

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **March 21st – March 27th, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – Anglers are getting back on the mainstem Columbia in anticipation of an ample spring chinook run that has yet to show. Cold, high water has slowed migration but it's time to start seeing increasing catch rates and action in the Kalama area is starting to improve. Herring trollers are starting to show at Davis Bar and although action still won't peak for a few more weeks, nets should start to fly on a more regular basis. Commercial test netting on Sunday showed a higher incidence of steelhead than spring chinook and more Willamette bound chinook than upper Columbia bound salmon.

Water conditions are starting to improve on the Willamette and catches should too. The Sellwood area is likely to be a hot spot but the head of the Multnomah Channel and Oregon City should start to see action as well. Herring produces best in the colder flows.

McKenzie River levels are high but dropping this week. With dry weather in the forecast, fly anglers should be able to find some fishable riffles and runs by the weekend.

Water level, flow and color will be good on the Santiams for the coming weekend. Unfortunately, there aren't a lot of fish in the system. With summer steelhead starting to enter, hopefully that will change in the months to come.

The Sandy and Clackamas steelhead fisheries are improving and the test fishery in the mainstem Columbia indicate there are many more to come. More hatchery fish than wild ones were caught in the test fishery so those broodstock fish are going to make a showing. Steelhead should be well distributed throughout both of these systems but the lower reaches will likely produce the more aggressive biters as they will have just entered the system.

Large numbers of smelt have been spotted in the Sandy River. Saturday, March 22nd is the last day sport dippers can participate and it's only open from 6:00 a.m. until noon. If you don't own a dip net, one may be available for rent in the Troutdale area from a local retailer.

Northwest – Steelheaders have had great river conditions to take advantage of late returning wild and broodstock steelhead. The Wilson and Nestucca remain the top targets with both systems producing consistent catches this week. Most anglers would classify this season as sub-par but with peak season upon us, this is the time to go. The lower reaches of the Wilson and Nestucca will likely start to produce the better results, given the dropping water conditions and an improving tide series.

Smaller systems such as the Kilchis, Necanicum and Trask Rivers, will also produce the best in the lower reaches and catches will largely be comprised of wild fish.

Small side-drifted baits will always be a good option but drifted beads, jigs under bobbers and plugs will become more effective in the dropping flows.

The ocean forecast finally starts to look favorable by the weekend. Anglers have not had ocean opportunity for several weeks so lingcod and sea bass will be willing to bite when conditions allow.

Ocean and bay crabbing will be fair at best but the lower Columbia remains the best option. High tide exchanges will make estuary crabbing challenging and bar crossings hazardous.

Southwest- Prospects for bottom fishing are good at this time of year although offshore conditions have been mostly uncooperative. Wind and waves this week are unsettled although trending toward improvement on Saturday. Rockfish, lingcod and ocean crab await those who are able to launch safely.

Surf perch fishing is improving particularly near bay entrances and river mouths. Rock and jetty fishing will be productive anytime the ocean lies down with best results at slack tide, either high or low.

Steelheading is improving on the Umpqua as the water drops and clears this week. Fishing for hatchery winters is worthwhile on the South Umpqua where they're hitting bait and a variety of lures.

Crabbing in Coos Bay should show some improvement this week as salinity levels are returning to normal following the last freshet. Winter steelhead will be scattered on the Coos and Coquille Rivers.

As the lower Rogue River dropped into shape late last week, plenty of anglers hit the water, mostly targeting spring chinook although catches were light. It's still considered quite early in the run for best results. Springer fishing will definitely improve into April and May. Grants Pass flows should be less than 5000 cfs by the weekend with side-drifters and drift-fishers scoring winter steelhead.

Flows from Lost Creek Reservoir have been reduced this week to 2,900 cfs; a far more fisher-friendly condition. Catches of winter steelhead in the upper Rogue have been fair to good and will continue to improve.

Chetco River flows are dropping and will have achieved low and clear conditions by the weekend to come. Winter steelhead are scattered although stealthy techniques will be required to hook them.

Springtime temperatures have kept the ice unsafe for anglers at Diamond Lake. With March 20th the first official day of spring, the ice-fishing season here may be over.

Eastern – Although the Deschutes is still a little high, water color is good and the level is dropping daily. Midges, Blue-Winged-Olives and Caddis are on the menu for reddsides. Results for fly fishers has been fair.

The Metolius has dropped and is exhibiting good color this week. Blue-Winged-Olives have been observed hatching with trout responding accordingly.

Wallowa Lake is producing good numbers of kokanee, including some 40-fish limits although the majority are predictably small.

SW Washington- March 15th marked the closure of several tributaries in the district but mainstem rivers largely remain open for late season steelhead. The Cowlitz remains a top bet but the Kalama and Lewis may be options as well.

Spring chinook have been taken in the Cowlitz but consistent catches are still weeks away.

Bank anglers working beaches downstream of Vancouver will start to realize some results plunking spin-n-glos and herring from the bank. High flows push upriver migrating fish close to the beach, giving bank anglers a good opportunity to catch them.

Columbia River Fishing Report – With the mainstem Columbia finally coming back into shape after a prolonged period of dirty water conditions, anglers and fish are excited to get on with the spring migration. Although catch rates don't show a dramatic jump in the presence of spring chinook, test net fishing clearly lays out that expectations should be growing. Along with that, chinook counts at Bonneville are clearly underway so fish are on the move.

Let's start with the data gathered from last Sunday's test net fishery, keep in mind that these catches reflect results from the tooth tangle nets (4.25" mesh and 16 drifts were conducted):

Lower R.		UpRiver			Steelhead				
Ad-Clip	No Clip	Ad-Clip	No Clip	Ttl Chin	Chin/Drift	Chin/Sthd	Sthd/Drift	Total Sthd	Ad-Clip
9	3	3	1	16	1.0	0.6	1.6	25	17

And here's what the data is telling us in English- Willamette fish (Lower R.- "Snow Bellies") were present in the system in greater numbers than upper river bound chinook (Up River or black chins). The catch of steelhead per drift was greater than chinook per drift and the commercial gillnet fleet isn't interested in participating in a fishery with that kind of stock composition. This data also suggests that there are good numbers of hatchery and some wild fish about to enter the Sandy and Willamette River basins. Finally, although highly speculative, it's getting time for a good number of upper Columbia bound fish to make their showing so maybe it's another mis-prediction? We certainly won't know more until flows drop a bit and water temperatures rise but the next test-net session will always tell more of the story. We'll keep you updated.

From a creel check perspective, the results were certainly not that impressive:

Portland to Westport Bank:

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult spring Chinook and three adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two unclipped adult spring Chinook and four unclipped steelhead released for 217 bank anglers.

Portland to Westport Boats:

Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped adult spring Chinook kept for 131 boats (294 anglers).

Estuary Bank (Clatsop Spit to Wauna Powerlines):

Weekend checking showed no catch for five bank anglers.

Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Wauna Powerlines):

Weekend checking showed no catch for five boats (eight anglers).

Mid-river (Longview to the estuary) anglers aren't posting impressive results either. Although we're still dealing with somewhat turbid waters and it's still certainly cold and high, trollers working Clifton Channel and anchored off of Puget Island have yet to really light up the action. If success doesn't begin to ramp up under the improving water conditions, we may be in trouble.....again.

The effort is there, the catch however is less than impressive. Soon to change, however.

The Guide's Forecast – This should be a good week for trollers and anchor anglers working the mainstem Columbia from St. Helens downstream. Flows remain high and the water will still be cold but run timing in of itself should jump start success on the lower Columbia.

Trollers working water downstream of St. Helens should still be using flashers to entice fish and run green label herring behind them. Although trolled or anchored herring will likely produce the best results, anchor anglers running plugs wrapped with sardines or tuna bellies should also start to take fish. Although a plethora of colors work on these fish, the standard metallic chrome with pink dots is a standard Columbia River killer.

Trollers will also be working the Davis Bar area, across from the mouth of the Willamette River. Davis Bar, a troller favorite will likely draw one of the larger concentrations of boats throughout the springer season. Targeting fish in 18 to 30 foot of water at the right time of the tide should start to yield consistent results. Until the water clears, flashers will be fairly important in this fishery as well.

Anchor anglers should consider targeting fish in the shallows, as shallow as 8 foot if the flows remain high. Flows are expected to continue to drop however but with the upcoming extreme tide series, fish will likely continue to utilize the edge of the river to escape faster flows that burn critical calories.

It will get better this week but it will get even better the subsequent weeks ahead. There's already talk of an extension; nobody in their right mind will stick their neck out too far however and say just how long. As a matter of fact, as volatile as this fishery is, we may not get it granted until we near the proposed closure date of April 7th.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – After a long period of high water events, the Willamette started fishing effective again at mid-week. One of the key locations in the early season is Sellwood Bridge and catches started to become more consistent on Thursday when icons Trey Carskadon and Bill Monroe each took a springer on Thursday. Both fish were taken in the "Sultan's" boat, John Shmilenko, well known for his technique and success trolling herring at this location. The "Sultan" landed an additional 2 springers on Thursday, but one had to be returned due to a high fin. It's not clear that the Sellwood Bridge project has not had an impact on how this area fishes. These are the Sultan's second, third, fourth and fifth springers from this location under less than ideal conditions that he's dealt with this year. John stated there has only been 10 taken at Sellwood this season so far, of which his boat has caught 5.

Other reports indicate the Multnomah Channel has been fishing more effectively than the mainstem Columbia. With the stock composition listed in the above table, we can see why. Willamette fish are making up the bulk of the catch so far. That's destined to change however. It stands to reason that the Channel is heating up as the high water draws more Willamette fish up the Multnomah Channel than the mainstem Columbia before they take a right at Kelly Point Park. Santosh Slough and Coon Island will be primary targets for herring trollers this weekend.

Further upstream, Oregon City is starting to fish as well. With fair numbers of Clackamas broodstock fish and upper Willamette bound steelhead, action should pick up for those in pursuit of either species (salmon or steelhead). Plugs can be an effective tool worked either from the anchor, backtrolled and even plunked off of the bank this time of year. High, fast water will persist for a while longer, keeping fish concentrated close to shore where anglers have an easier time targeting them. A hog-line at the mouth of the Clackamas may start to see an occasional fish taken.

McKenzie flows will drop below 5,000 cfs near Vida over the coming weekend. That's still a healthy flow but the lowest we've seen this year.

Summer steelhead daily counts hit double digits on March 16th and have continued to do so since that date. About one-quarter of the steelhead counted at the Falls end up in the Santiam system. While fewer than 150 summers have been counted thus far this season, nearly 2,400 winters have crossed the Falls.

Detroit Reservoir has been producing limits or near-limits of trout to dedicated bank anglers.

Trout fishing has been good at Hagg Lake for bank-bound trout fishers using Power Bait. Warm weather over the best few days will increase water temperatures, move bass into shallower areas and put them on the bite. Washington County indicated construction work on Ramp A will not be complete until early May.

Alton Baker Canal and Blue River Reservoir were scheduled to be planted with trout this week.

The Guide's Forecast – This should be one of the best weeks to date for Willamette spring chinook. While Sellwood and Oregon City may be focal points, the gentlemen's troll fishery in the slough should also reward anglers.

Starting with the slough, herring trollers should target Willamette fish at the head of Multnomah Channel at Fred's Marina, Coon Island, half way down the channel and Santosh Slough a little downstream of that. It would behoove trollers to utilize flashers under the high, colored water we'll be experiencing this week. Green label herring will get the most play but anglers should find some success using larger blue-label herring as well. Given the fact the larger 5-year olds often make up the bulk of the catch in the early season, bigger baits not be a bad idea. Also something to consider, dying your herring green or blue and brining with some of your favorite scent certainly won't hurt your situation. A big tide series this weekend coupled with high flows may make anchor fishing with plugs or bait a strong option in the Multnomah Channel. Again, these are the kind of scenario's where targeting bank-hugging salmon and steelhead can produce good results. There are some good areas to bank fish in the Multnomah Channel.

Further upriver, Sellwood will remain a highlight for Willamette fishers. Sellwood isn't the easiest place to master but bottom bouncing herring trollers should score results. Fish upstream of the bridge for best results but you're within easy reach of a simple troll fishery in the Portland Harbor as well. Oregon City anglers can consider steelhead fishing around Yucca Island, across from the mouth of the Clackamas River. Anglers will have a crack at a spring chinook around the Lake Line, The Garbage Hole, Meldrum Bar, and the Eddy, located just downstream of Yucca Island. This eddy can produce pretty consistent results for salmon and the occasional steelhead to trollers and bouncers. Hopefully, sea lions won't be another major issue this year.

McKenzie fly anglers tossing Caddis patterns will enjoy fair action for trout over the coming weekend along with less-than crowded conditions. Dry weather will likely prevent many BWOs from hatching.

Water conditions have continued to improve on the Santiam system but it's really a between-seasons time of year. While there are a few winters around for catch and release, there are far too few summers to target and spring Chinook are weeks away.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – The Clackamas and Sandy Rivers have been "solid" according to Robert Campbell of **Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor** in Oregon City. Robert stated the Clackamas has been fair all week, reporting a fellow employee taking a wild fish in the 16 to 17-pound range. Robert was surprised we haven't seen another large wave of fish like we did just before the previous high water event. Steelhead are starting to show in good numbers on the Clackamas and although action may not have been as productive as one would think following a prolonged high water event, it's better than it has been all season. Broodstock fish are beginning to show but wild fish are present in good numbers as well. Fish are well distributed throughout the system but the lower reaches will be a good place to target them as flows continue to drop. Experienced anglers are seeing 2 to 3 opportunities for a day's effort.

A free spey casting clinic with Marty and Mia Sheppard along with Brian Silvey Will be held at the boat ramp at Oxbow Park On Saturday, March 22nd from 1PM to 3PM. Bring your waders and rods to take part.

The Sandy produced well for Robert over his weekend. He and some friends drifted the treacherous float from Dodge Park downstream, catching 10 steelhead, one of which was a summer fish. Although a rarity this time of year, summers do start to show and boy are they good to eat! Robert took those fish on a variety of gear, including spoons, drift gear and the Mad River Worm that's been so productive this winter with the chartreuse tail. Please keep in mind, while the Dodge Park reach is a productive one for the few that know how to run it, it's not for novice boaters. That said, bank anglers can have fair access to some of this water and produce good results. With all the high water we've seen on this system this year, fish will be well distributed to Marmot. As flows drop, the lower reaches will be the better bet.

The Guide's Forecast – It's clear through test netting results that more steelhead are on the way. This is the time of year for a good mix of hatchery and wild fish on the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers.

On the Clackamas, focus your efforts in the lower reaches as fresh fish will be most vulnerable there. Plugs and side-drifted baits as well as bobbers and worms will start to produce better results. On the Clack, you'll still have to cover lots of water in this big system and don't leave biting fish to find fish. Returning adults typically school in catchable numbers here. The Carver to Riverside stretch should fish pretty well this week.

The Sandy will likely continue to put out fair numbers of steelhead with concentrations of somewhat spooky fish in the upper reaches and fresh, willing fish in the lower reaches. Most will continue to side-drift but plugs and bobbers should become more productive as flows continue to drop. Don't be afraid to utilize hardware but this technique seems to produce the best results in water where fish are holed up, which is often in the upper reaches of the Sandy Basin.

North Coast Fishing Report – Finally achieving optimum conditions, steelhead anglers on the north coast are finding good success for late season steelhead. No surprise, the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers are producing the best results with double digit opportunities being reported early in the week. Both systems produced best in the upper reaches early in the week with high water creating swift migration patterns for upriver bound steelhead. Milepost 10 downstream to Mills Bridge yielded great results on the Wilson Monday and Tuesday with better action happening downstream of Mills by mid-week. Some quality steelhead have been taken, fish ranging in the mid-teens. Overall, the Wilson is producing better results than I had anticipated with the poor early season showing we witnessed earlier. Bank anglers have been out in force with ideal conditions for allowing them good results in the upper reaches. Dropping flows will only continue to maintain consistently good fishing into the weekend.

The Nestucca, like the Wilson, produced best in the upper reaches early in the week, with 6th Bridge to 1st producing good in the early portion of the week and in the dropping flows, downstream of 1st Bridge by mid-week. Side-drifted bait and single beads yielded great results but other techniques become quite viable in the dropping flows. Plugs and bobber and jigs should turn on as flows drop and as the fleet continues to pound the water side-drifting. Following up behind the mass of boats working plugs in the already pounded water can be one of the more effective options on a weekend. The hatchery to wild mix of fish has favored the wild component for the most part on both of these systems but some quality hatchery fish are certainly an option on both systems.

Smaller systems aren't getting near the pressure as the hatchery rivers are. The Necanicum and Kilchis are good late season options for wild fish and you can have them relatively to yourself. The Trask is a bit busier as a more robust run is available there and action is picking up. All three of these systems will become more of a bank option by the weekend, with the continued dropping flows.

The Nehalem may become an option by the weekend but like most other Tillamook County streams, won't offer up a consumable option. It's a big river too so multiple fish are not likely, whether you're fishing from a boat or the bank. Vernonia anglers may start pursuing steelhead in that reach of the river and it can be pretty good this time of year.

Offshore anglers still haven't had a chance to get after a bounty of bottomfish that are awaiting the saltwater angler's offering. Hopefully that will change soon but good things will happen to those that wait; and we've waited long enough!

The Oregon Coast Sportsman Show will take place on Friday and Saturday. March 28th and 29 at the Lincoln County Fairgrounds. The doors are open at 9 AM each day, closing at 8 PM on Saturday, 4 PM on Sunday.

For spring break, Alder Lake, Big Creek Reservoir 1 & 2, Buck Lake, Cape Meares Lake, Carter Lake, Cleawox Lake, Dune Lake, Eckman Lake, Elbow Lake, Erhart Lake, Georgia Lake, Hebo Lake, Loren's Pond, Lost Lake (Lane County), Lytle Lake, Mercer Lake, Munsel Lake, Nedonna Pond, North Georgia Lake, Olalla Creek Reservoir, Perkins Lake, Siltcoos Lagoon, Siltcoos Lake, Smith Lake, South Lake, Spring Lake, Tahoe Lake, Thissel Pond, Town Lake and Woahink Lake have been planted with trout.

The Guide's Forecast – Rivers are slow to drop with the ground well saturated over the latest deluge. This will keep rivers up and in ideal condition for the weekend angler. Unfortunately, migrating fish always take advantage of the front part of the freshet so we've likely seen the best the water conditions have to offer for the time being. Anglers fortunate enough to fish early in the week scored the best results.

Dropping flows, a clearing river and crowded conditions will call for a strategic approach this weekend. With all the side-drifters still pounding the systems, downsizing your offerings or really thinking out of the box will be your best bet. Pulling plugs, running bobbers and jigs or worms or using hardware will all have application under these conditions. Whatever technique you do, you won't be alone so hit every piece of water that's likely to hold a fish. As flows drop, the fish will gravitate to the deeper, darker water.

As for specifically where to fish, with the tides likely to be a factor in weekend success, the lower reaches will likely offer up the best chance at fresh fish. Not only are fresh fish more appetizing but they are more likely to bite as well. Experienced anglers will work a lower drift first to sweep up the fresh biters and then head upstream for a late morning/early afternoon option in search of stragglers. It's a good strategy but you'll still have to be innovative in your technique.

If you're going to pursue steelhead on the Wilson, consider starting at Donaldson's first, floating to Sollie Smith Bridge and maybe even below Sollie if you have a motor to get back upstream to the boat ramp or can plan on drifting all the way to the Memaloose Boat Ramp on Tillamook Bay. The upper reaches will house fish and it's safe to float above Mills Bridge through the "Rock Garden" until the river gauge reads 4.7, which won't be long but those fish have already seen a lot of gear so you'll have to find a fish that has short term memory loss. Remember; be innovative. Bank anglers should have some good opportunity in the upper Wilson River drainage.

Nestucca anglers should also seek the lower reaches for best success. The water downstream of 1st Bridge will offer up some of the best chances for fresh fish but really motivated anglers can start at Three Rivers and catch tidal fish all the way to Cloverdale. It's bigger water down here but as flows drop, fish will be more concentrated upping your success rates. You'll still want to do your best to cover the water as best as possible. The water above 5½ Bridge will become a bit rocky so don't plan on successfully fishing that reach without taking your lumps or dumping a boat.

Smaller streams are only going to get lower and clearer but that shouldn't deter bank anglers from taking advantage of peak season opportunities. The Necanicum, North Fork Nehalem, Trask, Three Rivers and the Kilchis are all top options but don't expect lightening fishing with the conditions that lie ahead. You'll have to target staging steelhead in the deep pockets and broken-surfaced hide-away's they'll be in waiting for the next rain freshet. Every one of these open bodies of north coast river systems should have ample numbers of steelhead to pursue for the stealthy angler.

If it's white-fleshed fish that you seek, offshore anglers may have a small window of opportunity coming up this weekend. Sea bass and lingcod await the offshore offering once the weather cooperates. Here is the forecast as of Thursday afternoon:

FRI

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 8 FT AT 13 SECONDS.

FRI NIGHT

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT...EASING TO 10 TO 15 KT LATE. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT AT 12 SECONDS.

SAT

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT...BECOMING NW IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 6 FT AT 17 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT

NW WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 8 FT AT 15 SECONDS.

SUN

E WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 7 FT AT 14 SECONDS.

MON

SE WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

TUE

S WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 10 FT.

You haven't seen us talk about sturgeon for a while and no one does it anymore. With the bulk of the population likely taking advantage of a bounty of a return on the mainstem Columbia, there's no reason for any number of these pre-historic fish to be available in our coastal estuaries. None-the-less, there are some good tides coming about this weekend.

Crabbing in the ocean and estuaries is going to be fair at best. The lower Columbia and the ocean itself will offer up the best chance for a fair number of keepers but limits will be hard to come by.

Central & South Coast Reports – Offshore conditions will continue to moderate into the weekend, potentially allowing sport and charter craft to get out on the ocean. Those who do so safely may expect to experience good fishing for lingcod and rockfish as well as catch sight of the beginning spring whale migration. Angling for bottom fish without depth restrictions will continue through March 31st.

Boats launching out of Depoe Bay on Wednesday this week caught limits of rockfish along with a fair number of lings. Ocean crabbing has been slow.

Despite the opener on March 15th for ocean Chinook fishing, there has been little interest and only a single salmon reported. This isn't unusual as many salmon fishing seasons open prior to the actual appearance of salmon. Catches will improve into April although combo trips will be made in the weekend to come.

Sunshine and springtime air temperatures will be warming the waters of temperate coastal lakes which will, in turn, put largemouth bass on the bite. Fishing should be worthwhile at Siltcoos, Tenmile and Tahkenitch lakes.

Jigging for herring is fair in Yaquina Bay although most of those bait fishes have spawned.

Winter steelhead are scattered on the Alsea with the best chance for a hookup from the town of Alsea downstream to tidal influence. Winters will be available here in varying number until the closure on April 30th.

This is the time of year when winter steelheading normally starts winding down and anglers focus their attention on springers or other species. Following the recent high water event however, a number of opportunities are available this year, not the least of which is the Alsea which offers decent numbers of fresh winters, particularly in the Mill Park to Five Rivers stretch.

Due to the mainstem Umpqua being high and off-color for much of the time when most anglers would start targeting spring Chinook, catches have been few so far this year. Nary a one had been entered in the local contest as of the past weekend. Catches have started to pick up this week, however. With warmer weather, smallmouth bass will start biting. With water dropping and visibility improving, catches of hatchery steelhead have been improving on the South Umpqua as it should - mid-March is considered the peak of the season here. Catch-and-release fishing for native steelhead has been fair on the North Umpqua.

Boats launching out of Charleston today, March 20th, caught some good-sized lingcod. Offshore conditions are forecast to continue to improve into the coming weekend. Coos Bay crabbing is slow as it has yet to recover from the last freshet. An evening minus tidal series starting March 25th will provide properly-equipped clammers with good numbers. Steelheading will be open until April 30th although most of the hatchery steelhead in the Coos River are dark although natives are available for catch-and-release.

There may be a few decent hatchery steelhead available on the Coquille River near the acclimation sites. Steelheading will remain open here through April.

While it's still early for spring Chinook, anglers are targeting them and a few are being caught on the lower Rogue River. Fishing for winter steelhead has been fair. As the river level has dropped and the water cleared, catches of winter steelhead have been improving on the Grants Pass stretch. Tossing spinners, drifting bait and side-drifting seems to be effective here. As the Army Corps of Engineers has reduced flows from Lost Creek Reservoir to create a more fisher-friendly river on the upper Rogue, steelheaders have seen an increase in hookups with the ever-increasing number of winters bound for the hatchery facility at Cole River. Drift rigs and flies are taking fish with the best results from the hatchery to Shady Cove on plugs.

The end of winter steelheading on the Chetco is looming as the season will close here on March 31st. The river has fished fairly well in a variety of water conditions this season and while there are still fresh winters available, they are now mixed with those which have spawned. Steelhead have been responding to pulled plugs or to spinners.

No updates have been forthcoming from Diamond Lake which indicates it remains unfishable due to the now-unstable, slushy ice covering the surface. This also reinforces that the next genuine fishing report from this location will be regarding ice-out results later in the year.

Ben Irving Reservoir, Cooper Creek Reservoir, Galesville Reservoir, Lake Marie, Loon Lake, Plat 1 Reservoir, Lower and Middle Empire Lake, Emigrant Reservoir, Lake Selmac, Lost Creek Reservoir, Willow Lake and Reinhart Pond have been stocked with hatchery trout.

News Release - March 18, 2012

ODFW offers training for angling instructors in Brookings

"Want to share your love of fishing with others? Come join the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's team of volunteer angling instructors.

"ODFW is hosting angler instructor training in Brookings on Saturday, March 29 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. at the Coast Guard Station, 16133 Boat Basin Dr. This training is open to anyone 18 years or older interested in becoming a volunteer angling instructor.

"The training introduces participants to the program curriculum which includes basic fishing skills, stewardship, aquatic resources and water safety. You will also learn about events in your area and where you can volunteer. Lunch is provided.

"Pre-registration is required by March 26. To register, contact Darlene Sprecher at 503-947-6025 or email ***darlene.m.sprecher@state.or.us***"

Central and Eastern Oregon – Water flow at the Crooked River has been gradually increasing over the past six weeks or so. It is crowded but productive. These fish can be selective at times; if dries aren't producing, even during a hatch, try a nymph.

Fishing at Pine Hollow Reservoir has been slow to fair but a recent trout planting by the ODFW should improve the frequency of hookups.

Wallowa Lake has continued to produce limits of Kokanee to early-season trollers.

There are few of the large kokes for which this location was once known due to a massive population explosion of young fish less than 12 inches, hence the increase in limit to 20 per day, per angler. Catch 'em if you can, to encourage the remainder to put on some size and weight.

Trollers hitting Lake Billy Chinook with herring and plugs are hooking some good-sized bull trout. Carting crankbaits into shallow areas will also tempt these fish into striking.

Crescent Lake has produced some dandy lake trout along with some nice browns to downrigger trollers this week. Be aware the water level is low.

Green Peter has been producing bright fish to trollers but the bite has been shutting down mid-morning.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

New technology - Compass map of Oregon's Wildlife Habitat

<https://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/compass/>

World's greediest summer steelhead

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvzojOJ_llg

Eat more fish says nutritional expert:

http://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/bill_monroe/index.ssf/2014/02/post_108.html#incart_river

GOOD LUCK!