

[The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 25](#)

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 20th – June 26th, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – For the metro area, anglers remain focused on summer chinook, targeting fish largely in the Gorge and around St. Helens. Anchor anglers at Bonneville report fair action but like other sections of the river, wild fish outnumber hatchery fish. Spinners are starting to play a larger role in chinook success and steelhead numbers are on the increase as well. Trollers and anchor anglers working the St. Helens area are producing sporadic results and will soon have more emphasis on steelhead in the coming weeks.

Spring chinook counts have topped 23,000 at Willamette Falls while over 11,000 summer steelhead are now upstream to the delight or dismay of tributary anglers. Water temperature at the Falls peaked at 68 degrees on June 12th but has been falling into the lower 60s since then. On the lower river, shad fishing is good for those in the right location although recent sewage spills may put off some anglers. A very few boats are trying and fewer springers have been hooked over the past week at Fred's Marina, at the head of Multnomah Channel and at Coon Island. Algae is fouling gear. Adult springers are due to return to the Coast Fork Willamette this year according to the ODFW.

McKenzie reddsides have been falling for Pale Morning Duns, Green Caddis and on the upper river, Green Drakes. Conditions should be excellent for fishing this week. According to the recently released results by the McKenzie River Trout Study, populations of native rainbow and cutthroat have dramatically increased since 2010. Leaburg Lake has been producing limits to Power Baiters.

On the Santiam system, no one has reported taking advantage of the recent increase in the bag limit on summer steelhead to four per day. When asked, most steelheaders say they feel lucky to take one here. Try spinners or bobber and jig on the North Santiam although fishing has been slow.

Once again, spoon fishers have scored on the Clackamas River over the past week. Most of the catches have been springers but a few summer steelhead have also been landed with this method. There has been a decent evening bite recently.

Sandy River steelheaders have been scoring occasionally on drifted corkies and spinners. Some dandy spring chinook have been landed although many have been wild, requiring release.

As the ODFW drains E. E. Wilson Pond near Corvallis for weed removal, anglers are allowed double limits of 10 trout and/or 10 bass. Once drained the pond will not re-open until February, 2015.

Northwest – The North of Falcon salmon season opened on Saturday with less than impressive results. Small coho and chinook made up the bulk of the catch; limits were nearly unheard of. More productive fishing was discovered recently however with good catches of mostly coho coming from over 400 foot of water, SW of the Columbia River Buoy. Each month, the coho will grow significantly larger, it's expected to be a banner ocean year for coho and chinook.

Saturday marks the South of Falcon (near Manzanita) opener with coho the primary target out of Garibaldi. Halibut and bottomfish should also be a strong option with the upcoming offshore weather forecast.

Spring chinook action in Tillamook Bay is largely over but savvy river anglers still have some fair opportunity in the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca systems. Low, clear water calls for small baits and light

leaders but fish will largely be in deeper holes under these current conditions. Bobber and bait is most effective given these conditions.

Summer steelhead are available in the Wilson and Nestucca systems as well but will be challenging to catch.

Soft tides should bolster crab opportunity in most north coast estuaries but the ocean will remain the best bet until later in the fall.

Southwest- While ocean chinook fishing has been spotty out of central Oregon ports, many are anticipating the opening for offshore coho on June 21st. Only hatchery fish may be kept but reports of large early-season fish has anglers excited. The 80,000-fish quota is unlikely to be met so the season should run its full course through August 10.

Following the last all depth halibut fishery off the central coast, 42% of the quota remains to be caught with the next opening June 19 through 21. If fishing is decent, it could wipe out the spring quota. Nearshore halibut will open on July 1 with summer all-depth halibut starting in August.

Many thought the south coast halibut fishery would wrap up quickly but over half the quota, nearly 2,100 pounds, remains to be taken.

While offshore launches have been challenging and salmon fishing has been spotty out of Reedsport, catches of pinkfin surf perch have remained fair to good in the lower Umpqua. Shad fishing is over but the smallmouth bass bite should improve with warmer weather this week. A few springers have been caught recently around Sawyers Rapids.

Launches were limited out of Coos Bay over the past week due to rough offshore conditions. Larger charter boats reported quick limits of rockfish and lingcod but chinook remain scattered.

Following many days of high winds, boats were able to launch periodically over the past week out of Gold Beach in soft breezes on a friendly ocean. Results for anglers have been stellar with quick lingcod limits followed by strong catches of colorful rockfish. Ocean crabbing has been equally rewarding. Spring chinook catches picked up slightly on the lower Rogue although the water remains too warm to fish well. The middle river remains a dead zone for fishing although upper Rogue anglers have continued to do well for incoming springers. Cured egg and sand shrimp combos have been most effective with plug-pullers also taking a few. Summer steelhead numbers are picking up.

Gusty winds kept boats inside the harbor at Brookings over much of the past week. When bar crossings have been possible, ocean chinook fishing has been good.

Eastern – Metolius fly fishers have been having success with Pale Evening Dun and Green Drake patterns.

Ochoco Reservoir is not producing very many trout but the rainbows coming out of there are averaging over 15 inches.

Owyhee River is producing trout to fly anglers throwing smallish mayfly patterns. Large streamers or Woolly Buggers may get a grab from large brown trout in the evening hours.

Fly fishers at Hosmer have been taking decent numbers of rainbows on various patterns. A few Atlantic salmon have been landed recently although they are no longer being stocked here.

SW Washington- Most district anglers will be shifting their focus on the mainstem Columbia for summer steelhead and an occasional chinook. A weak tide series this weekend however won't bode well for bank success however.

Both boaters and bank anglers are still doing well for spring chinook on the Cowlitz River. With low flows and concentrated numbers, now is the time to effectively pursue pooled up fish with bobber and bait. Some summer steelhead are starting to show in the catch.

The Lewis and Kalama remain quiet.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Summer salmon season is in full swing on the lower Columbia River. With counts at Bonneville consistently eclipsing 2,000 fish, action also remains consistent for anglers downstream of Bonneville Dam. Starting with Bonneville fishers, as is typical, action remains sporadic for anchor fishermen targeting chinook in the fast water. Most anglers are finding success between 10 and 16 foot of water but few boatmen have the proper anchoring equipment to get the job done. Safety comes first so high quantities of rope and scope are necessary. Although the spinner bite typically takes off this time of year, plugs, particularly Flatfish, are producing consistent results. You still can't enter this fishery with large expectations but 2 to 10 chances per day, depending on your anchor lane should not be a surprise. It may just take a few warming degrees to trigger a better spinner bite. The best fishing around the Bonneville area seems to be the shad rack. Boaters are beginning to target summer steelhead here too but it takes a motivated early morning angler to get one of the rare rock outcroppings in this reach of the river. Those rocky outcroppings seem to be a productive pinch point for steelhead and an occasional steelhead. Here's the ODF&W Gorge report:

Gorge Bank:

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook released for 29 bank anglers; and 565 shad kept for 105 shad anglers.

Gorge Boats:

Weekend checking showed eight adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, two adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 18 unclipped adult Chinook, two unclipped jack Chinook and two sockeye released for 35 boats (106 anglers); and 725 shad kept for 30 shad boats (99 anglers).

Troutdale Boats:

Weekend checking showed four unclipped adult Chinook released for 24 boats (54 anglers); and two shad kept for one shad boat (three anglers).

Further downriver, anchor anglers working the Kalama reach are doing fairly well for chinook in the deep water. Reports of double digit opportunities are likely accurate as we near the peak of the summer chinook run in the coming weeks. Anglers are targeting the outgoing tide using mag-lip plugs but prior to max ebb, Flatfish seem to be doing the trick. On a recent outing with Trey Carskadon and Buzz Ramsey, the group claimed nearly 15 opportunities, easily landing their limit over the course of the day. With action this good prior to peak migration, it's not unreasonable to think that this run might be coming in larger than expected. Although not entirely common in this stretch, it remains one of the better reaches to target deep water chinook this time of year. Anglers further downstream in the Astoria area don't tend to post catch rates like this section of river with spring chinook typically more productive in that lower reach. Summer steelhead however, become a favorite along these lower Columbia Beaches and action should light up in the coming weeks. Summer steelhead catches are improving daily but the last week if June through mid-July will prove to be the best. Here are the ODF&W catch rates for this section:

Portland to Westport Bank:

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and four adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped adult Chinook, one unclipped steelhead and five sockeye released for 121 bank anglers.

Portland to Westport Boats:

Weekend checking showed eight adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and 12 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus five unclipped adult Chinook, one unclipped jack Chinook, five unclipped steelhead and one sockeye released for 39 boats (97 anglers).

With a weak tide series upon us, this is not the best catch rate week for steelhead.

Those motivated enough to go offshore are commonly finding great catches of coho. It took a while to pin them down, but charter boat captains found the mother lode in the deep water SW of the CR Buoy recently. Limits were the rule until Thursday, when a reverse northerly flowing current seemed to have scattered the fish. **Pro guide Andy Betnar (503-791-4094)** reported 9 a.m. limits for he and his people on Wednesday, yet struggled to find the fish by Thursday. Such is the nature of ocean fishing. Coho in the 4 – 7 pound range are making up the bulk of the catch with few chinook available in this area. Effort targeting chinook along the Long Beach Peninsula remains fairly fruitless. The drop-off in coho success was highly likely an effect of the shift from a southbound to a northbound current. Dramatic temperatures shifts or current changes disrupt consistent patterns of feeding for these fish.

Sturgeon fishing remains a knock-down, drag out bonanza with few people taking advantage of it. Reports of ample numbers of jumping sturgeon on the ship channel of Desdemona Sands is providing excellent sport for those interested in participating. Action using sand shrimp and fresh anchovies is very impressive. To quote a local guide, "Doesn't seem to matter where you go, the sturgeon are there."

With all the other options on the table, adding rockfish is another good one. Still seeing relatively low angler effort, it could be a good weekend for good action and catch. Lingcod remains somewhat elusive but plan on limits of black sea bass for those that know how to work the south jetty.

The Guide's Forecast – Bonneville anglers should begin to see more consistent results as passage numbers continue to increase. Numbers were nearing 3,000 per day at mid-week and should continue to climb with peak passage likely the last week of June through early July. Spinners should turn on but until we hear more consistent success, it's best to stick to with plugs wrapped with tuna or sardines. Steelhead numbers are climbing and sockeye numbers are busting loose. Smaller spinners or small spin-n-glos tipped with coon shrimp. Hot colors such as pinks, reds and oranges commonly take the steelhead.

A soft tide series and friendly seas in the upcoming forecast should make offshore options attractive for those that want salmon, halibut and bottomfish. Target coho SW of the Columbia River mouth knowing the chinook bite may again turn on to the north. Higher numbers of summer chinook should begin to congregate from the lighthouse to the condos on Long Beach. Fresh trolled anchovies will be a staple for both species. Keep in mind that if you target chinook, you don't have to be on the bottom like in our freshwater fisheries; start out shallow (8 to 18 strips in 25 to 35 foot of water) going deeper as the day progresses.

Bottomfishing should be excellent along the south jetty too. Be sure to target high or low slack on the sunken jetty; you stand the best chance for lingcod on the steeper edges of the sunken jetty.

Not the best tide series to target in-river salmon or steelhead. Wait until the following week when stronger water velocities will concentrate higher numbers of fish closer to the beach.

You'd be a fool not to take advantage of some awesome sturgeon fishing right now. Bring down sand shrimp if you're going to target fish upstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge, fish smelt or fresh anchovies if you're below the bridge. Anchovies will work just fine above the bridge too. They're everywhere!

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Willamette water temperature is down to 60 degrees at the Falls with spring Chinook passage tapering off which summer steelhead are crossing steadily. Over 11,500 summers are upstream along with more than 23,000 springers, most all of which will have entered upper river tributaries by now. Smallmouth bass have recovered from spawning in the lower Willamette and are on a good bite according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**

McKenzie flows have settled down following a little bump in the level earlier this week. Due to snowmelt, anglers may expect levels to be slightly valuable, however.

There was some question on the June 10th change in regulations on the Santiam system. Anglers are now permitted to keep up to five hatchery trout and four steelhead a day in the mainstem Santiam River, the North Fork to the markers upstream of Packsaddle Park and in the South Fork to the markers below Foster Dam. There has been no report (yet) of any four-steelhead limits.

The Guide's Forecast – Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) reports that spring Chinook fishing has been producing fish on the lower Willamette but has been productive only towards the deadline below the Falls. Space and technique is understandably limited in this area. While spinners have been effective, most salmon anglers are taking fish with bobber and bait or by anchor fishing wrapped Kwikfish. Campbell also said there were "lots of summer steelhead" passing through the lower river and that it was another opportunity. He went on to say that while shad fishing is starting to wind down that it's still possible to load up on crab bait. Expect catches of both springers and shad to continue for a couple of weeks with both fisheries about over after the Fourth of July.

Fishing on the McKenzie for summer steelheading is good enough to actually say it "it's good" this week. Steelheaders are reporting multiple hookups and a few three-fish limits have been taken. Results have been better early in the day with drifted corky and yarn effective this week. If summers are willing to bite, spoons, spinners and jigs should also draw strikes. Trout fishers should do well with caddis patterns or a nymph under an indicator.

While the North Santiam is at good level for steelheading, there's no free lunch on this river. As one pro guide said, both skill and luck are required. That said, summers are in the system in catchable numbers. There are some tricky spots of which drift boaters should be aware and some channels have become too low for passage. **Scout ahead.** Springers are available at the confluence and up into the lower South Santiam. Spinners or cured salmon eggs have been effective at times.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Precipitation overnight on June 18th put additional water into both the Clackamas and Sandy river systems and with it, fresh spring Chinook and summer steelhead. Catches have been spotty but this time of year, it will require a combination of right time, right place and appealing offering.

The Guide's Forecast – The Clackamas River is "as good as it's gonna get for springers" according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**. He went on to predict another two weeks of decent fishing although anglers on the river have been challenged with early algae growth which most anglers refer to as 'moss.' Most successful hookups have come with bobber and bait. Spring Chinook and steelhead are both susceptible to a well-presented spinner on the Sandy River.

Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) reports that there are some springers around on the Sandy River as well as summer steelhead. He advises fishing early or late in the day for the best chance of a hookup at this time of year. Best results will likely come from the Dodge Park to Troutdale stretch. Cover the maximum amount of water possible for the best chance of success. Try drifting a beautiful bait of cured eggs. Or try it under a bobber. In addition to being a real temptation to summer steelhead, spring Chinook like to eat 'em too!

North Coast Fishing Report – The spring chinook on Tillamook Bay is done. Effort in the estuary has dropped off dramatically for that reason. Boaters are anxious to get after the coho and a rare offshore chinook when the ocean lays down (which is now). Coho opens on Saturday.

River fishing for springers is fair at best in the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca systems, in that order. You need to fish small baits in the slow, deeper holes where fish are concentrated. Be sure you know the regs as bobber and bait is the rule in many reaches. Summer steelhead are in the Wilson and Nestucca systems too but not in any great number.

Crabbing was reported as excellent in lower Tillamook Bay but almost all the crab are soft-shelled. The fresher the bait, the better the results. The ocean isn't much better for quality crab; we'll have to wait a while.

The Guide's Forecast – With low water conditions, there isn't much to get excited about in this district. You'll have to be quite savvy given the low water conditions but early mornings tend to be the most productive and not for a very long period of time. Spinners can be more effective during the daylight hours but you'll have to cover a lot of water to find a motivated fish.

If you go offshore, I don't expect the bite to be spectacular but there should be some 5 to 7-pound coho around. Chinook will be rare. Troll in 180 to 300 feet of water NW of the Tillamook Bay entrance. That way, if the NW wind kicks up in the late morning, you can ride the wind waves back to port. If you drop your crab pots, you'll likely fill them up but they'll be mostly of the softshell variety. The bay should also produce well on this soft tide series but those too, will be soft.

Central & South Coast Reports – Reports out of Depoe Bay indicate an improvement in ocean crabbing with as many as a dozen keeper Dungeness in each pot. Crab are not all hard at this time of year so culling even the keepers is necessary. Bottom fishing remains good with limits of rockfish a common occurrence although half-limits (one per angler) has been common recently.

All-depth halibut is open Thursday through Saturday this week (June 19-21). With good fishing this week, it is possible that the remaining quota will be taken. If so, anglers seeking deep-water flatties will have to wait for the summer opener in August.

Chinook fishing has been open for a while offshore although catches have been spotty except for boats launching in the southwest corner of the state. Central coast anglers are hoping for an improvement but starting Saturday, June 21st from Cape Falcon south, fin-clipped coho 16 inches or better may be included in the daily salmon bag limit (of which only one may be a Chinook). The 80,000-fish quota should allow coho fishing to run through the scheduled August 10th cutoff.

Mark your calendars for the non-selective coho season which will open from Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mt. on August 30 and run through September 30th or a quota of 20,000. Non-selective means all coho of legal size, hatchery or native, may be kept. In addition, if all of the 80,000 coho allowed in the selective season have not been caught (which is likely) the additional numbers will be rolled into the non-selective quota for the selective season.

Recreational mussel harvesting is closed from the South Jetty of the Columbia River to Cape Arago State Park, south of Coos Bay. All other recreational shellfish harvesting is open.

Vegas odds were 2:1 that albacore would be inside 60 miles by Saturday, June 21st.

The south Jetty at Yaquina Bay has been producing ling cod and kelp greenling for rock fishers.

Steelheading has been slow on the Siletz but this fishery is due to start producing in the next couple of weeks.

Boats launching out of Reedsport have been catching Chinook regularly over the past week but the opportunities have been few as the bar at Winchester Bay has been closed or restricted more often than not. Jetty fishing has been fair for rockfish, good got striped perch and greenling although few have been trying for any of these species. A few springers have crossed into the lower Umpqua and salmon fishers have been hooking some on the lower river. Smallmouth bass fishing has heated up and is expected to improve even further over the next few weeks. Shad fishing never did really get hot and remains slow to fair this week.

The lower Rogue picked up a little additional depth and flow overnight June 18th but is forecast to gradually drop over the next week. Spring Chinook fishing is an early morning affair. Prospects will improve with cooler weather if it causes the water temperature to drop a few degrees. Early summer steelhead are being taken, though not many, with fly anglers having a slight edge here. Springers continue to pass through the middle River, rarely pausing to bite or strike. It's not worth fishing the Grants Pass stretch. Spring Chinook fishing is entering the peak of the season on the upper Rogue now, although catches have been good one day, fair the next. Good quality cured eggs seems to be key, either fished behind a diver or back-bounced.

Ocean Chinook fishing has remained strong out of the Port of Brookings whenever offshore conditions have allowed boats to launch. Bottom fishing has been good for both rockfish and ling cod with halibut catches fair to good. Fishing has been fair to good for resident cutthroat in the Chetco River. Sea-runs will start up later in the year. We'll report on it.

Trout fishing has slowed at Diamond Lake due to cold weather this week. Bait continues to work best although trout are biting very lightly. A stretch of warm weather should rejuvenate fishing here.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) mentioned one again this week that there is some "great trout fishing" available in Mt Hood lakes and suggested Trillium or Clear Lake.

The lower Deschutes is fishing best from Trout Springs to Macks Canyon with Pale Morning Duns and Caddis imitations most productive.

The challenging Metolius River is fishing about as well as possible with Green Drakes hatching downriver near the hatchery and some Golden Stone action upriver.

Crooked River flows have leveled off at 225 cfs for now. It will invariably fish best when flows are stable at any volume.

Lookingglass Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River at Palmer Junction, closed to fishing for hatchery spring chinook on Wednesday, June 18, with the harvest quota reached. Anglers enjoyed decent 18 days of fishing here.

Fishing has slowed at Klamath Lake where algae growth and poor water quality has sent trout up into the tributaries.

East Lake has been fishing well and is expected to continue to do so for several weeks to come. Results will be good in the area of either campground. Only clipped rainbows may be kept and those have been hard to come by recently. Trolled plugs have been taking German Browns over the past week.

Timothy Lake is producing good catches of legal -sized trout, fair to good numbers of small kokanee and, as usual, lots of crawfish.

Lake Billy Chinook has been rewarding trollers using downriggers with some dandy bull trout.

Crane Prairie has been fishing well. producing good-sized kokanee, large brook trout and a few of those rainbows for which it's best known - the ones that are measured in pounds rather than inches.

Flashers and hoochies trolled at roughly 40 feet are taking good numbers of kokanee averaging 12 inches or better at Odell. Traffic has been heavy recently.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links - NEW ODFW Trout Stocking Maps:

Northwest Region

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?vps=2&hl=en&ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=214908543798798432115.0004ac48fd67609bb5183&dq=feature>

Southwest Region

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=214908543798798432115.0004c1e5a639b8073848a&msa=0&dq=feature>

Northeast Region

<https://maps.google.com/maps/ms?msid=214908543798798432115.0004ca760e849542c51bb&msa=0&dq=feature>

GOOD LUCK!