

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 9th – August 15th, 2013**

Oregon Fisheries Update

Willamette Valley/Metro - Walleye fishing on the Willamette River's Multnomah Channel has been better than decent. This normally quiet fishery has stirred interest from local anglers as well as anglers from further away. Trolling upstream in 12-20 feet of water with a night crawler rigged on a worm harness has been the method of choice. The walleye seem to prefer a little "bling" with their meal, in the form of a spinner blade or spin-n-glow in front of the worm. Sturgeon fishing in the Willamette was very slow during the retention opener and effort was at a minimum. The same is expected for any future openers or until the water cools off in October.

Summer steelhead fishing on the Columbia River has picked up a bit. Catches have become more consistent at the river mouths and below Bonneville Dam. A few anglers fishing the usual techniques have scored some nice chinook as well, suggesting there might be more in the river than previously thought. Anglers wishing to target early chinook salmon should try fishing deeper water. Small spinners, coon shrimp, plugs and large wobblers are getting bites.

On any day when there has been cloud cover, fly anglers on the McKenzie has seen a spike in results. Caddis remain the primary pattern of interest. Water temperature in the mid-50s has been fairly stable.

Flows on the North Santiam are stable and should remain that way over the coming week. While steelheading is predictably slow of low numbers this year, catch-and-release trout fishing is good. As of 1st of August, just over 4,000 spring Chinook had been counted on the South Santiam at Foster Dam with the same number of summer steelhead reported.

Northwest – The Buoy 10 opener went better than expected. The Young's Bay fishery has consistently been producing the Rogue strain chinook (aka "select area brights") 2 hours before and 1 hour after high tide. Ruby, Bob and Nancy Van Dyk from Forest Grove all took their limits (1 fish each) of chinook in about 2 hours at high tide at the mouth of Young's Bay on Sunday afternoon. The largest fish, a 24-pounder, took a spinner behind a fish flash in 23-foot of water. The best news is chinook are being caught throughout the estuary, an early indicator that the run is going to be at least as large as predicted. River coho are scarce.

Catch and release sturgeon fishing remains excellent on Taylor Sands but no one is doing it. Use anchovies for bait.

Coho are scarce in the ocean as well. Offshore anglers are having to work for their catch, especially with the recent drop in water temperature recently. Chinook were readily biting to the north of the Columbia River on Saturday but have since disappeared. If the ocean temperatures rise again, it should turn on.

Last week was a good one for offshore albacore anglers although fish didn't bite consistently every day. Many boats came in with 20+ fish but rough offshore conditions has quelled interest.

Nehalem Bay continues to produce impressive numbers of chinook near the bay entrance. It is crowded however so prepare for tension. The Wheeler and Nehalem stretches should produce better catches on the current stronger tide series as the summer chinook run enters its peak weeks.

The initial summer halibut opener was less than impressive for most anglers. The next all-depth opener south of Cape Falcon is August 16th and 17th.

Southwest- It has taken some long trips at times out of Newport to locate tuna recently. While some boats got into them at 30 miles out, others have reported heading out 50 to 60 or more miles. It makes for a short day when the return trip takes several hours.

Crabbing in south coast bays has been showing a little improvement with more keeper male Dungeness showing in traps and nets.

Fires burning in southwest Oregon have closed some roads and created breathing hazards for some. Smoky conditions may determine where it's comfortable, or even possible, to fish.

Boats launching out of Winchester Bay have been taking ocean Chinook but only 40% of those anglers trying are actually returning to port with a fish.

Charters launched out of Gold Beach over the past week during lulls in windy conditions offshore for a mixed bag. Bottom fishing yielded typical catches of ling cod and rockfish but halibut and even Chinook were caught. Ocean crabbing has been good when winds have allowed. A surprise cooling of the lower Rogue late last week had Chinook moving upriver from the bay. Fresh salmon entering the bay have been off the bite. Steelheading has been fair on the lower and middle rivers. Smoke has been keeping anglers off the upper Rogue but the situation is improving.

Offshore Chinook fishing had been good out of Brookings over the past week when boats could get out. Either herring or anchovy, trolled behind a flasher, have been putting salmon in the fish box.

Water at Diamond Lake has warmed to the 70-degree range and trout fishing has slowed. The algae bloom is ongoing but has continued to test as non-toxic but trout must be skinned to remove any off flavor. Bait fishing in deeper areas has been most effective.

Eastern – Caddis are hatching periodically on the lower Deschutes and have been taking dry imitations when this occurs. Otherwise, nymphs are reliable for fair results. A few summer steelhead have entered the lower river with anglers hooking up occasionally.

Crooked River flows remain low and it is fishing well.

Green Peter has been producing fair to good numbers of kokanee on the troll in about 50 feet of water.

Kokanee and brown trout for jig fishers but results have been spotty.

SW Washington- The Cowlitz River near the trout hatchery is still kicking out a few summer steelhead but anglers have gravitated to the mainstem Columbia where good steelhead catches and early chinook action is underway. Anglers are targeting both species near the mouths of the Cowlitz and Kalama Rivers and action for chinook should get drastically better in the coming weeks. Wobblers will draw the most strikes but spinners can be effective too.

Drano Lake anglers are finding good success for steelhead but the area is crowded with boats. Some chinook are starting to show in the catches.

Columbia River Fishing Report – The Chinook are in! The few anglers that have heard the good news and are fortunate enough to have time off are taking advantage of a strong showing of early chinook. Early in the week, the Young's Bay bite had been fairly productive near high slack. However, I abandoned a one-chinook per hour average to follow the crowds to the Washington side by Tuesday. Rumors of good fishing above the bridge were certainly true as consistent action for chinook was certainly the case on Tuesday and to a lesser extent Wednesday. There were several different locations above the bridge that produced good results but most consistently, the deep water on the early part of the tide near the shipwreck produced well, followed by the shallower water closer to high tide. After a good average using anchovies for bait, spinners became the popular choice on the Washington side. By Tuesday, over half of my bites were coming from spinners fished at different depths depending on the tide. One thing was for certain, the white with the red dot and red beads has been a very consistent producer. I have yet to use any color combination of green but it is early in the season.

My typical MO has been to keep my gear very near to the bottom but we have been experiencing recent success fishing at the mid-water depth, especially as we near high tide. Most commonly, 22 to 24 foot of water above the bridge on the Washington side has produced numerous bites just 12 strips from the surface. There are fish clearly suspended off the bottom. And these are not coho, chinook have been biting in the mid-water. As far as bait goes, everybody is pretty keen on getting their hands on blue-label herring. While not a bad idea, I have had no trouble drawing strikes using fresh anchovies and turning them just like I do in the ocean using a double-hook mooching rig. Of course, all the fear these days is centered around barbless hooks but I have not found them to be a problem. I attribute much of my strong strike to land ratio on the fact that I am using lead and not divers. I haven't used divers for over a decade and now find even greater reason to go to lead. Using 8, 10 or 12 ounces of lead, the extra leverage seems to keep the hooks in the fish for longer periods of time. Of course it helps that chinook are much more aggressive biters than the "slash and burn" coho we'll see later in the month. My strike to land ratio wasn't all that great using lead in the ocean but I certainly have a higher degree of confidence with this tried and true technique. Spinners and treble hooks however do seem to be more troublesome. Make no mistake; I'm no fan of barbless hooks unless they are scientifically justifiable.

Not as many anglers have been fishing downstream of the bridge but one guide reported good success there on Wednesday. Doing quite well on spinners and fresh herring, this particular guide was quite frustrated with the sea-lion interaction taking place down there. When you're fishing by yourself, you're just asking for trouble as you will be the center of attention when you hook up. Most anglers seem pretty content staying close to the bridge with a good handful finding success hovering on the flood tide right at the bridge. This bite however is not consistent day to day. Action downstream of the chinook wing jetties has not been impressive but that will soon change. One guide reported on Wednesday taking a quick 2-fish limit for he and his wife at the sawdust pile and I have heard rumors of action already taking place on the red line on the first part of outgoing tide. The bottom line is, there are a lot of fish in the river so it's time to get busy!

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Summer steelhead fishing on the Columbia River has picked up a bit. Catches have become more consistent at the river mouths and below Bonneville Dam. A few anglers fishing the usual techniques have scored some nice Chinook as well, suggesting there might be more in the river than previously thought. Steelhead fishers are getting fish on small red and orange flatfish, size F-5, F-7 and U-20. Small spinners and coon shrimp are also getting bites. Anglers wishing to target Chinook salmon should try fishing deeper water with Simon, Alvin and Clancy wobblers. Focus on 30 to 50 feet of water."

Ocean fishing out of the Columbia has not drawn a lot of interest lately as NW winds coupled with good river action has squashed interest. Coho and some chinook certainly remain available but with a recent significant drop in water temperature, particularly to the north, action is far from fast and furious. Quite questionable given the magnitude of the coho prediction back to the lower Columbia due in just a few weeks. Anglers remain focused to the SW side of the red line with some fair action reported in just 70 feet of water. Do watch your temperature gauge because water temperatures below 52 degrees seem to scatter fish. Unquestionably if these forecasts for returning chinook and coho are accurate, ocean fishing should get considerably better in the next 10 days.

Crabbing remains good in the river but only fair in the ocean. With the tide series currently more extreme, don't expect river crabbing to remain as productive as last week. None-the-less, soaking fresh salmon or tuna carcasses will yield measureable results.

Tuna fishers remain motivated in the calm seas with offshore boats still reporting 20 to 30 fish for a day's effort. Trolled tuna clones remain consistently productive but cedar plugs are holding their own as well. Once you locate a school of biters, casting jigs and swim baits is a very good idea. Schools remain 30 to 35 miles offshore.

The Guide's Forecast – With the productive high tide several hours before sunrise, anglers would be wise to focus on the late afternoon high tide instead. Even though I have preached a high tide target for years, there will be non-TGF subscribers that believe in an early morning bite on the lower river. It would absolutely be a waste of time to target salmon prior to low slack in this area. The most productive eight hours of the day will be one hour before low slack through one hour after high slack; That is, if you believe in 17 years of professional experience.

Yes, you will have to put up with an afternoon wind but if you are targeting fish on the Washington side of the river, especially above the bridge, the bluff at Megler should protect you from some of the northwest wind. This happens to be where some of the most productive fishing of the early-season has taken place.

Anglers would be wise to target low slack above the bridge, again, on the Washington side or from the Chinook wing jetties down to Buoy 11, just out of Illwaco. It seems during this time of the tide, it is best to keep your gear fishing deep where Chinook are likely to take advantage of cooler water. Spinners have been productive but it would be foolish to not bring along bait as well. As I previously mentioned, herring is hard to come by and fresh anchovies have been working just fine. If There is only a three hour window you can focus your effort on, that would be near high slack in the late afternoon. Again, it would be wise to target Chinook on the Washington side above the bridge at this time but Young's Bay can also be a great producer during this time of the tide.

The morning high tide will always seems to produce best but given the number of salmon in the river right now, patient anglers should expect good results for Chinook If they hold out for the late afternoon tide.

It would also be wise to take a batch of spinners with you. With the cloudy conditions, a solid white with red dot or red/white combo with red beads has been productive. Although green has not been part my arsenal, it would be wise to explore the possibilities. Also, don't overlook shallower running biters, especially as we near high tide when the water temperatures typically drop 3 to 5°. The size 5 or 6 fatal flash and size 6 guide flash spinners have both been working great. My most successful spinners have had the pink hoochies on the hook.

By Monday or Tuesday of next week, tides will switch over to the morning and anglers should really do well then.

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "On the Columbia River, the steelhead fishing should remain decent through the end of the month. Bonneville will likely see a surge of fish within the week. Salmon numbers are quickly increasing and more anglers are looking to deeper water. The mouth of the Cowlitz, Lewis, Kalama, Washougal and Sandy will all produce from day to day. Bonneville will also kick out a few Chinook this coming week."

Ocean anglers should remain excited about offshore prospects. With the entire salmon run about to stage just outside of the Columbia River mouth, action from both Chinook and coho should really start to blossom this week. If ocean temperatures begin to warm, especially to the north, the ocean bite should once again take off just off of Long Beach and the lighthouse at Cape Disappointment. When targeting salmon in this area, look for depths between 25 and 45 foot. Don't fish on the bottom like you would expect, salmon are actively feeding closer to the surface where baitfish are most likely to be, especially in the morning. Anchovies do work best here as that is what makes up the largest biomass in that area this time of year.

Anglers might take the low risk route and pursue coho southwest of Buoy 2 or the CR buoy. This typically becomes slam-dunk fishing but that would be if the coho prediction comes to fruition. Anglers are reporting lots of wild coho in the mix so be prepared for that. There has been several days where the undersized Chinook bite has been epic as well. Do what you can to avoid that situation.

Here is the offshore forecast:

FRI

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT.
W SWELL 4 FT AT 11 SECONDS. PATCHY DRIZZLE AND FOG IN THE
MORNING. SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS IN THE AFTERNOON.

FRI NIGHT

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES
2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT AT 11 SECONDS.

SAT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT WITH GUSTS TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT.
W SWELL 5 FT AT 10 SECONDS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS.

SAT NIGHT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT
AT 10 SECONDS. SLIGHT CHANCE OF TSTMS.

SUN

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT.

MON

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

With a strong tide series coming on this weekend, it might be wise to leave the crab gear at home. River crabbing in the lower Columbia is fair to good however but you will have to monitor your pots near high or low slack to ensure your buoys are accessible. If you are too late, your

buoys will be buried until the next tide exchange. Ocean crabbing may be a waste of time mostly for the reason the keepers you will encounter will be soft-shelled.

Upriver, anchor anglers continue to encounter steelhead and Chinook are becoming more common. As we transition into August, interest will shift to salmon and to the deeper water that they migrate in. Wobblers will be the key here with boaters commonly using the five foot leader and 5 foot dropper lead line set up in 35 to 50 foot of water. The strong morning outgoing tide this week should produce some results but success rates will skyrocket in another 2 to 3 weeks from now simply due to run timing. Anglers need to check regulations in this area as they are different about every year here.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Walleye Fishing on the Willamette River's Multnomah Channel has been better than decent. This normally quiet fishery has stirred interest from local anglers as well as anglers from further away. Trolling upstream in 12-20 feet of water with a nightcrawler strung on a worm harness has been the method of choice. The walleye seem to prefer a little "bling" with their meal, in the form of a spinner blade or spin n glow in front of the worm. Chartreuse and green are favorite colors as are red and orange. A few anglers are using diving crankbaits, also trolled upstream but be aware of snags that eat expensive lures.

"Sturgeon fishing in the Willamette was very slow during the retention opener and effort was at a minimum. The same is expected for any future openers or until the water cools off in October. Smallmouth bass are also available throughout the summer. The best action will be along rocky shorelines and back channels."

Following a bit of fluctuation in July, the McKenzie has stabilized. Water temperature has been getting a little lower with latest reading near 52 degrees at Vida.

North and South Santiams level and flow should remain fairly steady over the next several day. The rivers are somewhat loon but still quite fishable. Passage over Willamette Falls is dwindling in low flows high water temperatures.

Alton Baker Canal, Breitenbush River, Clear Lake, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above and below Leaburg Lake, Quartzville Creek, Salt Creek, Santiam River above Detroit Lake and Trail Bridge Reservoir are scheduled for trout planting.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Expect walleye fishing to remain consistent through the fall on the Willamette River. Sturgeon fishing will remain slow and anglers are better off finding an alternative species to target until the water cools off in Oct/Nov. Bass anglers will get their fish if the cover plenty of water."

Fish passage reports from Foster Dam on the South Santiam will be unavailable until September 3rd. Plans are to build a new facility during that time. At the last available data on August 7th, about 4,000 summers and 2,500 spring Chinook had been counted. About the same number of Chinook have been at Stayton but summer steelhead numbers are off.

Partly cloudy weather in the forecast this week should come as good news to McKenzie River fly fishers. During the last period when sunlight was obscure or partly so, results were quite good at times. Drifting we flies has resulted in an occasional summers steelhead hookup, a pleasant surprise as there are a lot of these fish in the system this season. Fishing for rainbows and cutthroat is expected to be good on the upper McKenzie.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "The Clackamas River will get another barrage of swimmers and rafters this week with the weather heating up. A few skittish summer steelhead are available in the water less accessible to the splash and giggle crowd. Mass amounts of litter, mostly in the form of beer cans and bottles has been a huge concern.

"On the Sandy River, anglers are getting the occasional summer steelhead and the rare late spring Chinook. Rafters and swimmers are present here as well, so any angling opportunity should be negotiated in the early hours or late in the evening. Most of the fishing crowd has been working the area at and below the mouth of the Salmon River. As in years past, be careful to not leave valuables in your car here as there has been a rash of break ins."

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "The Clackamas and Sandy Rivers are going to be challenging at best for anglers. With all the raft and inner tube traffic, the wee hours of daylight are the only option for a steelhead."

North Coast Fishing Report – With ocean coho off the table now, Nehalem Bay Chinook remains the only viable fishery south of the Columbia River. Anglers last week saw great catches of salmon at the bay entrance on the low tide exchange. With a 2-fish bag limit and fish running large, there were some happy anglers after a full day's effort. Anglers did do the best at the jaws as crowds would indicate where the best fishing was.

With the main fleet of boats pursuing salmon at the mouth, anglers at Wheeler and Nehalem don't have as many biters to work with. The Stronger tide series this week should help that situation however as fish should move quicker into the upper reaches of the estuary. Wheeler has been the primary target with trolled herring likely to take fair numbers of fish this week. Spinners become the norm by the time anglers and fish get to the Nehalem area.

Offshore, anglers are primarily focusing on bottom fish, crab and halibut when it's open. Check the ODFW website for halibut openers. There will be some additional any coho openers but not until September.

Crab are plentiful but are mostly in a soft-shelled state.

It is not unheard of to take Chinook in Tillamook Bay this early in August but your chances jump dramatically later in the month and certainly by early September.

Summer steelhead remain elusive but available on the Wilson River. The river remains really low requiring anglers to use small baits and pursue their quarry early in the morning or towards dusk. The Nestucca remains an option as well but success rates are low.

The Guide's Forecast – Although there are still plenty of salmon to come, action recently has slowed on lower Nehalem Bay. Admittedly, the peak part of the summer run has likely passed but there should still be catchable numbers into mid-month before the fall run fish arrive.

Anglers will stick to herring from the jaws to Wheeler and hardware from Wheeler through tidewater. Bobber tossers are also likely to produce but likely around the tide changes, especially low slack. The bigger tidal influx should benefit upper bay anglers this week.

The best thing going in the ocean will be offshore tuna fishing. Long range forecasts look tolerable for good action but you have to plan for a long trek west. Fish remain far offshore at 35 to 45 miles. Look for water exceeding 60 degrees.

If you want a bunch of crab, the ocean is the place to go but plan on sifting through a lot of soft shells before you find quality keepers. North coast estuaries are not a bad option either however.

Those pursuing summer steelhead in the Wilson or Nestucca systems need to plan on challenging conditions. Rivers will remain low and clear, only giving stealthy early morning anglers the best chance.

Central & South Coast Reports – Offshore conditions out of Newport and Depoe Bay are predicted to be fairly mild over the coming weekend with low swells and light winds. Things can change rapidly off the west coast so be certain to check at the last minute.

Boats launching out of Newport earlier this week has fair luck with tuna but it has been a long trip to find temp breaks and a few fish. After moving offshore earlier in the month, albacore should be moving closer in as the weekend approaches.

Offshore trolling for Chinook has been slow with coho dominating the catch out of central Oregon ports. The non-selective (finclipped or not) coho season opening September 5, 6 and 7 should be a good one. The quota for this fishery will be 16,000 fish. Additional dates will be added as available.

Last-minute update from the ODFW: The remaining 3,920 coho salmon from the July recreational selective coho salmon fishery from Cape Falcon to the Oregon / California border were transferred on an impact neutral basis to the September recreational non-selective coho quota for the area from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. The net transfer results in an increase to the September quota of 3,580 coho, and brings the September quota to 19,580 coho.

Crabbing in Yaquina Bay has been slow to fair with a few keepers showing in catches. Alsea Bay out of Waldport is somewhat better but no limits reported.

The summer all-depth halibut opener on August 2-3 was good - very good, indeed. With just about everyone who targeted them taking a fish, catches exceeded the 23,775-pound quota by more than 3,300 pounds. IT is done for the year. Nearshore halibut closed in late July as that quota filled.

A few surf perch are being taken at Winchester Bay but this fishery is fading. Crabbing is still slow. A few Chinook are being hooked on the lower mainstem Umpqua with best results below the 101 Bridge. Those who have crossed the bar have had some good days for Chinook recently. Upriver is best for smallmouth bass in warm river flows. A few summer steelhead are being caught on the North Umpqua where Chinook fishing closed at the end of July. Bass fishing is ongoing in the South Umpqua.

Coos Bay trollers have been taking a few Chinook in the jaws. This fishery will be improving through August. Crabbing results have continued slow.

Trollers in Rogue Bay have seen a little improvement in catches this week. The popular anchovy/spinner combination has been most effective around the Highway 101 Bridge. Middle and lower river temperatures remain fairly high which has stalled the steelhead bite. A slight

increase in flows is forecast over the coming weekend. It will remain to be seen if this results in a moderation of the water temperature. Effort for spring Chinook is winding down on the upper Rogue and the river is closed for springers above Dodge Bridge as of August 1st. Steelheading has been fair to good. Fires in the Rogue Valley are still creating smoky conditions.

Boats launching out of the Port of Brookings have been scoring good catches of rockfish and ling cod. Ocean Chinook results slowed over the past week following some great results prior to that time.

The Rogue River above Lost Creek is scheduled to be stocked with trout.

Central and Eastern Oregon – There aren't a lot of hatches occurring on the lower Deschutes this week, making nymphing for residents a viable option. With low runs this season, steelheading has been a challenge but there are summers being taken here and there but a spike in numbers at Bonneville Dam in early August would indicate additional fish are on the way.

Trolling for brown trout can be effective at East Lake. A plug or swimbait coupled with a downrigger is the preferred method. These fish are likely to be on the 25 to 50 foot depths over water 50 to 80 feet deep so use your depth finder to target them. Kokanee fishing has been good for those using hoochies.

Water level at Wickiup Reservoir has dropped and may prevent launching soon.

The Kokanee Power derby will take place on August 17th. Recent results here have been fair to good.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for August 2013

North Puget Sound

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

Anglers are reeling in chinook, pinks, and coho in North Puget Sound, where two additional marine areas open for salmon Aug. 1 and crabbing is still an option.

"We are expecting more than 6 million pinks to make their way through Puget Sound into area rivers this year," says Ryan Lothrop, Puget Sound recreational salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "Anglers across the state have been catching these salmon, catch rates are improving steadily, and we expect the run to continue to build as pink salmon enter rivers like the Skagit, Green, and Snohomish by mid-to-late August."

The **Puget Sound crab fishery** is also under way in most marine areas. The exception is the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia) of Marine Area 7, which opens for crab Aug. 15. All marine areas of Puget Sound will be open for crabbing Thursday through Monday of each week only. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are closed and all crab gear must be removed from the water.

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 Dungeness Crab Guide," both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

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.

Meanwhile, for those more interested in river fishing, freshwater anglers are gearing up for **salmon** openers on select rivers.

Those rivers include the following:

- **Skagit River:** Salmon fishing opens Aug. 1 from the mouth of the river to the mouth of Gilligan Creek. The Skagit opens from the mouth of Gilligan Creek to the Dalles Bridge at Concrete for salmon fishing Aug. 16. Anglers fishing those sections have a four-salmon daily limit, and no more than two can be wild coho. All chinook and chum must be released.
- **Snohomish River:** Salmon fishing opens Aug. 1 from the mouth of the river to the highway 9 bridge and on Aug. 16 from highway 9 bridge upstream to the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers. There is a three-salmon daily limit, plus one additional pink salmon. Chinook and chum must be released.
- **Green River:** Salmon fishing opens Aug. 23 from the 1st Ave. South Bridge to Hwy. 99/Tukwila Intl. Blvd. Anglers fishing the Green have a daily limit of six salmon; up to three adult coho and chum (combined) may be retained. Chinook must be released.

Check the [Fish Washington pamphlet](#) for additional details on regulations for these rivers.

On North Puget Sound, anglers can fish for chinook salmon in marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton). Those fishing Marine Area 7 can keep one chinook as part of their two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. They must, however, release wild coho and chum starting Aug. 1.

Anglers should note that those fishing Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) are allowed to keep only one hatchery chinook as part of their daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon. For more information, see this [recent announcement](#) and the [Fish Washington rules pamphlet](#).

Those fishing Marine Area 10 can keep up to two hatchery chinook – marked with a clipped adipose fin – as part of a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. Wild chinook must be released. Anglers fishing marine areas 9 and 10 also must release chum salmon.

Additional rules apply to Elliot Bay and Sinclair Inlet in Marine Area 10. Anglers are advised to check the [fishing pamphlet](#) starting on page 116 for maps of these regions and for additional details on regulations.

August brings other opportunities in the region to catch and keep salmon. Beginning Aug. 1, marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) open for salmon. Anglers fishing these areas will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chinook. Within area 8-2, Tulalip Bay at the terminal is open Friday through noon on Mondays and allows the use of two poles for those with a two-pole endorsement.

Check the [Fish Washington rules pamphlet](#) for additional details on current salmon fishing opportunities.

Though many anglers focus on burgeoning opportunities for salmon in mid-to-late summer, August is also a great time to pursue **yellow perch, bass, bluegill** and **catfish** in lowland lakes.

“With warmer water temperatures, anglers should seek deepwater structure such as ledges and weed lines to find warmwater species during the heat of the day,” says Danny Garrett, WDFW lead warmwater fisheries biologist. “In clearer lakes, such as Lake Washington, start your search for perch and bass in 15 to 20 feet of water. In shallower lakes with stained water, such as Lake Cassidy, look for fish along the weed edge in five to 10 feet of water.”

Yellow perch is a species that will bite throughout the day, so perch fishing is a great way to introduce kids to the sport.

Though many **trout** fisheries have slowed with rising water temperatures, anglers in pursuit of trout or **kokanee** are still finding bountiful harvests in deeper Puget Sound lowland waters.

“Try trolling for these fishes below the thermocline with common gear such as wedding rings, woolly buggers, hoochies, and even bare hooks baited with shoepeg corn behind a dodger-- usually 12 to 30 inches--at slow speeds,” says WDFW trout biologist, Justin Spinelli. “Remember that kokanee, in particular, migrate vertically in the water column as they pursue invertebrates so try various depths until you find the schools.”

Trout and kokanee fisheries where success has been reported recently include Lake Stevens (Snohomish County), Lake Meridian (King County), Angle Lake (King County), and American Lake (Pierce County). Anglers can identify other potential fisheries by consulting the [Statewide Hatchery Trout and Kokanee Stocking Plan](#).

To find out more about fishing for these and other species in Washington, visit the [Fish Washington website](#).

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

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

The surge of summer salmon is upon us, and the smell of smoking fish is already wafting through campgrounds and neighborhoods across the region.

Along with strong numbers of **chinook** and **coho salmon** in the ocean and in protected waters, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fisheries managers estimate 6.2 million **pink salmon** are flooding into the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound on their biannual, odd-numbered-years-only spawning run. Many of those scrappy pinks are headed for South Sound rivers.

Doug Milward, WDFW's ocean salmon manager, says Marine Areas 1-4 were very kind to salmon anglers in July. He expects the fishing to be good and perhaps even better in August. Chinook fishing has been outstanding so far this year, according to Milward.

In Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) and Marine Area 2 (Westport), anglers are allowed two adult salmon, one of which may be a chinook, but are required to release all wild coho. Almost the same daily bag limit applies in Marine Area 3 (La Push) and Marine Area 4 (Neah Bay), except anglers are allowed up to two adult chinook.

In the Strait of Juan de Fuca (marine areas 5 and 6), chinook retention opportunities come to a close on Aug. 15, but hatchery coho and pink salmon options continue into fall. Prior to Aug. 15, anglers may retain two adult salmon, two of which may be chinook, plus two pink salmon. Wild coho, chinook, and chum salmon are all subject to release during summer in marine areas 5 and 6.

The South Sound (marine areas 11-13) is host to many salmon opportunities this August, but they vary within the areas. Check your fishing regulations carefully, and go get 'em! Opportunities abound for catching and keeping coho, chinook, and pink salmon.

August 2013 is shaping up to be an epic month for the region's salmon anglers, but the opportunities aren't limited to salmon. Marine Area 1 anglers have not yet exhausted their **halibut** quota, which means it's not too late to book a charter or plan a trip to the Port of Ilwaco to fill your freezer with one of the Pacific's most prized fish.

All of Washington's major ocean ports offer good bottomfishing for **rockfish** and **lingcod**, and August is a great and usually gentle time to take to the ocean in search of these firm, white-fleshed fish.

Similarly, **albacore tuna** fishing begins to peak in August, when these sub-tropical, pelagic fish ride warm currents that have flowed delightfully close to shore in recent years. When tuna are only 25 to 50 miles offshore, charter and private boat operators lick their chops. Shorter runs to the tuna grounds mean less fuel burned and more time fighting these 50-mile-per-hour saltwater rockets.

A variety of river salmon fisheries materialize in August, including the South Sound's pink salmon rivers: the Puyallup and Nisqually. All three streams will receive large returns and will draw large crowds of anglers.

Discussions between WDFW and the Skokomish and Puyallup tribes has resulted in a plan that opens prime areas on both rivers for tribal members and the general public. Before grabbing your salmon rods, check out the news releases describing newly forged regulations for both the [Skokomish](#) and [Puyallup](#).

The region's best hatchery summer **steelhead** streams are the Humptulips and Wynoochee rivers, but summer fishing in these streams is often weather- and temperature-dependent and can be feast or famine. Still, anglers shouldn't overlook these beautiful walk-and-wade rivers. The best strategy for success is to fish high in the river system in areas that are open to fishing. Search for groups of steelhead seeking thermal refuges near springs.

For details on river fishing for salmon and steelhead, including catch and gear limitations, open waters, and allowable fishing days, always check the Washington [sport fishing rules](#) pamphlet before hitting the water.

Trout fishing remains strong in the region's deeper, cooler lakes, despite soaring summer temperatures that make trout lethargic. Lethargy or not, they still have to eat.

Trout in August feed almost exclusively early in the morning, in the evenings, and under cover of darkness. Fish don't like to move much for their meals. As such, the region's still fishers are outperforming trollers. Those still fishing baits like shrimp, nightcrawlers, salmon eggs, and dough baits are doing well, especially near springs that discharge cold water.

North of Olympia, Saint Clair Lake has been especially good to trout anglers this summer, which should continue through August. American, Clear, and Ward lakes also produce good trout fishing during August due to their depth and good water quality.

Region 6 offers some of the Washington's finest **kokanee** fishing, and it should continue to be good in August. Larry Phillips, WDFW district fish biologist, says fishing has been excellent this summer at Summit Lake, where anglers have been catching kokanee to 13 inches. Clear and Ward lakes have been good, too, for fish from 10 to 12 inches.

The popular kokanee fishery at American Lake won't produce many limits this summer, says Phillips, but the fish are large and in excellent condition. American's kokanee are averaging 14-16 inches this year, and Phillips recently received a picture of a 21.5-inch koke from the popular fishery south of Tacoma.

Bruce Bolding, WDFW's Warmwater Fish Program manager, says Region 6 is home to some very good and overlooked bass, panfish, and channel catfish angling.

"We stocked Saint Clair Lake and Lawrence Lake with **channel catfish** for the first time in the fall of 2011, but the fish should be big enough this summer to catch and fillet and have a great meal," said Bolding. "Chambers Lake was also stocked in 2011 but had been previously stocked in the 1990's, so there could be a few really big fish left. Harts Lake in Pierce County was not stocked in 2011, but still has fish from 2005."

Bolding cites eastern Pierce County's Kapowsin, Tanwax, Ohop, and Rapjon lakes as being good for panfish — especially **perch and crappie**. He adds Thurston County's Summit, Long, and Pattison lakes to the list.

For a mix of **largemouth and smallmouth bass**, he advocates the same lakes as above, as well as Kitsap County's Long and Kitsap lakes and Thurston County's Black and Hicks lakes. Munn Lake is a Thurston County selective fishery requiring catch and release and is good for bass and **bluegill**.

Southwest Washington

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

This year's **fall chinook** fishery opens Aug. 1 on the Columbia River, where a strong run of upriver brights is expected to exceed both the 10-year average and last year's return. Of the 678,000 "falls" included in the pre-season forecast, about 434,000 are projected to be upriver brights, which are expected to return in the largest numbers since record keeping began in 1964.

Those chinook salmon – along with the chance to catch **hatchery coho** and **summer steelhead** – should make August a great time to fish the lower Columbia River, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"We're definitely expecting a big angler turnout for these fisheries," Hymer said. "The fall chinook should pick up quickly through the month of August, and the upriver brights tend to keep biting as they move upriver."

Although the opener for the fall chinook will extend upriver as far as Priest Rapids Dam, most of

the action during the first few weeks focuses on the popular **Buoy 10 fishery** in the lower 16 miles of the river. Fishery managers estimate that anglers will catch nearly 20,000 chinook salmon in those waters by the end of the day Sept. 1, after which the retention fishery for chinook in the Buoy 10 area will close for the remainder of September. Anglers are also expected to catch 13,000 coho in that area by the time that fishery closes at the end of the year.

The daily limit for the Buoy 10 fishery is two salmon, two hatchery steelhead, or one of each. But through Sept. 1, only one of those salmon may be a chinook (marked or unmarked). For steelhead and coho, only fish marked with a missing adipose fin and a healed scar may be retained.

Barbless hooks are required when fishing for salmon and steelhead on the mainstem Columbia River and many of its tributaries.

Additional rules for the Buoy 10 area and waters farther upriver are described in WDFW's [Fishing in Washington](#) pamphlet. Bank anglers planning to fish near the mouth of the Columbia River should be aware they will need to purchase a Discover Pass to park on State Parks property near the North Jetty. The vehicle-access pass anglers receive with their fishing license only substitutes for a Discover Pass on WDFW lands.

By mid-to-late August, the bulk of the chinook run usually begins to move upstream with increasing numbers of coho moving in behind them. For anglers following upriver brights upstream, Hymer recommends fishing deep, between 40 and 50 feet down. For a lure, he suggests wobblers anchored with a heavy weight.

"Chinook go deep when water temperatures are high, so that's a good place to find them," Hymer said. "At the same time, anglers should take care not to drop anchor in the shipping channel. That can lead to real trouble."

Hatchery coho are expected to make a stronger showing this year, helping to round out anglers' daily limits. WDFW currently expects about 434,000 coho to return this year – three times more than last year's return and similar to the recent 10-year average. Hymer said coho salmon usually bite best at Buoy 10 on herring and spinners, and later on bait and lures in the tributaries.

Meanwhile, plenty of **hatchery steelhead** are also available for harvest, said Hymer, noting that the smaller "A-run" fish should keep biting through mid-August. By then, the larger "B-run" steelhead – many weighing in the teens – will start arriving to pick up the slack. Together, returns of both runs are expected to total 322,000 fish, on par with the recent 10-year average .

The procession of fall chinook, coho and hatchery steelhead should also provide good fishing on area tributaries for months to come, Hymer said. Like the mainstem Columbia River, most tributaries open for fall chinook Aug. 1, although those fisheries usually don't take off until September. For steelhead, Drano Lake and the Wind River are good popular spots to cast for migrating fish dipping into cooler waters.

The White Salmon River has historically been another productive dip-in fishery, but how the fish will respond after Condit Dam was breeched in late 2011 remains to be seen.

Like last year, anglers will be allowed to retain up to six adult hatchery coho on all tributaries to the lower Columbia River with hatchery programs. Those rivers include the Cowlitz, Deep,

Elochoman, Grays (including West Fork), Kalama, Klickitat, Lewis (including North Fork), Toutle (including Green and North Fork) and Washougal.

Unlike the mainstem Columbia River, chinook retention is limited to marked hatchery fish on those river systems, except on the Klickitat and Deep rivers where unmarked chinook can also be retained. Mark-selective fisheries also will be in effect on the Wind and White Salmon rivers.

Any fall chinook and coho may be retained at Drano Lake beginning Aug. 1 and any chinook on the North Fork Lewis River beginning in October. Anglers are advised to check the [Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet](#) and any [emergency rules](#) applicable to specific waters before leaving home.

Of course, salmon and steelhead aren't the only fish available for harvest in August. **Walleye** fishing can be good in the Columbia River near Camas, as well as in The Dalles and John Day Pools. **Bass** fishing is also heating up from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam. Anglers can also retain sturgeon measuring 43 to 54 inches in The Dalles Pool until the guideline has been reached.

For **trout**, the high lakes in the Cascades offer unparalleled fishing experiences for those willing to brave the mosquitoes. Wilderness areas around Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens are now accessible with the snowmelt.

A couple of drive-up lakes to check out are Council and Takhlakh Lake on the northwest side of Mt. Adams. Council was stocked July 8 with 3,000 rainbow catchable trout weighing half-a-pound each. Takhlakh was planted on June 24 with 3,000 catchables, along with 150 rainbows weighing almost 3.5 pounds each.

Eastern Washington

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

Fishing in August can sometimes be slow, due to higher daytime water and air temperatures. But anglers fishing early in the morning, late in the evening, or on days with lots of cloud cover can have success this time of year.

Randy Osborne, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) central district fish biologist in Spokane, says mixed species waters are a good bet. Anglers can find **yellow perch**, **largemouth** and **smallmouth bass**, and **crappie**, along with some trout, at Coffeepot Lake in Lincoln County, Downs Lakes in southwest Spokane County, Newman, Silver, and Liberty lakes in eastern Spokane County, Eloika Lake in north Spokane County, and the Spokane River reservoir of Long Lake (or Lake Spokane).

Osborne says some of the best **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** lakes close to Spokane are Amber, Clear, Williams, and West Medical lakes in Spokane County, and Fishtrap Lake in Lincoln County. The lower Spokane River has nice rainbows and browns, but river anglers need to be aware of catch limits, gear restrictions, and other rules listed in the fishing pamphlet.

Bill Baker, WDFW northeast district fish biologist in Colville, said **kokanee** fishing should be productive in August at Loon Lake in southern Stevens County. "Most anglers there are fishing

during the evening with glow hooks and other gear," he said. "But trolling during the day should also be good."

Baker notes that kokanee can also be had in a few other northeast district waters including Bead, Sullivan, and Davis lakes in Pend Oreille County and Pierre and Deep lakes in Stevens County. Deep Lake should produce 12- inch-plus kokanee.

"I've also heard anglers are catching some kokanee in the lower portion of Lake Roosevelt," Baker said. "They're also doing well on rainbows in the reservoir. **Walleye** fishing at Roosevelt has been fair, with somewhat lower success rates for most anglers compared to the last couple of years."

Baker suggests fishing for trout (rainbow, cutthroat, brook and tiger) in higher elevation lakes on U.S. Forest Service property throughout August. Davis, Ellen, Empire, and Ferry lakes are good bets in Ferry County. In Stevens County, Black, Little Twin, and Summit lakes should be good producers. In Pend Oreille County, anglers should find good fishing at Carl's, Frater, Halfmoon, Mystic, North and South Skookum, Petit, and Yokum lakes.

Glen Mendel, WDFW southeast district fish biologist in Dayton, reminds anglers that **steelhead** fishing on the Snake River is open for retention of hatchery-marked fish in August this year. Mendel notes that steelhead numbers are rapidly increasing at the Columbia and Snake River dams.

"The return of **fall chinook salmon** to the Snake is expected to be a 30 to 40 year record number this year and also very good in the mid-Columbia River region overall," Mendel said. "We are considering an opening, so anglers should watch for an announcement on our website."

WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area Manager Kari Dingman said the Tucannon River impoundments on the area are a bit "warm and green." Some folks are still fishing them, she says, but many more are fishing the river during warmer weather.

Mendel reminds river anglers and other recreationists not to build rock or log dams across rivers and streams because it prevents bull trout and other species from moving upstream and downstream. "Every year we have new rock dams in August and early September that block bull trout migration and sometimes trap and kill them," Mendel said. "Bull trout and spring chinook are very vulnerable at this time of year in low water, sometimes in marginal water temperatures. Neither can be legally harvested or harassed."

Northcentral Washington

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

The Wenatchee River **hatchery summer chinook salmon** fishery opens Aug. 1 from the mouth to 400 feet below Dryden Dam. Travis Maitland, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Chelan district fish biologist, notes that on Sept. 1 the fishery extends to the Icicle River Road Bridge (Hwy. 2 at Leavenworth) and runs through Sept. 30. See all the details for this fishery in the [rules pamphlet](#).

Maitland reports another Lake Wenatchee **sockeye salmon** fishery is being considered. Anglers should watch WDFW's website for an official [emergency rule change](#).

Meanwhile, sockeye salmon fishing has picked up considerably in the Columbia River near Brewster, said Bob Jateff, WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist in Twisp. Effort has been good with catch rates of one to two fish per angler. Chinook salmon are also being caught, but in much smaller numbers.

Jateff also notes the section of the Columbia River from Wells Dam upstream to the Hwy. 173 Bridge in Brewster has been open to salmon fishing since July 16. Anglers are required to release any sockeye or **chinook** with a colored anchor (floy) tag located just below the dorsal fin. "Most of the sockeye are running smaller this year, in the 1- to 3-pound range with some larger adults up to 5 pounds," Jateff said. "The chinook are averaging 10 to 15 pounds."

Jateff said fishing in the Methow River is good with flows leveling out due to earlier than normal snow melt. Selective gear rules are in effect and no bait is allowed. The open area of the Methow extends from the Lower Burma Road Bridge (below the town of Methow) upstream to the Weeman Bridge (eight miles north of Winthrop). "With warmer water conditions expected during the month of August, anglers should be very careful in playing and releasing fish during that time," Jateff said. "It's best to play the fish as quickly as possible and to not remove it from the water."

Jateff notes there are two sections of the Twisp and Chewuch rivers that are open to catch-and-release trout fishing. The Twisp is open from the mouth upstream to War Creek, and the Chewuch is open from the mouth upstream to Eight Mile Creek. Anglers should check the current sportfishing rules pamphlet as all of these open areas have varying closure dates. Anglers can expect resident **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** in the 8- to 16-inch range, along with **whitefish** up to 18 inches.

Jateff also says it's a good time to fish the smaller tributaries within the Methow River drainage as river and small creek flows recede. Boulder, Falls, and Eightmile creeks are all within easy driving distance from Winthrop and provide good fishing for eastern brook trout. Daily limit is five **brook trout** in Falls and Eightmile Creeks, no minimum size and bait is allowed. In Boulder Creek the daily limit for brook trout is 10, no minimum size and bait is allowed. In the Beaver Creek drainage, anglers can retain five brook trout, no minimum size, selective gear rules required, and no bait allowed.

Southcentral Washington

(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

Columbia and Snake River **walleye** fishing has been excellent this summer and is expected to remain strong throughout August. Paul Hoffarth, a fish biologist for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), said the best catches have come from Lake Umatilla -- the 67 miles of the Columbia River between John Day and McNary Dams. Angling upstream of McNary for the toothy fish has also been good.

Walleye are also numerous and active during August on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia and on the lower portions of the Snake River, especially below Ice Harbor Dam. Most anglers use diving plugs, jigs, blade baits, or 'crawler harnesses to catch them.

Hoffarth reminds anglers that there is no minimum size limit and no limit on the number of walleye you can keep upstream of the Washington-Oregon border (17 miles upstream of McNary Dam). Below the state line (downstream), there is a daily limit of 10 fish, only five of which can measure over 18 inches and only one of which can be over 24 inches.

Rather fish for **smallmouth bass**? During August they swim deep, but the fishing can be good for those in-the-know. Trolling with deep-diving plugs and fine-diameter braided lines 150 to 200 feet behind the boat allows anglers to get their plugs down to the fish. Smallmouth usually run even deeper than walleye during the burning heat and gentle flows of summer.

Mid-river humps and bars from 30-45 feet in depth tend to attract large concentrations of mature smallmouth during August. Along with trolling these areas, vertical jigging with blade baits and soft-plastic jigs is also very effective. As with walleye, Hoffarth says there is no limit on the number or the size of smallmouth bass anglers can keep in the Columbia River or its tributaries above the Washington-Oregon state line. Below the state line, anglers can keep a daily limit of five smallmouth bass, only three of which can exceed 15 inches.

Anglers tend to catch both species at the same time, as well as occasional chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead. To retain salmon and adipose-fin-clipped steelhead caught accidentally while fishing for walleye or smallmouth, anglers must use barbless hooks. Starting Aug. 1, both fall chinook and coho with intact adipose fins may be retained.

Hoffarth reports **sturgeon** are still biting on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, but July 31 was the last day for retention fishing on Lake Wallula and the Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam. Lake Umatilla switched to catch-and-release-only on June 29. Sturgeon sanctuaries (located below many of the dams) remain off-limits to anglers until Aug. 1 when a catch-and-release season opens.

Fishery managers are projecting a strong run of 339,200 summer-run **steelhead** over Bonneville Dam this year, many bound for the Snake River and the mid to upper Columbia River. The Snake and areas of the Columbia opened for hatchery steelhead fishing June 16 this year, including the stretch from Bonneville to the Highway 395 bridge in Kennewick.

WDFW will open the area of the Columbia River from the Highway 395 bridge to the old Hanford town site Oct. 1, earlier if the run comes in stronger or earlier than expected. Look for announcements on the [WDFW website](#).

Steelhead fishing in southcentral Washington can be tough during summer due to sunny conditions and high water temperatures, even when large numbers of fish are moving upriver. Fishing very early in the morning or from dusk into darkness increases the odds of hooking up with these temperature-sensitive fish.

Night fishing with black or lighted plugs can be very productive and is both legal and popular above McNary Dam on Oregon's and Washington's halves of the river. A night closure is in effect below McNary on Oregon's half of the river, so anglers must remain on Washington's side of the river channel to stay legal.

Anglers can also look forward to great fishing for **fall chinook salmon** in the weeks ahead. A strong run of 677,900 is expected to return to the Columbia this year, including 432,500 "upriver brights" expected to cross McNary Dam – many headed for the Hanford Reach. Chinook should start biting at the end of August with the fishing improving and peaking in late September and early October.

Further north in Region 3, spring chinook fishing closed July 15 on the Upper Yakima River between Union Gap and Roza Dam after a strong season, said Eric Anderson, a WDFW fish biologist in Yakima.

"Catch rates for springers were highest during June and tapered off during early July," says Anderson. "Now anglers are looking ahead to the fishery for fall chinook in the Columbia River and lower Yakima."

Salmon fishing will be allowed from Sept. 1 to Oct. 22 for fall chinook in the lower Yakima in an area stretching from Prosser Dam to the river's mouth at the Highway 240 bridge in Richland. Catch rates can soar once the Yakima's waters cool enough to draw fish out of the colder water of the Columbia River, but that often doesn't occur until late September or early October. Nonetheless, throughout August, a combination of upper-Columbia summer chinook and early arriving fall chinook bound for the Hanford Reach and the Yakima River will hold at the Yakima's mouth near Bateman Island in Tri-Cities. This fishery has been popular in recent years.

Water levels have now dropped in streams flowing into the upper Yakima and Naches rivers and their tributaries, said Anderson, providing excellent fishing conditions for wild **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout**. Anglers should be sure to check the regulations for those streams and to release all salmon, bull trout, and steelhead.

In the Cascade Mountains, ice has now melted from alpine lakes, and anglers looking to beat the heat are headed for the high country. WDFW stocks many hike-in lakes around White Pass, Chinook Pass, and Snoqualmie Pass with **rainbow and cutthroat trout**; others have naturally reproducing **eastern brook trout** populations.

For more information on fishing the high lakes in south-central Washington, Anderson suggested anglers check out the [high lakes stocking list](#) for the past several years to get ideas on where to go. Hikers and anglers can check trail conditions with U.S. Forest Service offices in Naches and Cle Elum before heading out.

Anderson adds that anglers seeking boating or drive-up shore fishing opportunities will find good fishing is still available in August for planted trout at Clear and Dog Lakes in the White Pass area.

Also near White Pass, Rimrock Lake is kicking out limits of 16 **kokanee** averaging almost 10 inches. The fish are deep, but they can be found all over the lake. Very slow trolling with pop gear (gang trolls) or dodgers followed by a wedding ring spinner baited with maggots or tuna-scented shoe-peg corn is very effective. Kokanee are also available in August at Kachess, Keechelus & Cle Elum Lakes off Interstate 90, and fishing is good for both kokanee and cutthroat at Bumping Lake off Highway 410.

The daily combined trout and kokanee limit has been reduced to five fish at Cle Elum Lake in an effort to protect rebounding stocks of sockeye salmon. Since juvenile sockeye remain in the lake for two or more years before migrating to sea and are nearly indistinguishable from kokanee, reducing the kokanee bag limit reduces impacts on sensitive sockeye smolts.

Whether in Cle Elum Lake or elsewhere in the Yakima River Basin, Anderson reminds anglers that bull trout caught inadvertently while fishing for other species must be released unharmed.

"There are very stiff penalties for catching and keeping a bull trout," says Anderson.

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

Subscriber Mark D. wrote Pro Guide Bob Rees to ask - "Say, do you guys have any info on Nehalem salmon fishing?"

Bob replied, "Hey Mark, Chinook fishing in the Nehalem is just about to get underway. Look for more detailed reports in the coming weeks! Thanks for being a TGF subscriber!"

In a follow-up Email, Mark also wrote "Bob, I hope all is well... . Say, what do you know about the Siuslaw steelhead run? No offense but minus "guide speak".:) I don't hire guides but I am a subscriber.:)"

Bob wrote back to say, "I don't know much about the Siuslaw steelhead run but I do know it really doesn't get underway until winter. We have another writer that reports on that area. I have Cc'd him here. His name is Michael Teague."

Michael adds this, "Bob is correct, Mark. The steelhead fishery here will start in December, continuing through February." ""

Write to the TGF staff:

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Random Links

Ocean conditions for tuna anglers:

http://agate.coas.oregonstate.edu/data/chla_codar_3day.html

Spotlight on Fly Fishing for Carp:

<http://www.katu.com/news/outdoors/Anglers---think-carp-arent-worthy-Better-think-again-217685401.html?m=y&smobile=y&clmob=y&c=n>

iPhone knots app:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/id453571750?mt=8>

GOOD LUCK!