

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **May 23rd – May 29th, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – The reopening of the Columbia didn't prove overly productive in the high flows but some anglers produced fair catches of hatchery salmon from Westport near Wauna to the I-5 area. As numbers taper, so will catches but shad season is just getting underway. Steelhead numbers are climbing too.

Fish passage has picked up again at Willamette Falls with nearly 2,300 counted on Thursday, May 15th and almost 2,000 on the 16th. It's a positive sign when springers are on the move. Trollers are still using herring in Multnomah Channel with modest results. The stretch from Sellwood to the harbor has been slow for herring and prawn trollers. Hardware is an option as the water temperature climbs into the 60s. Backtrolling eggs or an egg and sand shrimp combo has been taking a few in Oregon City. Once a hookup occurs, allow the springer to take it and the trolling motor to set the hook. Trash fish and sea lions continue to be a problem here. Shad fishing has started at Oregon City and has been worthwhile at times.

McKenzie flows have been a bit unstable over the past week, varying between 4,100 and 5,000 cfs at Vida. Prospects will improve as it stabilizes. Summer steelhead are being caught as well as a few dandy spring chinook which have been responding to baits of scented roe. As summer steelhead numbers increase on the North Santiam, so have catches. Fish have been landed recently on drifted prawns, plugs and scented versions of the ubiquitous pink plastic worm.

Clackamas anglers have been scoring spring chinook on the lower river and upstream as more salmon enter the system. On a recent launch from Feldheimers, fly anglers scored a couple by drifting brightly-colored streamers. Most springers are hooked on bobber and eggs or spinners. Sea Lions have become a problem here as well, even above Carver.

With spring chinook numbers good on the Columbia, it follows that populations will also increase on the Sandy River where catches have improved recently. Catches also picked up for summer steelhead over the past week with spoons or spinners doing the job for many anglers. Others have connected with summers by drifting corkies with a bit of yarn or on bobber and jig. Algae has started to clog lines early this year.

While many lakes and some river and streams in Oregon already are open to fishing, the May 24 kickoff opens dozens of additional rivers, streams and even some lakes in central and northeast Oregon west to the Cascade mountain range and the Oregon coast.

The ODFW will host a free fishing event on Saturday, May 24 at Sheridan Pond.

There is no charge to participate in the event and everything a person needs to be successful will be provided – rods, reels, lures, bait and instruction from experienced anglers. People who have their own gear are welcome to bring it along. Plenty of fish will be stocked for this event.

Northwest – Last weekend produced nothing but frustration for upper Tillamook Bay anglers as moss has once again inundated the area. No doubt the nutrient rich waters of the Tillamook River is the problem child, severely compromising a once-productive spring chinook fishery. Fortunately, the ocean remained an option for some of the weekend but wasn't overly productive either.

The Trask River is once again a highlight of the area with both the upper reaches below the hatchery and tidewater producing good results. Success should taper however as tides wane and flow drop. By the

weekend, the lower bay and adjacent ocean waters should be the best bet on the weaker tide series. The Wilson and Nestucca also have fish present.

Bottomfishing remains good out of Garibaldi and the upcoming halibut opener should produce fair catches as well. The ocean will be the best bet for crabbing.

Southwest- At the first all-depth halibut opener, sport boats did well and most charter boats out of central ports limited for clients. The next opportunity will be May 22nd through 24th.

Surf perch fishing has remained good on the beaches of the south coast. Best results are on incoming tide through slack.

Spring chinook catches picked up a little on the Umpqua over the past week. With the water dropping, clearing and warming, shad have started hitting again at Yellow Creek and Sawyer's Rapids.

Boats launching out of Charleston are returning with fine catches of assorted bottomfish although chinook fishing has been slow as salmon remain scattered. Rockfish are being taken from the jetties inside the bay. Clamming was excellent in Coos Bay during the last series of minus tides but crabbing is still poor to slow.

Lingcod fishing has been excellent out of Gold Beach with anglers culling limits of large, healthy fish. Most are finishing up the day with rockfish limits as well. Waters of the lower Rogue are once again low and clear, a situation all too common this season, which has most anglers ranking the run as just fair. Guide boats have been getting one or two fish a day with most fish responding to anchovy/spinner combos. Catches are slow on the middle Rogue as anglers are fishing over springers anxious to reach the upper river as they have been doing in good number recently. The spring chinook bite has been pretty good on the upper Rogue but most of these early fish are wild, requiring release. Backbounced roe has been most effective.

As ocean salmon fishing opened out of Brookings on May 10th, offshore trollers found chinook ranging from the mid-teens to the high 20-pound-range ready to take on anglers' offerings. Catches started out slow on opening day but improved daily. Halibut is another option but the south coast quota of just over 3,700 pounds is expected to fill quickly. As of early this week, 79% of the quota was still available.

Diamond Lake trout fishing has been fair to good with some anglers taking eight-fish limits. Be prepared to deal with midges (gnats) at this time of year. They're out by the thousands.

SW Washington- Spring chinook catches still outnumber steelhead but catch rates are starting to wane. The Cowlitz remains a highlight with the Kalama and Lewis still closed and not likely to meet hatchery escapement goals.

The Wind and Drano Lake fisheries are also starting to slow but anglers working the bank near Bonneville Dam are producing good results still.

Shad fishing from shore should pick up dramatically in this week. It's a perfect fishery to introduce kids to.

Eastern – Despite the salmonflies hatching early and in abundance on the lower Deschutes, catches early this week were slow to fair. Springers are being taken at Sherars Falls.

Wallowa Lake has been fishing well with trout feeding heavily on black ants. The Wallowa River will be open for trout season on May 24th and is expected to fish well barring a high water event prior to that date.

If casting jigs to jumpers is unproductive at Green Peter, look for deep schools and troll through them to take kokanee.

Kokanee fishing has been fair to good at Wickiup recently for trollers using spinner and hoochie combinations.

Normally the domain of jig fishers at this time of year, both jig fishing and trolling have been producing kokanee at Odell.

ODFW Bulletin dated May 19, 2014:

Trout season opener, part II: the rivers and streams edition

SALEM , Ore. – Trout fishing enthusiasts will turn their attention to the state's rivers and streams this weekend, when dozens of moving waters open on Saturday, May 24.

While many lakes and some river and streams in Oregon already are open to fishing, the May 24 kickoff opens dozens of additional rivers, streams and even some lakes in central and northeast Oregon west to the Cascade mountain range and the Oregon coast. Popular fisheries opening this Saturday include:

The North and South Fork Santiam and Luckiamute rivers and Estacada Lake and North Fork Reservoir in the Willamette Zone.

The Trask, Wilson, Nehalem (including tidewater) and Nestucca rivers in the Northwest Zone.

The Umpqua, Rogue, Coos and Coquille rivers in the Southwest Zone.

Popular stretches of the Deschutes, Fall and Metolius rivers in the Central Zone.

Kinney Reservoir and Grande Ronde, Imnaha and Wallowa rivers in the Northeast Zone.

Chewaucan (downstream of Paisley), Williamson and lower section of Sprague rivers in the Southeast Zone. In addition to these big names, there are dozens of small, unknown creeks and rivers seldom seen by more than a few visitors. Here is a list of some lesser known streams that will quietly open to trout fishing this weekend:

Willamette Zone – Bear Creek, Gales Creek, Erma Bell Lakes, Gold Lake, Rickreall Creek, Salmon River, Tualatin River.

Northwest Zone – Big Elk Creek, Clatskanie River, Cook Creek, Deadwood Creek, , Indian Creek, Lake Creek, Lobster Creek, North Fork Siuslaw, Drift Creek (Alsea Basin), Drift Creek (Siletz Basin)

Southwest Zone – Applegate River, Elk River, Hunter Creek, Lobster Creek, Pistol River, Sixes River

Central Zone – Spring Creek, Wychus Creek

Southeast Zone – Deming Creek

Northeast Zone – upper Lostine River

"Oregon is rich in trout fishing opportunities," said Mike Gauvin, ODFW Recreational Fisheries Program Manager for Inland Fisheries. "There are places where you can get out and have a river all to yourself and there are other places that may be only a mile or two from town. It really boils down to what kind of experience do you want?"

Saturday is the second of two trout "openers" in Oregon. Many water bodies in the state opened for trout fishing on April 26. However, on many other rivers and streams the trout season is delayed until the fourth Saturday in May to limit unintended fishing pressure on juvenile salmon and steelhead as they migrate to the ocean.

Soapbox Update: It's time to help 2 great organizations! Please consider participating in one or both of these events:

The Sandy River Classic, helping fight the frivolous lawsuits aimed at closing our hatcheries:

<http://nwsteelheaders.org/sandy-river-spring-chinook-classic/>

Bounty on the Bay helps the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership restore critical fish and wildlife habitat:

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

Columbia River Fishing Report – It appears spring chinook action has picked up slightly from the previous week but maybe the bigger news is that summer chinook seem to be starting to show! Although it can be hard to differentiate between spring and summer run chinook, anglers in the lower river are reporting some exceptionally sized chinook recently. One guide reported releasing a 35-pound fish near Westport and retaining one in the 25-pound class. These brutes tend to signal the start of the summer chinook run which wouldn't be unprecedented but certainly unexpected. We're certainly fortunate to get this kind of opportunity, where spring chinook season bleeds over into our summer opportunity. Here's the creel check from ODF&W's work over the weekend:

Gorge Bank:

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook kept, plus one unclipped adult Chinook and one unclipped jack Chinook released for 27 bank anglers; and 101 shad kept for 47 shad anglers.

Gorge Boats:

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and four adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook released for 15 boats (42 anglers).

Troutdale Boats:

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook kept for 15 boats (29 anglers).

Portland to Westport Bank:

Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, two adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and five adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped adult Chinook and one unclipped steelhead released for 159 bank anglers.

Portland to Westport Boats:

Weekend checking showed 16 adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, 12 adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and three adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 13 unclipped adult Chinook and six unclipped jack Chinook released for 69 boats (170 anglers); and 42 shad kept for three boats (five anglers).

Estuary Bank (Clatsop Spit to Wauna Powerlines):

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped steelhead released for nine bank anglers.

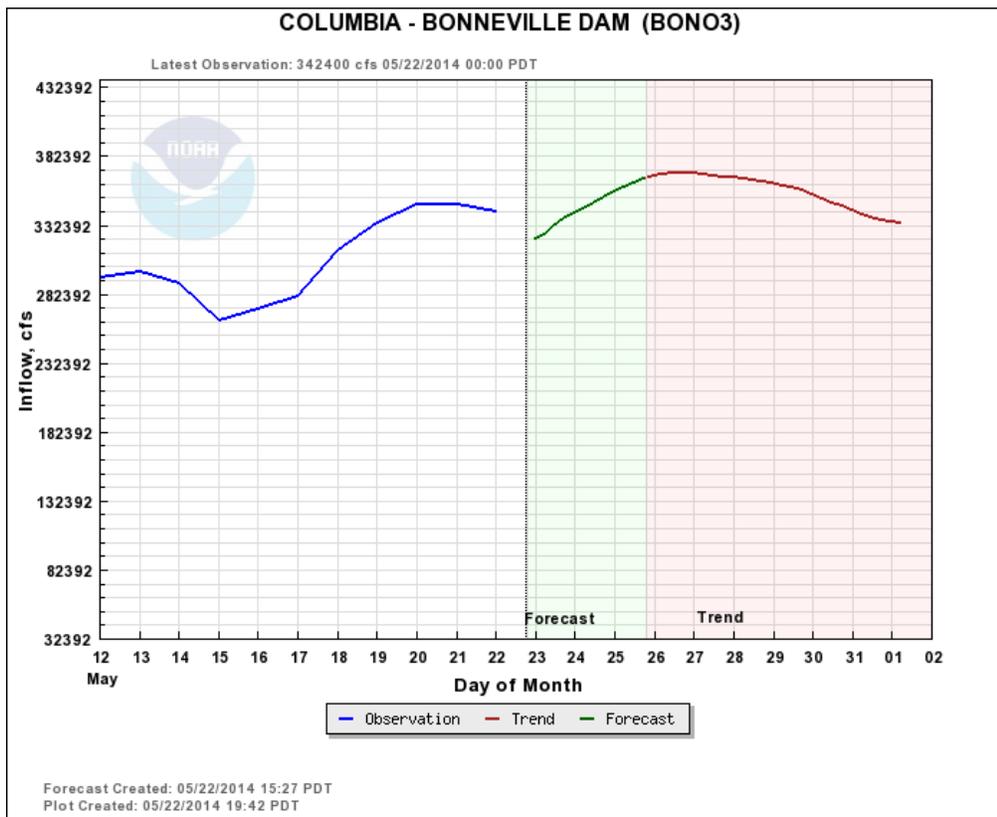
Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Wauna Powerlines):

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, six adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus six unclipped adult Chinook and one unclipped steelhead released for 22 boats (43 anglers).

The main method of harvest remains anchor anglers using plugs to entice strikes. Puget Island, Tenasillahe and the general Westport area does deservedly warrant much attention. Although numbers are clearly dwindling, opportunity should remain good clear through the summer chinook closure. Although we'll be expecting a continued decline of salmon on the mainstem, there should still be catchable numbers of chinook with growing numbers of steelhead. It's a good time of the year to fish in a relaxing fashion. With a good early showing of large fish, believed to be summer run chinook, we may be in for a larger than anticipated return of summer fish, due to peak by mid-June in the lower reaches of the mainstem Columbia.

The Guide's Forecast – High flows will continue to dominate the Columbia fishery, making them most accessible to bank anglers and boaters willing to target shoreline areas. The high flows certainly quell anglers success but at least we continue to have opportunity this time of year. Anglers fishing in these flows should target water less than 12 feet and hug lower Columbia islands where you see current breaks where fish will favorably migrate upstream.

Spin-n-glos and plugs will take the lion's share of salmon as well as steelhead in the Columbia; use hot colors when targeting steelhead, greens and chromes when targeting chinook. With some nice sized, what appear to be summer run fish in the system, you may want to consider beefing up your gear to handle these fish and the high water we're currently experiencing. Action should be equal from the Astoria area to Bonneville Dam with no one area likely to produce better than another but the Westport area near Wauna seems to be one of the more consistent sections for success. Bottom line, success rates will continue to be depressed as we spill water through the hydropower system to send our juveniles downstream (Yeah!). Here's the Columbia River hydrograph:



Switching to saltwater, the softer tides should offer up some opportunity for bottomfish out of the mouth of the Columbia. Look to the North Coast section for the offshore forecast. Lingcod and sea bass should be readily available.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Willamette Falls has passed over 6,000 springers from May 15th through the 19th although daily counts have started dropping off again. In addition, over 4,400 summer steelhead have been counted. These numbers will have anglers thinking about upstream tributaries, and rightly so according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**. Shad are thick in Oregon City now, **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** tells us. "Shad fishers are blocking the back-trolling routes," he said, and pretty much turning the area in the shad-only fishery. There was little spring Chinook action to be seen in Oregon City on Wednesday this week with the majority of boats anchor fishing rather than trolling. **Robert Campbell** added that shad fishing is expected to remain good for the next six weeks.

McKenzie flows have continued a trend of gradual moderation this week and are expected to be right at 4,000 cfs at Vida by Memorial weekend. Fishing has been fair to good, providing steady action for fly rodders. Gear use is restricted to flies and lures below Hendricks Bridge. Use of bait is allowed from Hendricks Bridge upstream to Leaburg Dam through the end of the year.

Summer steelhead are in the North Santiam in sufficient number now that they can frequently be seen by anglers. Catching them, as always, is another matter, but there are techniques specific to this river which have proven effective over time.

Largemouth bass are on the beds this week at Hagg Lake. They're spooky but can be tempted, particularly by soft plastic imitations. They'll often rush and crush a plastic lizard which imitates salamanders, notorious egg-eaters. Be sure to turn them back to complete the cycle of reproduction.

ODFW will host a free family fishing event Saturday, May 24 at Sheridan Pond from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. About 2,000 hatchery trout will be released into the pond for this event, including more than 100 "trophy" fish weighing at least 2 pounds and above. Fishing gear and instruction will be provided free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.

This week's trout stockings include Trillium Lake, Harriet Lake, Henry Hagg Lake, Sheridan Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir, St. Louis Pond, Timothy Lake, the South Fork Yamhill River, Blue River Reservoir, Carmen Reservoir, Clear Lake, Detroit Reservoir, EE Wilson Pond, Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Fall Creek, Foster Reservoir, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, the McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam, Quartzville Creek, Salmon Creek, and Smith Reservoir.

The Guide's Forecast – Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) told TGF by telephone today that while there are "still plenty of fish" in the lower Willamette that have been slow to bite. Oregon City remains most productive although the catch rate has dropped off recently. Back-trolling prawns, which are rigged to spin or whole sand shrimp without any other attractors or flashers, has been a successful technique for many, although diehards have continued to drag herring through much of the lower river with mixed results. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos: (503) 349-1377** reminds anglers that the head and inside Multnomah Channel has been productive at times. Incidentally, while the morning bite is generally the best, your day is not wasted if you miss it. A nearly equal evening bite has been occurring as well. Those thousands of springers which have crossed the Falls will move up into tributaries such as the McKenzie and Santiam where anglers should start taking them in the first week of June according to Campbell. Those fishing this upper Willamette will have an opportunity to catch summer steelhead on the Town Run. Tossing spinners or swinging flies will probably be the best bets. Campbell also mentioned that, for those interested in catch and release sturgeon, that it is excellent in Portland Harbor. A couple of his customers landed upwards of 20, many of which were keeper-sized, but quit fishing just because they got tired from landing so many.

Trout fishing will be fair to good on the McKenzie River but action here will trend towards summer steelhead and springers in the next few weeks. Those who fish here should equip themselves accordingly if they want to target these other species.

On the North Santiam, bobber and jig or a float fished with sand shrimp or coon shrimp has been effective in hooking a few summer steelhead but the bites will improve as more fish move into the system. Spinners will also produce strikes. Bobber and bait fishers are out in force at Waterloo and are taking fish occasionally but overall the South Santiam is slow. Spring Chinook are staging in impressive number, however, and should start entertaining anglers in the first week of June.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Clackamas summer steelhead have been responding to spoons for some anglers, one of which took fish on Tuesday and Wednesday this week, including a bright beauty that went nearly 11 pounds. Spinners are also drawing strikes now. Pods of spring Chinook are on the move with a few taking plugs.

Spinners in sizes 3 and 4 have been taking Sandy steelhead this week. Most fish are running around the eight-pound mark although a few in the 10-pound range have been landed. An early bloom of algae or what steelheaders commonly refer to a “moss” on Sandy has anglers frequently cleaning their fouled lines. Ironically, this glacial river is subject to potential periodic turbidity from glacial runoff in hot weather as we are experiencing this week.

The Guide’s Forecast – Both the Clackamas and Sandy are slow due to low water conditions according to **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos: (503) 349-1377**. He added that this has just been a slow year for springers on the Clack but that drift boaters are faring better than sleds. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman’s Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** told us that while “there are springers to be caught on the Clackamas,” it has just been slow.

Vertopoulos also mentioned that anglers on the Sandy River stand a better chance of catching a springer than those on the Clack as they have the chance to choose one river over the other. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman’s Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** told of a angler he knows personally who picked up “two or three springers this week” and went on to add that pressure is very light but that fishing will start to pick up around the 1st of June.

North Coast Fishing Report – Spring chinook remains the forefront species with offshore bottomfish an option as well. Most small boat, in-district anglers are taking advantage of a good early season spurt of chinook to the district. Fresh off the high water last week, catches were quite good on the Trask River with the Nestucca and Wilson as options too. Tillamook Bay anglers were largely left out last week because of a heavy moss bloom that fouls all gear trolled in the upper bay on the extreme tide series. The moss has been so bad, you can’t get a complete pass in the upper bay without compromising your presentation. It is such a frustrating situation that I have folded up my entire upper estuary option. Even with this large impediment, a few fish were taken between the Oyster House Hole and Ray’s Place Piling. This upper reach now only fishes effectively towards the bottom end of the tide when the moss isn’t so bad. The incoming tide can also produce results but it’s a long wait for a short window of opportunity. I would most often target high slack near the mouth of the Wilson River trolling herring near the bottom. This should always remain a fairly strong option.

After cancelling trips on Friday and Sunday, we did manage to get out on the ocean for a few hours on Saturday. Although we didn’t get an early start, we did fish the morning hours but didn’t see anything caught; at least in the way of salmon. We were told we missed some fish during the early morning hours but it was far from anything special. We managed 3 bites but they sure looked like sea bass bites to me, possibly lingcod. We did land one sea bass. The commercial troll fleet has been coming in with good

numbers of salmon; I'm just not sure where they are getting them. It sounds like some of the better ocean effort and catch is taking place north of Cape Falcon.

Tidewater anglers reported good results in the middle of last week. Backbouncers and bobber tossers produced good results downstream of the Highway 101 put-in. The Trask remains a hot spot with bank anglers scoring fairly consistent results near the hatchery. Now, with flows dropping and clearing and the tide series waning, action is also starting to taper. Motivated early morning anglers still stand a reasonable chance for a spring chinook close to the Trask Hatchery. The water upstream of the Trask hatchery to the Cedar Creek Boat Ramp can also provide good opportunity.

The Nestucca system also produced a few early returning fish but like the Wilson, won't produce quite like the Trask. Fish should be well distributed throughout all three of these major spring chinook producers but will become more wary as the water clears.

Few steelhead are being reported but with spring chinook in the system, anglers aren't targeting the steelhead lairs nearly as often.

Bottomfishers report good action for lingcod and sea bass out of Garibaldi. Much of the fleet remains focused to the south of the entrance to Tillamook Bay. Three Arch Rocks and south of Oceanside seem to be sufficient areas to target limits of bottomfish. Crabbing has been fair in the ocean as well but crabbers are reporting their catches are entering the softshell phase.

Halibut fishing opened once again on Thursday with results fair to good for most areas. Fish remain a bit on the small side. Flatfish anglers out of Garibaldi produced fair catches. This 3-day opener runs through Saturday.

Razor diggers fared well depending on the area you were digging in. Seaside and Gearhart produced good digs for most people but other folks had trouble finding quality clams. As we previously mentioned, there seems to be a clear absence of younger year classes so you may have to target clams in the surf for consistent success. The next minus tide series starts on Monday the 26th.

The Guide's Forecast – Now that we're entering peak spring chinook season, anglers should find more consistent success through mid-June. The late-breaking report from Wednesday is that there was a good bite at the jaws for several boats with one guide boat landing 5 springers trolling herring in the area. With the weak tide series upon us, anglers will want to focus their efforts in the lower reaches of the bay. With the good catches reported on Wednesday, it's clear that we didn't lose the entire run up the Trask, anglers should be working the lower bay out of Garibaldi. Target high tide on the bar and the last half of outgoing on the inside of the north jetty. Keep your baits close to the bottom where the biters are. You should see action on the peak part of the tide in this area. Don't overlook the ocean as an option, as long as bar crossings and ocean conditions allow. Trolled herring in the nearshore can yield you spring chinook and even abundant California stock chinook if you're in the right place at the right time. Be sure to obey bubble restrictions as chinook may only be retained in the control zone if they're missing their adipose fin this time of year. Although a bit unsubstantiated, trollers should find some degree of success targeting chinook outside of the control zone.

Passing over the north coast bars shouldn't be too much of a problem with the offshore forecast and a weaker tide series. Here's the offshore forecast:

FRI

SW WIND 10 KT...VEERING TO NW IN THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 10 SECONDS. SHOWERS.

FRI NIGHT

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 10 SECONDS. CHANCE OF SHOWERS IN THE EVENING.

SAT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT AT 8 SECONDS.

SUN

S WIND 5 TO 10 KT...RISING TO 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 4 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SUN NIGHT

SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT...BECOMING W 15 TO 20 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 6 FT. CHANCE OF RAIN.

MON

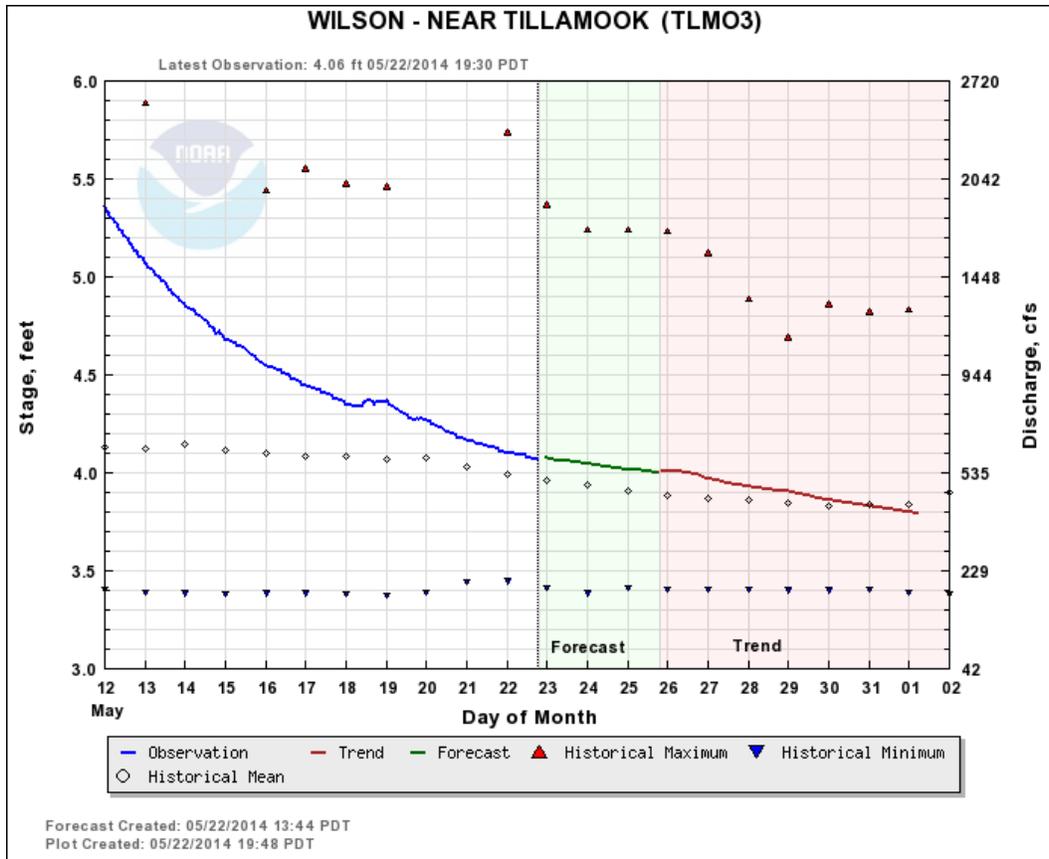
SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

TUE

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

Trollers inside the bay should find some success, particularly during the latter half of incoming tide and high slack. Trollers shouldn't be affected by the moss bloom on incoming tide with the upper bay likely to produce at high slack. Spinner trollers stand a fair chance at fish as well.

River anglers will find challenging conditions but stealthy, early morning anglers should find small pockets of fish in the deep runs of the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca systems. Anglers need to down-size their offerings with small clusters of eggs and shrimp tails being your best options. Tidewater should remain a fair option as well with the deeper holes likely holding fish for bobber and bait anglers. Dropping flows are in the forecast:



Big Creek Reservoir-1 & 2, Olalla Creek Reservoir, Alder Lake, Buck Lake, Cleawox Lake, Dune Lake, Erhart Lake, Perkins Lake and Siltcoos Lagoon have been planted with hatchery trout.

Central & South Coast Reports – With friendly offshore conditions on Wednesday this week, boats out of Depoe Bay managed early limits on Ling cod and rockfish.

All-depth halibut fishing is open again Thursday through Saturday this week with follow-up dates on June 5-7, June 19-21 and further dates in July if the quota holds out. Nearshore halibut may be taken inside the 40-fathom line starting on the 1st of July.

Offshore forecasts look fair for launches over the Memorial weekend with Saturday and Sunday predicted to be the better options.

Bass fishing has been good at Tenmile Lakes. A number of largemouth from three to five pounds have been landed which is notable in that Tenmile has historically been managed for numbers of bass rather than size.

Boats launching out of Reedsport are reporting slow to fair results for ocean Chinook. Salmon are also being taken a mile or two from the Umpqua River bar. In addition to good perch fishing from area beaches, pinkfin are being taken on their spawning run in the river above Winchester Bay with the best fishing to come in early June. Try the North Beach across from the East Boat Basin and marker 12 above the East Boat Basin. On the Umpqua mainstem above Scottsburg, algae growth has been creating problems for salmon anglers, fouling gear earlier this year than most. Shad fishing has been fair but will improve as water levels drop. Popular locations such as Sawyers Rapids and Yellow Creek will fish best

when the water is low and the weather is sunny. Smallmouth bass fishing has been good and is expected to only get better in the absence of storms to muddy the water. Soft plastics have been taking fish as have night crawlers. North Umpqua springer anglers are starting to pick up a few fish, particularly in the Swiftwater area. While the South Umpqua opens on May 24th with the trout season, it is noted more for a very worthwhile smallmouth bass fishery.

Crabbing in Coos Bay is slow although a few legal Dungeness are being taken by boaters. The Coos and Coquille rivers open above tidewater for trout fishing on May 24th. Anglers are encouraged to use artificial lures and flies to protect late-season anadromous fishes which will be past their prime at this time of year anyway.

Increased water temperatures has resulted in a decrease in springer catches on the lower Rogue recently. Fish are being taken here and there on anchovy/spinner rigs and some days are a little better than others but overall it has just been slow. The odds of a hookup are best early in the morning. With springers wasting no time getting to the upper Rogue, catches on the middle river have remained slow. The upper river spring Chinook bite improved a little this week as air temperatures cooled, with most of the action for those who are on the river early mornings. Lure anglers have taken a back seat to those fishing roe or shrimp and backbouncing has turned the trick for a number of springer hopefuls. Diver and bait is effective though not recommended when there are wild fish in the river as deep-hookups and high mortality are common with these rigs. This will become more of an issue as percentages of hatchery fish drop in June. A few boat limits have been reported but those results were in the minority. Bank fishers have had the best results at the Hatchery Hole.

In the past, the ODFW has issued regulation updates in booklets that cover halibut and ocean salmon rule changes. This year, the agency saved a little coin by putting this information on a single page and distributing it as a leaflet. Find information here:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/finfish/halibut/>

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/salmon/>

Three anglers fishing Diamond Lake all took limits on Wednesday this week. Remarkable in their catch, however was the 25-inch rainbow that topped 5 1/4 pounds.

Red Top Lake, Willow Lake, Applegate Reservoir, Lost Creek Reservoir, Spaulding Pond and the Rogue above Lost Creek have been planted with hatchery trout.

The ODFW reminds boaters this week: "All vehicles carrying motorized or non-motorized boats (kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, sailboats, etc.) are required to stop. Motorists are alerted to inspections stations by orange "Boat Inspection Ahead" signs followed by a white "Inspection Required for All Watercraft" sign. Failure to stop at an inspection station could result in a \$110 fine."

Boat inspection will take place at the following stations around Oregon:

- Ashland: I-5, Ashland Port of Entry, 7 days a week, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Ontario: I-84 and Hwy. 20 at Ontario Rest Area, 7 days a week, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Gold Beach: Hwy 101, Wed.-Sun., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. *
- Klamath Falls: Hwy 97 at Midland Rest Area, Wed.-Sun., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. *
- Lakeview: Hwy 395, south of Lakeview, Wed.-Sun., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Central and Eastern Oregon – While the Salmon Flies are hatching in good number now, the trout have yet to really key on the big bugs. Expect plenty of participants on the river, though, as any fly

anglers consider this to be the fly fishing event of the year. Anglers should be aware that the annual Maupin Riverfest will be taking place this coming weekend and prepare accordingly.

Waters of the Crooked River have stabilized at 250 cfs which is an improvement over previous variable flows.

Fishing has been fair to good at Crane Prairie. Some kokanee are being taken by trollers while rainbow and brook trout are responding to brightly-colored spinners.

Kokanee are being caught on trolled hoochies at Wickiup with fish averaging 15 inches. A few browns are being taken on trolled plugs.

An early morning bite at Green Peter has been followed by mid-morning wind this week. Launching at Thistle Creek is easy, Whitcomb will require a little wading and moving of wood debris.

Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) mentioned the Mt. Hook lakes such as Trillium, Clear Lake and others have been very productive for bait fishers targeting trout.

The Cascade Lakes Highway opened for the season on Tuesday this week. The ODFW also announced that a 13-mile stretch of the Wallowa Mountain Loop road, also known as the North Pine section of FSR 39, is closed for construction. For the latest info, click here:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/wallowa-whitman/alerts-notice/?cid=stelprdb5440926>

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

Subscriber Mike S. wrote via the Contact Form at the TGF website to as 'A question or two.'

"I grew up in Klamath Falls and almost exclusively fished for lake or river trout with a basic spinning reel setup (hook, swivel, split shot, and/or bobber combo or lure) from a bank. Its been probably 10 years since I fished regularly so I'm a bit rusty.

"I now live in the Albany area and have 2 kids (8 & 6) and I want to expand my fishing skills and options (fly fishing, salmon, steelhead, bass, catfish, from a boat, etc.) and teach them more than I learned. I definitely like learning materials that include diagrams and pictures as they're worth a thousand words...

"What would you suggest?

"I understand that The Guides Forecast has a lot of info regarding tides, success trends, hot spots, etc. Does your members section have the sort of tutorial information that I'm looking for?

"If not, is there a particular book or three, website, other resource that you could suggest to at least get me started?

"Thanks for the time."

TGF co-editor and pro guide Bob Rees (503-812-9036) replied,

"Hey Mike,

"You may want to look at our Technical Report series link on the left side of our home page: www.TheGuidesForecast.com for a start. There are some good books available too; one in particular from Robert Campbell on rigging. Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor stores has a good selection.

"We are in the process of digitizing our technical reports. When those are complete, we're confident they'll be the most valuable visual resource on the market!

"Thanks for being a TGF subscriber and we hope to be able to continue to help you catch more fish!"

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Orcas in Tillamook Bay, 05/16/2014: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FW_SC3dsgLc#t=51

If you dare - How to clean Shad:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=fTAqJWTTm4I

Trees for Wild Salmon - USFS Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEOPVkiulIM>

GOOD LUCK!