

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 19th – July 25th, 2013**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Last weekend's Willamette River sturgeon opener was disappointing for many anglers intent on getting their last keeper sturgeon this season, or possibly for years to come. A few shorts and a rare keeper were reported, but very little action was had river wide. Another three-day opener will be given this weekend (July 18, 19 and 20), but enthusiasm is low. Shad fishing is done, salmon fishing is also done, so warmwater fish are all that's left on the table for Willamette River anglers. Smallmouth bass and walleye are available in the mainstem Willamette and Multnomah Channel.

The Columbia River shad run has died below Bonneville Dam. All that remains to catch is a few summer steelhead, of what appears to be a low return for 2013. Catch and release sturgeon fishing has drawn little effort but its suspected that good numbers are feeding on leftover shad below the dam.

With steelhead numbers low this season and spring chinook making only a modest showing in the Santiams, fishing has been a challenge here.

Although the McKenzie has been fluctuating over the past several days, the level has continued to gradually drop. Large reddsides and some beautiful cutthroat are being caught by fly fishers on the upper river. Caddis dries and nymphs such as Hare's Ear and Prince Nymphs have been effective.

The Clackamas River is low and clear and will give up the occasional summer steelhead if you are willing to put in the time. Early morning and late evening offers the best opportunity, when the swimmers and rafters are off the water.

On the Sandy River, the conditions are similar to the Clackamas. Expect low water, with some color to it thanks to the melting glacier. Summer steelhead and the rare leftover springer can be found in rested water, if you put in your time. The upper river from Oxbow Park upstream offers the best chance at a fish.

Northwest – Coho anglers out of the lower Columbia continue to struggle during a time that should mean easy limits. Fish are largely scattered with the cooler water with baitfish largely absent. The best action has been off of Gearhart and Seaside with nice sized coho coming from depths greater than 200 feet. Biters have also been found uncharacteristically deep with coho coming from 75 to 100 feet down in some instances.

Coho fishing with the rare chinook seem available out of Garibaldi. Most anglers are targeting fish north of Twin Rocks in 200 foot of water or better. Crabbing reports indicate improved catches. When the weather cooperates, albacore will be high on the bucket list.

Nearshore halibut continues to produce fair results with Pacific City one of the highest producing ports this season. The season is scheduled to continue to run Thursdays through Saturdays until the quota is attained.

Chinook are starting to show in the lower Nehalem. Herring trollers working the mouth and Wheeler should expect to see improving catches in the weeks to come with the peak likely in early August. Bay crabbing remains fair at best.

Area rivers remain low and clear but morning cloud-cover should improve opportunities. Summer steelhead in the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers will become the primary focus as spring chinook begin to deteriorate. Hardware in the early morning will occasionally take fish.

Southwest- Boats launching out of Depoe Bay caught plenty of rockfish and lingcod over the past weekend. Coho fishing was also very good.

Properly equipped recreational boats are planning tuna trips this week. Commercial boats are getting into large albacore out of central Oregon ports. Charters are now scheduling tuna trips.

Crabbing in bays has been good for numbers, poor for keepers which have been few and mostly softshells at this time of year. Ocean crabbing is somewhat better.

With high wind keeping boats off the ocean out of Gold Beach over the past week, anglers were thankful for some good days trolling for chinook on the bay. The bite dropped off late in the week however, and was off by Sunday, July 14th. Ocean conditions are expected to improve in the week to come. Lower river fishing is slow and middle Rogue results have been poor. Springers continue to be taken on the upper Rogue early in the day with steelhead fishing turning on in the evening.

Ocean conditions out of the Port of Brookings allowed boats to troll for chinook within a mile of the coast. Conditions further improved throughout the week but with the ocean full of baitfish and krill, salmon are feeding heavily on natural forage and as a consequence, biting light. Hatchery coho catches have been decent.

Eastern – The lower Deschutes opens to hatchery fall chinook fishing on August 1. With a good return expected, the daily bag limit will be two adults and five jacks. The season is scheduled to continue through October.

Crane Prairie anglers are hooking fair to good numbers of rainbow and brook trout with the occasional larger "Cranebow" showing up in catches.

Olallie Lake is fishing well, producing good-sized trout.

SW Washington- Summer steelhead returns to district rivers are tracking well behind last year. None-the-less, the Cowlitz remains the best option in the district although most anglers report success rates are poor.

Another strong minus tide series late in the weekend may bolster lower Columbia catches as the bulk of the summer steelhead return should be pouring through.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "The Columbia River shad run has died below Bonneville Dam. All that remains to catch is a few summer steelhead, of what appears to be a low return for 2013. Steelhead fishers are having some success from Tongue Point all the way upstream to Bonneville Dam, using small red or orange spinners, small flatfish and spin n glows with or without coon shrimp. Steelhead follow the shoreline pretty closely, so in most cases you want to keep your offering in less than eighteen feet of water. Catch and release sturgeon fishing has drawn little effort but its suspected that good numbers are feeding on leftover shad below the dam."

Anglers remain perplexed as salmon are scattered well south of the Columbia River mouth.

Anglers witnessing the best catch rates were fishing off of Gearhart and Seaside, in water deeper than 200 feet. Water temperatures remain frigid, scattering bait and dispersing the schools of salmon. Anchovies remain the best bait but there really aren't many to be found. There is no sign of chinook returning to the north. It is likely however as we near the end of the month, higher concentrations of coho will start to show closer to the CR Buoy. Part of the problem has certainly been the dramatic drop in water temperature in a short period of time. Chinook are also likely to begin the show in higher concentrations as they migrate from the north, preparing to enter the Columbia River.

Crabbing reports remain mixed in the ocean. Most anglers continue to be disappointed with the results. North of the Columbia River, success rates are likely better but more softshell crab are starting to show in the catch. Very few folks are crabbing in the river. Catch rates are likely slow although last year, it did pick up by early August.

The estuary remains productive for catch and release sturgeon fishing but few anglers are participating. Rumors of double-digit days are consistent and likely the reality. The fresher the anchovies the more bites you will get. It seems that the better fishing is now taking place upstream of the Astoria Bridge but they should still be available downstream as well, particularly in the deeper water on the current soft tide exchange.

Upriver, anglers are entering peak season for summer run steelhead. Catches did improve but it seems the best action took place closer to the estuary (Jim Crow Sands to Tenasillahe Island). Now that we are coming off the minus tide series, action has slowed. Water temperatures are likely to increase, compromising catch rates for beach and boat plunkers. Here is the check from ODF&W over the weekend. As we mentioned, catch rates for anglers lower in the river do reflect the influx of steelhead now passing Bonneville Dam:

Gorge Bank:

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead and one sockeye kept for 23 salmonid anglers; and no catch for four shad anglers.

Gorge Boats:

Weekend checking showed three unclipped steelhead and four adult chinook released for four boats (11 anglers).

Troutdale Boats:

Weekend checking showed one steelhead caught for seven boats (15 anglers).

Portland to Westport Bank:

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one adult chinook released for 66 bank anglers.

Portland to Westport Boats:

Weekend checking showed 25 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 22 unclipped steelhead released for 77 boats (229 anglers).

Estuary Bank (Tongue Point to Westport):

Weekend checking showed 13 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus six unclipped steelhead released for 48 bank anglers.

Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Westport):

Weekend checking showed 18 adipose fin-clipped steelhead and two sockeye kept, plus 16 unclipped steelhead and one adult chinook released for 18 boats (49 anglers).

The Guide's Forecast – We are still a few weeks away from a Columbia River salmon opener but there are indications of fresh chinook already entering Young's Bay. Gillnet catches in the bay are improving.

Meanwhile, anglers will remain focused on the ocean although rough ocean conditions are forecast for the upcoming fishing period. Anglers may witness a short window of opportunity in the early morning, before the afternoon northwest wind kicks up. You do not want to get caught to the south when a strong northwest wind kicks in. Here is the forecast:

FRI

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT...RISING TO 15 TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT AT 7 SECONDS.

FRI NIGHT

NW WIND 20 TO 25 KT...BECOMING N 15 TO 20 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT AT 7 SECONDS.

SAT

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT...RISING TO 15 TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT AT 7 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT

N WIND 20 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT... EASING TO 15 TO 20 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT.

SUN

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. NW SWELL 5 FT.

MON

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT.

Hopefully with a stable water temperature, fish will re-acclimate and baitfish will move into the area. There remains an odd absence of baitfish in the Columbia River region. Be prepared to travel far to the south if you are not finding fish in all the traditional areas including the CR Buoy and south of Buoy 2. Anchovies will remain the bait of choice.

Anglers may wish to attempt a trip to the north. Chinook have been close to shore recently but there should be some coho for those willing to venture into deeper waters.

Crabbing offshore may pick up but don't count on the quality being any good. Adults are beginning to enter the molting phase in full force. River crabbing may offer better opportunities, particularly in this current week tide series.

With steelhead numbers at Bonneville dam picking up, anglers should expect to see a bump in success on the lower Columbia River. The problem is, a waning tide series won't do any bank or boat anglers a favor. Typically, water temperatures begin to warm up significantly this time of year, also compromising success rates. Nonetheless, anglers should still consider this a viable fishery. Target steelhead using bright colored spin-n-glos with Coon shrimp trailing.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts,

"Steelhead fishing on the Columbia River has been slow, possibly indicating a low return. Expect more of the same but be on the lookout for an up-tick in the action as we approach peak time. Action should pick up below Bonneville Dam and don't be surprised if you hook into an early or late return Chinook."

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports,

"Last weekend's Willamette River sturgeon opener was disappointing for many anglers intent on getting their last keeper sturgeon this season, or possibly for years to come. A few shorts and a rare keeper were reported, but very little action was had river wide. Another three-day opener will be given this weekend (July 18, 19 and 20), but enthusiasm is low. Shad fishing is done, salmon fishing is also done, so warmwater fish are all that's left on the table for Willamette River anglers. Smallmouth bass are on the prowl and the few anglers that peruse them on the Willamette are having success in the back channels and along rocky shorelines. Casting plastics, crankbaits and spinners baits will all take fish and topwater presentations can work well in the evening too. Walleye fishermen in the Multnomah Channel are likely taking their share but getting anyone to divulge any info on this is like pulling teeth out of a live great white. Worm harnesses fished upstream with bottom-walkers is the way to go in the channel. A couple of weeks ago, I did speak with a walleye guy who gave up a few tidbits on the channel. He says he does have some success trolling deep diving crankbaits, but you have to know your water. He said there are certain stretches you can get away with it that are relatively free of hook grabbing snags. But most other spots in the channel are "off limits" when it comes to fishing expensive crankbaits, you will lose them as fast as you put them out there he said. Sounds like it really comes down to knowing the water."

McKenzie flows have continued to fluctuate as the overall water level has slowly dropped over the past week. Generally, water conditions are excellent for angling.

With upper Willamette water temperatures in the mid-70s, passage of spring Chinook and summer steelhead is dwindling to low double digits. This may be good news for trollers targeting fish kegged in the lower river but not so much for upper tributary anglers. Fishing has been slow in the Santiams and with steelhead numbers about half that of last year at this time. there's no reason to expect a surge later in the season.

Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Alton Baker Canal, Breitenbush River, Carmen Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake, Salmon Creek and the North Fork Santiam River above Detroit Lake are scheduled to be stocked with trout.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Not much to elaborate on for the Willamette River, other than the upcoming sturgeon opener about to happen this weekend. Expect slow fishing and a smaller crowd. If any action at all is to be had, focus on the extreme lower river and Multnomah Channel. Kelly Point and Saint Helens, just inside the deadlines might be your best bets. The slightly cooler water from the Columbia River, mixing with the Willamette's super-warm water might make it comfortable enough for the denizens of the deep to dip in, looking for a meal. Bass and Walleye fishing should remain steady as usual."

Water fluctuation on the McKenzie doesn't seem to have had any negative effect on fishing. Trout anglers continue to enjoy good results. Fishing improved over those recent overcast days, during which there were a few summer steelhead landed. If that situation recurs, hit the river!

With water levels fishable but low and dropping to summertime levels on the Santiams, fishing is expected to be slow.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Clackamas River is low and clear and will give up the occasional summer steelhead if you are willing to put in the time. Early morning and late evening offers the best opportunity, when the swimmers and rafters are off the water. Small baits, fished alone, without extra color and subdued color jigs fished under a float are the ticket to success.

"On the Sandy River, the conditions are similar to the Clackamas. Expect low water, with some color to it thanks to the melting glacier. If you put in some time, summer steelhead and the rare leftover springer can be found in rested water. The upper river from Oxbow Park upstream offers the best chance at a fish."

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "The Clackamas River should show little change and a few summer steelhead are still available to anglers willing to prowl the wee hours of light.

"Same goes for the Sandy River. A handful of summer steelhead and the odd springer are on the table, if you go early or late, avoiding the rafters and swimmers."

North Coast Fishing Report – Like the north coast, anglers continue to look west for their best options. Coho are mostly on tap and should be readily available as we get closer to the end of July. Coho that are commonly caught out of Garibaldi are often destined for the Columbia River, and we are coming up on the time when they are peaking past the North coast. Improved catches out of Depoe bay often mean better fishing in the near future out of Garibaldi.

Chinook are largely absent from the Garibaldi haul. Although that is nothing new for ocean anglers, those most interested in chinook, should be targeting the jaws at Nehalem Bay. Confirmed catches have recently come from the Nehalem estuary and it is only going to get better from here. The soft tide series this week should make for decent fishing near the bay entrance with anglers most likely to target high tides at the jaws. The peak for this fishery is often the first week of August but anglers should notice a ramping up of success rates this week and next.

Anglers fishing the nearshore for halibut had good conditions on Thursday with catches consistently good for much of the season. Slow-trolled bait from Manzanita southward is likely to continue to produce fair catches through the end of the quota. Nearly 70% of the quota has already been taken so it seems unlikely this fishery will last much longer. Target water between 90 and 160 feet.

Ocean crabbing out of Garibaldi has recently shown signs of improvement but crabbers have to grapple with the fact that nearly half of the catch are soft-shelled. It's likely large adult males will continue to move into the nearshore but won't harden up until September. Crabbing is certainly better in the ocean than it is in the estuaries.

With the continuation of the bottomfishing season, boaters are having to travel to greater distances to find epic fishing. Limits are certainly viable but lingcod catches seem to dwindle this time of year. If anglers have the opportunity to find virgin waters, the fishing will certainly be great.

This is the time of year when die-hard low water summer steelheaders come out. It is a finely tuned art that not many anglers have patience for. It certainly becomes a pocket water show with steelhead most receptive at first light and near dusk. It does appear as if there are viable numbers in the Wilson with fewer reports coming from the Nestucca. It is likely that the Nestucca is offering similar opportunity.

The Guide's Forecast – With a rough ocean predicted through the weekend, anglers will have to ponder if the short morning window of opportunity is worth the effort. If anglers don't have to travel from afar, a quick trip to the NW out of Garibaldi should produce an easy ride home for those in pursuit of salmon and halibut. If you choose to head north of Cape Falcon to the bottomfishing grounds, you had better be prepared for a slow ride home. Winds are expected to increase significantly by late morning or early afternoon. Here, read the forecast for yourself:

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Standard procedure for coho is deploying 10 to 25 strips using small herring or anchovies for bait. It's pretty common to fish the upper 25 feet of the water column in the early morning, but to the north, we have been finding coho down considerably deeper. Several anglers are scoring on a hoochie trolled behind a flasher with a chunk of baitfish in tow. As the sun comes up higher in the sky, drop your baits down deeper as the bait often ascends later into the day.

For anglers not willing to risk a rough and windy ride home, you may want to explore the mouth of the Nehalem River. On the soft tide series we are currently on, fair to good fishing for chinook is a possibility on the bar. Of course, anglers must use extreme caution as this could be a very dangerous place to fish, albeit productive. It is also an option to target halibut just off of the mouth of Nehalem Bay simply drifting large herring near the bottom. Anglers need to be

prepared to handle the halibut they catch; a large landing net is advised and many anglers bring along a .22 to dispatch the fish before bringing it on board. (Yes, you should know how to handle a gun before you attempt this.....).

Serious crabbers should stick to the ocean although conditions won't permit an extended soak. Although the swell is forecast to remain tolerable, the wind wave action predicted will make for a sloppy weekend. This is not somewhere you want your crab pots to get stuck.

Although the tides are ripe for good estuary crabbing, don't count on easy limits by any stretch of the imagination. Competition will be high and success rates will be low.

Inland steelheaders need to continue to employ low-water tactics to make magic happen. Of course small baits and offerings are required but hardware can often take fish in the early morning hours.

Central & South Coast Reports – Boats launching out of central Oregon Ports endured scratch fishing earlier this week following north winds which slowed catches of bottom fish and salmon. Conditions and results improved mid-week with rockfish, ling cod and coho coming over gunwales.

Depoe Bay boats had been doing well for coho, although three out of four have been natives, requiring release. Chinook catches have also been good.

Tuna are born swimming and must continue to do so every moment of their lives, creating a powerful, muscular torpedo of a creature which is a high-speed handful on rod or handline. Recent wind out of the north pushed warm water further offshore, resulting in tuna angler making trips of 30 to 40 miles to locate albacore. At that, it was only scratch fishing for scattered quarry although a few bluefin tuna have been landed.. As conditions improve and the ocean warms, it will be on.

A tuna seminar will take place along with the grand opening of a West Marine store in Jantzen Beach on Sunday, July 21st at 1 PM. Tackle will be given away to attendees. Captain Del Stephens will be at the helm for the seminar.

Catches of coho have been good with the lion's share going to Depoe Bay boats according to catch reports. The ocean season for hatchery coho is scheduled to continue through the end of July with about 38% of the quota remaining.

With 28% or 6,563 pounds of the 23,038-pound quota remaining in the nearshore halibut fishery, it will once again open today, July 18 through Saturday, July 20. Summer all-depth halibut fishing season will begin on August 2nd.

While estuary crabbing has been an exercise in frustration for the most part with myriad undersized and females. When a keeper male shows, it's often a softshell containing only scant, watery meat. Ocean crabbing, on the other hand, has been good, yielding good numbers and sometimes multiple limits of good-sized crab.

Catches of surf perch picked up once again on south coast beaches and will remain good as long as wave action remains moderate. Look for stretches where waves break nearshore or do a little exploration at low tide to find low spots where fish will feed as the tide comes in.

Siletz steelhead continue to be caught on occasion with the best fishing from Moonshine Park

upstream to the deadline. Warm water causes summers to be reluctant to bite, so patience is required. Try first light for best results.

Cutthroat anglers on the Siuslaw report fair to good results. With the weather warm, stick to deeper areas with brightly-colored flies or small spinners. It's not legal to use bait above tidewater.

No action has been reported from boats fishing the Siuslaw River but it's early in the season for this coastal fishery.

Boats launching out of Winchester Bay have been taking fair to good numbers of albacore. Crabbing is slow at inside the bay and only the occasional pinkfin perch has been caught recently. Smallmouth bass fishing remains good on the upper Umpqua mainstem. Larger fish will be taken early in the day but these fish can be taken all day long in the low, warm water. Water flows are low on the North Umpqua and steelheading is slow as a consequence. The hatchery welcomes visitors from 7:30 AM 'til 4:30 PM. Bass are being caught on the South Umpqua .

Tuna fishing has been very good for many boats launching out of Charleston this week. Crabbing and rockfishing inside Coos Bay has barely been worth the effort, given marginal results. Clamming, on the other hand, should be stellar with a minus tide series continuing well into the coming week.

Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair to good on the Coquille mainstem. There is no limit on the number or size of smallies that may be taken here.

Trolling for Chinook in Rogue Bay slowed this week and has yet to pick up again. Lower river fishing has been spotty and the middle river is non-productive with the exception of the uppermost section where some Chinook have been caught. With spring Chinook still available to anglers on the upper Rogue, summer steelhead catches have continued to improve this week. In addition to gear fishing, fly anglers have been hooking up as well.

Trout fishing has been slow to fair at Diamond Lake. Try deeper areas or the south end where the water is cooler. To date, the ongoing algae bloom has not tested as toxic although officials are monitoring it and have issued a caution to minimize contact and keep pets out of the water.

Fish Lake and the Rogue River above Lost Creek are scheduled to be planted with hatchery trout.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Fly fishers on the Deschutes from Warm Springs to Trout Creek have been taking big, beautiful broad-shouldered reddsides with best results during the evening hours. Caddis patterns remain reliable and will remain so through July.

Trout fishing continues to be good at Crooked River with flows at 218 cfs and gradually moderating. Caddis patterns are reliable here.

Salmon Creek, nestled in the Willamette National Forest, is a cool alternative on a hot summer day. It will also produce 'bows and cutties for fly anglers.

A variety of species await fly fishers on Hosmer Lake where, amidst the Brook Trout and Atlantic Salmon for which this lake is most well-known, cutthroat and rainbow trout have been planted. Fishing has been good recently.

Jack Chinook salmon, which opened July 8th on the Imnaha River, may no longer be taken as of the end of day July 19th.

Having delivered consistent results for Chinook since the opener May 5th, the Snake River will close to springer fishing on July 21st. According to ODFW biologists, catch rates have declined along with quality of the fish.

Odell is producing decent numbers of kokanee averaging a foot long. Deep trolling will still produce lake trout here.

Wickiup has been a fair to good producer of kokanee over the past week. Hoochies trolled behind a dodger is the preferred technique here although results as well as color preference of the terminal tackle has varied from one day to the next. Some good-sized fish have been taken here, however.

Fair to good numbers of predictably smallish kokanee are being taken by trollers at Wallowa Lake. Once known for lunkers, the population has exploded, reducing the overall size of resident kokes and resulting in a limit increase to 20 per day. When located, hatchery trout are decent size here.

Crane Prairie has been producing a few nice trout and fewer kokanee to fly fishers.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for July 2013

Fishing sizzles in July for salmon, steelhead, crab, trout, other gamefish

Summer fishing seasons are now in full swing, requiring anglers to make some tough decisions about how to spend their time on the water. Salmon, steelhead, crab, trout, bass and walleye – all are now available for harvest in various waters around the state.

But for thousands of anglers, nothing beats the thrill of reeling in a big chinook salmon. Many are doing just that as waves of chinook move south along the Washington coast, then east into Puget Sound, coastal streams and the Columbia River.

“Fishing for both chinook salmon and hatchery coho should improve off the coast right through the month,” said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). “The same is true for Puget Sound and other inside waters.”

Six marine areas of Puget Sound open to salmon fishing July 1, joining other salmon fisheries already in progress. Various westside rivers, including the Bogacheil, Calawah and Nisqually, also open for salmon fishing that day, and Baker Lake in Whatcom County opens for sockeye salmon July 10.

Summer steelhead are another option – notably in Columbia River and many of its tributaries – where 339,200 adult fish are expected to move upriver in the coming weeks. As always, anglers are required to release any wild, unmarked steelhead they intercept in the fishery, which extends from the mouth of the Columbia to the Canadian Border.

Fishing regulations for these and other fisheries are described in WDFW’s For additional information on fishing regulations, see WDFW’s 2013-14 *Fishing in Washington* rule pamphlet, available from sporting goods stores and posted online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/>.

Rather catch some crab? All but one marine area in Puget Sound will open for crab fishing July 1.

The exception is Marine Area 7, where the crab fishery opens July 15 in the area's southern portion (San Juan Islands/Bellingham) and Aug. 15 in the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia).

The crab fishery in all marine areas of Puget Sound will be open Thursday through Monday of each week. The season will get under way with a one-day opening (July 1), and will be closed July 2-3 before reopening on its regular weekly schedule Thursday, July 4.

See <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/crab/> for all crab-fishing rules.

Meanwhile, WDFW land managers are urging everyone planning to spend time outdoors this month to take care not to spark a wildfire. Unattended campfires, fireworks, hot vehicle mufflers, careless disposal of cigarettes and outdoor burning are all common causes of wildfires in the state.

Fireworks are prohibited at all 32 WDFW wildlife areas and 700 water access sites around the state. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has also issued a summer burn ban that prohibits campfires in all WDFW forested areas.

Campfires are also prohibited on other WDFW lands, particularly on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. For example, no campfires of any kind are allowed at the four WDFW wildlife areas in Yakima and Kittitas counties until Oct. 15 due to the high risk of wildfires.

Current campfire restrictions are posted in campgrounds and at the gates of each wildlife area. More information on DNR's summer burn ban is available at <http://goo.gl/5jykD>

For more information about fishing, wildlife viewing and other outdoor activities available this month, see the Weekender Regional Reports posted on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/weekender/>. These reports are updated throughout the month to provide up-to-date information about recreational opportunities in six regions around the state.

North Puget Sound

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

Summer has arrived, and anglers have their pick of numerous fishing opportunities. Freshwater anglers can cast for chinook at some of the region's rivers, as well as trout and bass at local lakes. On Puget Sound, the crab season opens July 1 in most areas, and additional salmon openings are just around the corner.

"July really marks the start of the **salmon** fishing season in Puget Sound, where a variety of angling opportunities get under way in the region," said Ryan Lothrop, recreational salmon fishery manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Puget Sound salmon fishing opportunities in July include:

- **Marine Area 7** (San Juan Islands), which opens July 1. Anglers can keep one chinook as part of their two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon.
- **Marine areas 9** (Admiralty Inlet) **and 10** (Seattle-Bremerton), where anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, beginning July 1. However, anglers must release all chinook through July 15. Beginning July 16, anglers can retain hatchery chinook – marked with a clipped adipose fin – but wild chinook must be released. Anglers should note that chum must also be released in Marine Area 9 throughout July.
- **Sinclair** Inlet, a portion of Marine Area 10, opens July 1. Anglers fishing Sinclair will have a daily limit of three salmon, plus one additional pink salmon, but must release wild chinook. Anglers are allowed to use two fishing poles with the purchase of a two-pole endorsement.

- **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery**, a portion of Marine Area 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), remains open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 2. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon, and are allowed to use two fishing poles with the purchase of a two-pole endorsement.

Check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for details on salmon fishing opportunities.

Lothrop reminds anglers that they are responsible for correctly identifying their catch. In past years, some anglers were checked at the docks with undersized chinook they misidentified as pink salmon, he said.

"It's important that people take the time to learn the differences between each salmon species – both to protect the resource and to avoid a fine," Lothrop said. Descriptions of each salmon species can be found on the department's [recreational salmon fishing webpage](#) and in the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

Break out those **crab** pots. All but one marine area in Puget Sound will open for crab fishing July 1. The exception is Marine Area 7, where the crab fishery opens July 15 in the area's southern portion (San Juan Islands/Bellingham) and Aug. 15 in the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia).

The crab fishery in all marine areas of Puget Sound will be open Thursday through Monday of each week. The season will get under way with a one-day opening (July 1), and will be closed July 2-3 before reopening on its regular weekly schedule Thursday, July 4.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across.

Rich Childers, shellfish policy lead for WDFW, said recent test fisheries indicate the crab population in Puget Sound remains abundant. "We continue to see healthy numbers of crab throughout Puget Sound," he said. "With such strong numbers, crabbing should be good from opening day all the way through the end of the summer season."

Information on the rules, including how to properly record and report catch information is available on [WDFW's crab fishing webpage](#). The page includes links to a printable "Crabbing in Puget Sound" brochure and a "Puget Sound Recreational Crab Guide," both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

In freshwater, portions of the Skagit and Cascade rivers are open for hatchery **chinook salmon** fishing through July 15. The Skagit is open to hatchery chinook retention from the Highway 530 Bridge at Rockport to 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).

Portions of the Skykomish River are also open for salmon fishing. Anglers fishing the Skykomish, from the mouth to the Wallace River, have a daily limit of four hatchery chinook, two of which may be adults.

Farther north, anglers will have an opportunity to hook **sockeye salmon at Baker Lake** beginning July 10. Anglers will have a daily limit of two adult sockeye salmon (minimum size 18 inches in length). All other salmon, as well as bull trout, must be released.

Trout fishing also is open at several of the region's rivers. 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 rivers and 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](#).

Meanwhile, lake fishing for **bass, bluegill, perch,** and **crappie** is steadily improving as water temperatures increase and fish become more active.

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.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

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

Summer salmon fishing is in full swing along the coast, where anglers have been reeling in bright chinook since early June. In Puget Sound, fishing seasons will also expand for salmon and get under way for crab starting July 1.

Salmon fishing got off to a slow start off Westport in June when onshore winds moved the feed – and the fish – off course, but that situation has improved, said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"Fishing for both chinook salmon and hatchery coho should improve off the coast right through the month," Milward said. "The same is true for Puget Sound and other inside waters."

Anglers fishing marine areas 1 (Ilwaco) and 2 (Westport) can retain one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit, but are required to release wild coho. In areas 3 (LaPush) and 4 (Neah Bay), the daily limit is two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon. All wild coho salmon must be released.

Salmon fishing is open seven days a week in all coastal areas, except in Marine Area 2 where fishing is open Sundays through Thursdays.

Halibut fishing is also still an option in Marine Area 1. The season there is open Friday through Sunday each week until the early season quota is reached or Aug. 3, whichever occurs first. The fishery will reopen, with the late-season quota Aug. 3, and continue three days a week (Friday-Sunday), until the remaining quota is taken, or Sept. 30, whichever occurs first.

Meanwhile, six Puget Sound marine areas will open to salmon fishing July 1, joining fisheries already in progress in other areas. Bag limits in marine areas 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 13 include two bonus pink salmon. New this year, Sinclair Inlet in Marine Area 10 allows a three salmon limit plus one additional pink--and two pole fishing for those who have purchased the two-pole endorsement. No wild chinook may be retained in Marine Area 10.

Regulations regarding chinook retention in waters of Puget Sound vary by time and area. Anglers are advised to check the [Washington sport fishing rules pamphlet](#) and the [emergency rule website](#) before heading out.

Ryan Lothrop, Puget Sound recreational salmon manager points to strong forecasts of hatchery chinook returning to most of Puget Sound, including Hood Canal and South Sound. Anglers have also been consistently picking up fish in Marine Area 11 near Tacoma as of the end of June. In addition, nearly 6.2 million pink salmon are projected to return to the Sound this summer. "Given these factors, fishing inside much of Puget Sound could be very good," Lothrop said.

Lothrop reminds anglers that chum and wild chinook in most Puget Sound areas must be released. He also notes that anglers can check WDFW [creel reports](#) for information on catch and effort in Puget Sound. Recreational fishery samplers with WDFW collect the information each week at fishing access sites throughout Puget Sound.

Ready to catch some crab? The popular fishery for Dungeness crab gets underway July 1 in all but one marine area in Puget Sound. The exception is Marine Area 7, where the crab fishery

opens July 15 in the area's southern portion (San Juan Islands/Bellingham) and Aug. 15 in the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia).

The Puget Sound crab fishery will be open Thursday through Monday of each week. Crabbers should note, however, that the season gets under way with a one-day opening (July 1), and will be closed July 2-3 before reopening on its regular weekly schedule Thursday, July 4.

Rich Childers, shellfish policy lead for WDFW, said recent test fisheries indicate the crab population in Puget Sound remains abundant. "We continue to see healthy numbers of crab throughout Puget Sound," Childers said. "With such strong numbers, crabbing should be good from opening day all the way through the end of the summer season."

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across.

Additional information on the crab fishery is available on [WDFW's crab fishing website](#). The page includes links to a printable "Crabbing in Puget Sound" brochure and a "Puget Sound Recreational Dungeness Crab Guide," both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

Freshwater anglers should be aware that several rivers on the north Coast – including the Hoh, Quillayute and Sol Duc – remain open for **salmon** fishing. The Bogachiel and Calawah join that list July 1. Also beginning in July, opportunities for salmon fishing open in some south Sound streams including Chamber and McAllister creeks and the Nisqually and Deschutes rivers. For details on river fishing, including catch limitations, gear limits, and allowable fishing days, check the [Washington sport fishing rules pamphlet](#).

Many of those rivers and streams are also open to trout fishing. 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 rivers and streams have a rule requiring trout to be at least 14 inches in length to keep. Again, check the [rules pamphlet](#) and the [emergency rule website](#) to make sure.

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

Anglers who fish the lower Columbia River are gearing up for hatchery steelhead now that most salmon-fishing opportunities are moving upstream. Summer steelhead are arriving to take up the slack after the close of the fishery for adult chinook and sockeye salmon below Bonneville Dam.

Based on current projections, 339,200 **adult upriver steelhead** will enter the Columbia this year along with thousands more bound for lower-river tributaries, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). While the upriver run is slightly below the average since 2003, those fish should provide plenty of action in the weeks ahead, he said.

"These fish, which generally run four to eight pounds apiece, are fun to catch and great to eat," Hymer said. "Steelhead tend to run close to shore, so bank anglers should have some great fishing opportunities in the weeks ahead."

Anglers fishing downriver from Bonneville can take up to two hatchery steelhead per day as part of their six-fish catch limit, which can also include hatchery jack chinook salmon. All wild fish with an intact adipose fin must be released.

Above Bonneville Dam, fishing seasons are still open for **adult hatchery chinook** and **sockeye salmon**, as well as hatchery steelhead. For adult fish, the daily limit remains two salmon, two steelhead, or one of each.

Hymer suggests that anglers targeting hatchery steelhead consider fishing area tributaries as well as the mainstem Columbia River. As he sees it, the best bet is probably the Cowlitz River, where fish start arriving in larger numbers early in the month.

Other options below Bonneville include the Lewis (North and East forks), Kalama, Washougal, South Fork Toutle, Green, and Elochoman rivers. Anglers should check the *Fishing in Washington* rule pamphlet for regulations specific to those rivers.

Anglers might also want to try fishing Drano Lake or the lower Wind River, where salmon and steelhead historically dip in to beat the heat. The White Salmon River is another option, although it is still recovering from the removal of Condit Dam, which filled the mouth of the river with sediment.

Rather catch a **sturgeon**? Retention fishing is now closed in the Columbia River and its tributaries below John Day Dam, but anglers can still keep fish measuring 43 to 54 inches (fork length) above the dam in the John Day Pool. Both of those fisheries will close when respective catch limits are met, so anglers should keep an eye on the [WDFW website](#) for possible regulation changes.

A one-fish daily limit and two-fish annual limit for white sturgeon are in effect throughout the state.

For **trout** anglers, access to high mountain lakes continues to improve as the snow recedes. John Weinheimer, a WDFW fish biologist, recommends Takhlakh, Horseshoe, Walupt and Big Mosquito lakes in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest this time of year.

Goose Lake, a forest lake in Skamania County, was recently planted with thousands of good-sized brown and cutthroat trout, and rainbows have been biting at Swift Reservoir. For **kokanee**, Yale and Merwin reservoirs are a good bet, said Weinheimer, noting that Riffe Reservoir on the Cowlitz River has also been good for **landlocked coho**.

Fishing for **bass**, **walleye**, and **tiger musky** is also warming up in the summer sun, Weinheimer said. Anglers are catching bass and walleye in the Columbia River and tiger musky in the Merwin and Mayfield reservoirs.

Eastern Washington

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

Cooler and wetter weather in spring has kept trout fishing lively in many of the region's lakes and rivers, while the action continues to pick up in warmwater fisheries.

In July, lakes in the northern third of the region are a good place to combine fishing with camping, since many are on public lands with campgrounds. In Stevens County, the Little Pend Oreille chain of lakes – Gillette, Heritage, Sherry, and Thomas – are producing fish, as are Pend Oreille County's Skookum and Yocum lakes and many others at higher elevations. Other northeast lakes that continue to see action include Cedar, Mudgett, Rocky, Starvation, and Waitts lakes in Stevens County; Diamond Lake in Pend Oreille County; and Ellen Lake in Ferry County.

Randy Osborne, a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fish biologist based in Spokane, said cool water temperatures in many Spokane County lakes have been keeping rainbow trout biting.

"Fish Lake near Cheney is still producing catches of both **rainbow** and **brook trout**," Osborne said. "West Medical, Clear, and Williams lakes are also still producing good catches of rainbows."

Lake Roosevelt, the Columbia River reservoir on the Lincoln-Stevens-Ferry county line, is still producing catches of **kokanee**, rainbows, and **walleye**, although Osborne says walleye fishing has been a little spotty. Early July is usually a good time to fish the upper portion of the reservoir, upriver from the town of Kettle Falls in Stevens County.

"Some of the central district's warmwater fisheries have been really good," Osborne said. "Anglers fishing Sprague Lake have been catching good numbers of **largemouth bass** up to six pounds. Anglers at Downs, Bonnie, and Long lakes have been catching decent numbers of **yellow perch** and **black crappie**. Silver and Newman lakes have been pretty consistent for catches of largemouth bass and yellow perch, although the perch are pretty small at Newman."

WDFW warmwater fish biologist Marc Divens added that fishery sampling just completed on Sprague Lake produced a 16-inch **channel catfish** from stocking of eight-inchers in 2011.

"The channel catfish we stocked in Sprague in 2008 should be even larger," Divens said. "This is another good fishing opportunity for anglers at Sprague Lake and these fish are excellent eating."

At the south end of the region, angler interest has shifted to **smallmouth bass** and **channel catfish** since spring chinook salmon fishing closed on the Snake River in late June.

The Tucannon River impoundments in the south end of the region are still providing good fishing for rainbow trout, reports Kari Dingman, WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area manager. The extended cool, rainy weather this spring has probably extended the life of those hatchery-stocked fisheries – Big Four, Blue, Deer, Rainbow, Spring and Watson lakes. Dingman notes fishing in the Tucannon River itself has also been good.

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

Angler can catch hatchery-marked **chinook salmon** starting July 1 on the mainstem Columbia River from Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster to Chief Joseph Dam, as well as the Okanogan and Similkameen rivers.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Okanogan district fish biologist Bob Jateff reminds anglers that new rules are in effect for this year requiring the use of barbless hooks when fishing for salmon. The daily limit includes six hatchery-marked (missing adipose fin and healed scar) chinook, of which only two may be adults measuring at least 24 inches. Minimum size for any chinook is 12 inches.

Also starting July 1 anglers can keep **sockeye salmon** on portions of the Columbia and Okanogan rivers, based on new and updated run estimates that allows limited harvest. The fishery is open from Priest Rapids to Wells dams, from Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster to Chief Joseph Dam, and from the mouth of the Okanogan River upstream to the first Highway 97 bridge.

On July 16, the stretch from Wells Dam to the Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster will also be open for sockeye retention. Of the daily catch limit of six salmon, only two adult sockeye (minimum size 12 inches). For details, see the [emergency rule change](#).

Jateff said many lakes in Okanogan County are still fishing well due to cool spring temperatures have helped to keep water temperatures lower than normal. Waters still providing good limits of **rainbow trout** include Conconully Reservoir/Lake and Pearrygin, Alta, Spectacle, and Wannacut lakes. Anglers can expect rainbow trout in the 10 to 12-inch range at these lakes with carryover fish up to 16 inches, Jateff said. **Kokanee** are also available at Conconully Reservoir/Lake and Patterson, Bonaparte, and Palmer lakes.

"Bass fishermen can try any one of many waters in the district for either **smallmouth** or **largemouth bass**," Jateff said. He suggests Whitestone, Palmer, Lake Osoyoos, Washburn Island Pond, Okanogan River, and the Columbia River from Wells Dam to Chief Joseph Dam.

Jateff recommends that anglers fishing with selective gear try Big Twin, Blue (Sinlahekin), Cougar, Campbell, Davis, and Big Green lakes for rainbow trout. Fly-fishing-only waters, such as Chopaka and Aeneas lakes, are also still producing good catches of rainbow in the 12 to 18-inch range.

Jateff offers this advice for catch-and-release anglers as lake water temperatures increase during the summer months: "Always keep fish in the water prior to release and play fish as quickly as possible to the net."

Jateff reports that the Methow River has been dropping and should provide good trout fishing during the catch-and-release fishery that started in May. Anglers can expect to catch resident rainbow and **cutthroat trout**, as well as **whitefish** in this popular fishery. Selective gear rules are in effect, with no bait allowed.

WDFW Columbia Basin district fish biologist Chad Jackson said warmwater fishing has been hot since late-May or early-June this year and should continue through the summer.

"**Smallmouth** and **largemouth bass** have been good in Moses Lake, Banks Lake and Potholes Reservoir," Jackson said. "**Walleye** has mostly been slow thus far, even though the fish are present in all three waters."

Jackson also noted that fishing for **yellow perch** has been good at Potholes Reservoir and Moses Lake, with large schools of perch observed by WDFW staff and reported by anglers.

All three lakes, open year-round, also have varying populations of **bluegill** and **crappie**, which can produce good catches through the summer. With late run-off this year, these big waterways are still at or near high pool, which has somewhat slowed normal shoreline or dockside action at some, like Potholes.

Lower Goose Lake, one of the Seep lakes south of Potholes Reservoir, has a good crappie and bluegill fishery. The catch limit at Lower Goose is 10 crappie per day with a minimum size limit of nine inches. For bluegill, there is no daily limit and no minimum size, but anglers are limited to five bluegill over six inches long.

Hutchinson and Shiner lakes on the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has been good for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and perch since May. Jackson reports lots of 12 to 17-inch largemouth bass, many running to 20 inches on the two lakes, located seven miles north of Othello in Adams County. However, as summer progresses, both can be tough to fish because of excessive weed growth.

Southcentral Washington
(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

Area anglers have several good fishing opportunities in July, ranging from spring chinook salmon on a portion of the Yakima River to newly stocked jumbo trout in five popular "drive to" mountain lakes. On the Columbia River, the catch is running to walleye, shad and the occasional summer chinook salmon.

Eric Anderson, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), said **spring chinook** fishing has been good on the Yakima River this season, although a good portion of the run has moved past Roza Dam on its way to the spawning grounds.

The fishery closed June 30 upriver to the Grant Avenue Bridge in Prosser, but is expected to remain open through July 15 from the Interstate 82 Bridge in Union Gap to the Burlington Northern Railroad bridge 500 feet downstream of Roza Dam.

"Springers are still moving upstream below Roza Dam, but fishing has slowed considerably and anglers will have to put in some time to catch fish," Anderson said.

The daily limit is two adipose-fin-clipped hatchery chinook. The area is closed for steelhead, and terminal gear is restricted to one single-point, barbless hook with a hook gap (from point to shank) of three-quarters of an inch or less. Bait and knotted nets are allowed in the section of the river open to salmon fishing.

For more information, see the [fishing rule](#) for the Yakima River fishery on the WDFW website.

On the Columbia River, most anglers fishing below McNary Dam have been focusing on **sturgeon**, **walleye** and **shad**, said Paul Hoffarth, another WDFW fish biologist. Anglers have also been picking up a few **summer chinook** and sockeye, although the action has been slow.

The fishery for summer chinook and **sockeye** salmon on the Columbia River is open upstream to Priest Rapids Dam, under a daily limit of two adult hatchery chinook. Through July, only those chinook with a clipped adipose may be retained.

A Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead endorsement is required to participate in salmon fisheries on both the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. A two-pole endorsement is also available for anglers fishing the open section of the Yakima River and for salmon fisheries on some areas of the Columbia River. For additional rules on the salmon fishery, see the 2013-14 *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet.

Rather catch **sturgeon**? Anglers can catch and keep sturgeon measuring 43 to 54 inches (fork length) through July 31 in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids and Ice Harbor dams). Fishing is not allowed in sturgeon spawning sanctuary areas below McNary Dam.

Meanwhile, fishing for stocked **rainbow trout** is still going strong on lowland lakes near Yakima, Ellensburg and Cle Elum. WDFW fish biologist Eric Anderson said he especially likes the prospects at Clear, Leech and Dog Lakes in Yakima County and Lost Lake and Cooper Lake in Kittitas County.

To spice things up, WDFW has also planted hundreds of 1.5-pound **jumbo** trout in popular "drive to" high-mountain lakes during June, Anderson said. Those lakes include Leech, Dog and Clear lakes near White Pass in Yakima County and Lost and Cooper lakes near Snoqualmie Pass in Kittitas County.

"All of these lakes also received thousands of catchable sized rainbows (11-13 inches) in June, and should provide excellent trout fishing right through summer," Anderson said.

Kokanee fishing has also been fast and furious at Rimrock Lake in Yakima County, Anderson said. Although the fish are small, anglers have been doing well fishing 10 to 30 feet deep trolling pop gear (gang trolls) just about everywhere on the lake.

"Trolling a two ounce trolling sinker and a wedding ring spinner baited with maggots or tuna-scented shoe peg corn 15-20-foot deep works great," Anderson said.

Other kokanee hotspots include Bumping Lake, Keechelus Reservoir and Kachess Reservoir. Anglers should be aware of a new slot limit for kokanee at Cle Elum and Cooper lakes in Kittitas County, where only kokanee measuring seven to 14 inches in length can be retained. Anderson also reminds anglers that all bull trout caught while fishing for other species must be released unharmed.

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Random Links

ESPN asks, "Can a fly rod really hold the secret of life?":

http://espn.go.com/espn/feature/story/_/page/fly-rods/fly-rod-makers-tom-morgan-gerri-carlson-create-unity-universe

ODFW crabbing information and reports:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/crab/reports.asp>

Mako on the 4th of July:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=DND717InFLQ#at=111

Idaho angler catches monster trout:

<http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/jul/16/idaho-angler-catches-monster-trout/>

GOOD LUCK!