

The Guide's Forecast - volume 15 issue number 40

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **September 27<sup>th</sup> – October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** - With the early fall rains and cooler temperatures, chinook fishing below Bonneville Dam has picked up, particularly for back-trollers using divers and bait wrapped Kwikfish. Anchor fishers are still getting it done but the game has evened out. As of yesterday, the counts over the dam have dropped significantly but remain a steady 13-20K per day since the weekend. Expect good fishing for the next few weeks.

Silvers are present at the mouth of the Clackamas but getting them to bite consistently is challenging. Backtrollers at Meldrum Bar are faring the best, but a few savvy shore-bound anglers are getting a fish or two chucking spinners from the rocks. Remember the barbless hook rule. Coho are headed upstream from Willamette Falls although total numbers are unknown as daily counts are not being updated. Early numbers give reason for optimism, however. It's time to troll plugs or toss spinners at the mouths of tributaries above the Falls.

McKenzie flows increased from 2,500 to 2,700 cfs over the past weekend but with drying weather this week, conditions will be good over the coming weekend. Fishing has been good with Stoneflies and October Caddis taking wing. There are still openings available for the Sixth Annual McKenzie River Two Fly Tournament taking place the first weekend in October. Contact the Caddis Fly in Eugene to register.

Fishing is slow on the Santiams and will likely remain so for a while.

On the Clackamas River, silvers are spread from the mouth up to Eagle Creek. Getting a consistent bite is another thing, as usual, these fish are a moody bunch. Local anglers are still picking up a late summer steelhead or two in the river above Barton Park.

Both silvers and chinook are available on the Sandy River. Anglers are encountering a few bright chinook mixed in with the less desirable tules. All salmon on the Sandy must be adipose fin clipped for retention. The water below Oxbow Park will offer the best opportunity for chinook while the silvers are spread up to Cedar Creek.

**Northwest** – The Buoy 10 fishery in Astoria continues to under-impress. Although anglers are still seeing fair coho numbers, limits are far from the rule. A rare chinook is still in the catch but jacks may be retained after October 1<sup>st</sup>. Managers met late on Tuesday, allowing any chinook, fin-clipped or not, to be retained beginning Thursday from Buoy 10 and upstream. Crabbing is good downstream of Hammond.

The chinook fishery is well underway on most north coast systems. Tillamook and Nehalem remain the most popular, and for good reason. On Tillamook Bay, the chinook bite was quite consistent in the Ghost Hole through Monday with good numbers of chinook taken by herring trollers through low slack and near high slack. A rough ocean has kept the bar closed but last Thursday, Dale Goebel of Beaverton had the hot rod, hooking 3 of 7 chinook his family landed trolling herring on the south side of the south jetty out of Tillamook Bay. Dale's fish tipped the scales at 17, 25 and 26-pounds respectively.

Nehalem Bay has been productive as well with good numbers of fish coming out of the Wheeler to Nehalem stretch by herring trollers. Coho numbers were plentiful as evidenced by consistent jumpers in the estuary although the recent rainfall sent many of them upstream. The North Fork

of the Nehalem may house ample numbers for bank anglers to access near the hatchery although they are notorious for not biting.

A weak outgoing tide series should keep interest near the bay entrances this weekend, where herring trollers will likely take fair numbers of chinook into early October.

Although the fall rains have begun, a relatively minute amount of rain has risen many coastal streams, albeit slightly. On some systems however, it is enough to get chinook and coho into the systems with the Trask and North Fork Nehalem the best north coast prospects. Chinook should be available in most tidewater reaches right now.

The Nestucca, Salmon, Siletz and Alsea are also reaching their prime right now. Cozy Cove on the Alsea is now closed, making a large portion of tidewater hard to access.

**Southwest-** Rough ocean conditions have prevented boats from launching out of Newport and Depoe Bay this week. Offshore anglers are looking forward to fishing deep water lingcod starting October 1.

Long-range offshore forecasts are less than optimistic this week.

Although ocean conditions have kept most boats from launching out of Newport over the past week, when they have gotten out, salmon fishing has been tough. Long hours have produced few fish.

Boats launching out of Reedsport have done well for chinook when ocean conditions have allowed them to get out. Trolling inside the bay has been slow with crabbing even slower.

When boats have been able to get out of Florence, ocean chinook fishing has been good. Fish are also being taken inside below the Highway 101 Bridge.

Now that fall is upon us, the ocean is granting fewer friendly days to offshore boaters although offshore fishing for rockfish and lings is excellent out of Gold Beach and ocean crabbing is producing quality limits. Bay trolling is unpredictable. The lower Rogue has been fairly dependable for jack salmon with half-pounders and adult steelhead fishing well at Agness. Adult chinook have been taken below Indian Creek with this fishery improving over the last week of September and into October. Middle Rogue chinook fishing is holding up well. It's legal to keep either hatchery or wild chinook from Hog Creek boat landing to Fishers Ferry boat ramp through the end of September. Flows out of Lost Creek Lake have dropped to 1,150 cfs which should be good for upper river fly-rod steelheaders.

Offshore bottom fishing has been excellent whenever boats have been able to cross the bar out of Brookings Harbor. Chinook are entering Chetco Bay with a few picked up by trollers over the past week. This fishery will improve in coming weeks. Anglers are anxious for the October bubble season.

**SW Washington-** Chinook and some coho are available on most district tributaries. The Cowlitz remains a top bet but the Kalama and Lewis are also strong options. Check regulations as they are constantly changing. Many seasons have liberalized with the burgeoning chinook run.

Drano Lake anglers are still taking good numbers of chinook but the mouth of the Klickitat has been impressive. Anglers hovering with clusters of eggs near the bottom of many Bonneville Pool and The Dalles Pool tributaries have been taking ample numbers of chinook. This should last about another two weeks but is peaking right now.

**Eastern** – Steelheading picked up on the lower Deschutes as the water cleared early this week. Fishing is slow to fair around Maupin. Chinook, steelhead and coho are being seen in greater numbers in the fish trap at Sherars Falls.

Crooked River flows have dropped below 200 cfs. Fishing with nymphs should be good here.

### **Soapbox Update:**

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Although Coho are not all elusive on the lower Columbia, limits are clearly not the rule. What few anglers remain still working this fishery, they are talking about 8 to 15 bites per day, landing about half of those opportunities. Of those fish landed, slightly more than half seem to be wild, requiring release. There are still a few Chinook in the catch and starting on the 26th, any Chinook may be retained along with hatchery Coho and steelhead. Chinook will clearly be a rare catch however. Also open beginning October 1 is jack salmon from Buoy 10 upstream; 5 per day.

Bait and spinners are both working for Coho with anglers primarily using bait below the Astoria Bridge. With many of the smaller salmon in the system, anglers should consider using smaller size spinners such as number threes or number fours. Always use red, orange or pink bodied spinners to attract Coho.

On the current weak tide series, it would make sense to bring your crab gear to target the ample supply available in the estuary. Anglers should already be focusing most of their effort downstream of the bridge where weak tide exchanges often don't push fish too high into the estuary. This makes for a unique salmon/crab combination trip.

Nobody has been pursuing any species in the ocean as the Columbia River bar has been heavily restricted if not closed in recent days.

Effort upstream of Tongue Point has been light although the current tides make for good opportunity. Although Chinook are typically the targeted species here, willing Coho also fall fairly regularly in the deep water above Tongue Point this time of year. The problem is, there are not many hatchery Coho for the taking.

Even further upstream, wobbler plunkers are still pursuing salmon but catches have clearly slowed. A few weeks past peak season, it may still be worth the effort if you have been having consistent success through the season but limits would be extremely rare. Some avid anglers go to trolling spinners; producing surprisingly good results this time of year. The hatchery Chinook restriction has now been lifted so any Chinook goes. And if you haven't seen the memo, the limit is now two Chinook. Hatchery Coho of course can be kept in combination.

**Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "With the early fall rains and cooler temps, salmon fishing below Bonneville Dam has picked up, particularly for back-trollers using divers and bait wrapped Kwikfish. Anchor fishers are still getting it done, but the game has evened out. Let's go over some of the keys to success for back-trolling plugs at Bonneville. First, the number one mistake newbie backtrollers make is to NOT let out enough line. 80-120 feet of line scope is necessary to get your diver and wiggler down to 30-50 depths that the kings are holding at. A good rule of thumb is 100 feet, but be flexible and adjust accordingly. If at 100 feet, your rod tips are bumping and the pull is kind of jerky, your diver is digging in the rocks and

you need to shorten your length to say 85 feet. Eventually you will get a feel for the correct length to deploy and fish will start to come regularly. Second, keeping your plug clean and fresh smelling will get more bites than a grungy, dirty plug. Wash your plugs with lemon joy soap and a scrub brush after each day of fishing and keep them in a clean container or tackle box. Then, clean them once or twice during the day, especially after it has caught a fish or two. Your wiggler will get salmon slime and blood on it after each battle and a scared, stressed salmon releases a fear pheromone through its slime and that ends up all over your lure and will act as a deterrent to other fish if not regularly cleaned off. I clean all my lures with soap or a dousing of WD-40 after every fish boated, ALWAYS. I like to clean my jumbo jet divers at the end of every fishing day too. Next, keep your plugs well-tuned and check them frequently, especially after a fish has taken the plug. After a strike or fight, the bait-wrap can get out of whack and it will give the lure a unbalanced wiggle rendering it ineffective. Newer plugs, like the Xtreme series Kwifish and Yakima Bait Company's MagLip and Hognose have fixed hook hangers and eyes, rather than eye screws that don't turn or easily bend. This improvement keeps your plug working more precisely and less tuning is necessary, but an ever so slightly, off set bait-wrap placement will still put it out of tune, so keep on checking them regularly. Lastly, keep your hooks sharp and whether you choose to use trebles or single hooks, a quality hook like a Gamakatsu or Owner will do a better job of hooking and holding than most stock hooks. As of this week, the counts over the dam have dropped significantly but remain a steady 10-14K a day since the weekend. The total fall Chinook count is at 844K since Sept 24th and steadily approaching the million fish mark."

**The Guide's Forecast** – Anglers still wishing to fish the Astoria area will continue to be challenged by the hatchery Coho. Although very few are participating, there won't be much competition for the B-run Coho that are due to show in October. The bad news is, that the B-run component is always smaller than the earlier returning A-run portion of the Coho return. In other words, expect the fishing to only get more challenging. It is a good thing that the current tide series should also produce ample numbers of keeper crap in the estuary. Target Coho below the bridge using spinners and small baits. Like the rest of the Buoy 10 season, center your effort around the last half of incoming tide, and the first hour of outgoing. This is also the period for peak crabbing. Be sure to not wait too long to pull your pots however, the outgoing tide may still be strong enough to bury your buoys until the tide slows close to low slack.

Anglers still targeting chinook from Tongue Point upstream would be best served focusing efforts around the Longview area. Wobblers will still take fish but anglers willing to learn how to effectively troll spinners may be pleased with their results. The stronger tides seem to yield better results for anchor fisherman so the current tide series would make for good practice if you plan on picking up this technique. The tributary systems remain cooler than the mainstem Columbia so target these areas when fishing.

**Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Bonneville will see some of its best fishing this week with the cooler temps. Backtrollers will do the most damage but fish will be taken by anchor fishermen too. Bank anglers have it a bit tougher, because fall fish like the deeper slots often out of range of shore bound fishermen. The mouths of creeks will offer the best bets, look to Tanner Creek, Moffit Creek and Hamilton Island for bank fishing opportunities."

The ocean will remain a poor option and interest in albacore his waning quickly.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "Silvers are present at the mouth of the Clackamas but getting them to bite consistently is challenging. Backtrollers at Meldrum Bar are faring the best, but a few savvy shore-bound anglers are getting a fish or two chucking spinners from the rocks. A

weighted flash-glow spinner with a hoochie skirt swung deep in the current next to shore is a go-to coho killer. Especially with combinations of pink or purple. The non weighted version might work better with a 3/4 or 1 ounce in-line mooching sinker tied in 24-30 inches up your line. Don't forget the barbless hook rule. On average, 300-500 silvers a day have been ascending the falls and fish should be catchable at the river mouths above, notable the Molalla, Tualatin and Yamhill. Most anglers cast and retrieve flame red, orange, pink or fire tiger wiggle warts. Blue Fox spinners will get a few as well. Fin or no fin is allowed above Willamette Falls. Although pressure is very light and no-one is talking, bass anglers should be faring well and walleye will be on the prowl in the Multnomah Channel."

McKenzie water levels rose about six inches overnight on September 24th but have been dropping since that date. The recently released McKenzie River Corridor Map is widely available now for just under four bucks or buy it online here:

**\*[http://www.discovernw.org/store\\_maps\\_1MAPS/](http://www.discovernw.org/store_maps_1MAPS/)**

Spring Chinook numbers are seasonally slowing at Foster Dam on the South Santiam with the total as of September 24th just over 3500. Summer steelhead totaled 4155 as of that same date. The Foster Dam fish trap closed on September 25th and will remain so until March of 2014 while of new trapping facility is completed.

Alton Baker Canal, Detroit Reservoir, Dexter Reservoir, Foster Reservoir and Henry Hagg Lake have been planted with trout this week.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "On the Willamette River, fishermen will continue to pick up a few silvers at the mouth of the Clack and Meldrum Bar. Boaters will fare best, but bank fishers will get a few too. With more rain on the way, don't expect the silvers to hang around long. They will slow down further upriver above the falls at the river mouths or a few miles up the Clackamas. Bass and walleye anglers should get after it as we only have a month to a month and a half of opportunity left before the fishing completely dies."

McKenzie fly fishers will experience good results until the rain hits. Decent angling will return as soon as the river recovers from the freshet.

With fish passage dropping way off at Willamette Falls and marginal catches at best, the Santiams aren't expected to fish particularly well in the near future. This time of year, the former glory of Santiam summer steelheading returns to mind.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "On the Clackamas River, silvers are spread from the mouth up to Eagle Creek. Getting a consistent bite is another thing, as usual, these fish are a moody bunch and it's a rare day when HOT action ensues. Casting weighted spinners, drifting small baits under a bobber or on the bottom with pencil lead are favorite techniques. Casting and retrieving wiggle warts shouldn't be overlooked, but drifting small, thin blade spoons will often get strikes when nothing else will. Although difficult to find, the 1 inch Dick Nite or small FST are perfect choices. Reports are still coming in of a few local anglers picking up a late summer steelhead or two in the river above Barton Park.

"Both Silvers and Chinook are available on the Sandy River. Anglers are encountering a few bright Chinook mixed in with the less desirable Tules. All salmon on the Sandy must be adipose fin clipped for retention. The Water below Oxbow Park will offer the best opportunity for Chinook while the silvers are spread up to Cedar Creek. For the Chinook, baits of cured roe fished under a

bobber or back-bounced from a boat will draw the most attention. Bait-wrapped Kwikfish back-trolled from a drift boat will take kings too. The silvers like spinners but will take smaller baits as well. Jigs in pink, purple or blue will get fish in the boulder runs."

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Silvers are well spread from bottom to top on the Clackamas. Expect a sporadic bite at best and watch for moving pods of fish as silvers are bold and usually show themselves when present. If you don't see any flopping or rolling, move on and keep looking till you find them.

"The Sandy has been running dirty much of the time, but both silvers and Chinook will still bite if you fish bait(cured roe) and fish closer to shore. When the water starts to clear, the cedar Creek area should turn on with some good days to be had."

**North Coast Fishing Report** – with interest waning from the lower Columbia River, anglers are starting to pursue Chinook in big numbers on the Tillamook and Nehalem systems.

Tillamook remains the most popular although the Nehalem has had good numbers of Chinook available too; at least before the rains came. Starting with the Tillamook system, anglers remain focused on the lower portion of the estuary with the Ghost Hole seeing the most activity by far. Cars traveling Highway 101 are witnessing a city of boats on the water. The wayside has been a popular viewing point for those wishing to see how good the fishing is. Although the Ghost Hole bite tapered on Tuesday and Wednesday, it still remains one of the better interception points for Chinook. There were also some Chinook taken between Hobsonville Point and the Coast Guard station at Garibaldi. This section seemed to fish better halfway through the outgoing tide.

Spinners have been responsible for catches in the Ghost Hole even though very few anglers are trolling them. Copper with green tip, chartreuse green dot, and red and white have all been taking fish. It is also easier to shake the seaweed from your gear using spinners versus herring. This can keep you fishing more effectively for longer periods of time. The Ghost Hole is the deepest hole in the middle bay so be sure to keep your gear fishing deep for best success. It can be as deep as 20 foot near the floating toilet at high tide. The upper end of the ghost hole was fishing really well early this week, especially at first light. Now it seems that the best action is during the second half of outgoing tide in the lower portion of the Ghost Hole and the stretch between Hobsonville Point and Garibaldi.

The upper and middle bay have not been fishing well recently. Some guides are taking a few fish but the lion's share is had from Bay City down to the Coast Guard tower along the jetty. The bar has been so rough lately that the Coast Guard has not allowed boats seaward of the Coast Guard tower. The last day we were able to fish outside was Thursday and it was great fishing.

There have been a few boats fishing the west channel but success has been low. The Coho are jumping in good numbers over there but nobody has given it a hard test yet. As we approach an early morning high tide this week, action may improve early in the morning.

On the Nehalem, as we mentioned earlier, the fall run of Chinook has shown up in spades. Action has been consistently good from Wheeler to Nehalem for those trolling herring and to a lesser extent, spinners. There are better numbers of coho here than on other north coast systems too. The most recent rain however did send fair numbers of coho upstream however and anglers fishing at the hatchery on Tuesday did fairly well. The trap at the hatchery is also full of fish. With waters dropping however, so will success rates. Although we lost some of the fall run upstream, the current tide series should stimulate another round of good chinook fishing along

the jetty during the morning hours. This may be the last good push of fall chinook for this system as it seems to peter out after mid-October, which is fast approaching.

Further south, anglers working the Nestucca and Salmon Rivers do have plenty of fish to fish over. Last week's strong tides flushed plenty of fish into these systems and anglers have been producing fair results in what is typically the peak season. The Nestucca has the best access and anglers working the tidewater below the Pacific City Bridge should do best this week with the onset of the weak tide series. Bobber fishing will produce best, the more passive technique, but spinner casters should also do well, especially on the incoming tide. There are plenty of anglers working the Highway 101 hole on the Salmon River but fish are available up to the hatchery right now.

Crabbing in the north coast estuaries is poor, when it should be pretty good right now. The ocean has been closed for some time due to rough bar conditions. Crabbing has been fair at best out there, which is a real surprise given the previous history for this unique opportunity this time of year.

Razor clamming opens back up again starting October 1<sup>st</sup> but the first good tide series doesn't happen until the following weekend.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Tillamook will remain the focal point for most chinook anglers but the Nehalem, Nestucca, Salmon, Alsea and Siletz will remain good bets as well. Since focus will be on the Tillamook, let's start there.

Since we're on another weak tide series, anglers will want to once again, focus their efforts on the lower reaches. The Ghost Hole, Coast Guard Station (Garibaldi) and the jetty will be main points of interception. With an early morning high tide upon us, look for the best early morning action at Bay City or the Ghost Hole but also, don't overlook the west channel as an option this time of year. It's often dominated by coho this time of year but there have been years when chinook catches have been good as well. Remember, wild coho retention is Friday's and Saturday's and as we enter October, the run is largely dominated by wild coho.

As the tide runs out, all the above mentioned areas should continue to produce but anglers are often (and rightfully) drawn to the jetties to hold in the outgoing tide with herring near the bottom. This will likely be the spot to be over the weekend as chinook are likely to enter on the soft outgoing tide that will occur most of the morning and early afternoon. Keep those baits close to the bottom but slightly suspended as the outgoing tide can often push you backwards, putting your baits on the bottom where crab will gladly feast on them. The best part of the outgoing tide will be just past the peak outgoing, which is often about 3.5 hours after high slack in that area. The downstream troll will often produce good catches as well but you have to watch where you're going, especially if the wind is blowing. The Coast Guard has had the lower portion of the jetty closed due to rough bar conditions. Be prepared for that. Here is the offshore forecast, it looks like we'll be bay bound for at least another weekend:

#### **FRI**

SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...RISING TO 20 TO 25 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT...BUILDING TO 5 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. NW SWELL 5 FT AT 9 SECONDS. RAIN.

#### **FRI NIGHT**

SW WIND 15 TO 20 KT WITH GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 15 SECONDS. RAIN.

**SAT**

SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT...BUILDING TO 7 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. NW SWELL 10 FT. RAIN LIKELY.

**SAT NIGHT**

S WIND 25 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 35 KT. COMBINED SEAS 17 FT. RAIN.

**SUN**

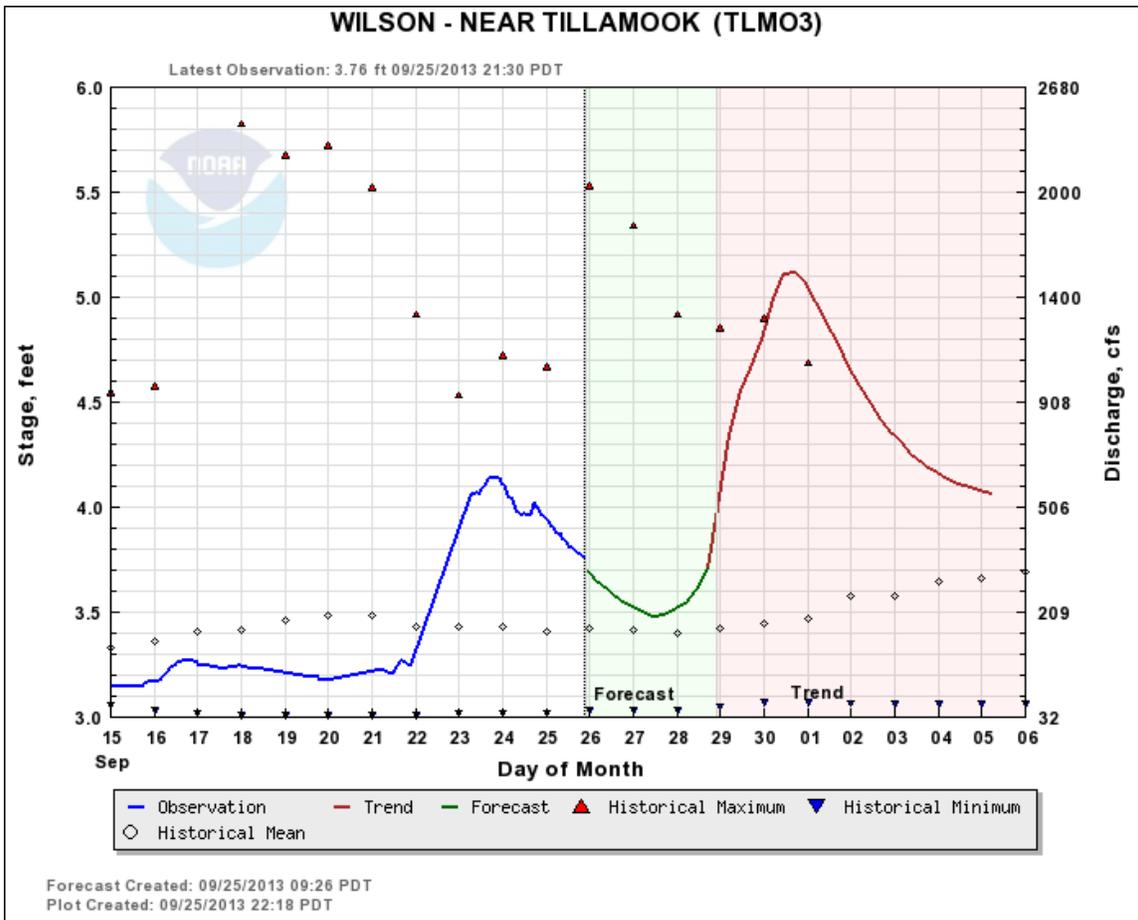
SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 7 FT. W SWELL 16 FT.

**MON**

SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 7 FT. W SWELL 19 FT.

The bay at the jaws likely won't be all that fun to fish. Don't count on any outside time. That's one rough ocean!

But how about that rain that's in the forecast! It may present a special kind of opportunity for driftboaters early next week. A significant rise in river levels is forecast for the early part of next week. See for yourself, this is for the Wilson River but the Trask will closely reflect this if the weather actually comes in:



This pattern could lead to some very good fishing on the Trask, Nestucca and maybe Nehalem if it actually comes to fruition. Anglers will have to check local regulations for open reaches, especially on the Nehalem and Nestucca systems. Boaters will want to be on the river just after the hydrograph peaks. The Wilson should have some fish as well but this run usually gets underway after mid-October however and lasts well into December. The Necanicum should also be a good bet this time of year. Back-bounced eggs or plugs should both dominate the action.

This system should also bring in the first strong batch of wild coho as well. It should make for some pretty good fishing until the water levels rise rapidly, sending the majority of them upstream in a quick manner.

Nehalem Bay anglers should reap the benefits of this system, both before and slightly after it hits. Trollers working the stretch between Wheeler and Nehalem should find good results but anglers working the jaws with herring over the weekend should fare well too.

Crabbing will remain poor in most estuaries.

Cape Meares Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Lost Lake (Clatsop County), Sunset Lake and Town Lake are scheduled to be stocked with hatchery trout.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Boats have been challenged to launch out of central Oregon coastal ports this week and with the exception of the morning of Friday, September 27th, the weekend looks like a washout as well with rough offshore conditions teaming up with blustery winds and offshore trips becoming planning sessions for another time.

That launch window on Friday is narrowing, making a trip of 30 to 35 miles offshore for albacore an impossible dream. October tuna, anyone?

Ocean coho fishing will remain open off the central coast through the last day in September (unless the quota fills) although Chinook may be taken offshore through October.

For salmon fishers on inland rivers and estuaries, while there are exceptions to this, as with virtually every rule, odds of a salmon hookup generally improve on an incoming tide.

The deluge scheduled to hit northwest Oregon in the next few days will empty estuaries and put anadromous fishes in the rivers. See **Random Links**, below, for a detailed forecast.

A few Chinook are being taken on the lower Yaquina system. Trollers are also picking up a few coho on nearly every tide.

Trollers in Alsea Bay are finding the occasional Chinook but with fish spread throughout tidewater, finding a biter has been a challenge.

As with many coastal waterways, wild coho have been legal to take on the Alsea since September 15th. Catches have been fair to good through all of tidewater. During this fishery, one unclipped coho may be kept per day with an annual limit of two from all of the open fisheries combined.

While Chinook catches have been slow to spotty in Siuslaw tidewater, action here will improve in weeks to come.

Launching from Reedsport for ocean salmon has not been an option this week and bay trolling for Chinook has produced very few fish. Another option exists from the jaws to Buoy 22 on

Winchester Bay where good numbers of coho are rewarding trollers who are hooking up on plug-cut herring or spinners (pink, of course). A trolling speed a little faster than would be used for Chinook has been effective. Anglers on the lower Umpqua have been faring better for Chinook than bay trollers. Bank fishers landed scores of fish over the past weekend when bobber and bait replaced hardware as the better choice for hooking Chinook. Bay crabbing has been slow. North Umpqua summer steelhead fishing is fair to good. The South Umpqua is closed.

Offshore Chinook fishing has been good out of Coos Bay when boats can get it, which hasn't been often and is unlikely to occur for a while. Trollers inside Coos Bay have continued to score decent Chinook catches on herring. This fishery is expected to remain productive into October when it will start to taper off.

As Chinook action starts to wane on the Coos system, Coquille results will just be ramping up.

Adult steelhead and half-pounder catches have been fair around Agness. Chinook fishing is good on the lower Rogue, particularly below the mouth of Indian Creek where fish are headed to the hatchery on the tributary. Wrapped Kwikfish and drifted salmon roe are resulting in fair to good catches on the middle river. Chinook fishers have until the end of day September 30 to take fish from the Hog Creek boat landing to the Fishers Ferry boat ramp as this stretch will close at that time. Steelheading remains worthwhile on the upper Rogue. Nearly 9,500 Chinook and over 1,200 summers have entered Coles River Hatchery. Fall Chinook and coho are starting to show now.

Fishing had been worthwhile in Chetco tidewater with the majority of catches jack salmon. The Chetco Hawg fishery (officially known as the Chetco River ocean bubble fishery), starts October 1st and runs through October 13th. This is the time when Chinook fishers stand the best chance of the season for landing a fish better than 40 pounds and every year bruisers over 50 are returned to the cleaning station.

A sign on Diamond Lake indicates the south end will close at the end of September while the North end and Thielsen View campground will remain open until October 15th or later, weather permitting. Fishing has been slow but the last round of rainfall put down the algae.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Lower Deschutes water conditions are good now with improving summer steelhead numbers continuing to boost catches. Recent days when the sun hasn't popped through the clouds have been a bonus. It's a good time to go with the goal to find less populated stretches.

Crane Prairie has been producing fair to good numbers of trout in the 18-inch range to bait fishers with much larger fish showing occasionally.

Wallowa Lake has slowed for both trout and kokanee although with a temporary rule allowing a daily limit of 20 kokanes (no more than five over 12 inches), if you're here you might as well fish for a while.

Kokanee are starting to enter the Wallowa River above the lake and to protect them, that section is closed.

The Wallowa River below the lake is open and providing fair to good fishing for trout as well as large whitefish. Whitties are good sport on light fly gear so those who enjoy catching them should have a ball here.

Our online source for Crooked River flows showed a drop to 173 cfs as of September 25th. Heck, it still should be fishing well.

Multiple limits of bright kokanee have been taken recently although some sorting of those showing signs of spawning is necessary. Trolling has been more effective than jigging.

Kokanee are still being taken at Green Peter although the quality of fish is mixed. Hoochies behind a flasher have been taking fish in 70 to 100 feet of water. Only the Thistle Ramp is useable with the water level low.

### **TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail**

Irregular reporter Kaptn Ken Johnson sends this weather report: "Just an FYI for ya all local folks! I guess it's time to take down our Hummer Feeders or whatever else you have hanging around. They maybe might not be there after the storm...!"

"Anyone want to go fishing before the storm hits...? Or, mostly AFTER!? The Fall Chinook Season is just now starting. Lots of Chinook & Coho in the Nehalem River and it's the beginning of BIG FISH FISHIN' in Tillamook Bay. I troll "The Ghost Hole," like THOUSANDS of other fishermen do and hey, there's room for everyone.

"This e-mail was made with 100% recycled electrons.  
No trees were destroyed and no animals were harmed."

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

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### **Random Links**

Rain in the forecast: [http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/weather/10\\_day.cgi](http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/weather/10_day.cgi)

Rogue River Seine Counts at Huntley Park:  
[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/fish\\_counts/rogue\\_river/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/fish_counts/rogue_river/index.asp)

2014 Sport Halibut Survey: <https://oregondas.allegiantech.com/cgi-bin/qwebcorporate.dll?idx=6B69KW>

EPIC TUNA frenzy: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRJjt98lfs#t=342>

**GOOD LUCK!**