

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 7<sup>th</sup> – June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** On the Willamette River, plenty of shad are still available and the run has showed no signs of tapering off . At Oregon City, shad anglers are having success with small Dick Nites and tiny green grubs. The sturgeon fishing is tapering off as the bulk of the fish migrate into the Columbia River. On the bright side, the warm water species are on the bite and pre-summer action on the Willamette is steadily picking up. Smallmouth bass are found along rocky shorelines and structure and are generally aggressive towards crank baits, plastics and any other foreseen intruders. A few walleye anglers are giving it a go in the Multnomah Channel and having moderate success trolling worm harnesses along the shelves.

Flows on the McKenzie River are moderating with the water level excellent for fly anglers this week. Fishing has been fair to good, best when McKenzie Green Caddis is hatching. When that occurs, results can be a flurry of memorable activity. Results have been fair to good on the upper river as well.

Water levels on the North Santiam crested on the last day of May, dropping rapidly thereafter. Steelheading has been fair with numbers picking up. The South Santiam is in good shape and is promising with over 1,400 summer steelhead counted at Foster Dam as of June 3rd.

Clackamas River fishers are having a tough spring. Summer steelhead are present, but their numbers are few this season. Spring chinook are also available, but sparsely distributed throughout the river. On the bright side, the water conditions are ideal and a slow drop is expected over the next week.

The Sandy River has been putting out a few springers and the occasional summer steelhead. Drift boaters and bank anglers are doing best in the river above Dabney Park. Boaters are having success back trolling small plugs and running divers with small baits of cured roe or sand shrimp. Bank anglers are getting a few with hardware or bobber/bait or bobber/jig set-ups. The river level is a touch lower than optimum but still very workable. Expect the river to drop through the weekend.

**Northwest –** Sturgeon fishing continues to improve in the Astoria area with the deep water in front of Astoria producing best on the most recent weak tide series. Deep water produces best in low tide exchanges, shallow water on bigger tide exchanges. The Longview stretch is slowing for sturgeon.

Salmon and steelhead fishing should improve along lower Columbia beaches with the upcoming minus tide series. Plunkers working spin-n-glos close to shore should stand a fair chance at fish.

Minus tides should also produce good clamming along Clatsop Beaches. If the surf remains subdued, limits should be common.

Spring chinook fishing on Tillamook Bay was productive. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Bounty on the Bay event tallied a record number of salmon on Saturday; 19 were brought in for measuring with one boat catching 5 and another landing 4. Both herring and spinners have been working but action has slowed recently. Northwest winds have hampered ocean effort for salmon, halibut, bottomfish and crab. Crabbing has picked up however, more-so in the ocean.

Area rivers are on the drop with no precipitation in the forecast. The hatchery hole on the Trask will remain the best bet but bank anglers working the deep holes with bobbers and shrimp/egg combos should stand a chance at fish. Summer steelhead seem scarce on the north coast.

**Southwest**- The spring all-depth halibut fishery on May 30-June 1 yielded good results out of Newport and Depoe Bay. Catches of rockfish and lingcod were spotty but decent once fish were located. June 6-8 is the next scheduled all-depth halibut opener if sufficient quota remains available.

Ocean chinook have been cooperating with anglers launching out of Winchester Bay. Fishing for redbtail surfperch inside the bay has finally picked up with several limits reported. Striped surfperch and greenling catches have also been good at times. Smallmouth bass fishing is good on the river from Elkton on the mainstem up to Canyonville on the South Umpqua.

ODFW Outdoors will host an adult fly fishing workshop at LaVerne County Park on the North Fork of the Coquille River on Saturday, June 8. Phone 541-888-5515 for information.

Fishing for halibut out of Gold Beach was good late last week. Amongst the halibut taken, a 50-pounder was brought to the docks each day over the past weekend. Rockfish limits have been the rule. Catches of lingcod are expected to drop off in coming weeks while rockfish results should improve. Ocean chinook fishing has been slow but catches are expected to take off soon. Spring chinook fishing has improved along with flows of cooler water in the lower Rogue. Results remain slow on the middle river. The upper Rogue remains the place to be for springers and with summer steelhead nosing upstream, steelheading should be worthwhile in a couple of weeks.

Halibut fishing out of Brookings was excellent with one charter reporting boat limits in two passes on Thursday. Rockfishing was also rewarding but rough offshore conditions starting Friday prevented further effort. Fishing has been slow for sea-run cutthroat in the lower Chetco River.

Trolling at Diamond Lake has been the most productive technique although bait fishers continue to take some trout. Midge hatches have started to thin but will continue to be annoying to anglers.

**Eastern** – It's a mixed bag on the Deschutes with Salmonflies and Golden Stones enduring, Green Drakes hatching periodically and decent caddis hatches in the evening. It's a good idea to carry corresponding imitations as well as nymphs to match not just the hatch but the whim of resident residents.

Wickiup has been producing kokanee but the bite has been confined to the early morning hours and turning off as soon as sunlight hits the water.

East Lake has been producing some trout in the 14 to 16-inch range while kokanee fishing has been worthwhile on jigs.

**SW Washington**- District rivers continue to disappoint sportanglers with poor opportunity for most species. Anglers will remain focused on the lower Columbia for steelhead and an occasional chinook. Based on visual stock indexing, it appears as if summer chinook are beginning to show.

The Klickitat River has some spring chinook present and summer steelhead numbers should increase soon.

Bass and walleye action is picking up in The Dalles and John Day Pools. Success should only improve in the coming weeks as waters warm.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – We will look to sturgeon on the lower Columbia River for our top prospect this week. With this spring's low flows and moderate water temperatures, sturgeon action has picked up earlier this year than it has in the last several. Although we are just now hearing of ocean-returning sturgeon to the estuary, it seems fish from the upper reaches (upper Columbia and Willamette) have been providing fair opportunity for the last few weeks. We continue to see fair to good catches of sturgeon above Tongue Point with both sides of the sands above the landmark producing some opportunity. With the low tide exchange this week, guides have been targeting the deeper water with Svenson Dike, Tongue Point and downtown Astoria deep water, producing some of the best results. No word of sturgeon in stink house flats however. Fish should be available. Here is the ODF&W creel check for sturgeon from the weekend:

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

Weekend checking showed one legal white sturgeon kept, plus two oversize and 22 sublegal sturgeon released for seven boats (26 anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed three legal white sturgeon kept, plus 29 sublegal sturgeon released for seven boats (14 anglers).

**Portland to Westport Bank:**

Weekend checking showed no catch for five bank anglers.

**Portland to Longview Boats:**

Weekend checking showed 10 legal white sturgeon kept, plus one legal, four oversize and 99 sublegal sturgeon released for 32 boats (87 anglers).

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

Weekend checking showed 32 legal white sturgeon kept, plus five legal, three oversize and 69 sublegal sturgeon released for 48 boats (132 anglers); and five legal white sturgeon kept, plus six sublegal sturgeon released for eight charter boat anglers.

**The Dalles Pool:**

Weekly checking showed five sublegal sturgeon released for seven bank anglers; and 12 sublegal sturgeon released for one boat (two anglers).

**John Day Pool:**

Weekly checking showed two sublegal sturgeon released for 21 bank anglers; and nine legal white sturgeon kept, plus two legal, 14 oversize and 44 sublegal sturgeon released for 23 boats (64 anglers).

With the deep water effort, anchovies often take on greater meaning. Fish cutters have recently witnessed sturgeon bellies full of piling herring, indicating the presence of bait fish in the lower reaches. You may be able to jig some of these piling herring near the docks of downtown Astoria but anchovies can make for a good alternative. Sand shrimp fishes best in the shallows where sturgeon are more likely to find them naturally. Since sturgeon more frequently forage in the shallows during larger tide exchanges, anglers didn't spend much time pursuing them this last weekend; that will change this weekend however.

Salmon and steelhead fishing in the lower Columbia was fair this week despite a weak tide series. Plunkers from the bank as well as anchor fishermen did produce some results fishing spin-n-glos tipped with coon shrimp (beach) and plugs from boats. The water upstream of Rice Island is most likely to produce the most catches but effort really ramps up around Westport targeting fish on Tenasillahe Island and Puget Island. The upcoming week should prove even better. Visual stock indexing from creel checkers indicates summer chinook are present. Although the steelhead season was rumored to start with a bang, early indications may not produce the results we have been hoping for. Steelhead counts at Bonneville should really begin to ramp up in the coming weeks. Lower river anglers hope to see adult passage topping 200 steelhead a day before they good too excited.

Here is the ODF&W report from the weekend:

**Gorge Bank:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult chinook kept for 26 salmonid anglers; and 3,204 shad kept, plus 47 shad released for 424 shad anglers.

**Gorge Boats:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult chinook kept, plus one unclipped adult chinook released for five salmonid boats (14 anglers); and 962 shad kept for 23 shad boats (77 anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and one adipose fin-clipped jack chinook kept, plus five unclipped adult chinook released for 19 salmonid boats (45 anglers); and 113 shad kept, plus 11 shad released for 17 shad boats (36 anglers).

**Portland to Westport Bank:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and eight adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped adult chinook and one unclipped jack chinook released for 236 salmonid anglers.

**Portland to Westport Boats:**

Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and three adipose fin-clipped jack chinook kept, plus one unclipped adult chinook released for 20 boats (48 anglers); and 52 shad kept for four boats (nine anglers).

**Estuary Bank (Tongue Point to Westport):**

Weekend checking showed no catch for 21 bank anglers.

**Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Westport):**

Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped adult chinook kept for nine boats (24 anglers).

Shad and sockeye numbers are starting to climb with shad action excellent.

No reports on bottomfishing during this last weak tide series but action was likely good for those willing to tolerate a NW wind. Lower Columbia crabbing remains fair at best.

**The Guide's Forecast** – For sturgeon, the upcoming extreme tide series will cause a strategy change for most sturgeon anglers in the know. Although the deep water is likely to produce again this weekend, it won't produce for very long as sturgeon seem to know when forage is most likely to be within their grasp. The tide changes and shortly before and after should produce the

best in the deep water, including Tongue Point and downtown Astoria. Look for the best action on the first part of incoming and throughout the strongest part of the tide in the shallower sand flats, using primarily sand shrimp but also anchovies for bait. Although there is likely sturgeon below the Astoria Bridge, action is likely to be better upstream of Tongue Point this weekend. Look for keepers to wash up into the shallower waters throughout the incoming tide. It's not quite a keeper per boat average but catch rates have been pretty impressive for this early in the season.

Bait is a bit harder to come by these days but the World Class fishing phone number for bait is (503) 741-1407 for all your bait and spinner needs. They are located on the port docks of Astoria, just under the Astoria/Megler Bridge.

Salmon and steelhead anglers have a great tide series to work this weekend. The minus tides should push both species closer to the shoreline, where plunkers have access to them using spin-n-glos and plugs both. As we get into the weekend and beyond, action should improve with upstream anglers getting opportunity into the early afternoon. It's clear that steelhead numbers are best but anglers are able to catch and keep spring/summer chinook (jacks and adults- fin-clipped that is) as well as steelhead. No retention of sockeye is allowed.

To target salmon, use green or purple colored spin-n-glos with sand shrimp, coon shrimp or lots of scent. When pursuing steelhead, use the bright colors such as oranges, reds or pinks. Remember, you can use more than one hook (multiple spin-n-glos) when pursuing these fish. Salmon will also respond well to plugs, particularly the smaller K-14 Kwikfish or M-2 Flatfish. It's best to wrap them with sardine fillets or at least use your favorite scent, liberally. Target 3 to 6 feet of water for steelhead, 6 to 12 feet of water for salmon.

Crabbing and bottomfishing will not be a great option this weekend, with the strong tide series and offshore flow that is in the forecast. Halibut fishing hasn't been great either and the stronger tides this weekend won't help matters.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "On the Willamette River, plenty of shad are still available and the run has showed no signs of tapering off . At Oregon City, shad anglers are having success with small Dick Nites and tiny green grubs. "Try a pink jig head with the green grub" suggests Dave Neels, local shad aficionado who works the tackle counter at the Oregon City Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor. "You have to clean the moss off your gear every five to ten minutes or you won't get bit" says Dave. Dave also recommends using longer droppers than the standard 18-24". Dave is convinced the fish are running a couple feet or more off the bottom and has been doing well with a 36 inch lead dropper line. The spring Chinook are far and few between and effort is light, but the occasional fish is caught by anglers willing to put in some time. Most salmon fishermen have switched to hardware, like small spinners, wobblers and Kwikfish. The sturgeon fishing is tapering off as the bulk of the fish migrate into the Columbia River, but fish will continue to get caught throughout the summer. On the bright side, the warm water species are on the bite and pre-summer action on the Willamette is steadily picking up . Smallmouth bass are found along rocky shorelines with structure and are generally aggressive towards crank baits, plastics and any other foreseen intruders. Best fishing is usually on the back side of islands, where the current is more subdued. A few walleye anglers are giving it a go in the Multnomah Channel and having moderate success trolling worm harnesses along the shelves. Trolling deep diving crankbaits can also be effective, however the Multnomah Channel is a snaggy piece of water so if losing a lure or two is out of the question, stick with worm harnesses."

McKenzie steelheaders have watched summer steelhead counts gradually climb at Willamette Falls this season. Those who are familiar with seasonal passage compared this year's numbers with those of 2012 (or checked the data tables) and sighed as the 2013 counts totaled only about half that of last year. On a brighter note, the Mac is in excellent shape for fishing this week with water level and flow gradually dropping.

Following the Santiam crest of river levels at the end of May, the water came down rapidly. It is now gradually moderating with that trend forecast to continue over the coming week. Water flows are good for fishing although it is expected to get pretty clear, making early and late in the day preferable for best results.

Benson Lake, Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Hartman Pond, Huddelston Pond, North Fork Reservoir, Olallie Lake, Silver Creek Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, South Fork Yamhill River, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Junction City Pond and the North Fork Santiam River above Detroit will be planted with hatchery trout.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "On the Willamette, fishing for Shad should continue through the weekend, but anglers can expect the action to slowly drop off as we approach the tail end of the run. Find water with strong flow that is 8-15 feet deep and work the water column. Spring Chinook fishing is definitely on the slow side and should slowly continue to get even slower. Sturgeon fishing has peaked on the Willamette, but a few fish will still make presence known throughout the season. Bass and walleye will be in the spotlight until the fall coho make a showing. Anglers intent on fishing the Willamette, would be well advised to consider that warm temperatures and longer days cater best to alternative water sports that don't often mesh with fishing. Fish early and fish late when the wake boarders and tubers are either at home in bed, or off the water and clanking Bud Lights."

Water level and flow on the McKenzie is likely to be getting low in the near future while summer steelhead numbers, modest though they may be this year, will be increasing. Those concentrating efforts on the stretch between Leaburg and Hendricks are most likely to connect. Tossing hardware around Stayton Bridge has generated strikes. As levels drop, adopt summer stealth tactics.

Despite a modest steelhead run this year, the Santiams definitely have some fish in the system for anglers to target. On the other hand, with 18,000 spring Chinook above Willamette Falls now, plunkers and bobber fishers have had success occasionally on the North Santiam. Over 1,400 summer steelhead had been counted at Foster Dam as of June 3rd.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "Clackamas River fishers are having a tough spring. Summer steelhead are present, but their numbers are few this season. Bobber and jig set-ups will be the go-to, but anglers will also have success with size 3 and 4 spinners. Spring Chinook are also available, but sparsely distributed throughout the river. Work the deeper holes with good current, preferable the heads of the runs where there is plenty of cover and dissolved oxygen. The river is on a slow drop and is looking pretty clear. Drift boaters and bank anglers who get on the water early will have the best chance of success. Running the river with a sled will soon become a dangerous option as the water level falls below 12 ft.

"The Sandy River has been putting out a few springers and the occasional summer steelhead. Drift boaters and bank anglers who get an early start are doing best in the river above Dabney Park. Boaters are having success back trolling small plugs and running divers with small baits of cured roe or sand shrimp. Bank anglers are getting a few with hardware or bobber/ bait or

bobber/jig set-ups. The river is one foot lower than the optimum "10 ft", but still very workable if low water tactics are employed."

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Summer is here for Clackamas River fishermen and that means dodging the rafters and tubers. Summer Steelhead and a few springers will be available but a bountiful season is likely not in store. Fish early in the morning before the splash and giggle crowd wakes up and again late in the evening when they have all went home. Work the heads of the runs where there is more depth, cover and oxygen. Fresh summer steelhead will enter the river through July. The springers are in good shape through independence day, but it's rare to find a fresh one much after that.

"Same holds true for the Sandy River, where east county residents like to cool their hides in the rivers cool, glacial water. Put your time in early for summer steelhead and spring Chinook. Late evenings can sometimes pan out too, but are rarely productive as the first two hours of daylight. The Steelhead will trickle in through the early fall, while fisherman can expect the springers to taper off by the fourth of July."

**North Coast Fishing Report** – Spring chinook remains top priority for Tillamook County anglers. Last weekend during the Bounty on the Bay event, a record 19 salmon were brought in to scale. It was overall, a pretty good bite over the weekend with fish coming from the Ghost Hole, the lower end of the West Channel and along the jetty on the outgoing tide. There were even fish into the upper reaches of the bay where one boat took 4 springers on spinners (Jon Winters) for his 2 anglers for the event. Although herring was clearly king, spinners were responsible for several fish over the weekend. It was a real surprise given the fact we were just coming off of a significant rain freshet from the previous week.

The ocean, south of the south jetty has also been producing some catches recently. Despite a strong NW wind early this week, boaters have been protected by the south jetty when fishing this area.

Fish were caught for the first time of the season in the lower west channel. This fishery seems to produce best on the second half of incoming tide, much like what we see in the Ghost Hole in the fall months. Fish were also taken in the Ghost Hole during the same period of the tide but action seemed more consistent on the west side. Most guides and anglers however were anxiously awaiting the middle three hours of outgoing tide along the jetty. As has become standard procedure, there is often a pretty good bite during this time of the tide and this weak tide series that we're just coming off of, didn't disappoint.

Last week, the upper bay only seemed to produce at first light. As commonly is the case, a weak tide series doesn't push motivated fish into the upper bay. Admittedly, I had much lower expectations for a productive fishery last weekend, given the fact we were coming off of a major precipitation event. There is no question, we lost a lot of fish that were in the estuary to each of the river systems that get returning hatchery fish. Following the rain freshet on the drop, those systems, particularly the Trask, produced great catches for driftboaters downstream of the hatchery. Anglers fishing in the hatchery hole reported good results at mid-week with several anglers taking limits of fish on the new bobber and bait technique now required by law. Those are likely the fish that were at the jaws over the weekend. The Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers also received a nice shot of fish but anglers were largely disappointed from Wilson River results. Summer steelhead seems largely absent in the Wilson and Nestucca systems. It likely fished better a little later in the drop. Three Rivers drew a lot of interest following the rain freshet. Results were fair for this early in the run. The Trask will always be the best north coast option, given the number of hatchery plants to the system. Most recently, the ocean has yielded

some good catches, particularly in the early morning. Boats fishing the south side of the south jetty have been able to shield themselves from the NW swell and wind-chop. Although results seem to be best early in the morning, there were fish taken throughout the morning hours. Anglers still need to exercise extreme caution as the beach swell can sneak up on you, especially the farther away you are from the jetty. Other than the nearshore chinook option, offshore anglers weren't highly motivated to buck a morning NW wind in pursuit of halibut, bottomfish or crab. Crabbing has picked up however, especially in the ocean, where one boat reported 17 keepers recently. After an intensive commercial fishery, males might finally starting to move closer inshore. Shad is plentiful from the Columbia River and would make excellent crab bait. Unfortunately, the upcoming minus tide series isn't friendly to crabbing opportunity.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The upcoming minus tide series will offer up the best opportunities in the upper bay. Minus tides are associated with a preceding large high tide, which should push fish close to their natal river mouths. This makes the Memaloose Ramp and adjacent waters a prime target for the sport-fleet. Plugs and spinners will largely rule the roost on outgoing tide and herring trollers often take advantage of the incoming and high tide periods. It seems this season, this particular tide series has produced best at first light and the early part of outgoing tide through mid-outgoing tide. The last half of outgoing tide has been particularly uninteresting. I prefer to backtroll plugs under these conditions but anglers are becoming accustomed to anchor fishing in the upper bay. Please be courteous to trollers, targeting water away from the main trolling channel. There is room for both types of fishers but we should all practice common courtesy.

Although most anglers will target outgoing tide, don't overlook high slack in the upper bay. In recent years, high tide on this type of tide series, has yielded good results along the grassy knoll, near the mouth of the Wilson River. Conditions may set themselves up well for this type of scenario this week. Herring seems to produce best for me under these conditions.

If you plan on river fishing, the lower reaches of the systems are certainly in order but water clarity could be an issue. Just downsize your baits and offerings so as not to spook potential biters. Chinook should be present in the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers as well as Three Rivers, which is only accessible to bank anglers. It's becoming apparent that like their Willamette cousins, these chinook are strongly considering smaller baits. Given the fact that they seem to be responding best to shrimp and egg combinations, to keep baits small, utilize a smaller cluster of eggs and smaller sand shrimp. Anglers can also substitute a small piece of sardine instead of a sand shrimp.

With the extreme tide series, lower bay fishing is a poor option. Bar crossings may be sketchy, especially with any westerly swell. The minus tide series exacerbates the potential for a rough bar so be sure to check the VHF radio, US Coast Guard recording or hail the USCG yourself for current bar and ocean conditions. Here is the offshore forecast for the weekend:

**FRI**

W WIND 5 TO 10 KT...VEERING TO NW IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 10 SECONDS. CHANCE OF RAIN OR DRIZZLE.

**FRI NIGHT**

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 6 FT AT 15 SECONDS...BUILDING TO 8 FT AT 15 SECONDS AFTER MIDNIGHT.

**SAT**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT.

W SWELL 8 FT AT 14 SECONDS.

**SAT NIGHT**

N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 7 FT.

**SUN**

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 7 FT.

**MON**

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

If you are able to exercise an ocean option, stick to the south side of the south jetty, particularly in the early morning. We have also found a few willing biters at high slack right on the bar (bay entrance) or just west of it. Anglers should be aware that there is a forming sand bar near the green can that does cause a pretty good ground swell, especially on an outgoing tide. The above forecast doesn't look too friendly for weekend anglers. Another 3-day opener is slated for the 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> but it looks to be a bumpy ride.

Offshore chinook fishing is a bust right now and may not improve for a while. Crabbing may be challenging in the stronger currents.

Although we'll have the tides for it, razor clam digging may be challenging, depending on the size of the surf over the weekend. Hopefully, the surf will be calm enough to produce some good shows this weekend. The minus tide started on Wednesday.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Bottom fishing was challenging out of central Oregon ports mid-week, even for seasoned offshore anglers as marginal ocean conditions combined with a spotty bottomfish bite. Persistence won out, however, as those who toughed it out and stuck with it were rewarded with worthwhile catches of rockfish and ling cod.

During the last all-depth halibut opener May 30-June 1, offshore fishers landed 24,430 pounds with best catches out of Newport. There is 38% or 45,576 pounds remaining in the spring quota. If sufficient quota remains following the next opportunity on June 6-8, backup dates starting June 20-22 will be available.

Tuna fishers are getting anxious for the season to get underway. To those who chase albacore, that means warm water (and fish) moving sufficiently near the Oregon coastline to reach them in a day.. The latest buzz is that this may occur in late June but this fishery will definitely be underlay early in July as the Charleston Tuna Challenge starts July 5th.

We mentioned a few weeks ago that many offshore anglers would be receiving descending devices to return rockfish such as canaries and yelloweyes to appropriate depths for survival if you fish in areas where these species may be caught and would like a descender at no cost from the Oregon Coalition for Education Anglers, click here: <http://www.oceaned.org/order.html>

Boaters looking forward to catching ocean coho will be setting their sights on July 1 when the selective season opens for a quota of 10,500 fin-clipped fish.

Boat launching out of Winchester Bay have been doing well for Chinook - when they have been able to get out. Fish are being taken on trolled herring at 50 to 60 foot depths over anywhere from 120 to 300 feet of water. Fishing inside for redbtail surfperch has been good very good for some - while others have struggled. It pays to be aware that these fish are skittish and are often

spooked by boats. Be aware that these fish don't hold in any one area, changing locations with current and tide. Those in the know have taken plenty of them in areas from the East Boat Basin to the old paper mill. One boat took over 50 on Saturday, June 3rd while another caught 65 on the following Sunday. Fishing productive stretches will often yield a dozen or more pinkfins while other areas will be devoid of these slabs. If the bite stops in an area producing fish, move. The mainstem Umpqua River has been dropping since the last day of May and is forecast to continue doing so into mid-June. Shad fishing has resumed with fair results at Yellow Creek and Sawyer's Rapids. Steelhead fishing is waning and while there are springers in the river, the bite is off with the water temperature rising as the level drops. On the other hand, smallmouth bass are becoming more active. With numbers of summer steelhead improving on the North Umpqua, anglers in the flies-only section are catching them now. Spring Chinook are showing in Winchester Dam counts as well Springer catches have been picking up from the Narrows up to Rock Creek. Smallmouth fishing has been fair to good on the South Umpqua.

When boats have been able to launch out of Charleston, bottom fishing has been good, rewarding anglers with limits or near-limits of black and yellowtail. rockfish. Ling cod catches have been short of limits but good-sized fish have been taken. Catches of California Halibut have picked up recently in Coos Bay. Crabbing has been slow with many juveniles and females showing up in catches.

Water level in the Agness stretch of the Rogue River started rising during the last week in May but rose only about six inches overall. This didn't really serve to alleviate the situation created by warmer-than-normal water temperatures so the spring Chinook bite has remained slow with generally a couple of chances early mornings. Despite good numbers of springers passing through the middle Rogue now, they have had little interest in biting so results have been slow here as well. With water temperatures below the 60-degree mark on the upper river, this has been and remains the place to be for spring Chinook on the Rogue. The moderation of water temps in this stretch is thanks to outflow from Lost Creek Reservoir which has been averaging in the low 50s. In addition to springers, summer steelhead have started making an appearance in modest number at Cole Rivers Hatchery. These numbers will soon increase, creating yet another fishery to enjoy here.

While the majority of sea-run cutthroat have migrated back to the ocean by this time of year, there are always some that take up residence in a river. These trout can often provide a virtual year-round fishery, particularly in tidewater and lower stretches of coastal river. This is usually the case on the Chetco although catches have been slow recently. Once located, coastal cuts will readily take small spinners or brightly-colored flies.

Lemolo Reservoir has been producing good catches of brown trout according to the ODFW, whose checkers report a 20-incher recently.

Powers Pond and Rogue above Lost Creek were planted with hatchery trout this week.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – The weather has been reminiscent of mid-July rather than early June on the lower Deschutes. Fishing has been decent with a few big bugs lingering around Warm Springs but savvy fly fishers will do well to arm themselves with Caddis dries, nymphs and emergers as well as some Pale Morning Duns.

Crooked River flows have been stable for weeks now. Although the flow of 220 cfs is a little greater than some long-time devotees, any steady flow bodes well for a decent fly-fishing experience here. Caddis hatches have been thick recently.

Flows at Wallowa River are lower than what might be expected at this time of year but it remains to be seen if warm weather this week will trigger a freshet. In the absence of the seasonal high water event, steelhead smolts which would normally be whisked away are numerous and can be pesky.

Kokanee fishing has been spotty at Odell with most anglers taking a few. Jigging and trolling seem to be equally effective.

Wickiup has continued to produce good catches early mornings then seems to shut down. At first light, the flurry of activity can generate decent numbers of kokanee averaging better than 14 inches.

Crane Prairie has been slow this week.

The ODFW sent an update this week indicating that Looking-glass Creek is open for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook jacks (less than 24-inches long) as of June 1 through June 21 from the Moses Creek Lane Bridge (County Road 42) upstream to the confluence of Jarboe Creek with a daily bag limit of five jack salmon with two bag limits in possession. Only artificial flies and lures may be used and all adult Chinook must be released unharmed. The river is closed to fishing between Jarboe Creek and 200 feet upstream of the hatchery water intake during this fishery.

### **Washington fishing reports:**

***From the WDF&W Weekender Report for June 2013***

Last Updated 5/5/13

### **North Puget Sound**

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

Anglers have their pick of several fishing opportunities in June. On Puget Sound, the Tulalip Bay bubble fishery is under way for salmon, while the lingcod fishery remains open through mid-month. Many area rivers open for trout June 1, when a few salmon seasons also begin.

Portions of the Skagit and Cascade rivers will open for hatchery **chinook salmon** fishing June 1-July 15. The Skagit is open to hatchery chinook retention from the Highway 530 Bridge at Rockport to the Cascade River Road. On the Cascade, anglers can fish for salmon from the mouth of the river to the Rockport-Cascade Road Bridge. The daily limit on the Skagit and Cascade rivers is four hatchery chinook, two of which may be adults (chinook salmon at least 24 inches in length).

Fishing for salmon also opens June 1 on portions of the Skykomish River.

Meanwhile, **trout** fishing will open at several rivers and streams beginning June 1. Under the statewide rule for trout, there is a two-fish daily limit and a minimum size of eight inches in rivers and streams. However, some of the region's streams have a rule requiring trout to be at least 14 inches in length to keep. For details on river fishing opportunities, check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

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

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

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

Anglers interested in lake fishing opportunities are encouraged to check WDFW's new [Fish Washington](#) webpage. This online resource for anglers is designed to make it easier to find lake fishing opportunities throughout the state and includes interactive maps, detailed species information and basic "how-to" fishing videos.

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

Farther north, the **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery** is under way. The fishery is open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 2. The exception is June 15, when the bubble is closed for the Tulalip Tribes salmon ceremony. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon, and can use two fishing poles with the purchase of a WDFW two-pole endorsement.

The **halibut** fishery in the region closes May 31, but fishing for **lingcod** is still an option. The lingcod fishery runs through June 15 in the region. During the hook-and-line season (May 1-June 15), there's a one-fish daily limit for lings, with a minimum size of 26 inches and a maximum size of 36 inches.

Prefer **shrimp**? Check [WDFW's recreational shrimp fishing webpage](#) for shrimp fishing opportunities available in June.

Washingtonians who are interested in fishing but haven't actually given it a try have a perfect chance to do so during **Free Fishing Weekend**, scheduled June 8-9. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. Also, no vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required during Free Fishing Weekend to park at any of the water-access sites maintained by WDFW.

While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as size limits, bag limits and season closures will still be in effect. Anglers will also be required to complete a catch record card for any salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or halibut they catch. Catch record cards and WDFW's Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet are available free at hundreds of sporting goods stores and other license dealers throughout the state.

June also offers a special opportunity to hook large trout. WDFW fish hatchery crews will be stocking 10,000 triploid rainbow trout in 20 lakes just before **Father's Day weekend**, June 15-16.

"This is the second straight year we've stocked trout before Father's Day, and this year we've doubled the number of fish and added six more lakes to the list," said Chris Donley, WDFW Inland Fish Program manager. "A fishing license is a great Father's Day gift and catching these big fish will make for some wonderful memories."

Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#); by telephone at 1-866-246-9453; or at hundreds of [license dealers](#) across the state.

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

- King County: Green Lake, 1,500
- Snohomish County: Blackmans Lake, 250; Gissburg Ponds (aka Twin Lakes), 250
- Skagit County: Campbell Lake, 250
- Whatcom County: Padden Lake, 250

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

## **South Sound/Olympic Peninsula**

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

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

The popular **ocean salmon season** opens with a hatchery chinook selective fishery June 8 in Marine Areas 1 and 2 and June 22 in Marine Areas 3 and 4. The selective fishery runs through June 21 in Marine Area 1,

June 22 in Marine Area 2 and June 28 in Marine Areas 3 and 4, or until a coastwide quota of 8,000 hatchery chinook are retained.

For these initial seasons, anglers must release all chinook not marked as hatchery fish by a clipped adipose fin and healed scar.

“We are seeing chinook in areas 3 and 4, and they were just starting to show up in area 2 at the end of May,” said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

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

Those rules will change when then the traditional ocean salmon fishery gets under way June 22 in Marine Area 1, June 23 in Marine Area 2, and June 29 in Marine Areas 3 and 4.

Anglers fishing Marine Areas 1 and 2 will be allowed to retain one chinook – marked or unmarked – as part of a two-salmon daily limit. Anglers fishing Marine Areas 3 and 4 will have a daily limit of two marked or unmarked salmon. Fishing will be open seven days a week, except in Marine Area 2 where fishing will be open Sundays through Thursdays.

Before heading out, anglers should check the [Fish Washington pamphlet](#) and the Fishing Regulation Hotline (360) 902-2500 for additional regulations.

In Puget Sound, salmon fishing continues in Marine Area 13 and opens June 1 in Marine Area 11. Anglers fishing those areas have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook. There are also catch-and-release salmon fishing opportunities available in Marine Area 10, where fishing is open north of a line from Point Monroe to Meadow Point.

**Halibut** fishing is closed in most areas of Puget Sound, although the fishery will be open in Marine Area 5 (Sekiu) June 1 and June 8. On the coast, Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) is open three days a week (Friday through Sunday). The rest of the coast including Westport, La Push and Neah Bay is closed after reaching their quotas, said Heather Reed, a WDFW fish biologist.

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

Anglers have through June 15 to fish for **lingcod** in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The lingcod season on the coast remains open through mid-October.

Prefer **shrimp**? Check [WDFW's recreational shrimp fishing webpage](#) for shrimp fishing opportunities available in June.

Meanwhile, freshwater anglers might want to head out to the **Chehalis River**, where a spring chinook fishery is open through June 30. Anglers fishing the Chehalis, from the mouth to the Highway 101 Bridge in Aberdeen to Skookumchuck River, have a daily limit of one salmon. Other rivers open for **salmon** fishing include the Hoh, Quillayute and Sol Duc.

Elsewhere, **trout** fishing will open at several rivers and streams beginning June 1. Anglers should check the pamphlet for specific rivers and streams that are open. Gear restrictions for each area can also be found in the [Fish Washington sport fishing pamphlet](#).

Anglers should be aware that **Lake Sylvia** in Grays Harbor County, Montesano will be closed for a kids-only fishing event, effective 6 p.m. June 7 through 6 a.m. June 8. For more information on the event, see this [Washington State Parks web page](#).

**Free Fishing Weekend** is June 8-9 when licenses are not required, although all other rules apply. Newcomers to the sport who want to try it out at this time can check out how to get started and where to go in the “Fishing 101” information at [Fish Washington](#).

For the second year, WDFW fish hatchery crews are stocking extra triploid rainbow trout in fishing lakes across the state just before Father’s Day weekend, June 15-16. This time twice as many fish – 10,000 – will be stocked in 20 lakes, six more lakes than last year.

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

- Grays Harbor County: Vance Creek (Elma) Pond #2, 100
- Jefferson County: Sandy Shore Lake, 150

- Mason County: Mason Lake, 500
- Pierce County: American Lake, 1,500
- Thurston County: Clear Lake, 250; Hicks Lake, 160

## Southwest Washington

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

Anglers can fish for salmon, steelhead and shad every day in June on the lower Columbia River, with new fishing opportunities for salmon starting at mid-month. A number of area tributaries are also open for salmon, steelhead or both, and retention fisheries for white sturgeon will be open on various days above and below Bonneville Dam.

“There’s plenty to keep anglers busy in June, and the fishing opportunities expand throughout the month as we move into the summer season,” said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Through June 15, **hatchery spring chinook salmon** and hatchery steelhead are the main attraction for anglers fishing the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam. The extended fishing season is open from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line near the mouth of the big river to the deadline below the dam. For boat anglers, the upriver boundary is Beacon Rock.

The daily limit is six fish, no more than two of which may be adults and only one of which can be an adult chinook salmon. Anglers those waters are required to use barbless hooks and release all chinook salmon and steelhead not marked with a clipped adipose fin.

Starting June 16, daily limits and fishing areas change on the Columbia River when the **summer chinook fishery** gets under way from the Megler Astoria Bridge upstream to Priest Rapids Dam. Barbless hooks are required. The six-fish daily limit can include two adult hatchery salmon, or two adult hatchery steelhead, or one of each. Anglers fishing below the 395 Bridge in Pasco may also retain **sockeye salmon**, which count as part of the adult daily limit.

The selective fishery for adult summer chinook and sockeye salmon is open June 16-30 in lower Columbia River, but extends through July 31 above Bonneville Dam. The pre-season forecast anticipates an above-average run of 73,500 summer chinook, some weighing up to 40 pounds apiece.

“There’s a reason why these fish are known as ‘June hogs,’ Hymer said. “Reeling in one of these fish can really brighten up your day.”

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

Meanwhile, the Lewis River – including the North Fork – opens June 7 through July 31 for hatchery spring chinook salmon. The daily limit is six hatchery chinook, no more than two of which may be adults. Barbless hooks are required, and all salmon others than hatchery chinook must be released. For more details, see WDFW’s [emergency fishing rule website](#).

Anglers can also catch and keep salmon and steelhead on the Cowlitz, Wind and Klickitat rivers, plus Drano Lake.

On the Wind River, for example, the daily limit has been increased to two chinook or two hatchery steelhead, or one of each through June 30. The river upstream from Shipherd Falls is now open for salmon and hatchery steelhead, but anglers must release all wild chinook downstream from the falls.

Starting June 1, the Klickitat River from the mouth to the Fisher Hill Bridge is open to fishing seven days per week with a six-salmon daily limit, of which no more than two may be adults. Wild chinook must be released. Fishing for hatchery steelhead and hatchery chinook jacks also opens June 1 from 400 feet above fishway #5 to the boundary markers below the salmon hatchery.

Anglers must release all spring chinook salmon on the Kalama and Lewis rivers, although fishing remains open for hatchery steelhead on both systems. Starting June 1, the North Fork Lewis River from Johnson Creek upstream opens to fishing for hatchery steelhead as does Blue Creek – a tributary of the Cowlitz River – where anglers can also catch sea run cutthroats.

Also starting June 1, anglers may use bait on the lower sections of the South Fork Toutle, Green, Washougal, and East Fork Lewis rivers.

As noted in the [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet, anglers with a two-pole endorsement can use two rods to fish for spring chinook salmon and other species on sections of the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers and at Drano Lake.

Rather catch **sturgeon**? Anglers can catch and keep **white sturgeon** on the lower Columbia River, and in Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools during the times specified below. The limit is one legal-size white sturgeon per day, with a two-fish annual limit.

Current fishing opportunities for sturgeon are as follows:

- **Buoy 10 to the Wauna powerlines:** Retention of white sturgeon is allowed daily through June 30. During that period, sturgeon 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** (except closed through August in the spawning sanctuary from the dam downstream 9 miles): 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.
- **Bonneville Pool:** Catch-and-release fishing is open daily, and retention fisheries are scheduled June 14-15 and June 21-22. Sturgeon must measure between 38 inches and 54 inches (fork length) to be retained.
- **The Dalles and John Day pools:** The two reservoirs are open until catch guidelines are met. Sturgeon must measure between 43 inches and 54 inches (fork length) to be retained.

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

Anglers looking to catch **trout** should check the region's [trout stocking schedule](#) for good spots to go in June. Kline Pond, Rowland Lake and Spearfish Lake are some of the waters scheduled to receive fish this month.

Starting June 1, anglers also have the option of catching trout in a number of rivers and streams throughout the region. Many of those waters – ranging from Rainey Creek to the Little White Salmon River – are being stocked with fish from area hatcheries. Information about fish plants is available on [WDFW's website](#).

In addition, access to the high lakes is starting to open up with the gradual snow melt. Goose Lake in Skamania County is now accessible through Willard and Trout Lake. Excellent fishing should be available for cutthroat, eastern brook, and brown trout for both shore and boat anglers.

Those who don't have a fishing license but would like to try fishing will get their chance June 8-9 during **Free Fishing Weekend**. During those two days, no license will be required to fish any waters open to fishing in Washington state. No vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required to park at WDFW wildlife areas or water-access sites those days.

## **Eastern Washington**

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

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

Anglers should check the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet for special regulations that apply to rivers that open in June, as well as those rivers that opened earlier.

Anglers should note that the **spring chinook season on the Snake River** near Clarkston was closed by [emergency rule](#) on May 31. Fishery managers closed the fishery after determining the catch quota for spring chinook in the Snake River had been reached, said John Whalen, WDFW regional fish program manager.

"The closure effectively marks the end of the season for spring chinook fishing on the Snake River," said Whalen. Two other areas of the Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam and Little Goose Dam closed for spring chinook fishing May 15.

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

Farther north in the region, fishing is improving as snowpack melts at waters that opened in late April. In Stevens County, the Little Pend Oreille chain of lakes – Gillette, Heritage, Sherry, and Thomas – are providing catches, as are Pend Oreille County's Skookum and Yocum lakes and many others at higher elevation. Northeast lakes that produced well on the late April opener continue to see action, including Cedar, Mudgett, Rocky, Starvation, and Waitts lakes in Stevens County; Diamond Lake in Pend Oreille County; and Ellen Lake in Ferry County.

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

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

June 8-9 is [Free Fishing Weekend](#) statewide when no fishing licenses are required, although all other rules apply. Newcomers to the sport who want to try it out during the Free Fishing Weekend can check out how to get started and where to go in the "Fishing 101" section online at [Fish Washington](#).

Meanwhile, WDFW fish hatchery crews will be stocking 10,000 triploid rainbow trout in 20 lakes just before Father's Day weekend, June 15-16. "This is the second straight year we've stocked trout before Father's Day, and this year we've doubled the number of fish and added six more lakes to the list," said Chris Donley, WDFW Inland Fish Program manager. "A fishing license is a great Father's Day gift and catching these big fish will make for some wonderful memories."

Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#); by telephone at 1-866-246-9453; or at hundreds of [license dealers](#) across the state.

In the Eastern Region, Spokane County's West Medical Lake will receive 1,250 triploids and Williams Lake will receive 400, and Pend Oreille County's Diamond Lake will receive 600. More details are available at [Fish Washington](#).

## **Northcentral Washington**

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

June should be the best month to catch a hatchery spring chinook salmon from the Icicle River in Chelan County, said Travis Maitland, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) district fish biologist in Wenatchee.

"As expected, during the early part of the season on the Icicle the fishing was slow," Maitland said. "But as the run progresses, fishing should improve."

Maitland reminds anglers that bank fishing on the Icicle is very limited. "There is a public boat launch right at the upper end of the fishery boundary and boat anglers can pull out at the public launch on the Wenatchee River located off East Leavenworth Road," he said. "Most bank anglers use herring and egg clusters, while boat anglers use a variety of plugs and spin-n-glo setups in conjunction with bait."

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

Okanogan County lakes usually produce well in June for both boat and shore anglers. Trout-producing waters such as Spectacle, Wannacut, Pearygin, and Conconully lakes, plus Conconully Reservoir, all provide good fishing for **rainbow trout**. Selective-gear waters, such as Big Twin, Blue (Sinlahekin) and Big Green lakes are predominately rainbow fisheries. Anglers should check the current [Sport Fishing Rules](#)

pamphlet, since some of the selective-gear lakes have varying bag limit restrictions. **Kokanee** anglers should try Palmer, Bonaparte, and Patterson lakes.

Warmwater fish species start providing catches in June as water temperatures warm. Okanogan County's Patterson and Palmer lakes can be good for **yellow perch** and Leader Lake can be good for **bluegill** and **crappie**.

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

June 8-9 is [Free Fishing Weekend](#) statewide when no fishing licenses are required, although all other rules apply. Newcomers to the sport who want to try it out during the Free Fishing Weekend can check out how to get started and where to go in the "Fishing 101" section online at [Fish Washington](#).

Meanwhile, WDFW fish hatchery crews will be stocking 10,000 triploid rainbow trout in 20 lakes just before Father's Day weekend, June 15-16. "This is the second straight year we've stocked trout before Father's Day, and this year we've doubled the number of fish and added six more lakes to the list," said Chris Donley, WDFW Inland Fish Program manager. "A fishing license is a great Father's Day gift and catching these big fish will make for some wonderful memories."

Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#); by telephone at 1-866-246-9453; or at hundreds of [license dealers](#) across the state.

In the Northcentral Region, Grant County's Park Lake will receive 400 triploids, and Okanogan County's Alta Lake will receive 350 and Conconully Reservoir, will receive 750. More details are available at [Fish Washington](#).

## **Southcentral Washington**

(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

Anglers have a variety of options available in June, starting with hatchery spring chinook salmon on sections of the Yakima River, followed by summer chinook on the Columbia River. Meanwhile, hatchery crews are still stocking trout in area lakes, and many rivers also open for trout fishing Saturday, June 1.

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

Prospective anglers who don't have a fishing license but would like to try fishing will get their chance June 8-9 during **Free Fishing Weekend**. During those two days, no license will be required to fish any waters open to fishing in Washington state. No vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required to park at WDFW wildlife areas or water-access sites those days.

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

**Spring chinook** fishing is currently open on two sections of the Yakima River, where cooler weather has moderated flows and improved fishing prospects, Anderson said. "That should continue as long as we don't experience hot weather that brings on rapid snow melt," he said.

In the lower Yakima River, the fishery will likely remain open through June 30 from the Interstate 182 Bridge in Richland to the Grant Avenue Bridge in Prosser, Anderson said. The upper river – from the Interstate 82 Bridge at Union Gap to the railroad bridge below Roza Dam – is expected to remain open through July 15.

Anglers may keep two adipose-fin-clipped hatchery chinook per day. All wild salmon, identifiable by an intact adipose fin, must be released unharmed and must not be removed from the water prior to release.

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

Fishery managers are predicting a return of approximately 3,000 adult hatchery chinook to the Yakima River this year.

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

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

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

Fishery managers are anticipating a return of 73,500 summer chinook and a return of 180,500 sockeye to the Columbia River this summer. The Columbia River above the Highway 395 bridge in Kennewick will not be open for sockeye this year due to a relatively low run-size forecast. If the return comes in above expectations the sockeye fishery may be opened by emergency regulation later this summer.

"Anglers often have a tough time landing summer chinook in the Columbia River between McNary and Priest Rapids Dam but it has been improving the last couple of years," said Paul Hoffarth, a WDFW fish biologist based in the Tri-Cities.

Meanwhile, anglers have been reeling in **channel catfish** from the lower reaches of the Yakima and Walla Walla rivers. Flows are a bit lower and the water is a bit clearer this year compared to the past couple of years which is good for spring chinook and bass fishing but not as good for catching catfish. "Fishing for channel cats has been OK, but not great as recent years," said Hoffard, noting that catfish typically run 2-8 pounds but can easily weigh twice that amount.

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

- **White sturgeon:** Fishing remains open in Lake Umatilla (John Day Dam to McNary Dam) until the quota is reached and is open in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids/Ice Harbor Dams) through July 31 this year. Fish must measure 43 inches to 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. Anglers should be aware that sturgeon fishing is prohibited in sturgeon sanctuaries in the Snake River from Goose Island upstream to Ice Harbor Dam and in the Columbia River upstream of the Priest Rapids Hatchery outlet to Priest Rapids Dam, and from the I-82 bridge at Umatilla upstream to McNary Dam.
- **Shad:** By mid-June, shad should reach McNary and Ice Harbor dams in numbers that make for great fishing. While not as prized as salmon or sturgeon, they can put up a good fight and make for good eating, Hoffarth said.
- **Smallmouth bass and walleye:** Fishing for both species should improve in the Columbia and Snake rivers as those waters warm.

Rather catch some **trout**? WDFW will continue to stock lakes and ponds through June in the region, including Cooper, Easton, FioRito, Kiwanas, Lavendar, Lost, Naneum and Quartz in Kittitas County; and Clear, Dog, Leech and Indian Flat in Yakima County. Anglers can get more detailed information on lake fishing from the new "[Fish Washington](#)" link.

Starting June 1, a number of **ivers will also open** for fishing around the region. Anderson reminds anglers that most streams have reduced catch and size limits for **trout**, and there are catch-and-release zones on the Yakima River above Roza Dam, in sections of the Naches River and in Rattlesnake Creek where all trout must be released unharmed. Also, in most large main stem rivers and streams in the Yakima basin, anglers must use single-point barbless hooks and no bait.

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

## TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

**Reader Dan O**, who wrote to TGF last week, Emailed again with this update, "Thank you for the reply. I have fished the Umpqua twice this year for shad with limited success. I usually fish at yellow creek, using small twisty tail grubs I get at Arlene's. I have hooked 1 fish each time, but

lost both of them. Any info regarding where or how to fish would be appreciated, as I am very much a rookie at the shad game."

TGF co-editor Michael Teague sent Dan this reply, "It sounds as if you're fishing at (or near) the right place (and, along with Sawyers Rapids, the most popular) and the lure you're using is an effective one, particularly with a chartreuse-colored grub. Please refer to the attached photo (with thanks and a tip o' the fishing hat to our friend and accomplice, Bill Monroe). While the most effective lure will vary from one day (or hour) to the next, this is virtually everything you'll need to catch shad. Clockwise from the upper left, these are the Dick Nite spoon (most popular is 50/50 nickel/brass), Hildebrandt spinner (available gold plated), your jig head and grub and a bright brass swivel to which a single Siwash hook is attached. The last of this group, as simple as it is, will often get the most hits.

"So, you're fishing in the right place and you know what to use. The final variable is to be there at the right time. I wish you the best of luck out there!"

Here is the photo sent to Dan:



Photo by Bill Monroe, the Oregonian

#### **Write to the TGF staff:**

Bob Rees: [brees@pacifier.com](mailto:brees@pacifier.com)  
Michael Teague: [TGFMichael@gmail.com](mailto:TGFMichael@gmail.com)  
Chris Vertopoulos: [chrisv@pacifier.com](mailto:chrisv@pacifier.com)  
Doug Rees: [doug@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:doug@TheGuidesForecast.com)

#### **Random Links**

Video: Nice Deschutes River Rainbow takes a Stonefly Pattern:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=RqHNUSGrtmw#!](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=RqHNUSGrtmw#!)

South Umpqua Falls Campground Information:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recrea/umpqua/null/recrea/?recid=63858&actid=29>

**GOOD LUCK!**