

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 14<sup>th</sup> – June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** Sources say the shad are still running strong on the Willamette River at Oregon City. Most anglers are doing well if they are diligent about checking and cleaning their gear of moss every five to ten minutes. Fish tiny, bright offerings in 8-15 feet of water with good current. Spring chinook are few and far between, but the few that are getting caught are usually caught by shad anglers below Willamette Falls. There are a handful of die-hard fishermen targeting salmon below the falls and they score the occasional fish or two.

Sturgeon fishing remains fair, although many of the fish and the fishermen have made their way to the Columbia River. Bass anglers are finding success along rocky shorelines and behind islands. Walleye are on the bite in the Multnomah Channel and a few local experts are getting their share of the fish, but these guys keep things on the down low.

Water levels have dropped nearly to summer level lows on the McKenzie River and with little snowpack this year and only a few showers in the forecast this week, anglers may expect these conditions to endure for the weekend to come. Wading will be less challenging and a variety of hatches should produce all day long with action improving as shadows lengthen. There are also a few summer steelhead in the system.

A few summers have been taken with bobber and jig on the North Santiam. Summer steelhead are entering the fish trap daily on the South Santiam at Foster Dam but no springers have been seen here since May 20th.

The Clackamas River remains slow for spring chinook and summer steelhead although water conditions are holding up well. Local, experienced anglers willing to work hard and put in some time are having some luck. Small baits of cured roe and sand shrimp are drawing bites. Fish early and late for best results between Rivermill Dam and Carver Park.

A similar story holds true for the Sandy River. The water is lower and clearer here than on the Clackamas, demanding stealthy, low water tactics. Best results for spring chinook and summer steelhead are had above Dabney State Park.

**Northwest –** Tillamook spring chinook angling has been challenging lately but anglers are accustomed to one more good push of fish during this time frame. Anglers have been focusing their efforts in the upper bay but diminishing tide exchanges will re-focus effort in the lower end of the west channel and Ghost Hole during the incoming tide and along the jetty on the second half of outgoing tide.

Although rivers remain low, anglers working the Hatchery Hole on the Trask are finding fish using bobbers and bait. Trask tidewater anglers also reported good results last week. Fresh fish should continue entering the system well into July. The Wilson and Nestucca should also have catchable numbers of fish, best pursued using bobber and bait as well. Look for chinook in the slow, deep holes while some summer steelhead should be available in the shallower riffles.

Sturgeon fishing on the lower Columbia is productive. Anglers will likely focus on the deeper water as the tide exchange weakens over the weekend. There are keepers available below the Astoria/Megler Bridge and are willingly taking both sand shrimp and anchovies. There are oversize present as well.

Following a week of rough ocean conditions, swells and wind waves are forecast to settle. Offshore opportunity for salmon, halibut, bottomfish and crab should all be available. Check the ODF&W web site for season restrictions. A mark-select chinook fishery north of Cape Falcon opened up on June 8<sup>th</sup>. This fishery produced some quality fish last year and is likely to again this year. The coho season opens up on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Southwest**- Weekend fishing was a bust out of Newport and Depoe Bay but boats got out over the past week on Wednesday to take bottomfish and Thursday for the all-depth halibut fishery with good results. Limits of large flatties were taken out of Newport before winds came up. Conditions are forecast to moderate by the coming weekend.

According to the ODFW, an announcement will be made by noon on Friday, June 14 if enough quota remains for any Central Coast all-depth back-up dates to be open with the first possible dates June 20-22. The next nearshore opening is June 13-15.

Although the redbait surfperch fishing has continued to improve on the lower Umpqua, it has remained spotty. For those who have gotten into them, 15-fish limits have been taken. Best results have been coming around Buoy 12. The peak of the shad run has passed but there are still a few to be caught between Elkton and Sawyers Rapids. Hit the South Umpqua for smallmouth bass.

Boats bound for the ocean and bottom fish were able to launch out of Gold Beach only a couple of days over the past week with high winds prohibitive otherwise. Trollers started working the bay over the past weekend, scoring a couple of chinook. The water of the lower Rogue remains low and warm, which has the chinook run all but stalled. Catches have been slow to fair in the middle river. Once again, the upper Rogue is most promising for chinook but recent results have been spotty. Summer steelhead are starting to enter the hatchery and fishing is expected to pick up in a week or so.

Trolling for ocean chinook has been slow out of Brookings but fishing for rockfish and lingcod has been good when offshore conditions have allowed.

Now that the midge hatch at Diamond Lake has started to moderate, mosquitoes are becoming a challenge. This is an annual situation but be sure to take plenty of insect repellent if you go. Fishing is fair.

**Eastern** – With Salmonfly and Golden Stones about done, look for summer caddis to be hatching on the lower Deschutes this week. Redsides should respond to dry and nymph imitations.

Green Drakes have been hatching on the Metolius in cloudy weather but hatches will slow as conditions turn sunny for the weekend. Watch for Pale Morning Duns and late in the day, Caddis and Golden Stones are due in late June.

Hot weather over the past week triggered snowmelt in the high mountains and a consequential rise in Wallowa River levels. The water has dropped a little and stabilized with big bugs due in a week or so. Wallowa Lake is fair for planters, slow for kokanee. Brown trout are rising to mayflies at Wickiup Reservoir but they have been highly selective when presented an imitation. Kokanee have been taken to 18 inches.

**SW Washington-** The Cowlitz River remains the best option for salmon and steelhead anglers but catches are light. Summer steelhead should begin to dominate the catches although this fishery isn't what it used to be.

Beach plunkers do have fair opportunity for salmon and steelhead on the mainstem Columbia but the lack of a minus tide series won't do much to promote success rates.

The Klickitat system should start to see more summer steelhead available, some spring chinook are present below Fisher Hill Bridge as well.

**Attention TGF readers:** First of all, thank you for your continues support for our weekly newsletter! We appreciate all your positive comments and your past patronage! You have helped make us the most valued fish report resource in the state of Oregon!

**Secondly**, when customers sign up for TGF, we assure them the most complete and accurate fishing information in Oregon at least 50 times over the course of a 52-week year. We have rarely exercised our "opt-out" weeks in recent years but our technical brain is going on a well-deserved vacation. Sorry we won't be bringing you guys all the juicy info next week (**the June 20<sup>th</sup> version**) but we'll return the following week, catching you up on all the latest info along with a forecast for the remainder of the month. Thanks for understanding and look for our weekly contribution on the Wednesday edition of The Oregonian!

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Despite the ample salmon and steelhead opportunities on the Columbia, catches remain sub-par right now. Dam passage is improving for summer chinook but only slightly for summer steelhead, which should really be ramping up by now. Bonneville catches for both chinook, which are far more numerous than the summer steelhead, and steelhead themselves is pretty slow, really slow in fact. It seems salmon anglers are actually catching more sturgeon on salmon gear than salmon. What's up with that? Anglers did comment that the water is ripping up there however, which could be playing a role in angler success. Small spinners and plugs will remain the most effective.

Sturgeon fishing continues to produce nicely for estuary anglers. Some quality sized keepers continue to come from the estuary, both upstream and downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. The best fishing at mid-week was from waters upstream of Tongue Point however. Boats fishing mid-week found good numbers of fish from Marker 3, Lois Island, Miller Island and Tongue Point so it seems numbers are wide-spread and fish are large. Certainly a low-water spring has a lot to do with it. Sand shrimp remains best in the shallow water while anchovies are king in the deep. You can get your bait by dialing World Class Sportfishing at (503) 741-1407. The sturgeon fishing will likely hold up until the closure close to the end of the month. Here are the sturgeon numbers from the weekend:

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

Weekend checking showed one oversize and 11 sublegal sturgeon released for four boats (10 anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed 10 sublegal sturgeon released for seven boats (17 anglers).

**Portland to Westport Bank:**

No report.

**Portland to Longview Boats:**

Weekend checking showed 11 legal white sturgeon kept, plus one oversize and 36 sublegal sturgeon released for 12 boats (42 anglers).

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

Weekend checking showed 139 legal white sturgeon kept, plus 19 legal, 47 oversize and 461 sublegal sturgeon released for 160 boats (478 anglers); and one legal white sturgeon kept, plus one oversize and one sublegal sturgeon released for 15 charter boat anglers.

Salmon anglers have options both to the east and west out of Astoria. River anglers are finding a few summer chinook as well as river steelhead but action has slowed since the tide series has. Here is the ODF&W check for the week from the mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam:

**Gorge Bank:**

Weekly checking showed six adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and one adipose fin-clipped jack chinook kept, plus one unclipped jack chinook released for 29 anglers; and 969 shad kept for 174 anglers.

**Gorge Boats:**

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and one adipose fin-clipped jack chinook kept, plus two unclipped adult chinook released for seven boats (21 anglers); and 695 shad kept, plus 205 shad released for 23 boats (71 anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and three adipose fin-clipped jack chinook kept, plus four unclipped adult chinook and four unclipped jack chinook released for 50 boats (116 anglers); and 252 shad kept for 19 boats (48 anglers).

**Portland to Westport Bank:**

Weekly checking showed nine adipose fin-clipped adult chinook, three adipose fin-clipped jack chinook and 12 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped adult chinook, four unclipped jack chinook, one unclipped steelhead and one sockeye released for 246 anglers.

**Portland to Westport Boats:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus five unclipped adult chinook and two unclipped jack chinook released for 48 boats (116 anglers); and 42 shad kept for two boats (three anglers).

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

No report.

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

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult chinook, three adipose fin-clipped jack chinook and four adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept; plus four unclipped adult chinook and one unclipped steelhead released for 21 boats (45 anglers).

Although numbers haven't been tallied for the ocean chinook fishery yet (north of Cape Falcon; Columbia River sub-area), there were some fair catches for the folks that have been pursuing them. Most anglers target these fin-clipped fish north of the river entrance and in years past, the best action has been fishing them shallow just off of the lighthouse right around the corner. The water depth in much of that area is only 28 to 35 feet deep and we fish relatively high in the water column as if we're targeting coho. This is especially true in the early morning hours. Both

herring and anchovies have worked in recent years but guides have also had success trolling coyote spoons. Of course you're still required to use barbless hooks.

**The Guide's Forecast** – As we enter June, sturgeon action will only get better for keepers and shakers. The season is already off to a great start and if momentum keeps up like it is, it is likely to close early as effort rises. We were pretty fortunate to get another season of catch and keep on them this year.

With the onset of a weaker tide series this week, anglers will have to look to the deep water to pursue the best action. With stronger flow and spill going on this week as well, the incoming tides will not create much current for anglers to succeed in. None-the-less, it's clear that there is a lot of fish available in the estuary and aggressive anglers should be able to score results. Although you see us advocating for deep water fishing, with temperatures still reasonable river-wide, the shallows will produce fair results as well. You'll want to use sand shrimp here. Wherever you fish, do look for stronger flows as more aggressive fish will surely be there. Those stronger flows may be challenging to find during the incoming tide. Both upstream and downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge should produce results.

Anglers may wish to take advantage of the combo option with an early morning foray over the bar and to the north of the Columbia River entrance. Be aware of Peacock Spit however as that is not a friendly place to navigate a vessel. Always use extreme caution when crossing any bar, particularly the Columbia River Bar. Troll herring or fresh anchovies in 25 to 38 feet of water off of the light house and Long Beach. There should be some fish there but they have to be fin-clipped and chinook only, at least through the 21<sup>st</sup>. Although it may be tough to get a limit (you are allowed 2 fin-clipped chinook), the size and quality of the fish should make it worth your while. On the way back in, you can try lower Desdemona Sands for some quick sturgeon action although you'll have to be prepared to get eaten up by juvenile crab too. Take lots of bait.

The soft tide series may also bode well for bottomfishers. The south jetty should produce some fair catches of sea bass and lingcod. Take advantage of the weak tides, especially high slack and low slack, to target bottomfish on the sunken jetty.

You may also consider dropping your crab pots either in the river or in the ocean. The ocean is likely to produce the better catches with the spring spill currently going on.

We'll have to wait until the following week for a better tide series for beach steelhead fishing and razor clam digging.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "The shad are still running strong on the Willamette River at Oregon City. Most anglers are doing well if they are diligent about checking and cleaning their gear of moss every five to ten minutes. Fish tiny, bright offerings in 8-15 feet of water with good current. The smallest Dick Nite in brass/chartreuse or nickel/chartreuse is the favorite shad killer. You can get fish on other colors, but those two color combinations are the best sellers at local tackle shops. Just yesterday, while shad fishing on the Columbia below Bonneville Dam, my fishing partners and I figured out that by holding the rod and giving the Dick Nite a jigging action was getting by far more grabs than if you were to just let the rod sit there in the holder. The Dick Nite is such a tiny lure that it doesn't impart much action, even in strong current, so the extra movement given "manually", likely helps. Another popular and productive lure is the tiny, curly tailed chartreuse grub. A shad expert told me that if you use the pink 1/32 ounce jig head, with the chartreuse grub, that you will look and feel like an expert shad wrangler. Yes, the shad are also thick on the Columbia River and its pretty easy to fill the box with all you can handle. Spring

Chinook are few and far between, but the few that are getting caught are usually caught by shad anglers below Willamette Falls. The Dick Nite, by default is also a popular spring Chinook getter, landing a salmon on the tiny hook is another story. There are a handful of die-hard fishermen targeting salmon below the falls and they score the occasional fish or two. Sand shrimp, eggs, small spinners and wobblers are the preferred terminal set-ups at the falls. Sturgeon fishing remains fair, although many of the fish and the fishermen have made their way to the Columbia River. Sturgeon fishing below Bonneville is fair to good for all sized fish. Willamette Bass anglers are finding success along rocky shorelines and behind islands. Walleye are on the bite in the Multnomah Channel and a few local experts are getting their share of the fish on bottom walkers with worm harnesses, but these guys keep things on the down low so up to date reports don't come easy.

Without much benefit from snowmelt this week, rainfall did little to alter the stable waters of the McKenzie this week. There was a slight bump overnight on June 11th but the river level should be dropping gradually over the coming weekend. While the water level is low, particularly for this time of year, the river is quite fishable and has been productive for those trying it.

Flows of the North Santiam will be around 3,500 cfs at Mehama this weekend while the South Santiam will be running about 3,300 cfs at Waterloo. With about 8,000 summer steelhead over Willamette Falls along with over 20,000 springers, there are definitely some upriver fish to target.

Alton Baker Canal, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake, Quartzville Creek, Salt Creek, North Fork Santiam River above Detroit Lake, Trail Bridge Reservoir and Silver Creek Reservoir are scheduled to be stocked with trout.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Thursdays rain and cool blustery weather will likely dampen the Willamette and Columbia Rivers shad bite for a couple days. After the predicted higher pressure resumes, the shad bite will be back on. This weekend should draw a good crowd, anticipating the coming downturn of the action. The cooler temperatures could stir the spring Chinook into biting, but don't hold your breath as the numbers are no longer here to get anyone excited. Catch and release sturgeon fishing is still an option but most anglers intent on getting a fish, have headed to the Columbia for keepers."

Reports indicate anglers should expect to find Little Yellow Stones, small Caddis emerged and PMDs hatching on the lower McKenzie along with the occasional Golden Stone Fly with the latter increasing in weeks to come. Green McKenzie Caddis are still present evenings. Simulating these insects should result in trout hookups this weekend. Expect spotty action for summer steelhead with a the run unremarkable this season but there are some in the system and a few nice fish are sure to be landed over the coming weekend.

While steelhead numbers may not be stellar on the North Santiam, they have been entering steadily with anglers who target them will hook up periodically. South Santiam steelheaders have summers recycled from the hatchery as additional quarry. Jigs, spinners and drifted eggs will account for fish.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "The Clackamas River remains slow for Spring Chinook and summer steelhead although water conditions are holding up well. This is not to say that the query is non-existent. Local, experienced anglers willing to work hard and put in some time are having some luck. This week's rain might help to cool the water a bit and spur the bite for a day or two. Small baits of cured roe and sand shrimp are drawing bites. Boat anglers prefer to pull divers with the bait or

pull plugs as an alternative. Bank bound anglers, drift fish or bobber fish with the same baits or fish hardware like a spinner or spoon. Let's not forget the ever popular bobber/jig method, that probably gets more steelhead than any other method for beginning to expert anglers alike. The black, red and white nightmare color combinations should start getting the lion's share of the bites as summer quickly approaches. Fish early and late for best results between Rivermill Dam and Carver Park.

"A similar story holds true for the Sandy River. Both summer steelhead and a few spring Chinook are present, but in numbers that make you work hard for any bites. The water is lower and clearer here than on the Clackamas, demanding stealthy, low water tactics. The nightmare jig is a super option for low water and will often draw strikes when nothing else will. Some say it even out-fishes properly sized and presented baits. Best results for spring Chinook and summer steelhead are had above Dabney State Park."

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Expect the Clackamas River to continue on with mediocre salmon and steelhead fishing, however Thursdays low pressure front could improve the bite for the weekend. Getting on the water early means almost everything this time of year.

"The Sandy river too could see a slight upturn in the bite over the weekend. Traditionally, low pressure fronts get things stirred up in the warmer months, whereas the opposite can be true in the winter, maybe indicating that some kind of pressure change is all that it takes to fire up a steelhead or salmon."

**North Coast Fishing Report** – It's been a challenging week for Tillamook Bay anglers in pursuit of spring chinook. The bay seems largely void of numbers of fish as it seems springers are just continuing on into the tidewater sections if not fully blasting into the upper reaches of the Trask system. Tidewater bobber tossers reported good results last week and anglers fishing at the hatchery hole also continue to report fair results. Most anglers focused their efforts on the upper bay where the more extreme tide series often produces the best results. Not so much the case as recent successes were few and far between for trollers working from the Oyster House to Ray's Place Piling (the Corral). Herring trollers seemed to score the best results on Wednesday with few willing takers on spinners or plugs despite the good tide series. Lower bay effort has been little and with a rough ocean over the weekend, interest was justifiably low. It appears as if we're on the last hurrah for the north coast spring chinook run on Tillamook Bay anyway.

Although anglers would be wise to focus on the river systems that these adults return to, you'd have to employ low water, stealthy techniques to expect any measurable results. Those that focused on tidewater, specifically the Trask and Nestucca Rivers, did find some fair fishing. The Wilson is a distant 3<sup>rd</sup>, in that order. Small bait combinations of shrimp tails and egg clusters were responsible for the bulk of the action; fished from 4 to 8 feet deep.

Seas are finally starting to calm but weekend ocean-goers didn't have very good conditions to recreate in. An array of ocean critters await anxious anglers and opportunity should present itself through the weekend.

Not much to report from the great salt chuck from the weekend effort other than the fact that this weekend should offer up much better options. Here's the latest bullet points from ODF&W in regards to the halibut fishery:

**This Just In Thursday, June 13, 2013:  
Halibut anglers get three more all-depth days**

NEWPORT – Fishery managers added three more days to the popular all-depth sport halibut fishery off the central Oregon coast. Fishing for Pacific halibut will be open Thursday, June 20, Friday, June 21, and Saturday, June 22, at all depths.

The spring all-depth season for the central coast area – from Cape Falcon (30 miles south of the Columbia River) to Humbug Mountain (south of Port Orford) – opened May 9 on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. It could have closed as early as June 8 if anglers caught the entire 120,947-pound quota.

“After the June 20-22 opening, fisheries managers will again look at the catch and see if there is enough quota remaining for additional back-up dates,” said Lynn Mattes, halibut project leader for ODFW.

Subsequent decisions on open dates will be posted on the ODFW Marine Resources Program Web site at: [www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/) and sent out on the Halibut News Bulletin. To sign up go to <http://dfw.state.or.us/MRP/bulletins/index.asp> and enter your phone for text alerts and e-mail information to subscribe to email updates. Future dates will also be on the National Marine Fisheries Service hotline (1-800-662-9825).

- The next nearshore halibut fishery in the Central Coast area is open June 13-15.

And here’s the data for the near-shore and all-depth fisheries through June 2<sup>nd</sup>:

### Spring All-Depth

ID	Dates	Garibaldi	Pacific City	Depoe Bay	Newport	Winchester Bay	Charleston	Bandon	Total
19	May 9-11	4,135	814	3,157	21,631	341	1,271	3,362	34,712
20	May 16-18	2,974	18	1,665	9,691	0	797	1,084	16,229
22	May 30-June 1	6,548	577	2,863	14,046	69	282	45	24,430
Total lbs									75,371
<i>Quota</i>									<i>120,947</i>
<b>Remaining lbs</b>									<b>45,576</b>
Remaining %									38%

*Central coast all-depth quota = spring + summer = 168,942 lbs*

### Nearshore (40-Fathom)

ID	Dates	Garibaldi	Pacific City	Depoe Bay	Newport	Total
18	May 2-4	73	229	110	362	775

21	May 23-25	197	0	42	125	364
Total lbs						1,139
Quota						23,038
<b>Remaining lbs</b>						<b>21,899</b>
Remaining %						95%

*Central coast overall quota = nearshore + spring all-depth + summer all-depth = 191,980 lbs*

Crabbing remains challenging in the district.

**The Guide's Forecast** – As we mentioned last week, there should be one more good push of chinook to enter the Tillamook Bay system although it's pretty clear that there are strong numbers in the Trask system (the system likely to get the greatest return) already, from tidewater to well above the hatchery. Given the previous year's history, bay anglers should see an additional, noticeable shot of success. That success could come anytime but in the last few years, it's come on the weak tide series we are now headed into. Starting on Sunday and lasting well into mid-week, a weak early morning high tide is followed by a weak early afternoon low tide which sets up the ideal scenario for trolling herring along the jetty for the entire outgoing. Anglers would be wise to try the Ghost Hole and the lower west channel during the last trickle of incoming, through high tide and the first part of outgoing before heading to the jetty for the remainder of the outgoing tide. I can say with a fair degree of confidence, there should be spring chinook available. Upper bay anglers will likely struggle this week even though we've received a small shot of rain on Thursday. The river levels will continue to drop although a very slight bump occurred on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

As for river action, the Trask will remain king with high bobber effort taking place at the Hatchery Hole. Early morning and the occasional afternoon bite will likely remain consistent but anglers should strongly consider downsizing their shrimp and egg combinations. Be sure to change up the depth of your offering as biters will be holding in water from 4 to 10 feet deep in that hole and others. As time continues, these fish only get more acclimated to the human presence so you have to shift up your technique and prowess as the month progresses on. You also simply have to accept the fact that these fish become harder to catch the longer they remain in fresh water so prepare for frustration. Of course it won't just be the Hatchery Hole that produces fish. Even though it's likely to have the highest concentration of fish and anglers, the hatchery hole isn't your only option in the Trask River. The Maple Tree Hole and Loren's Drift will also produce fair results this week but you have to adhere to the new bobber restriction throughout the section. That new section on the Trask goes from the Cedar Creek Boat slide to the lower slide at Loren's Drift which is a total of just under 2 miles. Troopers will be watching so mind your P's and Q's. Other river options of course include the Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers with the Wilson and Three Rivers likely the top two options. Under these conditions, bobber and bait will remain the best technique to employ as fish will be hunkered down in the deeper holes in anticipation of a long summer dry spell. The closer you get to the hatchery on Three Rivers, the more likely you are to score results. The Wilson downstream of milepost 10 is most likely to produce the best results and the Nestucca below Three Rivers will also be best although this reach is only feasible by boat.

As for heading for salt, here is the ocean forecast:

**FRI**

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT AT 8 SECONDS.

**FRI NIGHT**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT AT 7 SECONDS.

**SAT**

N WIND 5 TO 10 KT...BACKING TO W IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 8 SECONDS.

**SAT NIGHT**

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT...BECOMING SW AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

**SUN**

SW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT.

**MON**

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 3 FT.

It looks like relatively smooth sailing ahead, which will allow for anglers to pursue nearshore halibut (Thursday through Saturday) (the next all-depth may happen the following week pending the announcement on Friday of any additional opportunity), bottomfish and chinook salmon. Crabbing opportunity should also be fair. Early mornings will afford the calmest seas and the best bites. Chinook fishing out of central and northern ports (Newport and Garibaldi as well as Depoe Bay) is less than impressive. Hopefully, that will change by later this month.

Nobody is really tearin' em up halibut fishing but the nearshore halibut are averaging larger than the all-depth fish. Last year, Pacific City was a productive port but anglers may have an easier time accessing halibut from Nehalem or Tillamook Bay as flatties often ply the waters between the two estuaries. Some anglers have spots plotted but they are highly guarded. Charter boats often have to go to farther distances for productive bottomfishing catches this time of year.

Bay crabbing remains challenging but should improve with the weaker tide series this week. There are no good clam tides until later next week.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Offshore anglers out of Newport and Depoe Bay were thankful for a willing ling cod bite mid-week as rockfish were not as anxious as usual to cooperate. Ocean forecasts are mixed for the weekend so a last-minute check of conditions would be recommended. Chinook fishing out of central ports has been slow recently.

Ocean coho salmon fishing dates were confirmed on June 6th as July 1-31, seven days a week or a quota of 10,500 marked fish maximum. This is for hatchery fish only during this fishery. Ocean Chinook salmon season opened May 1st for a bag limit of two fish per day which must measure at least 24 inches. Chinook may be taken offshore through September 8th, 2013.

As of the last all-depth halibut fishery June 6-8, 29% or 35,435 pounds remained in the central coast quota. As this is about what had been taken on the previous openings, one might feel optimistic about the fishing the next available dates on Just 20-22. It would be foolish to speculate, however as the decision will be made following a meeting of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife staff and the Pacific Halibut Commission on June 14<sup>th</sup>\*

**UPDATE** – Fisheries managers sent out an early announcement and it is on! Central Oregon coast. **Fishing for Pacific halibut will be open Thursday, June 20, Friday, June 21, and Saturday, June 22, at all depths.**

Tuna addicts have been in withdrawals this week with ocean temperatures rising into the high 50s. It won't be long but it also won't be this coming weekend. Oregon Albacore are coming but still far offshore.

Perch anglers are seeing some improvement in the redband surfperch bite at Winchester bay with several limits reported this week. In addition, rockfishing on the South Jetty has been worthwhile. Recent catches of decent-sized cabezon, which have to be released unharmed, have anglers looking forward to July 1st when it will become legal to keep them. The Umpqua mainstem has produced good-sized spring Chinook near Scottsburg over the past week although anglers are reporting having to clean their lines frequently as algae is becoming problematic. Warmer water has turned on the Smallmouth bite and shad fishing is expected to pick up with sunny weather over the weekend. Spring Chinook are crossing at Winchester Dam with anglers targeting them from Rock Creek to the Narrows. Smallmouth bass fishing is expected to be fair to good on the South Umpqua.

A few rockfish and fewer ling are being caught by jetty anglers at Coos Bay but results have been spotty. Crabbing is slow with nets and traps coming up with mostly females and juveniles. The South Coos hosts a small shad run so only the occasional fish has been taken.

Rain this week did next to nothing to alleviate problems in the lower Rogue resulting from low, warm water which has stalled the spring Chinook bite. The very few which have been caught were coaxed to bite at first light. River flows have been further moderating over the past few days with the lower Rogue forecast to remain at a stable but seasonally inadequate 3,000 cfs at Agness. Springer results have been slightly better on the middle river as fish are on the move through this stretch. Once again this week, the upper Rogue is the best bet for Chinook hopefuls. flows are a little high but will be moderating in the coming week and the sub-60-degree water temperature shouldn't compromise the bite. only hatchery springers may be kept in the upper Rogue while wild fish are keepers downriver.

The Chetco River is producing a few sea-run cutthroat trout but fishing has been slow.

The Rogue above Lost Creek will be planted with hatchery trout this week.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – When Salmon Flies and Golden Stones have been laying eggs on the Deschutes around Warm Springs this week, fishing has been fairly intense. Expect Caddis patterns to be reliable producers, however, as the big bug hatch is about wrapped up on the lower Deschutes. In this transitional period, look for redsides to be in various locations as no pattern has emerged recently.

Bull trout populations will continue to increase through the end of the month and beyond on the Metolius but fishing in the interim has been worthwhile with fresh fish in the river. Streamers and nymphs have been effective.

In order to track the long-term health of the redband trout population in the Crooked River, Biologists from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be electrofishing on the Crooked River below Bowman Dam from the Big Bend and Cobble Rock campgrounds beginning Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21. Electrofishing can affect fishing in the portion of the river being

sampled but fishing in the remainder of the river should be unaffected. These studies started in 1989.

Green Peter is producing kokanee on the troll but be sure to get rigs down to depths of 40 to 50 feet to hook up. Kokes will be shallower early in the morning but will drop into those depths as soon as the skies lighten. Those that are doing so are taking good numbers and some 25-fish limits. Stick to rolling until these fish start to form tighter schools in a few weeks at which time jigging should also produce fish for those who prefer this technique. See **Random Links**, below, for a related story.

Crane Prairie has been giving up some kokanee to trollers using flashers and hoochies. The fish here have been running large here.

Trolling has been more effective than jigging at Odell but overall, kokanee have been slow to bite.

Suttle Lake has been producing some kokanee but they have been running very small.

### **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 **Tulip 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

**Subscriber Roger M.** wrote to TGF this week via our website contact form with a unique suggestion: "Have you ever thought about adding a glossary? I have no idea where stink house flats are. A while back it was Wanna Power lines I had problems finding.

"Thank You for a wonderful newsletter."

**Doug Rees**, the fellow responsible for getting this newsletter online as well as TGF webmaster replied, "Thanks for reaching out to us with this idea. I will share it with our content folks and see if the thought can be expanded to provide more details on our site and in our copy."

After Doug did so, the TGF writers tossed the idea around and liked how it landed. We're putting together some locations while the task of organization and formatting falls back to Doug. If this becomes a reality, we will definitely share that information here!

**Write to the TGF staff:**

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**Random Links**

Killer whale steals halibut from angler's hook (video):

<http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/excursions/post/killer-whale-steals-halibut-from-anglers-hook/>

Green Peter produces nice surprise:

[http://www.gazettetimes.com/oregon-outdoors/big-surprise-at-green-peter/article\\_ac05fce7-c2ee-5574-b35b-5622aef1d8e0.html](http://www.gazettetimes.com/oregon-outdoors/big-surprise-at-green-peter/article_ac05fce7-c2ee-5574-b35b-5622aef1d8e0.html)



**GOOD LUCK!**