

The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 20

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **May 16th – May 22nd, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – Fishery managers met Wednesday by phone, extending the Columbia River mainstem select (fin-clipped only) spring chinook fishery. Starting May 15th, anglers will be able to retain 2 salmonids per day, of which only 1 may be a chinook. Furthermore, anglers may fish on the mainstem Columbia all the way to the Bonneville Dam deadline.

Springer migration has slowed over Willamette Falls but not before pushing the total to near 8,000. There are also about 2,200 summer steelhead upstream. Water temperature was in the mid-50s on Tuesday this week with visibility fair. Spinners are picking up a few in Multnomah Channel while whole herring with or without a flasher is taking some chinook out of Willamette Park. Diver and bait is preferred in Oregon City where sea lions are getting as many as anglers. Bank fishers have been taking a few springers with Spin 'n' Glos rigged with tuna balls a popular option. Turbid water early this week slowed catch rates however.

Recent high water on the Santiams has moderated with levels dropping nicely and water clarity very good for fishing. Concentrate efforts in the lower river as cold water is preventing springers and summer steelhead from moving upstream. Results have been fair.

Clackamas water levels are forecast to be dropping through the coming week. While there are still some winter steelhead available above Barton, fresh summers are scattered throughout the system. Fishing for spring chinook will move to the forefront in late May and into June as more fish enter the system. Doug Briggs of Gresham took a nice springer on Monday, near Barton, on a wee wart fished in about 10 feet of water.

Water conditions are excellent on the Sandy. Spring chinook and summer steelhead are entering the system and a fair number are being hooked. The most productive stretch is from Oxbow Park down to Lewis and Clark. For those interested in spey fishing, there will be a Spey Clave on May 16, 17 and 18 at Oxbow Park.

Northwest – Catches of spring chinook are becoming more consistent in the Tillamook area. Although the lower estuary produced the best results last weekend, the upper bay has been productive as well, for those trolling herring. Mid-May marks the start of the peak for this fishery. With another minus tide on tap for the weekend, effort will likely, and justifiably, switch to the upper bay where herring and spinner trollers should find success.

Trask River anglers also report fair success for spring chinook from the tidewater reaches to the hatchery. High flows kept salmon moving but with flows subsiding, fish will begin to hold in deeper water and become more wary in the clearing rivers. The Wilson and Nestucca Rivers are also options but receive fewer plants than the Trask. Summer steelhead should also start showing with more regularity in the coming weeks.

Lower Columbia beaches open for hatchery steelhead, and now with the recent joint-state action, hatchery spring chinook on May 15th. The timing couldn't be better with a minus tide and high flows keeping fish close to shore where bank anglers have good access.

Soft tides and friendly seas early in the week produced good catches of lingcod and sea bass off of the south jetty near Astoria. Strong tides this weekend will quell success near the river mouth but clamming

along Clatsop Beaches will likely be good. Diggers have been reporting good success for larger clams with younger broods not faring quite as well.

Southwest- Some charters launching out of Newport reported limiting the boat on the first all-depth halibut opener of 2014 with some fish over 50 inches in length. The next opportunity will be on May 22-24 with additional dates set in June for a quota of 22,274 pounds.

Bottomfishing slowed out of central Oregon ports early this week but still allowed anglers to take fair catches of rockfish and lingcod.

Ocean salmon fishing opened from Humbug Mountain to the California border on the 10th of May allowing boats launching from Port Orford, Gold Beach and Brookings to troll for chinook as anglers to the north have been doing since March 15. Early results indicate a slow start, but this was expected. Catches will improve into June.

Surf perch fishing is producing decent numbers of south coast beaches with this fishery expected to shine for many weeks to come.

Boats launching out of Reedsport scored chinook over the past weekend as schools moved closer to shore, putting them within reach of sport boats. Spring chinook catches have been spotty on the Umpqua mainstem but shad are in with catches improving. Try fishing Sawyers Rapids or Yellow Creek with bright, sunny days often most productive.

Boats launching out of Charleston have been making good catches of bottomfish although ocean chinook fishing has been slow with salmon scattered. Clamming has been excellent in Coos Bay although crabbing remains slow.

The offshore launch window out of Gold Beach was closed more frequently than it was open over the past week due to rough conditions. When boats have been able to get out, fishing has been rewarding with which limits of lingcod and a colorful variety of rockfish. Spring chinook catches are spotty on the lower Rogue with rods bending whenever a pod of salmon moves through. Boat anglers are faring better than those fishing from the bank. Springers passing through the middle river seem more interested in migrating than biting. Results on the upper Rogue have been quite good for chinook, particularly for this early in the year. Winter steelhead are available but well past their prime. Steelheaders may no longer keep wild fish.

Eastern – Salmon Flies and Stone Flies are making an appearance on the lower Deschutes in one of the earliest showings in memory. Redsides are responding now. There's no predicting how long the big bugs will endure.

Lemolo Lake has been producing fine catches of brown trout.

Wickiup was very slow for kokanee over the past weekend. Neither trollers nor jigs fishers had any advantage.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will be holding a free youth fishing event at Pine Nursery Pond in NE Bend near Ponderosa Elementary School on Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SW Washington - The Cowlitz River spring chinook fishery is peaking while the Lewis and Kalama fisheries remain closed. Summer steelhead should start showing in better numbers now although the peak is still weeks away. Most anglers will begin focusing their efforts on the lower Columbia beaches in pursuit of hatchery salmon and steelhead.

With peak passage at Bonneville past now, action at the Wind River and Drano Lake fisheries will start to slow. These fisheries remain viable however, at least until the end of the month. Anglers will now focus more effort on the rivers that help feed these fisheries.

Soapbox Update: See Oregonian article on Timberline Ski area's salting of the headwaters of the Salmon River (Wild and Scenic salmon and steelhead stream).

http://www.oregonlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2014/05/salting_of_mt_hood_glacier_is_b.html

Friends of Mt Hood website on the salting:

<http://www.friendsofmounthood.org/>

Pass this on to your networks-

Put a stop to the abuse of our scenic treasures/resources by the Kohnstamm family-operated ski area.

Send a message to the Supervisor of the Mt. Hood National Forest via

Internet:<http://www.fs.usda.gov/contactus/mthood/about-forest/contactus>

Columbia River Fishing Report – Although anglers didn't "tear 'em up" on last Friday and Saturday's opener, the fishing did justify the effort. Anglers reported fairly tough results on the Friday opener, blaming both high water and a recent gillnet opener. By Saturday however, the fishing was already showing signs of improvement with anglers reporting fair to good success from the I-5 area downstream to Astoria. The Kalama area seemed to produce fairly consistent results with boaters pretty impressed with the results coming off of lower Columbia beaches and islands. Despite a weak tide series, flows were high enough to concentrate fish close to the bank where plunkers took salmon fairly regularly on spin-n-glos with or without coon shrimp. Boaters fared just fine too however, using plugs on anchor as this seems to be the better technique when flows are high. Trollers were still working popular channels when the incoming tide prevented action on the gear. Results varied but anchor fishing clearly produced the best results.

With spring chinook numbers tapering at Bonneville Dam, so will the action. Managers met on Tuesday however to discuss options for another extension for hatchery spring chinook to coincide with the steelhead opener this week. Here are the results of that call:

NEWS RELEASE

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact:	John North	(971) 673-6029
	Jeff Whisler	(971) 673-6024
	Rick Swart	(971) 673-6038

Internet: www.odfw.com

For Immediate Release Tuesday, May 13, 2014

States add another month to lower Columbia Chinook season

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – An improved outlook for the number of upriver spring Chinook salmon returning to the Columbia River prompted fishery managers from Oregon and Washington to reopen the recreational fishing season below Bonneville Dam for another month.

Spring Chinook fishing will reopen on the lower Columbia from Thursday, May 15 through Sunday, June 15 under rules adopted today during a joint state hearing of fish and wildlife officials from the two states.

The joint state action is based on a revised estimate of salmon returns issued on Monday by the U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee, which adjusted its expected return of upriver Chinook to 224,000 fish, up from the previous estimate of a minimum 185,000 upriver fish.

"We're pleased to see these additional fish moving into the Columbia, and the opportunity this creates to provide an extended period of recreational salmon fishing," said John North, ODFW's Columbia River Program manager. "This is the scenario we were hoping for and we're glad to see it materialize."

This is the fourth time this year that fishery managers have extended the spring Chinook season in response to updated information about fish passage and angler success rates. The most recent reopening took place May 9-10.

Under the rules approved at today's hearing, the season opens to both boat and bank fishing from Tongue Point upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. The bag limit is two adult adipose fin-clipped salmonids (salmon or steelhead) per day, of which only one may be a Chinook. Shad and adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook may also be kept. All sockeye salmon must be released unharmed.

Above Bonneville and upriver to the Oregon/Washington border, Chinook and steelhead fishing remains closed but managers may consider additional opportunity in this area if additional fish become available.

For more information, visit ODFW's website at www.odfw.com.

We'll spend more time in the forecast section, outlining your best strategy to take advantage of this increased opportunity.

It's a great time of the year to take advantage of ample numbers of bottomfish on the south jetty out of Astoria. Soft tides and fairly calm seas produced great results for anglers early in the week without much competition either. This is certainly a finesse fishery and you really need to know what you're doing since your fishing on the Columbia River Bar (a.k.a. "The Graveyard of the Pacific"). **Pro guide Andy Betnar (503-791-4094)** reported great action on lingcod and they eventually got their sea bass too. Andy reported having to throw back numerous lings to achieve their bass limit although few lings exceeded 8 or 10 pounds. Butterfly jigs worked close to the bottom produced best with many fish coming from depths between 50 and 80 feet, on the steep slope of the sunken jetty.

The Guide's Forecast – Moving right into the forecast, anglers will have some pretty good opportunity starting on May 15th. Steelhead, salmon (yes, jacks too) and shad are on tap and although not peak season for any of these species, all of them exist in fair number on the lower Columbia. Couple up run timing with a strong outgoing tide and high flows this weekend and bank anglers and boaters that utilize shallower, slower running currents on the river's edge should find some fair action. Salmon will likely dominate the catches but if the summer run is decent this year, we should start to see some of those in the catch too. Some sockeye are in the river, those must be release unharmed. Shad are also starting to make a show but the Willamette frequently produces better results in the early season.

Starting down low, beach plunkers should be putting out spin-n-glos for late running spring chinook. These lures tipped with shrimp or prawns of some sort often produce best. Greens, purples and all the hot colors can produce for salmon while just the hot colors are recommended for steelhead. It'll be best to target salmon as they are likely to outnumber steelhead at this time of year. Some savvy anglers will run both spin-n-glos and slide a small plug down their line to maximize their chances of success. I recommend smaller plugs such as the K-11X or 3.5 Mag Lip plugs in which bait wrapped on the bottom, may impede the action. Jones Beach near Westport is about the lowest in the river where beach plunkers

start to see consistent results and should produce from the opener. Adequate beaches exist on both the Oregon and Washington side of the river, all the way upstream to Bonneville Dam. Plunkers working the Bonneville area, especially near the deadline, can do exceptionally well in these water conditions.

Boaters should continue to find success from the Gorge area downstream to the Westport/Cathlamet area. Boaters need to keep in mind that in these higher flows, success trolling herring seems to drop off. Although you should still pursue salmon by trolling herring if you're confident in the method, you should also prepare yourself for anchor fishing with plugs if you're not finding success doing it. Prior to the high water, trollers have had historical success this season fishing in front of Horsetail Falls in the Gorge, the Camas area, fair at best between I-5 and Davis Bar, Kalama area and Cathlamet/Clifton Channel/Aldrich Point area. Don't count on any of these being slam dunk locations but they should produce some results. I would focus my efforts in the gorge around Horsetail Falls if I was a metro angler. Flashers may be a necessary evil in the higher flows. Did I mention to bring the plugs?

And speaking of the gorge, how about the unprecedented opportunity to fish at the Bonneville deadline again? We've historically had some awesome days backbouncing eggs or backtrolling plugs near the deadline in the springtime. Nobody would deny the fact however that once the bulk of the run is passed Bonneville Dam, no matter how big the run size, the more aggressive biters have also passed Bonneville and catch rates aren't what you would think they would be with several thousand chinook passing Bonneville on a daily basis.

Steelheaders should keep a watchful eye on Bonneville counts. Once we start seeing around 200 adult steelhead per day passing the facility, success rates for steelhead start to climb in the downstream fishery. Maybe with the high snow-pack, we'll have an extended period of good success rates before the water warms up. I would expect some steelhead to be caught right from the re-opener. Use hot colored spin-n-glos tipped with small coon shrimp to target this specie.

It's still a bit early for great shad fishing but numbers are climbing steadily. For those anxious to get some quality crab bait for the season, good fishing will begin any day now. We just surpassed the 1k a day benchmark for shad at Bonneville.

Although the seas may be friendly for offshore bottomfishing, the extreme tide series will not allow for extended opportunity in the productive hot spot on the south jetty out of Astoria. It's best to wait for the weaker tide series the following weekend.

Halibut charters out of Astoria did find a few flatties on the last opener but success rates were likely less than a fish for every other rod. There were some fair sized fish taken however. Again, it will be a bit tougher on the big tide swing so maybe wait until next week.

This will be the weekend to go razor clam digging. Clatsop Beaches from Seaside to Astoria should be producing good results. Seaside, Gearhart and the Peter Iredale should be hot spots. Diggers are laying claim to good sized razors as it's clear that some brood years didn't seed well along Clatsop Beaches. Reports of unprecedented sets on the Long Beach Peninsula indicate the juveniles drifted to the north when "setting up shop".

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Turbidity which was problematic over the past weekend is rapidly clearing this week. Better visibility coupled with improving water temperatures and improving catches means anglers have reason for optimism for the coming weekend. In the past few days, catches have picked up at Oregon City and Multnomah Channel although it has remained slow down low on the river. Daily springer counts have dwindled to low double digits with the total as of May 13th only 8,500. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** remarked about the complainers, particularly those online who have been bemoaning how few fish have been counted at Willamette Falls or even going so far as to predict doom for the run this

year. He reminds everybody that it's really too early to pass judgment on this year's Willamette springer run, saying, "There's a good, solid month left to fish." This guy's an inspiration, I tell ya.

Water flow on the McKenzie is still a bit higher than it was in the first week of May but stabilizing and quite fishable with great color. Fly fishers have reported good results early this week.

The Santiams have completely recovered from the effects of last week's weather front, returning to pre-storm level, flow and color. Fishing has been slow to fair for summer steelhead with most activity occurring on the North Santiam.

Alton Baker Canal, Detroit Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Foster Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam, Quartzville Creek, Sunnyside Park, Timber Linn Lake, Trail Bridge Reservoir, Waverly Lake, Coast Fork of the Willamette River, Estacada Lake, Harriet Lake, Huddleston Pond, North Fork Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Timothy Meadows and Trillium Lake have received a fresh infusion of hatchery rainbows.

The Guide's Forecast – This week has produced some good spring Chinook results on the lower Willamette. This is particularly rewarding for those who toughed out crummy conditions and poor results over the past weekend. Many are still trolling herring three to five feet behind a flasher or without a flasher about five feet from a diver. As conditions change, however, so does the most effective bait or gear. Perhaps the most effective combo has been diver and bait using a combination of eggs and sand shrimp. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** also remarked that more anglers are discovering P-Line's Laser Minnow. While TGF doesn't usually plug specific lures, this one has been a hottie. Campbell predicted more anglers will be catching springers with these jigs as the water warms over the coming week. Tip: pick up the 2 ounce and three ounce sizes. In addition to jig fishing, spinner and plug pullers will be scoring with hardware activity and effectiveness certain to increase as water temps rise. With springer catches turning on over the past couple of days in Multnomah Channel, this would be a logical area to ply over the coming weekend. Quite a few steelhead have been grabbing gear intended for salmon here as well. There were several landed the morning of May 14th on the stretch below Willamette Falls to Cedar Oaks.

Try Caddis patterns including the Green McKenzie Caddis along with March Browns and PMDs on the McKenzie River. Gold colored nymphs are another must have as well as Prince Nymphs and Hare's Ears. Level, flow and clarity should be great with showers this weekend unlikely to have much of an effect on the river. There are some summer steelhead in the system and a few are targeting them.

About 2,850 summer steelhead have been counted at Willamette Falls, the majority of which have or will enter the Santiams. Bober and jig are the most popular rig here but summer steelhead are suckers for a well-presented spinner. In addition to those summer fish, well over 8,000 springers are upstream and should start entertaining anglers on the Santiam system in a few weeks.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – The Clackamas looks great at this writing early in the afternoon on Wednesday this week. The level and flow has returned to just as it was at the end of the first week in May before the last weather front moved through and the color is excellent. Reports from early this week weren't so hot but as the Forecast will reveal, fish are on the move.

Sandy flows have dropped and cleared but with hot weather this week, glacial runoff could be a factor at any time. When this occurs, the water runs milky or gray and can seriously hamper fishing efforts. At the latest report on the morning of Wednesday, May 14th, it still looked good. Fishing was slow over the past weekend but things can change quickly at this time of year.

The Guide's Forecast – "The guides probably wouldn't appreciate me talking about it," **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** said on Wednesday this week, "but the lower Clack really turned on for springers last couple of days." In addition, he said there seem to be good numbers of summer steelhead in the river. The float from Feldheimers to Carver has a good chance of producing some nice hatchery steelhead. Try drift rigs or even fly gear with water conditions good.

Sandy River springer hopefuls will do well to concentrate efforts in the lower river and Troutdale area according to **Robert Campbell**, our source at Fishermen's Marine. He predicts that it's about time for this fishery to pick up. The glacial origin of the river is also influential on water temperature. Fishing will improve as warmer weather overrides the natural upstream cooling system. Targeting summer steelhead isn't a bad plan as springers have been taking jigs, corkies and spinners intended for summers.

North Coast Fishing Report – Springer season is officially underway as some anglers in Tillamook Bay are posting up to 5 chinook for their efforts already this year. Trollers mostly working the upper bay at high tide or the lower estuary close to low slack, have produced some catches of fine sized salmon so far this year. These early springers tend to be some nice sized ones and although we've seen a down-turn in average size in recent years, fish in the 17 to 20-pound class are well worth the effort.

Although spinners are certainly a mainstay in the upper bay, in recent years, anglers are pleased to find consistent success trolling herring in this reach. High slack and just before seem to be the best times to target fish in this area. Most of the effort this week has been taking place down by the jetty where trollers have been having the best success on the last half of outgoing tide. Not many anglers have taken to the ocean fishery just yet but that may change with an improving ocean forecast.

River anglers are reporting fair action for this early in the season on the Trask River up to the hatchery. Bobber tossers should be finding increasing success as flows drop but it's clear that the rise in water levels has pushed fresh fish into the lower reaches of the Trask and likely the Wilson and possibly the Nestucca as well. Bay anglers will be excited to see flows drop as last year, a mid-May rain freshet sent a lot of fish upstream and out of reach of the bay fishery. Bank anglers working the hatchery hole did well for a large part of the spring season.

It's a bit early for summer steelhead but if you're on the Wilson or Nestucca systems, you at least have a chance. These coastal summer steelhead don't seem to take salmon gear as readily as they do on some inland systems. There is likely still fair numbers of spent winter run fish in the systems.

The Guide's Forecast – With the minus tide series already upon us, anglers should find the upper reaches of Tillamook Bay the most productive option for the weekend. Those taking advantage of the strong tides will hold or backroll with plugs but as we near low slack, trolling spinners or herring should produce results. This is the time of year we start to deem peak season for Tillamook spring chinook.

Anglers should also take advantage of the high tide in the upper bay. The last 30 minutes of incoming tide should produce results for trollers working herring in the upper bay. From the flats at the mouth of the Wilson, follow potential biters up to the Memaloose Boat Ramp hole for the last part of incoming tide.

Tidewater anglers may start to find fish holding in their favorite holes on this tide series. Target salmon as the tide drops towards low slack using bobber and bait; small clusters of eggs and shrimp tails. Upriver, anglers should see the same results as fish congregate into the deeper holes in anticipation of the next rain freshet. The obvious choice is the hatchery hole as fish begin to stage there for the remainder of the season. As you can see by the hydrograph, the river is scheduled to continue to drop for this week:



Despite an improving ocean weather forecast, the strong minus tide series won't make for great bar crossings this weekend. That's one of the reasons why halibut fishing has gone to the every other week scenario. Good numbers of quality bottomfish are present and even in the high tide exchanges, bar crossings *can* be easy if the ocean swell is tame. Ocean crabbing will offer up the best chance for crustacean success as well but don't count on limits this time of year. And here is an exciting ocean forecast:

THU

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT...STRONGEST IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 2 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

THU NIGHT

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

FRI

S WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 2 FT.

SAT

SW WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 2 FT.

SUN

W WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 2 FT.

And keeping with the theme of minus tides, bay clam diggers should do well this weekend, especially out of Garibaldi. A multitude of species should be available.

Central & South Coast Reports – Friendly offshore conditions greeted charter and sport craft out of Depoe Bay again on Tuesday this week, Most all boats reported limits of both rockfish and ling cod. Great results considering the 30-fathom limitation.

Very few halibut were caught over the first all-depth opener due to rough ocean conditions. A few were taken out of Yaquina Bay. The next three day all-depth opener will run Thursday through Saturday on May 22nd, 23rd and 24th. Offshore conditions look good for launches over the coming weekend, even as the precipitation starts again. The fish don't care if it's raining.

According to the ODFW, "Recreational Chinook salmon fishing this year should be good to great based on forecasted adult returns," but the reality has been quite different. Salmon have been either widely scattered rather than schooled or so far offshore only commercials can reach them. As a consequence, catches have been slow. There's still time for this situation to turn around.

Sport salmon boats launching out of Reedsport have been finding ocean Chinook, previously too far out for recreational craft, well within reach this week. Trollers are catching salmon in the 18-pound range although one lucky angler landed a 22 pounder on a herring. Inside Winchester Bay, the pinkfin surf perch fishery is getting off to its typical slow start. Rain over the past weekend stalled fishing on the Umpqua but it is bouncing back in style as water levels drop and decent visibility is restored. Shad fishing should resume soon as well but it may be in the coming week. Springers are just starting to enter the North Umpqua with catches reported recently at Swiftwater. The South Umpqua will reopen with trout season on May 24th.

Take advantage of minus tides occurring mid-morning this week. Coos Bay clamming is excellent during low tides near Charleston, off Cape Arago Highway and Clam Island. Once the tide starts coming in, fish rockfish along the jetties where results have been good this week. Crabbing has been slow with prolonged effort producing only a few keeper Dungeness for boaters.

Boats launching out of Gold Beach to fish Rogue Reef in Gold Beach have been catching ling cod, some of which weighed in at 30 pounds. Surf perch fishing has been particularly good for long rodders throwing baits from beaches in the area. Results will be best when the ocean is fairly calm. Last week's freshet brought good numbers of fresh spring Chinook into the lower Rogue and many have been caught this week. As the water drops and clears, catches are expected to slow but persistence will pay off for these fish. Middle river anglers have had a challenge with springer more interested in making their way upstream than in biting. It's been slow to spotty. Upper river fishers are faring well for spring Chinook from Shady Cove up to Cole Rivers Hatchery by drifting bait or corkies.

Boats launching out of the Port of Brookings returned with about five fish at the opener for ocean Chinook May 10th. This fishery encompasses offshore waters from Humbug Mountain to the Oregon/California border. Locating early salmon is the challenge as they could be anywhere but most are likely to be found inside 10 miles of port and near a food source such as shrimp beds. Once this fishery gets rolling, it's expected to be good. A 50-pound halibut, formerly a resident of 200-foot ocean depths, took a boat ride back to the docks on Saturday, May 10th.

ODFW sez, "Family fishing is coming to Waldport on Saturday, May 17 when the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and First Baptist Church of Waldport host a free fishing event at Eckman Lake.

"A feature of the ODFW Outdoors program, the event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Everything families need to experience an enjoyable day on the water – fish, fishing gear, and fishing instruction – will be provided free of charge.

"We're pleased to be working with the First Baptist Church to bring the 17th annual Eckman Fishing Derby to Waldport," said Christine Clapp, ODFW STEP Biologist. "This will be our first year on the new fishing dock funded by an ODFW Restoration and Enhancement grant, which will double the area for kids and their families to fish."

"To ensure that every child will catch a fish, ODFW will release 1,000 rainbow trout into a temporary enclosure in the lake just prior to the event. An additional 100 two-pounders will also be stocked.

"In addition to family fishing, there will also be a carnival at the event, complete with bouncy house, cotton candy and lots of other fun activities. Kids can also make their own fishing lures and flies, get some extra cast practice with a backyard game, and learn about fish anatomy and physiology while volunteers clean their catch.

"Eckman Lake is located about 2.5 miles east of Waldport on Highway 34. The family fishing area will be set up at Nelson State Recreation Area across from the First Baptist Church parking lot.

"The event is open to everyone, and no pre-registration is required. Anglers 13 years old and younger do not need a fishing license. Anglers 14-17 years of age will need a juvenile fishing license, which can be purchased for \$9 at any ODFW license agent, ODFW office or on-line at ODFW's website (www.odfw.com). Everybody else must have an adult fishing license. Licenses will not be sold at the event so individuals planning to participate should obtain their licenses ahead of time."

Burma Pond, Dutch Herman Pond, Fish Lake, Medco Pond and Lake Selmac have been planted with cooperative hatchery trout.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Fly anglers may reasonably expect fairly steady action on the lower Deschutes. We're not telling any secrets, here. The Big Bugs are a well-known phenomenon that's just getting started a little early this year. Stoneflies and Salmon flies are around though not in seasonal abundance - quite. There will still be the occasional Green Drake and Pale Morning Sun hatches with which anglers will have to attend. Overall, we'd have to rate the redbank fishing as good, though. Quite good.

Crooked River has been stable at 225 cfs for a while. As regulars are aware, trout residing here will go off the bite during water fluctuations.

Kokanee have been responding to jigs fish at 40- to 80-foot depths at Odell this week, Best results have been coming in the mornings with another bite starting up late afternoon. These are nice fish; good sized, fat and plenty of them. The launch at Princess Creek is easy with the water level up.

Fishing wet patterns deep has been producing chunky rainbows for fly anglers at South Twin Lake. Wolly Buggers have been effective lately as have Carey specials.

Trolling for kokanee has been effective at Green Peter with most boats picking up trout as well. The kokes have been running smaller than usual.

ODFW sez, "The upper John Day River will open to spring Chinook fishing this Saturday, under temporary rules announced today by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"The river will be open from the Longview Ranch's Johnson Creek Division bridge (located approximately 200 feet upstream from the mouth of the North Fork John Day River) upstream 19.5 miles to the mouth of Rattlesnake Creek near the south end of Picture Gorge from Saturday, May 17 through Sunday, June 1.

"The bag limit will be two adult Chinook salmon and five jack salmon per day; it is unlawful to continue fishing for jacks after taking a daily bag limit of two adult Chinook salmon. A fishing license including a Columbia River Basin Endorsement and a combined angling tag are required for this fishery. There are no developed drift boat launches in this area so fishing is expected to be from the bank only.

"Thanks to strong returns of Chinook over Bonneville Dam this year, we already have exceeded our escapement goals for the upper mainstem of the John Day River and have fish available for anglers to harvest," said Jeff Neal, ODFW fish biologist in John Day. Neal credits the strong John Day return to the on-going efforts of landowners working collaboratively to improve fish habitat and remove fish passage barriers.

"ODFW will operate a check station near Picture Gorge for angler information and to collect data. The station will be open during randomly selected days throughout the fishery. All anglers are encouraged to check in after fishing.

"For more information contact Jeff Neal or Brent Smith, district fish biologists, at 541-575-1167 x226."

Washington Fishing Update

WDFW NEWS RELEASE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

Razor clam digs set to start May 13 tentative dates listed through June 1

OLYMPIA - Clam diggers hoping for a few late-season razor clam digs on Washington beaches will have plenty of options to consider.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) today approved eight days of digging, beginning May 13. WDFW gave the OK for the series of digs after marine toxin tests showed the clams are safe to eat. No digging will be allowed on any beach after noon.

The agency also announced a list of proposed digs, which would run May 27 through June 1. Final approval of these digs will depend on marine toxin tests that will be conducted closer to the start date, said Dan Ayres, WDFW shellfish manager. The agency will announce final approval based on the results of the tests.

Ayres noted that the next series of digs includes dates at Copalis and Mocrocks beaches, which are co-managed with the Quinault Indian Nation (QIN).

WDFW was able to add days at Copalis because the QIN provided clams from their share to the state share, said Phil Anderson, WDFW director.

"This is a perfect example of how WDFW and QIN work together to co-manage this resource," Anderson said. "We appreciate QIN's willingness to share a portion of their harvest quota with us thereby contributing to the success of these final digs and providing an economic boost to businesses in the area."

The upcoming digs are scheduled on the following dates, beaches and low tides:

- May 13, Tuesday, 6:21 a.m., -0.6 feet, Twin Harbors
- May 14, Wednesday, 7:02 a.m., -1.2 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach
- May 15, Thursday, 7:44 a.m., -1.5 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach
- May 16, Friday, 8:27 a.m., -1.7 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis
- May 17, Saturday, 9:12 a.m., -1.7 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks
- May 18, Sunday, 9:59 a.m., -1.5 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks
- May 19, Monday, 10:50 a.m., -1.1 feet, Twin Harbors
- May 20, Tuesday, 11:44 a.m., -0.6 feet, Twin Harbors

Digs that have been proposed but not yet approved are tentatively scheduled on the following dates, beaches and low tides

- May 27, Tuesday, 6:24 a.m., -1.0 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach
- May 28, Wednesday, 7:06 a.m., -1.3 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach
- May 29, Thursday, 7:45 a.m., -1.4 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks
- May 30, Friday, 8:23 a.m., -1.2 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks
- May 31, Saturday, 9:00 a.m., -1.0 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks
- June 1, Sunday, 9:37 a.m., -0.7 feet, Twin Harbors, Long Beach, Copalis, Mocrocks

Under state law, diggers can take 15 razor clams per day and are required to keep the first 15 they dig. Each digger's clams must be kept in a separate container. Diggers may not harvest any part of another person's daily limit, unless they possess a designated harvester card.

Clam diggers and other beachgoers should avoid disturbing western snowy plovers, said Brock Hoenes, WDFW wildlife biologist. The small white birds, which nest on the state's coastal beaches from April through August, are listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as threatened and by the state as endangered.

Hoenes also asks that diggers avoid signed upland beach areas at Long Beach and Twin Harbors, which are closed to protect nesting western snowy plovers. At Long Beach, the closed area is located north of Oysterville Road from the state park boundary north to Leadbetter Point. At Twin Harbors, the closed area is located just south of Cranberry Beach Road and continues south for approximately 1.5 miles.

Razor clam diggers age 15 or older must have an applicable 2014-15 fishing license to harvest razor clams on state beaches. Fishing licenses of various kinds are available on the department's website at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov> and from license vendors around the state.

For updates on upcoming digs, visit the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish...s/current.html> .

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

A Million Trout Can't Be wrong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-LLC4ufV4dY&feature=youtu.be>

Surf Perch How-To from the ODFW

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/docs/odfwoutdoorsurfperchflyerfinal.pdf>

Fishing Resources from the ODFW:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/>

Easy Angling Oregon from the ODFW

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/easy_angling/

GOOD LUCK!