Many of the winter steelhead landed are in spawning mode and care should be taken to release them as quickly and easily as possible. The stretch between Oxbow Park and Dabney Park will have the most opportunity as well as most of the effort. Bobber and Jig and hardware will produce best for late season anglers, but small baits of cured roe and sand shrimp are also popular."

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "The Clackamas and Sandy Rivers continue to produce steelhead for late season anglers. The Clack is already running high and the forecast calls for it to rise with the coming rains. The Sandy is running within good fishable levels with a slight rise in the forecast. Winter fish are on the way out but stragglers will still show up in the catch for the next couple of weeks, especially on the Clackamas. Please pay special attention to releasing wild spawners with all the care you would use when handling a newborn baby. They are in fragile condition and should be handled gingerly. Summers are showing in better numbers on the Sandy, but a few have been hitting boat decks and gravel bars on the Clack as well."

North Coast Fishing Report – Few steelheaders are still pursuing their quarry on the north Oregon Coast. Although fish still remain in the system, anglers are looking to a growing spring chinook return to satisfy their desires. With fewer steelheaders on the water, anglers still have fair to good opportunity for fresh and spent winter steelhead and an occasional summer-run as well. The low, clear water conditions during the previous week are forcing serious steelheaders into the lower reaches of these river systems. As one guide put it recently, "Get your gear fishing in the deep, green water because there are fish present." You still have to downsize your gear however as fish remain spooky and selective under these conditions.

The lower Wilson is yielding occasional results but anglers do have to work the water hard in order to find consistent success. With fewer anglers on the water, especially during the week, there is a good chance, even with a late start, that you could be fishing virgin water. Early summer steelhead, fresh and spent winters have all been reported from this river system. Effort has also decreased by bank anglers along Highway 6 but steelhead remain pocketed up for those willing to pursue them with stealthy technique.

The Nestucca is the second strong option on the north coast with the aforementioned three types of steelhead also available on this river. Like the Wilson, anglers have to target the lower reaches in hopes of finding more aggressive pockets of tidal fish which can still produce meaningful results this time of year. Under these conditions, the first boat through often scores the best results unless you're using an unconventional technique behind earlier launching boats. Anglers on this system will definitely see a downturn in fish as we near mid-April.

The Trask River has always been a viable April option and that should still be the case this year despite a downturn in adult returns. The upper reaches are not a good option in these lower flows but from Loren's Drift downstream, fresh fish should be making their way into the watershed. Plugs can become especially effective in these low flows for the larger steelhead often seen on the Trask system. Of course, side-drifted small baits and single beads are always likely to produce best. The Trask River as well as the Nestucca, Wilson and Tillamook Bay opened to spring chinook on April 1st. Viable opportunity is still many weeks away but the first springer of the year on the Trask can often fall by mid-April.

I fished the Nehalem River on Friday; under ideal color and level, we caught and released 2 wild steelhead with a few other opportunities for a full day float from the Beaver Slide to Roy Creek. We launched at 8:00 a.m., which was nice in of itself but we were still the first boat on the water until a few rafts showed up later in the morning. The weather was chamber-of-commerce and we got to fish wherever we wanted. Check regulations before fishing this watershed, some sections and tributaries close after March 31st. Anglers did not have a large window of opportunity on this watershed this season.

Yes, spring chinook will be all the rage in Tillamook County but not for at least another month. The Tillamook run often mimics the Willamette return, which isn't predicted to be all that good this year. Anglers would be most wise to target springers in the bubble fishery just outside of the jaws or in the bay itself, at least until we get another rain freshet.

Calm seas for much of this week allowed anglers to head offshore for good lingcod and sea bass catches. Catches were remarkable with fair sized lings and a nice grade of sea bass available for most anglers. Ocean crabbing remains fair at best but offers a nice opportunity for multi-species over the course of the day.

Bay crabbing remains fair at best.

The most recent razor clam tide produced good catches of clams along Clatsop Beaches. A good tide series coupled with a calm surf yielded great digs last weekend.

The Guide's Forecast – Steelheaders may get one more good crack at fish following a predicted rain freshet this weekend. After a string of blue-bird weather, a storm system is expected to blow in tonight and rise river levels significant enough to encourage another good spurt of fish to come in. The Wilson and Nestucca Rivers will remain primary targets for steelheaders but the Trask should offer good opportunity as well.

If the Wilson rises to its predicted level, all river reaches from Milepost 10 downstream should produce fair to good catches of steelhead. Be prepared however for a fair number of spent fish as the spawn is clearly on. Fresh winters and some summers should be available however with pressure likely to still remain low given the bump in spring chinook returns recently. With the slow rise predicted over the weekend, action could be good throughout the river rise that will likely be the best just after the river crests and starts to fall. Small baits and single eggs will remain the top ticket but plugs could still be effective. Handle steelhead with care as many of these fish are of wild origin this late in the season. Here, you can see the predicted river rise on the Wilson, which will largely reflect the entire north coast systems this weekend:



With the Nestucca even farther away from the Portland/Metro area, expect effort to remain light here too. Like the Wilson, if the rain comes in as predicted, all reaches from 6th Bridge downstream could yield impressive results. Side-drifters will rule the roost but as mentioned before, plugs can be especially productive on these later returning fish with the recent bump in water temperatures. These later returning fish seem to be even more territorial as they near their spawning phase this late in the season.

Many smaller streams are close to steelhead now. Check the listings but anglers wanting the best opportunity for both wild and hatchery fish should stick to the north coast's big 2 anyway. The Trask will be the go-to river for those seeking the most solitude for catch and release opportunity. It sure would be fun to catch an early hatchery springer on this system.

If conditions allow, offshore bottomfishing should remain pretty productive this time of year. Ample numbers of lingcod, although not large, should be readily available. The sea bass are a nice grade right now and provide good sport and good eats right now. Here is the forecast for the weekend:

FRI

SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. SW SWELL 9 FT AT 20 SECONDS...SHIFTING TO THE W AT 20 SECONDS IN THE AFTERNOON. RAIN.

FRI NIGHT

S WIND 25 TO 30 KT...BECOMING SW 20 TO 25 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 6 FT...SUBSIDING TO 4 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT. W SWELL 9 FT AT 19 SECONDS. RAIN.

SAT

SW WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 9 FT AT 17 SECONDS. SHOWERS LIKELY.

SAT NIGHT

SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...BECOMING S 15 TO 20 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 9 FT AT 16 SECONDS. SHOWERS.

SUN

SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 10 FT.

MON

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

Ocean crabbing should remain fair but bay crabbing will continue to be poor. The softer tide series this week may make it worth the effort but the upcoming storm system will not make it fun in open water.

Central & South Coast Reports – Charters and recreational boats launching out of Newport and Depoe Bay this week continued to enjoy decent offshore conditions. Despite the depth restriction that kicked in on the 1st of April which will keep bottom-fishing boats limited to 180 feet of water or shallower, ling cod catches have continued to be excellent although rockfish numbers dropped off slightly. Boats have returned to port with ocean-caught Chinook, some with boat limits.

Unfortunately, offshore forecasts for the central Oregon coast look less than friendly over the coming weekend. Ocean conditions as well as offshore winds are predicted to settle down in the coming week.

Fishing for pinkfin (also known as red tail) surf perch has been good at many locations on the southwest coast whenever the ocean lays down. While sand shrimp are an effective bait, they're soft and often cast off before the rig gets in the water. Consider alternate, tougher baits such as mussels, squid, clam necks or kelp worms. When the bite is on, surf perch will readily take soft plastics such as Berkley Gulp, including their convincing sand shrimp imitation.

Crabbing inside and outside Yaquina Bay has been poor. The nearshore harvest for commercial crabbers was so bad for the first couple of weeks of the season that they have since moved far offshore.

The winter steelhead season is winding down on the Siletz River just as summer steelheading is starting up. Bobber and jig fishers are taking a few as are side-drifters.

While most boats crossing the bar out of Reedsport have been targeting bottom fish with excellent results, a few have tried for salmon with some success. Ocean Chinook has been open since mid-March but effort has been light. Jetty fishing has been spotty.

Crabbing in Winchester Bay has been slow to fair but will probably stop for a while with fresh water entering this week. A few have been sturgeon fishing with little to show for their efforts. Spring Chinook have been taken in Winchester Bay and the Umpqua mainstem this week but the bite hasn't been strong. A few bass fishers are catching smallmouth with this action improving as the water warms. Large numbers of steelhead are crossing at Winchester Dam and a few springers have been spotted. Steelheading on the North Umpqua has been spotty, however. While the peak of the steelhead run on the South Umpqua generally occurs in March, fishing should remain decent as the water drops in the coming week.

Boats launching out of Charleston have been taking limits of lingcod and large rock fish as well as decent numbers of ocean-caught Dungeness. Crabbing on Coos Bay has been good for numbers although only a few of the Dungeness being taken have been legal males with the majority females. Most Coos River steelheaders have hung up their rods, considering the season finished. A few diehards are taking fewer decent fish amidst spawned-out and dark fish on the West and East Fork Millicoma and South Coos Rivers. Bait has been most effective.

Surf anglers casting into the waves at Ballards Beach near Bandon have been taking good numbers of surf perch. Occasionally these will top the two-pound mark.

Waters of the lower Rogue are on the rise as of Thursday this week with flows continuing to increase through much of the coming week. This should be the freshet that jump-starts the spring Chinook fishery, however. Good results are expected into May and June. Steelheading is winding down on the lower river with most fish having moved upriver. Middle Rogue levels are forecast to be on the rise through the weekend with a reversal taking place around Wednesday next week. Steelheading is expected to be worthwhile as flows moderate and there may even be a few springers in this stretch. Similarly, the upper Rogue is out of shape at this time and will remain so through the coming weekend but is expected to produce steelhead once river comes back into shape. As of today, April 4th, Coles River Hatchery has yet to see a single spring Chinook despite the first springer of the year coming from just downstream of the facility nearly a month ago (March 7th to be precise). This situation isn't really unusual, however, as Chinook at the hatchery are unheard of this early in the year. They should start to trickle in late this month through the end of May.

Waters of the Applegate River, the mouth of which is on the middle Rogue, closed on April 1st and will remain so until the opening of trout season on the 25th of May.

Clearwater Forebay #2, Loon Lake, Bradley Lake, Johnson Mill Pond, Powers Pond and Saunders Lake are scheduled to be planted with Trout.

Central and Eastern Oregon –A mix of hatches which include March Browns, Caddis and Blue-Winged-Olives will be found on the lower Deschutes although nymphs have been more effective than dries this week. Anglers are limited to fishing around Maupin until May. March Browns are also hatching on the middle river where the start of irrigation season has water levels dropping.

A few trout to 12 inches were caught this week with BWOs hatching on the Crooked River despite rising water levels. The Bureau of Reclamation is catching some heat from anglers for jacking Crooked River flows from low (good fishing all winter) to over 600 cfs (now), a move which started late in March. For those wishing to share their thoughts, the agency contact information is [here](#).

http://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/contact_jd.html

A fair to good hatch of mayflies and caddis has been occurring afternoons on the Metolius. Bull trout have been responding to streamers.

Crescent Lake continued to produce large lake trout to deep trollers at Crescent Lake over the past weekend.

Fishing for kokanee has been spotty at Green Peter with trollers taking many fish one day and only a few the next.

The largest smallmouth bass of the year are often taken in April on the John Day. It may take a few more days of sunshine to raise water temperatures to optimum but when that occurs, fishing here can be rewarding.

Water temperatures are rising at Brownlee Reservoir on the Oregon/Idaho border. Warmer water will rev up the crappie and smallmouth bite. The Army Corps of Engineers has planned to maintain the reservoir at stable levels rather than allow it to fluctuate just as warmwater gamefish enter spawning season (which has been the cast in the past. This is good news for anglers and for this fishery.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for April 2013

Last updated April 4, 2013

North Puget Sound

(Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties)

One of the state's most popular fishing openers is scheduled for later in the month, when the **lowland lakes trout season** gets under way. The season begins April 27, when many lakes – stocked with thousands of legal-sized trout – will open for fishing.

But, until then, several year-round fishing lakes have already been stocked with trout and should provide good fishing opportunities early in the month. Waters stocked with trout averaging 10 to 12 inches in length

include Alice, Angle, Beaver, Green, Meridian and Sawyer lakes in King County; and Ballinger, Blackmans, Cassidy, Chain, Flowing, Gissberg Ponds (Twin Lakes), Ketchum, Loma, Lost (Devil's), Martha, Panther, Shoecraft, Silver and Tye lakes in Snohomish County.

Information on stocking schedules for rainbow, cutthroat and triploid trout is available on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) [website](#). Anglers should also check the [Fish Washington rule pamphlet](#) before heading out.

Freshwater anglers also can cast for trout on the lower Skagit River. The Skagit, from the mouth to Highway 536 at Mount Vernon, is open from March 28 through April 30 for gamefish. Anglers fishing the lower Skagit River have a daily limit of two trout. Check the [emergency fishing rule change](#) for details.

Salmon fishing also is an option. Several marine areas of Puget Sound are still open for salmon. Anglers fishing marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) and 9 (Admiralty Inlet) have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook salmon. Marine Area 9 is open only through April 15, while Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) is already closed to salmon fishing.

"Anglers really need to put some time in on the water in early spring, when fishing for blackmouth salmon is often pretty spotty," said Ryan Lothrop, Puget Sound recreational salmon fishing manager.

Lothrop said anglers might want to turn their attention to the Strait of Juan de Fuca where fishing for blackmouth has recently improved, especially off Sekiu. However, time is running out to hook a salmon in Marine Area 5 (Sekiu), as well as Marine Area 6 (eastern Strait). The two areas are open only through April 10.

Meanwhile, saltwater anglers can start planning for **halibut** fishing, which opens in May. Details on the upcoming halibut season are available on [WDFW's website](#).

Prefer shellfish? Puget Sound's **spot shrimp** season is also set to begin in May, and the season is expected to run from one day to several weeks longer in various areas of the Sound, due to policy changes recently adopted by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission.

"Recreational shrimp fishers will see a real difference in the length of this year's seasons, particularly in the San Juan Islands and the Strait of Juan de Fuca," said Rich Childers, WDFW shellfish manager. "Sport fisheries in other areas are also likely to pick up some extra fishing days under the updated policy."

Details on the upcoming shrimp season are available [here](#).

Anglers are reminded that all 2012-2013 Washington state fishing licenses expire at midnight March 31. To keep fishing, anglers 15 years of age and older must purchase a 2013-14 license. Licenses and permits are available [online](#), by phone (1-866-246-9453) and from sporting goods stores and other retail license dealers around the state.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

(Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Thurston and Pacific counties)

Anglers can look forward to a number of new fishing opportunities in the weeks ahead, including the opening of the lowland lakes trout-fishing season, shrimping and halibut fishing.

To prepare for the popular **statewide trout opener**, hatchery crews from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) have been working since last year to stock more than 17 million fish in over 600 lakes throughout the state. The statewide [trout-stocking plan](#) shows where those fish are going, county by county.

WDFW has also tentatively scheduled two morning **razor clam** digs this month, one running April 9-14 and the other April 24-30. As usual, final approval of those digs will depend on the results of marine toxin tests, which will be announced about a week ahead of time.

For more information on those digs, see WDFW's [Razor Clam website](#). Also, sport clam and oyster seasons are opening early at **Oak Bay** and **South Indian Island**. For those interested in these areas, please check the [fishing rule change](#).

Whether planning to dig clams or catch trout, everyone age 15 and older will need to purchase a 2013-14 license to participate in the April openings, since current fishing licenses expire at midnight March 31. Licenses are available online (<https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/>), by phone (1-866-320-9933) and from license dealers around the state.

Meanwhile, fishing for **salmon** remains an option. Marine areas 5 (Sekiu) and 6 (eastern Strait) are open for chinook through April 10. According to Ryan Lothrop, Puget Sound recreational salmon fishery manager, Sekiu has been a very good choice for anglers seeking salmon.

Marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island, Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), 11 (Tacoma-Vashon), 12 (Hood Canal) and 13 (South Puget Sound) are also open for salmon fishing in April.

Anglers fishing marine areas 6, 7, 8-1, 8-2, 11 and 12 have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook. Those fishing the Strait of Juan de Fuca (marine areas 5 and 13) have a daily limit of one salmon.

Lingcod fishing is also open in marine areas 1-4 under rules described in the Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet. The fishery expands to areas of Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca on May 1.

In freshwater, anglers still have an opportunity to hook **wild steelhead** on some rivers on the Olympic Peninsula. As in years past, anglers may retain only one wild steelhead per license year on the Bogachiel, Calawah, Clearwater, Dickey, Hoh, Quillayute, Quinault and Sol Duc rivers. Wild steelhead retention continues through April 15 on the Clearwater, Hoh and Quinault rivers, and through April 30 on the other rivers. For more information on steelhead fishing regulations, check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

In addition to the fisheries opening this month, anglers can look forward to seasons opening in May for halibut and shrimp. For information on the upcoming [halibut season](#), see the news release on the WDFW website. A news release outlining the 2013 [shrimp season](#) is also available on the website.

Southwest Washington

(Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties)

The sport fishery for spring chinook salmon on the lower Columbia River has been extended through April 12 under an agreement reached by fishery managers from Washington and Oregon. During that period, the recreational fishery will be closed April 9 to accommodate a possible commercial fishery.

With harvest levels running well below expectations, the two states added six days to the recreational fishing season previously set to continue through April 5.

Through March, anglers had caught just 1,500 adult spring chinook salmon, about 25 percent of the 6,100-fish harvest expected by this point in fishery, said Ron Roler, Columbia River Policy coordinator for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"The season definitely got off to a slow start, but the bulk of the run is starting to move in," Roler said. "River conditions are excellent – low and warm – so we will be monitoring the fishery closely to make sure the catch doesn't exceed the established guideline."

Guy Norman, WDFW southwest regional director, said fishery managers from both states will watch the catch throughout the extension period and close the fishery earlier if necessary. "We want to keep the fishery open through April 12 – and perhaps even longer – but we have to hold the catch within the guideline," Norman said. "The situation can change very quickly in April when the fish start moving upriver in large numbers."

Norman noted that fishery managers will also meet in May to consider whether potential changes in the runsize will allow a late-season opening.

After three years of strong spring chinook returns, this year's fishery is based on a projected run of 141,400 upriver fish, about 25 percent below the 10-year average. By comparison, approximately 203,000 fish destined for areas above Bonneville Dam returned to the Columbia River last year.

Upriver fish make up the bulk of the catch, although spring chinook returning to the Willamette, Cowlitz and other rivers below Bonneville Dam also contribute to the fishery.

Sport fishing for salmon and steelhead is scheduled through April 12 on the lower Columbia River from the mouth upriver to Beacon Rock, and to bank anglers up to the fishing boundary below Bonneville Dam. The daily limit below Bonneville Dam is two adult hatchery-raised fish and no more than one adult chinook.

Anglers fishing the mainstem Columbia River are required to use barbless hooks and release any wild, unmarked salmon, steelhead or cutthroat trout they intercept.

Above Bonneville Dam, the fishery is open to boat and bank anglers on a daily basis through May 5 between the Tower Island powerlines six miles below The Dalles Dam and the Washington/Oregon state line, 17 miles upriver from McNary Dam. Bank anglers can also fish from Bonneville Dam upriver to the Tower Island powerlines during that time. The daily limit above the dam is two adult chinook salmon.

Barbless hooks are not currently required on Columbia River tributaries, although that issue will likely be considered during this year's North of Falcon season-setting process.

Fishing for salmon and steelhead remains open on the Cowlitz River and at Drano Lake, consistent with standing rules described in the [Fish Washington](#) rules pamphlet. The Klickitat River will open April 1 under the same rules and limits as last year.

However, fishing on several other tributaries to the Columbia River will be closed or curtailed in several of those rivers this year to meet spawning goals at area hatcheries. Rivers affected by emergency rules are:

- **Lewis River:** All chinook must be released from the mouth upstream to the mouth of the East Fork until further notice. The mainstem Lewis remains open for hatchery steelhead.
- **North Fork Lewis River:** All chinook must be released from the mouth of the East Fork upstream to Merwin Dam until further notice. Through May 31, fishing is closed for all species from Johnson Creek (located downstream from the Lewis River Salmon Hatchery) upstream to Merwin Dam. The North Fork Lewis from Johnson Creek downstream remains open to fishing for hatchery steelhead.
- **Kalama River:** All chinook must be released from the boundary markers at the mouth upstream to the upper salmon hatchery (Kalama Falls Hatchery). The Kalama River remains open to fishing for hatchery steelhead.
- **Wind River:** From April 1 through July 31, anglers will be limited to one hatchery chinook or one hatchery steelhead per day from the mouth (boundary line/markers) upstream to 400 feet below Shipherd Falls. Wild chinook and wild steelhead must be released. All fishing is closed until further notice from 400 feet below Shipherd Falls upstream, including all tributaries.

For additional information, see the [rule change notices](#) on the WDFW website.

Meanwhile, anglers can catch and keep **white sturgeon** from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam, and in The Dalles and John Day pools. Fishing has been slow, but anglers have been landing a few legal-size fish, particularly in the Dalles and John Day pools.

Effective April, the annual statewide retention limit for sturgeon is two legal-size fish under a measure recently approved by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. The daily limit remains at one legal-sized fish. The change in the annual limit, also adopted by Oregon, is designed to help address the decline of legal-size sturgeon in the lower Columbia River in recent years.

Fishing seasons approved for 2013 in the lower Columbia River are as follows:

- **Buoy 10 to the Wauna powerlines:** Retention of white sturgeon is allowed daily through April 30 and from May 11 through June 30. Through April 30, sturgeon must measure between 38 inches and 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. From May 11 through the end of the season they must measure between 41 inches to 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. Catch-and-release fishing is allowed on days when retention is prohibited.
- **Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam:** Retention of white sturgeon is allowed three days per week (Thursday through Saturday) through June 15 and from Oct. 19 through Dec. 31. Sturgeon must measure between 38 inches and 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. Catch-and-release fishing is allowed on days when retention is prohibited. Effective through April 30, angling is prohibited from a line between the upstream end of Sand Island, located east of Rooster Rock State Park, to a marker on the Oregon shore downstream to a line between the lower end of Sand Island and a marker on the Oregon shore.
- **Pools above Bonneville Dam:** Retention fishing closed Feb. 10 in Bonneville Pool, but additional days are possible in June. Retention fisheries in the two reservoirs between The Dalles and McNary dams will remain open until their respective 300-fish and 500-fish guidelines are met.

Rather catch some **trout**? Hundreds of lowland lakes open for trout fishing April 30 throughout the state, drawing tens of thousands of anglers out for their first cast of the year. While most lakes in southwest Washington are open year-round, "opening day" does mark the start of trout fishing in such perennial favorites as Mineral Lake, Fort Borst Park Pond, Carlisle Lake, Davis Lake, and Plummer lake (Lewis

County), Swift Reservoir, Swift Power Canal, and Kidney Lake (Skamania County) and the Rowland Lakes, Spearfish and Horsethief Lake (Klickitat County).

For news on razor clam openings, see WDFW's [razor clam website](#).

Eastern Washington

(Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman counties)

Some of the region's best **trout** fishing will begin at the end of the month with the lowland lakes season opener on April 27.

"Some of those waters that open April 27 around Spokane that are well-stocked and where fish grow well include Williams, West Medical, Fishtrap, and Clear," said Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) central district fish biologist Randy Osborne in Spokane. "One that we rehabilitated last year that should be very good this season is Fish Lake near Cheney."

Bill Baker, WDFW northeast district fish biologist, said many trout lakes in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties that open on April 27 are traditionally good bets. Those include Stevens County's Waitts, Cedar, Rocky and Starvation lakes; Ferry County's Ellen and Davis lakes; and Pend Oreille County's Diamond, Marshall and Sacheen lakes.

But there's plenty of good fishing to be had until then, too.

The daily bag limit for **walleye** doubles to 16 fish beginning April 1 on Lake Roosevelt, the lower San Poil River, and the lower Spokane River from the mouth at Hwy. 25 bridge upstream to 400 feet below Little Falls Dam. For details check the [emergency fishing rule change](#).

Meanwhile, catch-and-release fishing for both rainbow and cutthroat trout at Amber Lake in southwest Spokane County has been good. Amber is under selective gear rules and shifts to a catch-and-keep season on April 27 when the daily limit will be two trout of at least 14 inches. Rainbows with clipped adipose fins caught at Amber must be released even after April 27.

Coffeepot Lake in Lincoln County is producing rainbow trout, mostly on flies. Coffeepot is under selective gear rules (no bait, artificial flies and lures only, knotless nets), a minimum size limit of 18 inches and daily catch limit of one trout.

Liberty Lake, in eastern Spokane County, is a good bet for brown trout and, as the water warms, **yellow perch** and **crappie**.

Downs Lake in southwest Spokane County receives hatchery "catchable-size" rainbow trout, but it should also fish well this month for **largemouth bass**. Downs also has yellow perch and crappie.

Medical Lake, near the town of the same name in southwest Spokane County, has brown and rainbow trout.

Deer Lake in southern Stevens County, which opened March 1, is finally warming up and likely producing some catches of rainbow and lake trout, with bass, crappie, perch catches not far behind.

Rock Lake, open year-round in Whitman County, is consistently a good spot for brown and rainbow trout. Another year-round trout fishery that provides a secluded and productive experience for anglers willing to walk a mile, is Z-Lake on the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area in Lincoln County.

In the south end of the region, anglers fishing the Tucannon River impoundments on WDFW's Wooten Wildlife Area have been catching nice rainbow trout. Area manager Kari Dingman said Big Four, Blue, Deer, Rainbow, Spring and Watson lakes are all well-stocked with hatchery trout and warming up.

Anglers are reminded that all fishing rules in the [2012-2013 regulations pamphlet](#) apply throughout the month of April. New rules take effect May 1, 2013, and will be available in pamphlets online and at license dealers later this month.

Anglers are also reminded that all 2012-2013 Washington state fishing licenses expire at midnight March 31. To keep fishing, anglers over 15 years of age must purchase a 2013-14 license. Licenses and permits are available online, by phone (1-866-246-9453) and from sporting goods stores and other retail license dealers around the state.

April 19 is the deadline for registration for the May 4 Kids' Fishing Event at Clear Lake in Spokane County. For details on the registration form, see the [Youth Fishing 2013 Event Calendar](#).

Northcentral Washington

(Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties)

Dozens of lakes in the region open to fishing April 1, most in Adams and Grant counties of the Columbia Basin. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) district fish biologist Chad Jackson of Moses Lake says weather changes can always play and "April Fools" trick on anglers on this opener, so be prepared for fickle spring conditions.

Jackson also reminds anglers age 15 and older they'll need to have a new fishing license, valid April 1, 2013-March 31, 2014, in hand before participating in this opener. All 2012-2013 Washington state fishing licenses expire at midnight March 31. Licenses and permits are available online, by phone (1-866-246-9453), and from sporting goods stores and other retail license dealers around the state.

Many of the waters opening April 1 are within the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, including the Pillar-Widgeon chain of lakes, which should provide fair to good **rainbow trout** fishing. One refuge fishery – Para-Juvenile Lake, seven miles northwest of Othello on the Adams-Grant county line – opens April 1 only to anglers under 15 years of age. It's a good spot to take kids to catch **bass** and **sunfish**.

North and South Teal lakes, among the "Seep Lakes" south of Potholes Reservoir, were rehabilitated in 2010 and restocked each year since with rainbow fry, which have grown to 12-inch catchables. Fishing at both should be good, Jackson says.

Some of the best fishing on the April 1 opener should be at Dry Falls Lake at the north end of Grant County near Coulee City. "This is a selective-gear-rule fishery with an internal combustion motor prohibition and a one-fish daily catch limit, so there's a lot of catch-and-release fishing," Jackson said. Most anglers catch more than 10 fish during an outing. Most of the catch is made up of yearling trout ranging in size from 12 to 14 inches, but several carryovers of up to 20 inches have been reported. In addition to rainbows, Dry Falls gets stocked with brown and tiger trout."

Upper and Lower Hampton Lakes, north of Othello on the wildlife refuge, are usually good producers in this early season, but Jackson said they are in need of the rehabilitation work tentatively planned for this fall. "We need to remove nuisance fish species that impact trout fry survival," he explained. "There might still be some decent trout in these lakes for the patient angler who wants to find them."

Two Okanogan County lakes also open April 1 – Spectacle Lake, just south of Loomis, and Washburn Island Pond, a diked oxbow lake off the Columbia River near Fort Okanogan State Park due east of Brewster off Highway 17.

WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist Bob Jateff of Twisp says anglers can expect to catch rainbows in the 10-14 inch range at Spectacle. Washburn Island Pond is a warmwater fishery that provides anglers opportunities for **largemouth bass**, **bluegill**, and the occasional **channel catfish**. Combustible engines may not be used while fishing Washburn.

Several other Okanogan County rainbow trout fisheries shift to catch-and-release only fishing under selective gear rules on April 1. These include Campbell, Cougar, Davis, Green and Lower Green, and Rat lakes.

Jateff notes that Davis Lake, near Winthrop, is still frozen, so anglers should check with local sources before making a trip. When it is ice-free Davis should provide good fishing for rainbows in the 10-14 inch range.

Rat Lake, near Brewster, should provide good fishing for rainbows and browns up to 14 inches. The Green lakes, west of Omak, should provide rainbows in the 11-13 inch range.

Many other trout lakes open April 27, when the single biggest fishing season in the state gets under way.

Jateff said the best bets in Okanogan County will likely be Pearrygin Lake, near Winthrop, with 10-13-inch rainbows; Conconully Lake and Reservoir in the town of Conconully, with lots of rainbow trout and kokanee; Alta Lake, just west of Pateros, rehabilitated in 2011 to remove goldfish, now with excellent fishing for rainbow trout to 15 inches; and Wannacut Lake, near Oroville, with 10-13-inch rainbows.

In Chelan County, a good the opener may be Wapato Lake, with quality rainbows from last year's fingerling plants, plus yellow perch, **bluegill** and **largemouth bass**, said Travis Maitland, a WDFW district fish biologist. Other Chelan County waters opening April 27 may see catchable-size trout plants delayed, depending on weather, including Wenatchee Heights Lakes, Beehive Reservoir, and Clear, Black, and Lilly lakes. Anglers can check the Catchable Trout Plant Weekly Reports at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/plants/weekly/>.

In Douglas County, Jameson Lake is still a popular fishery and should have some good sized carryovers available. "We also stocked it last fall with about 10,000 catchable-size rainbows that should be very nice

size for the opener,” Maitland said. “In addition, Jameson will get 600 large “triploid” rainbows just before the opener.”

Southcentral Washington

(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

Trout fishing takes center stage in April as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) continues planting thousands of **rainbows**, **kokanee** and **cutthroat** in regional lakes and ponds for the second straight month. Rotary Lake, Tims Lake, Yakima Sportsman Pond, Fio Rito Lakes, Matton Lake – these are just a few of more than two dozen lakes scheduled to receive fish this month. A complete list is posted on WDFW’s [trout-stocking website](#).

Most of those fish run from one-third to a half-pound each, but some weigh in at 1½ pounds, said Eric Anderson, a WDFW fish biologist based in Yakima.

“We’re putting some hefty, great-looking fish out there this year,” Anderson said. “This is a good time to get outdoors and celebrate spring by catching some.”

Anderson notes that all anglers 15 and older must have a 2013-14 fishing license to fish for trout and other species after March 31, when 2012-13 licenses expire. Licenses ranging from a three-day razor-clam license to a multi-species combination license are available [online](#), by phone (1-866-246-9453) and from sporting goods stores and other retail license dealers around the state.

Meanwhile, the **spring chinook salmon** got off to a slow start in the lower Columbia River this year, but the upriver run should start arriving in area waters in mid-April, said Paul Hoffarth, a WDFW fish biologist based in the Tri-Cities. “Anglers should keep an eye out for emergency rules that open and close fishing on short notice,” he said. For updates, he recommends checking the [department’s website](#), the Fishing Hotline (360-902-2500) and local news media.

Sturgeon anglers are also advised to stay abreast of new regulations. As of late March, anglers could still catch and keep legal-size sturgeon in Lake Umatilla (John Day Dam to McNary Dam), but that fishery will close as soon as the 500-fish quota for those waters is reached.

Most **steelhead** sport fisheries are now closed in the Columbia and Snake rivers, although a “bank only” fishery adjacent to WDFW’s Ringold Springs Hatchery near the Tri-Cities is open April 1 through April 15. The daily limit is two hatchery steelhead along the Franklin County shoreline from the WDFW marker a quarter-mile downstream from the Ringold irrigation wasteway outlet to the marker a half-mile upstream from Spring Creek.

Rather catch warm-water fish? Catch rates should continue to improve on area rivers for **smallmouth bass**, **channel catfish** and **walleye** in April right through spring.

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Chris Vertopoulos: chrisv@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Following extended down time, the Tillamook Bar Cam is up with the rest from NOAA:

http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/marine/bars_mover.php

Videos document challenges to fish passage:

<http://dfw.state.or.us/news/2013/april/040113.asp>

2013 Mushroom Guide:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5414046.pdf

GOOD LUCK!