

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 4th – October 10th, 2013**

Willamette Valley/Metro - Chinook counts over Bonneville Dam have sunk to 5,000 to 7,000 per day. Although these numbers indicate a steep decline, it's still strong for this late in the run. Considering the amount of rain we have had and the timing, now is the time for the backrollers below the dam to have their best action. Once this week's unstable weather subsides, good fishing should resume.

The Willamette River has bumped up a couple notches and the visibility is deteriorating. This gets coho excited but puts them on the move as well. Expect fishing at the mouth of the Clackamas to be "off" until after the weekend when the river cleans back up.

The McKenzie River blew out on Monday this week but is predicted to recover by the coming weekend.

A few coho have been caught recently on the Santiam near Jefferson. It has been estimated that about one-quarter of the coho which pass over Willamette Falls are destined for the Santiam system.

The Clackamas River jumped up to over 17 feet and is now on a slow drop. Expect fishing for silvers to resume when the river clears and gets within reach of the 13 ft. mark.

Like the Clack, the Sandy River is also high and dirty. If predictions are spot on, it should drop back into fish-able shape by Sunday or Monday. By then, expect fishing for silvers and chinook to continue through October.

Northwest – The Tillamook and Nehalem systems remain the focal points for most sportanglers on the north coast. Recent turbulent weather kept anglers from fishing over the weekend however Kelly Murray of Hillsboro took her 2-chinook limit in one pass on a stormy Tillamook Bay on Saturday, trolling a herring at Bay City near the top of the tide. The recent rains have swollen the district's rivers and fishing on the Trask, Necanicum and both the North and South Forks of the Nehalem should be excellent prior to the weekend. The Nestucca and Salmon Rivers should also produce great action. Check each rivers regulations as there are large areas closed to harvest. This early season opportunity is often a rare one as the districts rivers frequently aren't floatable until next month.

Once the rivers and estuaries clear, action should pick up again although it's likely that estuary staging chinook and coho will all pass into the river systems. Following this freshet, the Nehalem is likely to drop off but Tillamook Bay will remain a stalwart producer well into November and early December. Hopefully, the freshet will clear the estuaries of troublesome, free-floating eel grass and seaweed that historically fouls anglers gear while pursuing chinook.

The influx of fresh water will likely further slow estuary crabbing. It could however stimulate sturgeon activity in Tillamook and Nehalem estuaries when large populations of sturgeon tend to make a mass exodus from the Columbia River, destined for other coastal estuaries in search of winter forage. These coastal estuaries remain the last open areas for sturgeon retention until the end of the year, when the large scale closure is likely to last for a long time.

Stronger tides will slow lower Columbia crabbing but there may be fair at best action for late season coho in the Astoria area. Of greater interest may be the evening minus tides starting on

Saturday, where razor clam diggers may find good digging conditions after a long summer closure north of Tillamook Head at Seaside. You'll need a lantern and a watchful eye on the surf behind you. Use extreme caution when digging at night.

Southwest- Offshore conditions disallowed boating adventures over the past weekend and into the early part of this week but seas are predicted to calm considerably as the weekend approaches.

There has been a quiet conversation about running for tuna on Friday, October 4th but aside from that, albacore fishing is all but over for the year.

As of October 1, there is no longer a 30-fathom restriction on bottom fishing. Catches are expected to be excellent and cabezon retention which was scheduled to close at the end of September has been extended, possibly through the rest of the year.

Ocean coho closed the last day of September with the quota unfulfilled. Chinook will remain open offshore through October.

Coho seem to be dominating catches at Winchester Bay with bank-bound anglers hooking up on spinners while trollers using herring are taking fish below Gardiner.

Despite off-color water in Coos Bay, many bobber and bait fishers landed chinook from the dock on Monday this week. There are good numbers of salmon entering the bay.

While offshore trips haven't been an option over the past week out of Gold Beach, the Rogue Bay has periodically produced a mix of adult chinook, coho and mixed-specie jacks. Anglers on the lower river are still awaiting the big push of Indian Creek chinook. With chinook closed above the Hog Creek Boat Ramp as of October, targeting steelhead is the only option on the Grants Pass stretch. Fishing should remain worthwhile on the upper Rogue despite low water temperatures. Look for steelhead holding below spawning chinook where egg imitations should be effective and low light conditions most productive. Water level and flows should be normal by the weekend.

The highly-anticipated Chetco Ocean Terminal Area Fishery opened October 1st with the ocean too rough to fish. As conditions moderate this week, action should follow. This opportunity, during which the largest chinook of the season are typically landed, will continue through October 13th.

The Elk and Sixes Rivers were high and muddy on Monday this week but had started to drop and clear with that trend expected to continue through the week.

Eastern – The Deschutes was marginally affected by recent rainfall with the level and flow returning to normal. The majority of steelhead hookups over the past week have been wild fish. Counts of chinook and steelhead remained good at Sherars Falls through the last day of September.

Steelheading has yet to get started on the Grand Ronde and Imnaha Rivers with summers slow to make their way up the Columbia this year. Numbers are showing at Bonneville Dam but remain low at Lower Granite.

SW Washington- Recent rain freshets affecting the district's rivers should stimulate both coho and chinook fishing. The Cowlitz and Lewis will remain the best prospects for both species as we enter the peak season for later returning coho. Bait seems to produce the best in higher water as these systems prep for some good weekend opportunities.

The Drano Lake fishery may begin to slow as Bonneville passage declines but the mouth of the Klickitat should remain productive with more chinook and coho on the way. This fishery typically lasts into late November, especially for coho but with the low return this year, expect it to taper sooner than usual.

Columbia River Fishing Report – With the fleet all but folded up on the lower Columbia, there isn't much competition for "B" run coho in the Astoria area. Much to my surprise, there are still fish to be caught. One report from **pro guide Kevin Newell (360-430-2521)** indicated that indeed, there still are good numbers of hatchery coho in the estuary still. Kevin noted he had a few double-digit days last week with one day, taking 12 hatchery coho out of Astoria. Kevin also stated that October 6th is often the peak of the run down there although he was a bit dismayed that the area was flush with gillnet boats. Speaking of gillnet boats, here is the schedule that was recently adopted by the compact, plan your trips accordingly:

Pilot Coho Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

· Adopted non-Indian commercial fishing periods as follows:

Season:

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 2, 2013
(12 hrs)

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday October 3, 2013
(12 hrs)

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 7, 2013
(12 hrs)

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday October 8, 2013
(12 hrs)

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 9, 2013
(12 hrs)

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday October 10, 2013
(12 hrs)

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 14, 2013
(12 hrs)

6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday October 15, 2013
(12 hrs)

Kevin also noted that for the first time ever, he stated the lower Columbia was "blown" as turbidity hit the river in force by mid-week. It can't last too long however; likely the influence of the Willamette River.

Action upstream is starting to taper. Although the bulk of the wobbler plunkers have packed up and gone, some still remain and spinner trollers take on a larger role this time of year. Fair numbers of fish are still crossing Bonneville, indicated that even if passage has dropped off significantly, there are still sure to be several thousand chinook a day passing through the lower river. Yes, interest has waned but so has your competition. It still remains a fair option if you

don't have anything else better to do. Anglers working eggs or hardware at the mouth of the Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis are starting to pick up some coho and maybe, just maybe, the "A" run component won't be a poor reflection on how the "B" run shows up.

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Chinook counts over Bonneville Dam sunk last week to between 5 and 7 thousand per day. They are back up a bit, between 5K and 11K through Wednesday, showing they are still coming in force. Although these numbers indicate a steep decline from the peak spike of over 60K almost two weeks ago, it's still very strong for this late in the run. Considering the amount of rain we have had and the timing, now it's time for the backtrollers below the dam to have their cake and eat it too. Now that the crazy weather has subsided and stable conditions are back, good fishing has resumed. Backtrollers dragging larger sized Kwikfish/flatfish with jumbo jet divers are getting it done below the deadline. Wrapping your plug with some kind of "meat" like sardine, herring or tuna belly will attract more strikes than a naked plug. It's also essential to tune and re-tune your plug after you add a bait wrap and to check it after a fish has been caught. The older style plugs with rotating eye screws can be touchy and attention just be paid to getting the desirable, straight wiggle. The newer plugs like the Kwikfish X series and Yakima Bait's Maglip all have fixed hook hangers rather than eye screws and will hold their tune much better, but still check them periodically after adding a fresh wrap."

On Wednesday this week, all Corp of Engineers areas were shut down along Columbia with users informed they had to be off the property by 8 PM. This is one of many a results of the government shutdown. For more examples of how this action is effecting the outdoors community, see **Random Links**, below.

The Guide's Forecast – If Kevin Newell is right (and he often is), some of the best action for coho should be coming up soon, as in this week. What it really depends on is how strong will the "B" run component for coho be? It's unlikely it will ever be as strong as the "A" run but maybe the cooler water temperatures and a better representation (certainly lower pressure will help) could make for some memorable fishing. Only time will tell but this weekend's tide series could send a mess of fish into the river, and the recent rain freshet may help or hurt the situation. Oftentimes, the rain sends fish a screamin' upstream, it could go either way this week. You should plan on spending high tide above the bridge however as the strong tide will certainly send fish up that high. Spinners may become less effective as the water cool so you may want to consider using green label herring or sometimes, you can still get fresh anchovies in Chinook or Illwaco.

The upcoming stronger tide series should produce some chinook in the vicinity of Longview still. Although the bulk of the run has certainly passed, there should still be an occasional fish taken on hardware; whether that's wobblers on anchor or more likely spinner trollers that are starting to figure out that fishery. Don't be mistaken, it's going to be far from gangbuster fishing but there are still some quality fish around.

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "For the next week or so, anglers can expect good catches of Chinook on the Columbia River right below Bonneville Dam. Watch for the quality of the fish to steadily deteriorate. The rest of the river below the dam might seem void of fish, as most Chinook salmon have entered the tributaries of their origin. Coho are also passing through and a few are available at the mouths of the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, Washougal and Sandy. Catching coho right below Bonneville is a rarity although they are swimming by."

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "The Willamette River has bumped up a couple notches and the color

leans toward "murky". This gets coho excited and puts them on the move. The counts over the falls have followed suit and nearly 1000 a day have passed the ladder since the weekend. Anything over 500 a day indicates a strong showing. Above the falls anything goes for coho and fin clips are optional. The mouths of the Tualatin, Molalla, and Yamhill are good staging areas where fish can be caught before they enter the tributaries. Upper Willamette anglers cast wiggle warts in flame orange and fire tiger colors to entice coho, while some prefer blue fox spinners in similar colors. Yakima Bait's Flash-Glo Squid spinners should be killer if you find the Coho's preferred color of the day. A few fish are taken at the mouth of the Clackamas but it appears the Clack's run is waning and anglers might have better luck finding coho upstream. If bass and walleye are your bag, the next few weeks is going to be the last hurrah before colder weather sets in. Sturgeon retention is not allowed until Oct 19th and for only that day, then back to catch and release."

Fly fishers on the McKenzie were treated well by native rainbows and, to a lesser degree, cutthroat, just before the storm hit late last week. Flows surged from 2,000 cfs to a little over 10,000 cfs at Vida over the past weekend.

The Santiam system got clobbered by the recent deluge and with the mainstem and North Santiam taking longer than many Oregon rivers to recover. Don't expect to see pre-storm levels for a couple of weeks and that's barring more rainfall. The South Santiam is expected to recover more rapidly, achieving fishable flow by early in the coming week.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "The best opportunity for silvers seems to be above the Willamette falls. The mouths of the tributaries immediately above the falls have coho milling and jumping and they eagerly await any offering anglers can come up with."

At this writing on the morning of October 3rd, McKenzie flows had moderated to around 4,700 cfs on the Vida gauge. Level, flow and clarity will continue to improve as the weekend approaches. While anglers won't have the advantage of a pre-storm feeding binge, native trout should cooperate with those who are throwing seasonal dry patterns with a nymph dropper. 'Tis the season for October Caddis.

While the upper Willamette produces a few coho at the mouths of the Yamhill, Tualatin and Molalla rivers, as revealed in the Fisheries Forecast this week, the majority are destined for the Santiams. Fresh water in the system will get these fish on the move and while that's no guarantee they'll be on the bite, at least it's a comfort knowing the fish are there. Untold thousands of coho crossed Willamette Falls in September. "Untold" because there is still data missing from several days. The North Santiam is closed above Stayton until November 1st.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "The Clackamas River jumped up to over 17 feet and is now on a slow drop. As of Thursday, it's at 13 ft, coming back into shape and coho fishermen are starting to show up again along the river. The Clack's run doesn't appear to be anything to write home about, but given the decrease in plants at the federal hatchery at Eagle Creek, an average at best catch rate should be expected. Blue fox and flash-glo spinners are the favorite lure for Clackamas coho but many anglers prefer small sized gobs of cured roe, either bounced along the bottom with slinkies or fished under a bobber.

"As of today's writing, the Sandy River is in perfect shape at ten ft on the gage and green. Coho and some Chinook are available and anglers are showing up in numbers at all the favorite aunts.

Remember that all Sandy River salmon must be fin clipped for retention. Spinners, spoons and plugs will all work for Sandy River coho, as will cured roe.

Whichever you prefer, focus on fishing the deeper, slower holes, especially where a seam is present. Also, something I have noticed over the years is that coho will often gravitate toward deep holes with downed trees or pilings. Holes that might have the right speed and depth might be void of fish, while the next hole upstream has wood in it and coho are there."

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "A few coho are available on the Clack and fishermen are best advised to work the water around and below the mouth of Eagle Creek. Eagle Creek itself is also a strong option if smaller water and a crowd suits you fine. Expect fish to be caught through October.

"Silvers will be available on the Sandy through the month of October. Best fishing is up near Cedar Creek, but pods of fish can be located moving through the lower river. A few Chinook will also be around in the deeper runs, some bright but most will be Tules."

North Coast Fishing Report – This will be a pretty easy section to write this week. With the big blow-out last weekend, systems are just now starting to come back into shape. It was a rare event; to have so much rain, so early in the season. It did provide for some unique fishing opportunities mid-week.

Tillamook Bay is just now starting to come back into fishable shape right now. A good pile of boats just started fishing the bay on Wednesday and although results weren't white hot, it's clear that not all the fish moved upstream on this rain freshet (although they may be heading that way). Of course, anglers were sticking to their typical routine this week; Ghost Hole, Ghost Hole, Ghost Hole. It's been a consistent producer all season. There was a slow but steady bite in the lower end of the Ghost Hole on Wednesday, especially for those working the west end of the lower Ghost Hole on the incoming tide. The most consistent bite of the day took place right at high tide in the Ghost Hole where several fish were caught through the high tide change. Bay City didn't produce all that well on Wednesday but it was just likely an off day. Although nobody knows about it yet (this is where it pays to be a TGF subscriber), the West Channel finally lit up for the one boat that fished there on Wednesday. I'm guessing that if it stays good over there for another day or two, there will be quite a crowd over there by the weekend. You'll certainly know if you see a crowd over there over the weekend, how well it's performed Thursday and Friday. Not much traffic in the upper bay but it should begin to produce again on the upcoming stronger tide series and the fact that chinook should be heading for the Trask and Tillamook Rivers given their current high water state. Let's just hope that the run is sizable enough to keep fresh fish coming in for more than a few days prior to the weekend.

It appears as if the blow-out may have cleared out much of the seaweed and eelgrass on Tillamook Bay and likely other coastal estuaries. Keep your fingers crossed.

For those interested in getting the cobwebs off of your driftboats, many of the coastal systems will have peaked by the weekend although there should still be good action over the weekend. I fished the Trask River on Wednesday, hooking 4 chinook with one other good grab. Of the 4 we hooked, one got off, the other may have been a spawning spring chinook or early fall fish, one was a GIANT coho, maybe getting close to 19 pounds and the keeper was a slightly colored, very red-fleshed buck chinook that we harvested. The river was still high but had excellent color on Wednesday. Only a few other boats on the drift and although we had a satisfactory day, I had anticipated an early breakfast (certainly lunch) in Tillamook with an early limit; denied again! I fished as much slow water as I could find but willing biters were at the heads of the holes despite

the fast flows. The one spawning fish we released was taken in a tail-out, sorry about that girl.... I think she survived. All our fish today took a black/white tiger striped K-15 Kwikfish, one of my favorite in colored water. The chrome/chartreuse and white/pink patterns never got hit, what's up with dat? I bounced eggs for a while and so did another boat that fished in the same stretches we did. There are a lot of cutthroat in these coastal streams this year. I saw one bank angler downstream of Johnson's Bridge land a chinook on a bobber and bait. Other boats that I talked to did fair at best too; a disappointment given the near-ideal water conditions.

The Nehalem system is blown out. Although this is only one river affecting the estuary, it's a big one and prone to dirty water for longer periods of time. There was a slew of fish in the system, prior to the last rain freshet; they have since high-tailed it upstream. It will still be a while before the clarity comes back but maybe by the weekend.

There were a few anglers pursuing chinook on the Kilchis but it's pretty early to expect good results over there. None-the-less, there should be some fish available in the lower reaches but come November, it becomes a much better prospect.

No word on the Necanicum or Nestucca but it's likely the Necanicum fished well early in the week. It was in ideal condition on Tuesday but it could be very hazardous to drift. With all the wind and rain we had, there were new large spruce trees recruit into the river system but they may be upstream of Klootchie Creek versus downstream of the put in. Regardless, this will be a hazardous river to fish until someone finds out if it is safe; and that somebody likely won't spread the word if they have the river to themselves. It should be plugged with fish.

The North Fork Nehalem Hatchery reported just a few fish coming out of the handicap ramp and below on Tuesday morning, despite nearly ideal conditions. Although it should still be in peak season for hatchery coho, many of them scooted upstream on the smaller rain freshet we had prior to this one. The hatchery coho run on these coastal systems, like the Columbia, was unimpressive.

The Nestucca seems to be having a fair early run so the river likely fished well by Wednesday. Check regulations but I'm pretty sure you can only fish downstream of 1st Bridge as that is where the freshest fish are anyway.

The Salmon River mainstem fishery upstream to the hatchery should have ample numbers of fish available. Bank access can be limited.

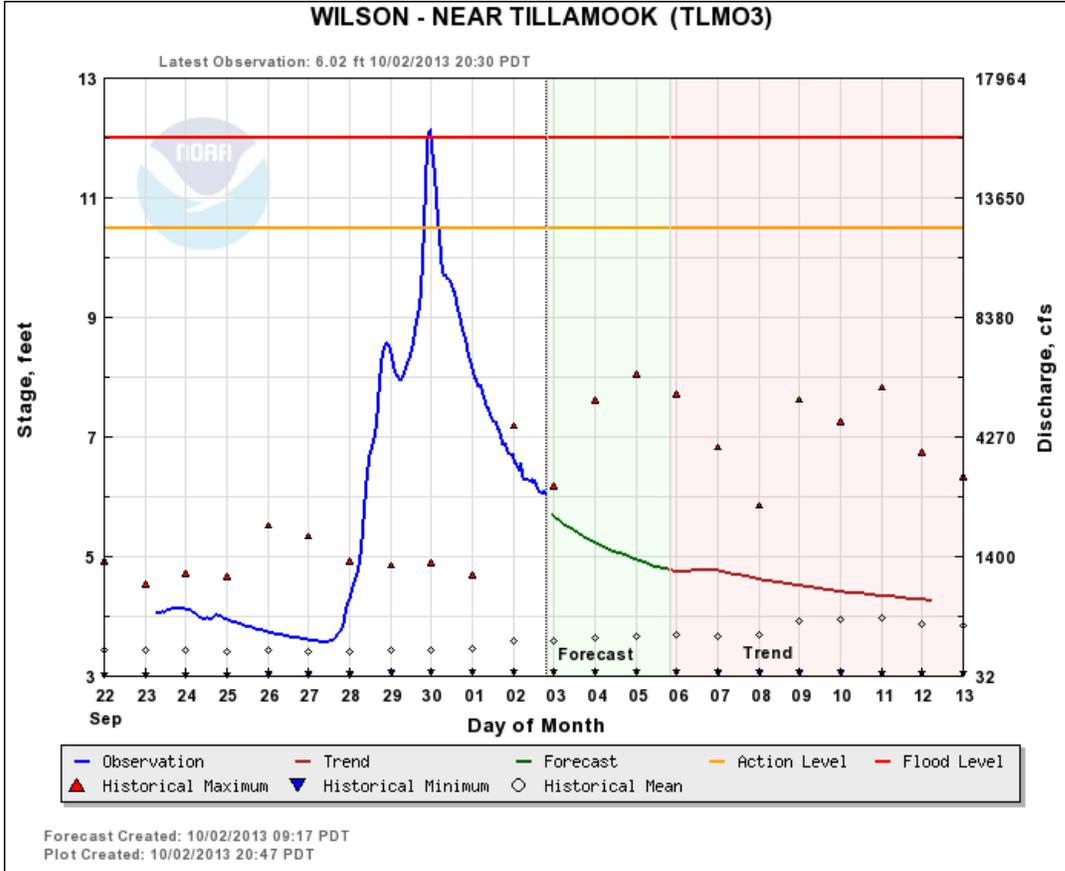
No need to worry about crabbing for a while. Look to the forecast section for an update on the ocean forecast but many of us are giving up on fishing and crabbing the ocean for the remainder of the season. Stand by on that one however.

The Guide's Forecast – It could be a good week/weekend in the Tillamook district. With rivers primed with water and chinook, driftboaters and bank fishers have unusual opportunity for this early in October. Bank angling is still pretty difficult on many north coast streams with all the private land and such but the Trask, Wilson and Kilchis certainly offer up some of the better options. You can count on some traffic over there but these systems do fish best on the high side, and those conditions will take place before the weekend. By far, the Trask should offer up the best opportunities as this system often gets the strongest early run of fish and they seemed to have shown in the bay and nearby ocean fishery this year so we can expect a good run in the river.

There should be some chinook in the Wilson and Kilchis Rivers but as we previously mentioned,

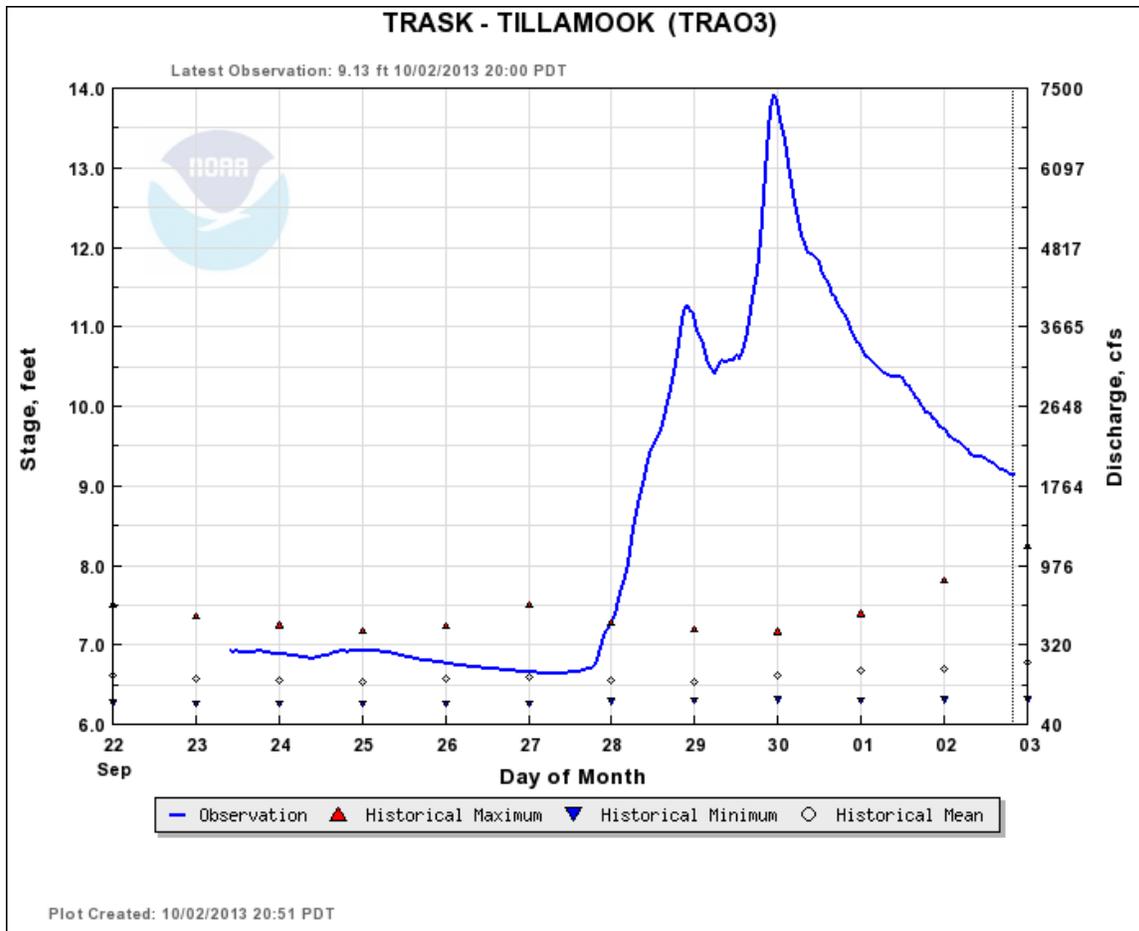
these systems tend to get a later returning chinook. Look for better numbers to enter by mid-October, especially if we continue to have this wet weather pattern.

Here's the Wilson River hydrograph as of Wednesday night, showing how the weekend is shaping up:



Take note that although the Wilson is still high, it's color is quite good on the COB 10/2/13. It would be good to keep this number (as seen at the top of this graph) 6.02 ft. as ideal water color but still fishing high so fish aren't settled into "traditional" water.

Now, here is the Trask hydrograph with identical description: ideal color, still a bit high but by Thursday, it will be IDEAL for drifting and fish should start to hold in their traditional haunts and even more so by Friday and through the weekend. Although, by the weekend, fresh fish will start to trickle through versus bolt through, making the lower reaches a better idea so you can work the incoming tide fish. Here is the Trask as another reference (note the 9.13 ft):



Although there is no “forecast” for the Trask, given the upcoming weather prediction, it’s very likely to follow the same downward trend at the same trajectory as the Wilson River seen above.

As far as the other rivers go, the smaller systems such as the North Fork Nehalem, Kilchis and Necanicum will all be too low to float a boat down. They likely have hazardous obstacles in the path of a driftboat anyway. It wouldn’t be wise to float in these lower flows, not to mention unproductive.

As far as the bay fishery goes, with the upcoming strong tide series, you can count on fresh chinook throughout the bay. It’s likely that we’ll be able to chase these fish up the bay as the tide comes in, especially since there is water in the rivers where fish are likely to b-line for. It’s still a wise choice to fish the Ghost Hole on the incoming tide and high slack but the fish that show early in the tide in the Ghost Hole will likely end up in the upper bay by high tide. Of course trolled herring will be a key technique, especially as the water temperatures continue to cool but I’ve had some good success backtrolling plugs as well on the incoming and outgoing tides that we’re coming into, especially over the weekend. Bay City and as I secretly mentioned earlier the West Channel shouldn’t be overlooked this weekend either. Both are good near high tide but the West Channel seems to be particularly productive closer to high tide than any other time of the tide. Hopefully, we won’t have the seaweed to deal with.

Ocean? Likely not. Although a small window may exist on Friday or Saturday, the extreme tide series may not be conducive to a saltwater experience. Anglers should keep in mind that if they do recreate for salmon outside, wild coho (or any coho for that matter) may not be kept but

chinook season remains open through October. If you decide to bring your crab gear with you, you had better consider bringing it back to the dock with you (no overnight soak) as the ocean is likely to kick back up again late in the weekend, if not sooner. For convenience, safety and productivity sake, it would be best to concentrate your efforts in the estuary this weekend. Crabbing could be good however.

Don't bother crabbing in north coast estuaries this weekend. There's still a lot of freshwater out there. Those motivated for razor clams however should start to take a look at their options by Friday or Saturday. The later into the weekend or next week you go however, you'll have to take a lantern or flashlight. The calmer the surf, the better the digging.

Central & South Coast Reports – While offshore predictions indicate launches will be possible over the next few days, the better conditions will occur on Friday, October 4th with wind and wave becoming a little more challenging each day through the weekend.

Fishing for bottom fish including rockfish, lingcod, and cabezon is now open at all depths. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish. Retention of one cabezon per day is still allowed. Two ling cod 22 inches or better may be kept per day and without depth restrictions, fishing is expected to be good.

The 2013 tuna season was rewarding for some capable of making very long trips offshore and scratching out numbers but was a disappointment for many. The ODFW estimates this year's catches at just over 11,600, the lowest harvest since 2006 and only a third of the 2012 catch. Still, there are a few diehards who will be launching on Friday this week for albacore. After all, every tuna landed this time of year will weigh 35 pounds or so.

According to official ODFW reports, the general trend was a modest improvement in bay crabbing success through September. Specifically, catches picked up slightly at Yaquina, Alsea, Coos and Coquille bays while dropping off in Siletz and Winchester bays. Results were (and are) better in the ocean than any estuary when boats have been able to get out. Dungeness may be taken offshore through October 31st.

Crabbing in Yaquina Bay is poor to slow and wasn't helped by the recent deluge, Trolling for salmon has been mostly an exercise in frustration with the occasional Chinook landed and many coho jumping and rolling but not biting.

Wild coho may be legally taken at Siltcoos, Tahkenitch and Tenmile lakes as of October 1. Only Siltcoos gets fish early enough to create much of a fishery in the first week, however, with the others generally starting to produce late in the month. While some hopefuls throw spinners with success, this is mostly a troll fishery.

Water conditions are shaping up on the Siletz following very high flows of a few days ago. It should be perfect for the weekend and is expected to produce some action.

Waters of the Alsea were still high and muddy mid-week but should drop and clear by Friday. It's still a little early for best results here but the freshet surely brought with it some Chinook.

The Siuslaw gave up a couple of Chinook before the rain fell over the past weekend and fresh water in the system sucked all the salmon upstream. More are on the way. It's still muddy as of Thursday, October 3rd.

Bank fishers have been taking fair numbers of Chinook at Winchester Bay with best results as fresh sea water enters on the incoming tide. Recently, the hotspot has been Half Moon Bay although Winchester Creek and Osprey Point have also been producing fish. Trollers are hooking up on herring around the mouths of the boat basins. Coho populations have also been booming here recently and are accounting for a significant percentage of hookups. Just over 20% of the wild coho quota has been taken through September 29th, the latest data available from the ODFW.

Dock fishers at Coos Bay continued to take Chinook this week. Some have hooked up by throwing spinners into the murky water while others have been successful with bobber and bait. Boats will be moving upriver following the fish as water conditions improve.

Chinook fishing is expected to be good fish which entered with the freshet on the Coquille River as it drops and clears this week. Wild coho may be taken here and catches have been fair to good recently.

Trolling in Rogue Bay is done for a while following the storm over the past weekend. Chinook trolling may pick up a little bit and coho are expected to enter in good number in the next couple of weeks. Fishing for steelhead and half-pounders has slowed. Of primary interest now on the lower Rogue is the Chinook returning to the Indian Creek facility. So far this year, results have been lackluster so it is hoped the recent freshet will breathe life into it. The lower Rogue level and flow will have returned to nearly that prior the storm but the weekend. With Chinook fishing closed on the middle Rogue, steelheaders are making fair catches on drifted bait or on spinners while fly fishers are also taking a few. Only artificial flies are allowed on the upper river above Fishers Ferry boat ramp through October although long-rodders have been doing well for steelhead and trout. Be aware the either or both may only be kept if missing the adipose fin.

No reports have been forthcoming from the Chetco Hawg (Bubble) Fishery which opened on October 1st. Ocean conditions conducive to allowing boats to fish are forecast to continue in varying degrees of friendliness through the weekend. Historically, the largest Chinook of the year result from this fishery which is expected to produce more than a couple over the 50-pound mark. Anglers will have the opportunity to find out through October 13th this year. Pacific Halibut may be taken by boats out of Brookings through October 31st. Halibut may only be taken on the Oregon coast south Humbug Mountain to the California border.

A few Chinook jacks are expected to be taken on the Elk and Sixes rivers as water levels drop this week although it is very early for these ocean tributaries to produce any adult salmon.

Cold, stormy weather with occasional snow flurries at Diamond Lake in the past week lowered water temps to the 60-degree range, but evidently that wasn't sufficient to get trout into the mood. To eat, that is. Catches have picked up a little but remain slow with the latest speculation that 50-degree water temps will be required to fully rejuvenate fishing here.

Bradley Lake is scheduled to be planted with hatchery trout this week.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Steelhead are distributed on the Deschutes from the mouth upstream above Warm Springs. Fresh fish will continue to enter the system in significant number through October. The White River is still somewhat high and spewing off-color water. Salmon fishing was good at the mouth for those drifting cured eggs.

The BLM evicted campers then closed campgrounds along the Deschutes River on Wednesday this week. Macks, Beavertail and the remaining campgrounds above and below Maupin are now

closed, See **Random Links**, below for more on how the government shutdown is effecting the sports community.

Kokanee are past their prime almost everywhere at this time of year. A recent report from Suttle Lake indicated that spawning was imminent.

Wickiup trout fishing has been good for average-sized fish but of interest to those who seek a better quality quarry, it is producing a reasonable number of brown trout in the 20-inch class and the occasional rainbow of similar dimensions.

Write to the TGF staff:

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Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Chris Vertopoulos: chrisv@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Government Shutdown and BLM lands:

<http://www.doi.gov/shutdown/fy2014/upload/BLM-FAQ.pdf>

More Shutdown Info - Forest Service, BLM, Natl. Guard:

<http://www.ktvz.com/news/ore-shutdown-fallout-forest-service-blm-natl-guard/-/413192/22220048/-/8rcdap/-/index.html>

GOOD LUCK!