

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 30<sup>th</sup> – September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** - Strong numbers of fall chinook salmon are crossing Bonneville Dam. The steelhead numbers have been generally below a thousand a day. Fishing for chinook has been on the slow side, likely due to warm water temperatures.

The Willamette River remains mostly quiet. Smallmouth bass are available in the mainstem and a few walleye are still being taken out of the Multnomah Channel. Catch and release fishing for sturgeon is always a possibility but the fishing would be on the slow side.

An increase occurred in McKenzie flows from 2,000 to 2,500 cfs at Vida over the past weekend although the river seems to have stabilized at the latter flow. Trout fishing is fair to good.

With few fresh fish entering and summer numbers fairly low this season, steelheading is slow on the Santiam system. Trout fishing is fair on the upper North and South Santiams.

The Clackamas River is relatively fishless and void of anglers. A few summer steelhead might be available in the upper reaches above Barton Park.

On the Sandy River, the story is much the same. The first arrivals of the silvers are expected in the next couple of weeks.

**Northwest** – Kudos to the Oregon and Washington Departments of Fish and Wildlife as interest in pursuing fin-clipped chinook in the Buoy 10 fishery remained high after the fall chinook closure last Friday. Clip rates were good and managers decided yesterday to continue the mark-select fishery through September 1<sup>st</sup>. Coho have yet to make a strong showing. Meanwhile, the chinook bite at Tongue Point lit up on Tuesday with numerous anglers limiting their boats by noon. Jim Stephenson of Milwaukie had several opportunities trolling herring suspended 5 to 7 feet off of the bottom above Tongue Point, fishing in the shipping channel in 47 feet of water. The Tongue Point bite will likely peak mid-week but remain a strong option into the weekend. Sea-lion interactions have been oddly low.

Anglers participating in the wobbler fishery in the Longview area report good success on the outgoing tides. Anchoring in the deeper troughs near the shipping channel is risky with ship traffic, but productive for deep running chinook when the flows are running. This fishery will be peaking in the next two weeks. If you're not anchored in the right lane however, success is sporadic at best.

Ocean fishing out of Astoria is picking up for coho especially. This is a good sign that they are staging just outside, prepping for a run into the lower Columbia in the coming weeks. The return is expected to be large. Despite a 2 chinook limit in the ocean, success for chinook is low.

Estuary crabbing is good on the lower Columbia and will only improve into September.

Bobber fishing for tidewater summer chinook has been good on the lower Nehalem but should taper as those fish make their way to the Vernonia area where they will spawn. These fish will deteriorate rapidly, it's best to keep your eye on the fall run about to return in the lower reaches any week now.

Speaking of fall chinook, Tillamook Bay anglers took good numbers of early returning chinook in Tillamook Bay last weekend. The stronger tides produced nicely at Memaloose but the softer tide series this week should turn the lower estuary on. Trolled herring at the bay entrance or adjacent ocean waters should be productive.

The south of Falcon all-coho fishery opens on September 1 & 2. Ocean action should be good if the weather cooperates. Coho won't begin to show in the estuary in fishable numbers for a few more weeks.

**Southwest**- Some boats took rockfish and lingcod limits out of Newport and Depoe Bay this week while others fell short. Tuna are reportedly moving closer to shore.

Tuna are safe to eat according to Oregon State University researchers following a report that a leaking nuclear reactor in Japan has irradiated albacore caught off the Oregon coast.

Swells and breezes are forecast to be light off the central coast for the coming weekend although conditions are subject to change.

Boats fishing just outside Winchester Bay, inside from the Highway 101 Bridge to Big Bend and up to the lower Umpqua mainstem have all been scoring chinook. It has been the hottest salmon fishery on the southwest coast. Chinook are running from mid-teens to over 30 pounds.

Bottom fishing out of Gold Beach has been excellent, yielding daily limits of rockfish and lings to 25 pounds. Ocean salmon fishing has been unreliable. Trolling in Rogue bay had been slow but picked up a little into the past weekend. Fishing is slow in the lower river. The middle Rogue is productive for chinook and steelhead up to Grants Pass. Summer steelhead continue to enter the hatchery although numbers are lower than last season. They are taking a variety of baits and lures.

Chinook fishing out of Brookings picked up again over the past week. Trolled anchovies with hoochies have been most effective at 40 to 50 feet at the 150 foot depth contour.

**Eastern** – With more than 70,000 steelhead over The Dalles Dam, fresh summers are available in the lower Deschutes. Steelheading is good in the mornings, best in the evening for those who can find an open spot on the crowded river.

The Crooked River is steady at 220 cfs. It has been fishing well at this flow.

Although the Wallowa River is running quite low, trout fishing has been good for those able to locate fish which are holding in only a small percentage of the water. Wallowa Lake is slow for trout and kokanee.

Grande Ronde water level, at 40% below the 10-year average, is too low to fish well.

**SW Washington**- Although still a bit early for tributary action, the Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis Rivers should soon see chinook and early coho returns. Anglers remain focused on these tributary mouths where cool water draws in migrating salmon from the near-lethal temperatures of the mainstem Columbia. Mainstem anglers target the deeper water where cooler temperatures exist and the majority of chinook are now traveling.

Drano Lake anglers are reporting a mix of chinook, jacks and steelhead in the troll fishery. The action here will only get better in the weeks ahead, as we near the peak passage dates for upriver chinook.

The Klickitat River is also starting to draw interest where chinook and soon coho catches should blossom.

**Columbia River Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports,**

“This weeks fall Chinook counts over Bonneville dam have been the best in recent years. The peak of the run is a few days ahead of schedule with over 20,000 kings ascending the ladders over the last couple days. Fishing has been good but not stellar, as the 70 degree water keeps the fish from biting as ravenously as anglers would prefer. Right below the deadline at Bonneville, boaters are back trolling sardine wrapped K-15 and K-16 Kwikfish/Flatfish with jumbo jet divers. Anchor fishermen prefer small and medium sized spinners as well as Simon, Alvin and Clancy wobblers. Wobbler fishermen have it down to a science with the leader length and dropper length. 5'X5' or 5'X6"(dropper X leader) is a good start. Also keep in mind that heavier wobblers work better in the faster currents, especially for the first three miles below the deadline. Both Simon and Clancy make heavier gage lures that will work well in these applications.”

After a slight hic-up in chinook catch rates last week, action is back on the current soft tide series and Tongue Point is off and running. Although Tongue Point only lit up on Tuesday, interest remained high for the fin-clipped chinook fishery at Buoy 10. Although success rates for take-home fish were certainly down, anglers appreciated the opportunity to continue to pursue hatchery fish in what may turn out to be a record high season. Although limits were uncommon, that has changed now that effort has shifted to the above Tongue Point fishery. Although the outgoing tide didn't fish as well on Wednesday as it did on Tuesday, the first light high tide bite was very good for Tongue Point anglers. The last part of incoming, high slack and the last part of outgoing was epic on Wednesday, despite the large pack of boats descending on the fishery above Tongue Point. Although most of the damage was done by 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, there were certainly lulls in activity for a good part of the outgoing tide. Action picked up again near 2:30 (Wednesday) when the tide was nearing low slack.

Spinners and herring, as well as anchovies have all been working at Tongue Point but I've had my best luck using fresh, whole rigged herring for bait. I did run a few Fatal Flash spinner blades on Wednesday afternoon after going bite-less for a while and scored a few fish on those. Other guides are using spinners almost exclusively and producing great results with them. It seems to be back to the old days when if you fish a mix of both, bait often goes down the most but if you fish exclusively spinners, you'll likely do as well as an angler that fishes exclusively bait. Pink, red and especially orange seems to be consistently producing results, matched up with white, these colors really stand out. Unfortunately, just like bait, you will miss plenty of bites. There has been some seaweed fouling lines above Tongue Point so check your gear occasionally to ensure you're fishing right.

On the other side of the river, action remained excellent for those willing to weed through finned fish, and there are a lot of those over there. The water above the ship wreck has been producing well although coho still remain largely absent. Targeting the 28 to 40 foot water on the first part of outgoing tide, action has been epic on the first part of outgoing tide. As the tide keeps rolling out, so does the bite. Action gets good on the lower end of Desdemona Sands towards the last half of outgoing tide and on the first trickle of incoming tide as well. Last week, during the intense incoming tides, it was pretty hard to find a pile of biters on the strong push although a few were taken on lower Desdemona Sands and by those boats holding on the incoming tide in front of Hammond for the first part of the push. The second half of incoming tide has been challenging. The top of the flood has also been productive at the bridge on the Oregon side of the river as well. It certainly helps that there is a huge run on our doorstep.

If you haven't already heard, the fishery from Buoy 10 to Tongue Point will run through September 1<sup>st</sup> for fin-clipped chinook (and coho) only. Here is the official press release:

### **Buoy 10 chinook season goes to fin-clipped only on Friday, Aug. 23**

August 20, 2013

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – In an effort to extend the Columbia River Buoy 10 chinook season through Sept. 1, Oregon and Washington fishery managers decided today to limit harvest to hatchery fin-clipped chinook beginning Friday, Aug. 23.

Thanks to good fishing early in the season, anglers are quickly approaching the harvest quota of 20,000 chinook salmon in the popular fishery at the mouth of the Columbia River. Managers hope today's action will allow them to keep a chinook fishery open through Sept. 1 as originally scheduled.

"We're taking this action today because we've been having an excellent chinook fishery at Buoy 10 this year and this will allow chinook anglers to keep fishing," said Steve Williams, ODFW fish division deputy administrator.

Under the rules adopted today:

- Effective Friday, Aug. 23 through Sunday, Sept. 1 only chinook with a clipped and healed adipose fin, or a completely clipped and healed left ventral fin may be retained.
- The daily bag limit will continue to be two hatchery salmon or steelhead, in combination, only one of which may be a chinook. All wild salmon and steelhead must be released.
- Effective Monday, Sept. 2 through Monday, Sept. 30 Buoy 10 will be closed to ALL chinook harvest.
- Anglers may transport wild, un-clipped salmon caught in adjacent fisheries (such as the ocean or the Columbia River above Tongue Point) through the Buoy 10 area, but cannot fish in Buoy 10 with an un-clipped chinook onboard.

Fishery managers will meet again on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. to review the status of the fishery and make any necessary adjustments.

In the meantime, Williams says Buoy 10 anglers should start anticipating a strong coho return.

"By this time next week it ought to be bang up fishing for coho at Buoy 10," he said.

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Offshore, effort is light and opportunity is increasing. Although catches have been mediocre, especially for chinook, there are coho to be had out there. Most anglers continue to pursue coho to the SW of the mouth of the river but there remains decent opportunity off of Long Beach as well. The difference however is that Long Beach has traditionally been good grounds for chinook but they seem oddly absent there even though they continue to pour into the river. The ocean has been lumpy recently however and interest remains highest in the river, for good reason. With salmon season full on, interest in tuna has waned. Now, as for opportunity, the departments are

now opening up the ocean to wild coho too. Here is the press release for this additional opportunity:

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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August 28, 2013

### **Beginning Sunday, ocean anglers can keep unclipped coho north of Falcon**

NEWPORT, Ore. – Under new rules effective Sunday, Sept. 1, anglers will be able to keep non adipose fin-clipped coho salmon caught in ocean waters between Leadbetter Point in Wash. and Cape Falcon in Ore.

This change, combined with an increase in the chinook bag limit adopted last week, means anglers can now keep two adult coho or chinook salmon (or a combination) with or without a clipped fin.

Anglers are reminded that it is illegal to be fishing in an area with a prohibited fish in possession, so anglers with a legally caught unclipped ocean coho or chinook are not allowed to continue fishing in the Columbia River, where currently only fin-clipped fish may be retained.

Almost 20,000 coho remain in the harvest quota for the Columbia River ocean management area, prompting the National Marine Fisheries Service to approve the retention of wild coho.

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Crabbers in the river are also rare for this time of year. With all the river traffic, crabbers are justifiably not putting their gear out there but the catch would likely be good.

Upriver, the wobbler fishery is well underway however, as usual, consistency is far from reality. Most anglers report sporadic action, even during a big return year. Anglers are hitting it hard using wobblers from Longview to Portland and upstream but few crack the key on a consistent basis. The sad fact is, once you drop your anchor, you're committed; your destiny has been set. Anglers have been reporting fish not traveling necessarily on the bottom. With most folks set on the 5 foot leader X 5 foot dropper, there are likely a lot of fish that are swimming higher up in the water column that are passing by your offerings. Anglers may try and experiment with running well off of the bottom or simply trolling hardware or bait instead of sitting on anchor. It can often take some innovation to crack the code for wobbler fishing. If you go into it with few expectations, maybe you'll find you've exceeded them if you anchor in the right travel lane.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts,** "Expect the fishing below Bonneville Dam to continue through the next couple of weeks, though, it's likely we are seeing the peak as of this writing. As the water cools a few degrees, fishing will improve dramatically, especially for the backtrollers."

We're enjoying the soft tide series right now as a softer tide prolongs the bite in these parts. As previously mentioned, the Tongue Point bite is on as it always seems to be this time of year when the tide cycle lets up. Tongue Point will likely only last a few more days. The good news is,

it appears that the last part of incoming tide and the first part of outgoing seem to be the most productive and you can hit that about right into the weekend. If the Tongue Point bite dies, and it likely won't stay as good into the weekend, anglers can still take advantage of the soft incoming tide by trolling lower Desdemona Sands between Chinook, WA and Buoy 21. Troll upstream with the incoming tide, keeping your baits both on the bottom and suspended if you have more than one to fish with. It's notable that many anglers, as well as my own personal experience, that many fish are running suspended this year. We're catching plenty of fish well off of the bottom in every area of the estuary fishery this year. Keep some offerings suspended if you have gear to play with.

It can be quite the quandary. Do you fish low, targeting coho on the incoming tide or do you go high where anglers don't have to look for a fin-clip on a chinook. Both are fair options, you'll just have to decide what fishery you wish to take part in and how much risk you're willing to associate with your decision. If you do go high, target high tide and the first part of outgoing as these fish are experiencing 70+ degree water and they won't be very responsive under those conditions. You'll want the cooler, ocean influenced waters to take advantage of. If you're going to run just one bait, use fresh herring, frozen (green label or blue label), anchovies or spinners in that order. All will work and it will always remain personal preference but I'm running 6 rods every day and fresh herring is what I have the most confidence in. Fatal Flash spinners is getting the job done and I had takes on white with the pink dot and silver matte with red beads and red tape (also known at the Fatal Flash shop as Rudolph's red-tipped spinner). And speaking of spinners, as we near coho invasion, spinners will often become more crucial. Also a coho favorite, fresh jigged river anchovies, which are far better than the bait shop bought variety. Anglers should also have some good opportunity trolling upstream in the deep water (30+ foot) on the incoming tide on the Washington side between the Chinook wing jetties and the bridge. This area seems to produce the best on the second half of the incoming tide.

For those still motivated by ocean opportunity, especially the wild fish option out there beginning Sunday, here is the offshore forecast, there could be some good weekend chances although this may still be the weekend to pursue salmon versus tuna:

**FRI**

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 KT IN THE AFTERNOON.  
WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 6 FT AT 8 SECONDS. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

**FRI NIGHT**

W WIND 5 TO 10 KT...VEERING TO N AFTER MIDNIGHT.  
WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

**SAT**

NE WIND 5 TO 10 KT...BACKING TO N IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND  
WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

**SAT NIGHT**

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT AFTER  
MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

**SUN**

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 5 FT.

**MON**

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 5 FT.

With the soft tides this weekend, river crabbing should be good if you're willing to risk your gear out on the salmon trolling grounds. Target crab inside of Buoys 20 and 22 or on lower Desdemona if the troll fleet isn't too dense. Keepers should be plentiful.

Upriver, despite ample numbers of fish around, don't count on slam dunk fishing this weekend in the wobbler district. There is talk of a drop as much as 4 feet on the mainstem. Couple that with a weak outgoing tide and fish may be less apt to bite. None-the-less, anglers will be out in droves this holiday weekend so plan your launch time accordingly. If you're not having much luck employing the 5 X 5 rule with your wobbler, you may want to try and fish more suspended. Keep your eye on the fish graph as that will likely tell you with certainty, what depth are the fish traveling at.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports,** "On the Willamette river, smallmouth bass fishing should be on the upswing with the rains and cooler temps. All the usual techniques should get fish with plastics worked along the rocky shorelines being the favorite. Crankbaits will also entice as will a deeply worked spinner bait. Walleye fishing in the Multnomah Channel has slowed a bit with the warmest water of the year, but will likely resume with a spike from the cooling rains. Worm harnesses trolled with a bottom walker will get the most attention, as will forward trolled crankbaits. Sturgeon fishing has been dead slow, but as the days get shorter, the nights get cooler and the river temperature drops a few degrees, things will likely pick up soon. Any day now, someone will spot the first silver of the season rolling at the mouth of the Clackamas."

Precipitation bumped McKenzie flow at Vida from 2,500 to 2625 cfs overnight on August 28th. The level and flow remains fishable and water condition is still good.

North Santiam flows are forecast to be moderating through the last day of August, then increase on Labor Day. A similar prediction is being made for the South Santiam but the increase is not supposed to occur until September 3rd.

Ah, another holiday weekend, and with it, trout stocking to entertain the family. Scheduled to be planted with hatchery trout in the Willamette Zone this week are Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Trillium Lake, Alton Baker Canal, Clear Lake and the McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts,** "Bass and walleye fishing should improve with the cooling rains. The first silvers should be showing at the mouth of the Clackamas any day now. and sturgeon fishing could bump up a notch will the cooler temps."

Trout fishing is expected to be fair but steady. Summer steelheading has been slow this year although there are a few in the system.

Historically, the North Santiam in August is providing very good Steelhead fishing and weather is ideal. September is considered the best time for catching steelhead. Unfortunately, numbers of summer steelhead coming up the Willamette are about 40% less than at this time of year in 2011 and half the number in 2012. There just aren't as many around to catch this year so fishing remains slow.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports,** "With the first fall freshets of August, the Clackamas River inner tube regatta is slowly winding down. Soon, the first silver salmon will enter the river and on-lookers will spot

them milling in favorite lies such as the Coffee Hole, Deep Creek and Lateurettes. If freshets of rain come regularly and the river cools through the month of September, the silvers will show and they will bite well. But if a Indian summer prevails, the silvers will trickle in and their jaws will remain locked for much of the season. In a nutshell, they bite best when they have cooler water in the river. It's likely that a few summer steelhead are still lingering around the upper stretches from Rivermill Dam down to Barton but no reports have come in.

"On the Sandy River, little is happening as of now. A few summers steelhead inhabit the upper river near the mouth of the Salmon River, but few reports are coming in. Soon, silvers will begin to show in the lower river especially with the recent rains. Small gobs of cured roe with a tiny red or green corky drifted in the heads of the holes is a great technique to start with. Size 4 nickel spinners are an old time favorite as well, especially with a strip of red or chartreuse tape on the back of the blade. Drift boater can also score well back trolling red or orange wiggle warts or 3.5 Mag-Lips."

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts,** "As the Clackamas River's temperature drops a few degree's, expect a few early silvers to start milling and rolling in their typical haunts. however, decent fishing won't likely be underway till mid-month.

"With the early rains, east county anglers are looking toward the Sandy for the arrival of the silver salmon. It's not unconceivable that there are already a couple already nosing around the lower stretches, but the bulk of the run is still a few weeks away. Keep your eyes peeled for rollers and jumpers below the I-84 bridge, Big Bend and the Gage Hole."

**North Coast Fishing Report –** Despite the full attention the Columbia is getting from serious salmon fishers, Tillamook Bay recently lit up for early run chinook in the upper bay. Reports of good fishing at Memaloose are coming in with some regularity although action has slowed as the tide series has. Spinner trollers at Memaloose reportedly took good numbers of chinook that were likely destined for the Trask and Tillamook Rivers. Although not unprecedented this early in the season, such a strong early season showing should mean good things for this basin this fall. In recent years, the early run has been more productive than the late run. I had my best trip of the season in mid-September last year.

It's early for coho but some may begin to show in the south channel. Spinners either trolled or cast should take fish this fall, if the run show up that is.

Although Nehalem Bay has slowed at the jaws, there was recent reports of good action by bobber tossers in the upper tidewater reaches of this system. Those fish too however have likely moved on but the next pulse of fish should soon be entering Nehalem Bay. Our summer chinook will soon transition to fall chinook and action should pick back up again.

Don't overlook the ocean wild coho season coming up on September 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. It likely won't be easy to attain you limit out there but it certainly will be easier than trying to weed through a bunch of wild ones to take home hatchery ones.

Ocean and bay crabbing should be great on this weak tide series.

Summer steelheading remains challenging in the Wilson and Nestucca systems. Cloud cover this week however, should improve prospects.

**The Guide's Forecast** – It might be an exciting weekend for lower bay trollers. The soft tide series may open up the ocean for a saltwater opportunity for both chinook and coho. You'll want to target your quarry on the last ½ of outgoing tide, along the inside of the North Jetty, if you're fishing inside of the bay for chinook. You'll have to get a little lucky for coho. Don't bother to fish Memaloose, it will be a biological disaster with the low water exchange. Use frozen blue-label herring at the jaws, keeping your bait close to the bottom. I typically troll with the tide but when boat traffic gets to be pretty congestive, I hang in the outgoing flow, like everyone else.

Anglers may want to take a look at the ocean coho for wild ones starting September 1<sup>st</sup>. This opportunity should provide some fair results after. Ocean crab will likely remain in a soft-shelled state.

Nehalem tidewater bobber tossers certainly still deserve a look. The softer tides will prolong the opportunity for bobber down's but fish are certainly anxious to get up to their spawning grounds in quick fashion.

Much more opportunity in the future for this section, stay tuned.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Bottom fishing out of Depoe Bay and Newport has been excellent, yielding good catches of ling cod and multiple species of rockfish, often including large cabezon, one of which may be kept as part of a seven-rockfish daily bag limit.

Ocean crabbing out of central Oregon ports has finally picked up to early fall levels. Dockside Charters out of Depoe Bay reported limiting six clients on Wednesday this week. That's 72 hard, legal Dungeness. Good eats, indeed.

Offshore fishers are looking forward to the non-selective (fin-clipped or not) ocean coho season which will open Sunday and Monday (Labor Day), September 1st and 2nd. Additional openers include September 5,6,7, September 12,13,14, 19,20,21 and 26,27,28 or until the quota is taken. Most sources continue to report the quota as 16,000, but action taken earlier this month rolled a portion of the unfulfilled July offshore hatchery quota into September. Those additional 3,580 coho brings the actual September quota to 19,580 coho. Two per day may be kept.

Tuna runs out of Newport on Wednesday met with marginal conditions at about the 10 mile mark but those who endured managed to take a few large albacore. They seem to be running big this season. A Dorado (Mahi Mahi) was taken out of Depoe Bay on the Trade winds tuna boat Siamez on Monday, August 26th. While not unheard of, these tropical fish are unusual and considered exotics off the Oregon coast. Most tuna runs have been 35 to 40 miles out. Fuel must be sufficient to make an 80 mile round trip with extra for a safety margin.

Offshore forecasts remain good through the weekend and into the coming week. Swells of 4.5 or lower are predicted at decent interval with winds of less than 10 mph. It should be decent for salmon, bottom fish and crabbing.

Trollers dragging herring in tidewater on the Siletz River are hooking up occasionally with early fall Chinook. In the low, clear, warm water above tidewater, fishing for summer steelhead has been slow.

Crabbing is slow in Alsea Bay and many of the Dungeness are still soft. While it's still too early for decent fall Chinook fishing on the Alsea as these fish are not yet out of tidewater, sea-run cutthroat are in the lower river and have been spotted as high as Five Rivers. It's still artificials only above tidewater through the last day of August.

The first fall Chinook are starting to show in the lower Siuslaw. Trollers have picked up a few in the bay along the jetties.

Ocean trolling for Chinook has been rewarding for boats launching out of Reedsport. Tuna fishing has been some of the best on the coast when offshore winds allowed for longer trips out and back. Chinook catches have been good at times in the jaws and below the Highway 101 Bridge. What better time for a simple, straightforward salmon derby? That would be the 17th annual salmon derby sponsored by the Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP chapter. Fees are just \$10 per anglers or \$25 per boat. Prizes are just as simple: \$150 for the heaviest salmon each day, \$500 for the heaviest over the three-day period through Noon on Labor Day. Random drawings for additional prizes will be awarded. As if that weren't enough, Winchester Bay's Crab Bounty Contest starts on Monday. Tagged crabs win cash. Information is widely available in the Reedsport area. Smallmouth bass fishing remains good on the upper Umpqua mainstem and up into the South Umpqua where the water is still warm. North Umpqua steelheading is fair to good.

Offshore boats launching out of Coos Bay have been doing well for Chinook and occasionally tuna when conditions have allowed. Bay trollers are picking up Chinook along the jetties to the lower Coos River. Plug-cut herring fished behind a flasher has been most effective. Bay crabbing has continued to improve for boaters but remains slow off the docks.

Offshore boats launching out of Gold Beach have been doing well for bottom fish. Rogue Bay trollers have experienced an improvement in results for fall Chinook.. Surf perch catches on area beaches have been good whenever the ocean has laid down. Half-pounder numbers are building on the lower river and catches should start reflect it and will continue to improve into September. On the middle river, backbounced roe and wrapped Kwikfish have been taking fish. Wild Chinook may be kept below Hog Creek boat ramp but only fin-clipped hatchery Chinook are legal to retain above that point. Steelheading is fair with bait and spinners effective but only hatchery fish may be kept anywhere on the Rogue. Steelheading on the upper river remains good with flies, bait, spinners and plugs all taking fish. Chinook counts at Cole Rivers hatchery where summer steelhead counts are approaching 800. Upper Rogue flows are forecast to remain steady through Monday next week and beyond.

Rockfish and ling cod limits continue to fill reliably out of the Port of Brookings while trolling for Chinook has netted fair to good results.

Recent rainfall at Diamond Lake has settled the algae bloom yet left the water clear. It did little to improve fishing, however, which remains only fair, with bait fishers, trollers and fly casters all taking a few. Talk around the resort often returns to the lake record trout of just over 12 pounds taken recently by young Power Bait anglers in deep water.

For the weekend, Clearwater Forebay #2, Hemlock Lake, Lake of the Woods and Lemolo Reservoir have been planted with what the ODFW refers to as 14-inch or larger Labor Day lunkers. In addition, Ben Irving Reservoir, Cooper Creek Reservoir, Lake Marie, Red Top Lake and the Rogue above Lost Creek have been stocked with legal-sized hatchery trout.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Steelheading has been consistent on the lower Deschutes although the banks are crowded with anglers and there has been plenty of boat traffic. Catches will be best early mornings and again when the sun is off the water in the late afternoon and into the evening hours. Fishing for reddsides has been spotty but should improve as fall comes on. Rain over the past weekend has caused the White River to roil the Deschutes periodically in the stretch downriver from the mouth of that tributary. The White has been up and down but had

increased in flow again on Thursday, August 29th. Another report indicated the problem has been compounded by mud washing down from Pelton Dam. In any event, it was improving on Wednesday this week and reported as clearing today, August 29th. One late afternoon report said it had cleared. This is good news for those of us whose fishing time is limited to the weekend. Chinook and steelhead are accounted for in single digits most days in the trap at Sherars Falls. Passage, while moderate, has been steady.

While daily counts at Sherars Falls are not impressive, a better idea of the distribution of anadromous fishes in the Deschutes system might come from the Pelton Regulating Dam where hatchery broodstock fish are captured for distribution to the Warm Springs Tribe while wild fish are allowed to continue upstream to spawn. As of mid-August, over 1,650 hatchery spring Chinook were trapped while a little over 100 wild fish were counted. Only a couple of steelhead have been seen while a dozen fall Chinook (all of which are wild) have passed through the facility.

On August 26th, Oregon fishery managers announced the upper Snake River will open to hatchery fall Chinook fishing beginning this Sunday, September 1st. It will be open from the Oregon –Washington border to the deadline below Hells Canyon Dam through October 31st or until a closure is announced. The daily bag limit is \*six\* fin-clipped Chinook as well as an unlimited number of fin-clipped jack Chinook between 15 and 24-inches long.

It's still a little early to be fishing bull trout on the Metolius but as soon as the kokanee start their spawning runs, bulls will follow as kokanee are a favored forage.

Wickiup is producing good-sized rainbows but only the occasional brown trout. Fishing for browns will improve as fall comes on, however.

Green Peter has been producing good numbers of kokanee, most of which are in decent shape. Pink and orange hoochies have been effective. The water is very low and dropping which may soon create a problem for those launching a boat.

Bright kokanee are still being taken at Odell for those who can find schools of fish. Vary the depth and experiment with different colors of hoochie behind a gold flasher.

There will be No daily catch, possession limits or size limits at Thief Valley Reservoir through Oct. 31, 2013. The reservoir will be open to fishing for all game species with harvest is allowed by hand, dip net or fishing. This regulation change is due to falling levels and water warming to the point that a fish will likely be lost.

### **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** opens 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 breached 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](http://www.WDFW.com).

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.

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

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### **Random Links**

Fly Fishers Tackle Tuna:

<http://oregonflyfishingblog.com/2013/08/27/caddis-fly-shop-albacore-adventure-august-2013/>

Gearing Up - Fly Fishing the Salt:

<http://oregonflyfishingblog.com/2013/08/25/tackle-recommendations-for-saltwater-fly-fishing/>

Unusual Accident at South Beach Marina:

<http://www.newslincolncounty.com/archives/92018>

Tuna Fishing Video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-b2pcPglpB0&feature=youtu.be>

**GOOD LUCK!**