

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 25th – July 31st, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update

Willamette Valley/Metro – Steelhead remain the best game in town, at least for a little while longer. Bonneville boaters are tallying the best catches, running spinners and spin-n-glos along rocky outcroppings, which are few and far between, in the gorge. With water temperatures climbing, it's likely the bite will soon taper even though the run has yet to peak. River mouths at upstream tributaries should start to produce better catches as fish seeking out the cooler waters become susceptible. Anchor anglers still have another month before significant salmon catches occur.

Spring Chinook and summer steelhead counts at Willamette Falls have dwindled to insignificant levels. While the lower Willamette is providing a fair to good fishery for smallmouth bass, Multnomah Channel has been producing decent numbers of walleye, some larger than 24 inches. Pressure is picking up as the word gets out but there seem to be good numbers of fish for all.

The level and flow of the McKenzie River bumped up early this week but in the absence of precipitation this week, it should be dropping nicely through the weekend, providing opportunities for trout anglers and steelheaders.

Clackamas flows will show only a slight increase which should be brief in duration with already-low levels dropping further through the weekend. Steelhead are available in reasonable number and have been responding to spoons and spinners. While springer catches are not as frequent, drifting roe is the best way to entice a bite.

Cooler temperatures and a little precipitation may break the cycle of glacial runoff on the Sandy River this week but count on seeing it run milky as soon as the temperature starts rising again. Steelheading is fair on hardware but concentrate on the upper river early and late in the day. A good springer year is predicted but expect skinny water conditions.

Northwest – The offshore salmon season continues to delight. It's been a productive week out of Garibaldi with some anglers reporting easy limits last weekend. Crabbing is picking up too although a fair number of the keeper-sized Dungeness remain in a soft-shell state. Halibut action has tapered slightly with the last statistics indicating 1 in 4 anglers lucky enough to keep a prized flatfish. Albacore chasers are having a good time trolling clones and casting swim baits at about 35 miles out. It won't be long before they respond better to live bait, however.

Further north, the Buoy 10 fishery is still over a week away but anxious anglers are pursuing ample numbers of salmon just outside of the mouth of the Columbia. Catch rates for hatchery coho are great and chinook catches are beginning to pick up again to the north, along the Long Beach Peninsula. Ocean catches will only continue to improve as salmon begin to stage just outside, waiting for ideal conditions to cross the bar.

Astoria tuna chasers are having great success trolling and working swim baits and jigs. Boats putting in a full day are taking home between 30 and 45 fish per day with the average size around 16 to 20 pounds. Seas were excellent at mid-week but are forecast to deteriorate by the weekend.

Minus tides over the weekend may afford one more week of productive plunking for steelheaders working lower Columbia beaches. Use hot colored spin-n-glos on the minus tides.

Southwest- Charters out of Depoe Bay have been taking good numbers of salmon ranging from a fish-

per-rod to limiting out. Rockfish catches remain strong and ling cod to 15 pounds are being caught.

The majority of salmon catches out of central Oregon ports are hatchery coho while southern ports are producing primarily Chinook.

Nearshore halibut fishing is another option for offshore anglers. These fish aren't as plentiful nor usually as large as those outside the 40-fathom line although a 60 pounder was taken out of Newport over the past week. It's open seven days a week.

With wind and wave forecasts mellowing this week, prospects for surf perch will be improving. Almost any beach where waves break closer to shore, indicating deeper water, will be productive. The limit is a generous 15 fish but keep only what you need.

The coast-wide closure of mussel harvesting was lifted on July 17th with the Oregon Department of Agriculture determining they are now safe to consume.

Coho limits and near-limits of ocean crab are being taken by boats launching out of Winchester Bay. Limits of pinkfin perch were still being taken by boaters this week around marker 12 on the lower Umpqua despite the run winding down.

Charleston has held the top spot for tuna catches over the past week despite the fact that albacore have been holding 30 or so miles from the beach. The reward of large fish has been worth it for those capable of making the trip.

Offshore wind has been problematic but boats have managed to get out of Gold Beach periodically to troll for Chinook and coho. Results have been a little spotty but salmon are being landed every day. Decent numbers of fall Chinook are being taken by bay trollers and summer steelhead that are in the bay now will soon be entertaining anglers upriver. The lower Rogue is also producing Chinook while half-pounders are being caught between Quosatana and Lobster Creek. Summer steelheading is spotty on the middle river. Anglers back-bouncing bait are doing best for summers and springers on the upper Rogue despite low flows. Open fires are banned on the Rogue from Graves Creek to Watson Creek as fire danger is rated as extreme.

Boats out of the Port of Brookings have been experiencing excellent results for Chinook to 30 pounds. It's not unusual for boat to fill limits in less than an hour although most are releasing smaller fish to cull a limit of larger salmon. Speaking of which, coho are already hitting eight to 10 pounds with a 14-pounder landed over the past week. That's huge for this time of year.

Eastern – Steelhead counts at the Sherars Falls Fish Trap started to show in mid-July. Numbers and catches will be picking up in coming weeks. With the salmon fly hatch over, caddis patterns are fooling reddsides around Maupin.

With Fewer fish available to anglers and warmer water temperatures, ODFW biologists decided to close spring Chinook fisheries in the Imnaha, Wallowa and Snake rivers beginning Sunday, July 27.

Results will be improving on the Wallowa River as levels drop sufficiently for fly fishers to wade while targeting trout.

Trollers using hoochies behind a dodger are taking limits or near limits of kokanee at Wickiup. The daily bag limit here is 25 fish.

SW Washington- The Cowlitz continues to put out fair to good numbers of summer steelhead, mostly for boaters. Although catches are tapering, bank anglers fishing near the Barrier Dam have been scoring

some spring chinook. Fish are beginning to darken however.

The Drano Lake fishery is beginning to take off although effort remains relatively light. Despite the majority of fish in the system of hatchery origin, only about half of those caught on sport gear are take-home. This should be a good week for this steelhead fishery.

Beach plunkers working water downstream of Vancouver should fare well for steelhead through the weekend. Spin-n-glos tipped with coon shrimp should produce the best.

Columbia River Fishing Report – In just another week, this section of the report will look drastically different. Until then, we still have some great steelhead returns to look forward to and sturgeon catch and release fishing remains excellent in the estuary.

Steelheaders continue to take advantage of what looks to be an excellent return this year. As catch rates clearly indicate, warming mainstem Columbia waters are beginning to effect the catch rates. It likely didn't help that a weak tide series and dropping mainstem flows aren't concentrating fish along the river shore, which strongly favors plunkers.

Not unusual for this time of year, hatchery fish outnumber wild fish but catch rates for the more aggressive wild fish are much better than catch rates for hatchery fish. While this often frustrates sport anglers that put in so much time and effort for these fish, do we really have a right to complain about catching and releasing a wild steelhead? I know, we Oregonians really like our consumptive opportunity! Me especially!

Boat anglers working the gorge are running more hardware now that water temperatures are rising. Small spinners are taking fish but hot-colored spin-n-glos and coon shrimp are responsible for the loss of many lives as well. Boaters are sticking to rocky out-cropping's, targeting fish just on the upstream side of these features. Fish are moving throughout the day but catches are typically best in the early morning hours. Chinook are scarce now as we transition from summer to fall chinook. In just another week, it won't matter whether or not your chinook has an adipose fin! Catches will likely continue to taper even though passage is on the increase. Here is the gorge catch rates for the week:

Gorge Bank: *Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and six adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped steelhead released for 41 bank anglers.*

Gorge Boats: *Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped adult Chinook and 13 unclipped steelhead released for eight boats (29 anglers).*

Troutdale Bank: *No report.*

Troutdale Boats: *Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two unclipped steelhead released for 37 boats (77 anglers).*

Middle river bank anglers and boaters didn't fare all that well despite high numbers of fish present. As we mentioned earlier, coupling higher water temperatures with a mediocre tide didn't help matters either. Here are the middle and lower reach catch reports from ODF&W over the weekend:

Portland to Westport Bank: *Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two unclipped steelhead released for 25 bank anglers.*

Portland to Westport Boats: *Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus five unclipped steelhead released for 20 boats (50 anglers).*

Estuary Bank (Clatsop Spit to Wauna Powerlines): Weekly checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept for five boats.

Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Wauna Powerlines): No report.

The bigger story continues to be offshore fishing for salmon and tuna. Starting with salmon, with growing numbers of coho and chinook staging off of the mouth of the Columbia, catch rates continue to impress, almost as if this is the good 'ol days. Guides are reporting early limits, especially for coho and chinook still seem a bit absent from the catch. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reported coho were plentiful and if they weren't culling their catch, looking for chinook to the north of the condo's along the Long Beach Peninsula, they would have been done around 8:00 a.m. Instead, it took them until 11:00 to get just 2 chinook and the rest coho. Still, a rather nice day to be on the water. Fishing to the SW remains slam dunk as well with ample numbers of hatchery coho available to the anchovy troller. Admittedly however, when the bite was a little bit slow for me the other day, and I subscribed to dropping the baits down deeper as the morning progressed, I didn't find any better results on the deeper rods. Just goes to show, this is a guideline, rather than a must-do technique when it comes to targeting late morning salmon. It's only going to get easier as more fish arrive just outside of the Columbia River entrance. All it takes is a fast trolled anchovy to get the job done.

For those that took advantage of friendly seas early this week, tuna were ready and willing if you made it out far enough. We hit blue water and temperatures around 62 degrees about 30 miles offshore. Although we were in rafts of Velella jellyfish often, it didn't seem to impede our success. Here's more on this jellyfish: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Velella>. With a 4:30 departure, we had high hopes for an early morning bloodbath. We were sorely disappointed. Most of our first half-dozen fish came slowly, as in one or two fish at a time. They weren't hitting "iron," as tuna chasers call the jigs we use, until later in the morning. After we had our first 6 or 7 fish on board, we finally had our first double (most of our trolled-up tuna came on cedar plugs). After circling around to our starting point, we cast the iron jigs over the side and immediately starting taking fish 4 at a time. It was mayhem for a short while until the action stopped and we started trolling again. We had a few multiple fish stops but it was hunt and peck until we put 37 in the tote, well iced and headed for home. We came across multiple whale spouts and a large school of what I believe were pilot whales; likely several different pods totaling about 50 whales total. It was a very cool experience! Overall, it wasn't a great day for everyone on the tuna grounds, despite awesome weather. Most boats caught under 20 fish each. We happened to have a couple of productive stops that made our day however.

Back in-river, sturgeon fishing remains excellent but it seems the biters aren't as well distributed as they have been. We had to hit several different locations before finding a willing school but when we landed on them, it was epic. Fresh anchovies scored numerous large fish with very fish falling under what has historically been the lower slot size. Most fish were between 45 and 65 inches and obviously fed well over the winter. We have a healthy smelt population to thank for that. We had our best luck just above the bridge on the Oregon side, where we found ample numbers of jumping and active sturgeon in only 5 foot of water. They were aggressively feeding and doubles and triples weren't uncommon. Although the water temperature is warming up, this shouldn't terribly compromise the opportunity here.

Estuary crabbing in the lower Columbia remains less than impressive. That should change in the near future but for now, the sport crabbers best option is the ocean and some softshells remain in the catch.

The Guide's Forecast – Starting with freshwater, it's clear that steelhead fishing will remain mediocre, which seems odd as we near peak passage dates for the summer run. The fact remains, temperatures are rising and fish will go off the bite. A strong tide series over the weekend may bump success rates but consumptive enthusiasts will likely remain disappointed in their options for take-home quarry. Wild fish will likely continue to make up the bulk of the catch. Spinners in the gorge and spin-n-glos tipped with

coon shrimp will continue to take the lion's share with the latter the best option for downriver plunkers. Look for action to pick up slightly by the weekend when the heavier flows will draw fish closer to the shoreline where flows are slightly less intense.

The bigger news will continue to be the offshore option as coho and a growing number of chinook should start staging on both sides of the river mouth. Boaters beware of a strong outgoing tide this weekend but bar crossing conditions look good for Friday and Saturday. Heck, we might as well give you the offshore forecast now. Be sure to be cognizant of the afternoon winds that are forecasted to blow. You'll want to go early, assuming the bar is safe to cross:

FRI W WIND 5 TO 10 KT...VEERING TO N IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT AT 11 SECONDS. CHANCE OF DRIZZLE IN THE MORNING.

FRI NIGHT N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 14 SECONDS.

SAT N WIND 10 TO 15 KT...RISING TO 15 TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 15 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 4 FT AT 14 SECONDS.

SUN N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 6 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT.

MON N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT.

You'll have to choose if you want the easy limit; go to Buoy 2 and head SW for coho, or head north to the condo's off of Long Beach to see if the chinook are running. Of course you can still get ample numbers of coho offshore there but they may not fall quite as quick. Either way, troll fresh anchovies for best results, starting shallow in the early morning and dropping baits down as the day progresses. Don't hesitate to work bait balls if you see them; they are quite consistent. If you're not finding your chinook to the north, you can oftentimes just simply head to 70 or 80 foot of water to the north and get into your coho. If you drop crab pots out there (there is a lot of commercial gear there), you have to abide by the regulations for the state's body of water that you're crabbing in. It is productive but be prepared to cull through some soft-shells.

Don't overlook sturgeon fishing if you get your salmon quickly. The flats just out of Hammond can provide great opportunity for catch and release fishing. If you're more serious about your sturgeon outing, you'll want to spend more time just upstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge where willing biters should be taking your fresh anchovies quite readily. Tongue Point and the water upstream has not been all the productive lately.

Tuna chasers do have some options prior to Sunday but be prepared to fight your way back to port on the afternoon trade winds. When temperatures vary like they're predicted to between the coast and the Willamette Valley, the winds will blow.....hard. Live bait will certainly produce results but trollers working cedar plugs should continue to do well. Do bring your hardware to jig once you get into a troll-caught fish, they are responding quite well to P-Line jigs.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Primary activity on the lower Willamette is of the of non-angler recreational variety. Jet skis and wake boarders outnumber fishing boats many times over. Despite this situation, **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** reminds us that there is a "world-class smallmouth bass fishery" available to anglers here with best results occurring before those aquatic hot-rodgers are out of bed. **Campbell** mentioned that

catch-and-release sturgeon fishing is an option although catches were "just OK" as most of these fish have moved out of the river at this time of year.

Precipitation this week caused an increase in flows on the McKenzie River, from 2,200 cfs to 2600 cfs over the past week although levels started to drop the morning of Thursday, July 24th. Conditions are expected to be good over the coming weekend although sunny weather will once again make early and late day fishing the most productive.

Water levels of the North Santiam were little effected by precipitation this week and are expected to drop slightly over the next few days to a decent level for steelheading. South Santiam water levels are predicted to drop a bit over the next couple of days, then remain low but stable into August.

Ollie Damon, a name all anglers know and many of us have frequented for reel repair, is being forced to move from the location from which they have been doing business for decades. They are seeking a new location of 4,000 square feet or so and dedicated parking.

The Guide's Forecast – While walleye fishing was pretty good in Multnomah Channel earlier this week when clouds obscured the sun for much of the day and occasional rain showers fell, now that bright days have returned, these fish will be a little more challenging to coax too the hook. Using worm harnesses and a nightcrawler trolled with a 'walker' type lead right on the bottom is the best approach. Steelheaders will do well on the Town Run with Willamette Falls summer steelhead counts 5,000 fish higher than at this time last year. There was an advisory to avoid the water in this stretch to an abnormal number of dead fish (sculpins) but that advisory was lifted earlier this week.

McKenzie fly anglers targeting trout should stay the caddis course as these insects will remain the staple for fish through summer months. Carry Adult, nymph and pupa variations. Steelheaders should find quarry and numbers are up although the fish have been slow to take this season. Once again, hit that magical first light period to put the odds a little more in your favor.

Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) recommends the North Santiam for steelhead and rightly so. While fish can be found scattered throughout the North Santiam, the upper river will reliably hold better populations due to access to cooler water. The Line Hole which is located about a mile below Packsaddle held scores of springers a little earlier this week although only a few were caught. North Santiam waters are better known for steelhead and there are plenty of them in the river now; heck, you can see them. Convincing them to bite or strike has been problematic this week, however. Try around Kimmel Park where fly anglers have hooked a few recently. On the South Santiam, good numbers of fish have been showing at the base of Foster Dam with the stretches from Wiley Creek to Pleasant Valley boat ramps, around Waterloo County Park, and from Lebanon down to the confluence with the North Santiam most productive. About 1,750 spring Chinook and 2,300 summer steelhead had entered the fish ladder, as of July 17th. Anglers are reminded that the daily bag limit on the Santiams has been increased to four salmon and steelhead per day, of which no more than two may be salmon. **Campbell** also shared this sage piece of advice: "You can't get 'em if you stay home."

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Low, clear water has been a challenge on the Clackamas River and one that isn't gonna get any better according to river forecasts. Not only will the level drop further into the coming weekend, water temperature will increase slightly. It's summertime in Oregon.

Sandy River water conditions improved with cooler weather and precipitation earlier this week but as warm weather returns, milky, glacial water is expected to make another appearance.

The Guide's Forecast – Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-

5600) describes the Clackamas as an "early day/late day fishery." Not the least of which reason is the number of men, women, girls, boys, kids and dogs who float the river for grins 'n' giggles on virtually anything inflatable although fish are more likely to respond in the early morning and late evening hours in the summertime. Drifting from Barton Park is an option and anglers are allowed into the area early in the day. Hardware has been taking fish with spinners more effective than spoons recently

Fishing is poor to fair on the Sandy, depending on who is being asked. TGF asked **pro guide Paul Coppinger who works at Fisherman's Marine (503-557-5600)** and he reported that the water was running glacial with an 18-inch visibility when he drifted it last week. While he caught no salmon or steelhead, he did land four more sturgeon while back-bouncing eggs. Coppinger has fished the Sandy for years and this is the first year he has encountered sturgeon, but this has occurred on a couple of occasions now. **Coppinger** predicts that "fall chinook will be unbelievable." While most of these fish will be wild, requiring release, he boated 17 hatchery fish last fall. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** also pointed out the Sandy will continue to receive bright Chinook through the summer and recalled one season when he "caught a chrome bright fin-clipped fish in September."

North Coast Fishing Report – With freshwater options largely too challenging for most, anglers with boats are the ones making the headlines out of Garibaldi. Reports of easy limits and lots of action are keeping ocean anglers quite excited. Although coho are still running a bit small, who can complain with the results we're seeing? Boats are typically heading NW out of the bay entrance and getting their fish in 150 to 190 foot of water on trolled herring as fresh anchovies are not available here. If you start your day early enough, you're often rewarded handsomely. As recent as Wednesday, guides were reporting some tougher fishing however with long days finally paying dividends. Boaters headed to deeper water (220 to 260 foot) found all of their fish eventually but had to sort through a bunch of natives to get there. Some anglers are still touting the trolled shad chunks and hoochie option. Seems to be another consistent this year.

Crabbing as some say is "stupid". Hopefully, more hard-shelled crabs are starting to show. The fresher the baits (got tuna carcasses), the more impressive your catches will be. Fresh salmon carcasses are producing fine catches too.

Tuna seekers are doing just fine out of Garibaldi but that can change at a moment's notice. Blue water and temperature variances are making it hard for some mid-coasters to find success. Those currents are always highly variable but anglers are often very willing to give up numbers to help each other out. There seems to be plenty of tuna for everyone. It's shaping up to be one of the better years in recent history. For those that didn't grab the offshore forecast out of the Columbia portion, here it is:

FRI W WIND 5 TO 10 KT...VEERING TO N IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT AT 11 SECONDS. CHANCE OF DRIZZLE IN THE MORNING.

FRI NIGHT N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 14 SECONDS.

SAT N WIND 10 TO 15 KT...RISING TO 15 TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 15 SECONDS.

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SUN N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 6 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT.

MON N WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT.

Nehalem trollers continue to be impressed with the number of summer chinook around. The weak tide series last week produced fair catches at the bar with some fish coming in the high 20 pound class. There was some action higher up in the estuary (Wheeler) but most of the effort was down low, along the jetties, taking advantage of a nice hold-over tide series. That will change this week.

Bay crabbing is fair in Nehalem and Tillamook but high demand will continue to limit success. These estuaries are a great place to take the family crabbing although you still have to follow some safety guidelines.

The Guide's Forecast – A stronger tide exchange will make bar crossings a bit more iffy but a small swell forecasted for Friday and Saturday shouldn't make bar crossings all that treacherous. Be sure to check our home page for bar conditions or call the coast guard before heading out. It's a safe investment. We don't want any more summer fatalities.

For salmon anglers out of Garibaldi, you definitely want to run NW in anticipation of strong NW winds that are likely to hit by late morning. Start in 150 to 170 foot of water and work your way SW until you find some good schools of fish. Be sure to mark your fish finder as those schools will often stay put where you can make more than one pass achieving results. The earlier you start, the more productive your trip will be. Frozen herring are what's most available, use fresh if you have the chance.

Halibut remains open and although only 1 in 4 or 5 anglers is coming up successful, they are typically pretty nice fish when you get one. Slow drifted sardines, shad or large herring should produce results if you work it long enough. You'll want to target water deeper than 175 feet.

Tuna should remain very available for those willing to make the run. Keep cedar plugs in your arsenal as swim baits and clones seems to be a distant second. Live bait is hard to come by but if it's available, you'll do well.

Nehalem anglers will be challenged by the high tide swing but Wheeler and Nehalem area trollers should see some fair catches over the weekend. It will get much better in August but this fishery remains your best bet for a fresh, river-caught chinook this time of year. The spring chinook in the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers are getting dark.

And speaking of rivers, summer steelhead certainly remain an option for Wilson and Nestucca River anglers. You'll want to work broken surfaced waters pretty early in the morning however. Small baits will be a must.

Estuary crabbing won't be great given the strong tide exchange. It may be best to wait for the following weekend when tides soften again.

Central & South Coast Reports - Charters are running tuna fishing trips now and results have been good to spectacular. Albacore are running large for this time of year with one returning to Depoe Bay that scaled 35 pounds. Most have been in the 18 to 20 pound range, however, which isn't bad for the third week in July.

When contacted by telephone today, **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** stated, "ocean salmon fishing is phenomenal." He went on to mention that coho are on the rebound and it remains to be seen how many fisheries will be effected by this rejuvenated run. Coho catches have been good out of Newport and Depoe Bay with everyone taking home at least on hatchery silver and most catching limits. The ODGW estimates that just over 21% of the 80,000-fish quota had been harvested as of July 20th.

Most Charters are returning with limits of rockfish for all out of central Oregon ports. Occasionally, catches will include halibut which may be taken seven days a week in waters 240 feet or shallower. Ocean crabbing has been good with pots and traps coming on board with as many as a dozen keepers.

On July 24th, the **ODFW** sent the following update regarding the Central Oregon Coast Subarea:

Summer All-Depth Season—opens August 1-2. There will be an announcement by noon on Friday, August 8 if quota remains for additional dates. Additional dates possible are every other Friday and Saturday (next possible dates are Aug 15-16).

Nearshore Season— Opened July 1, seven days per week. Through July 20, 7,768 pounds have been landed, leaving 14,506 pounds (65%) of the quota remaining.

Sea-run cutthroat trout have started entering ocean tributaries and will provide many weeks of action. Bait is allowed tidewater sections of coastal rivers but only artificial lures and flies are allowed upstream. Not many are yet around but there have already been some dandies landed.

On June 20th, the ODFW closed mussel harvesting over the entire Oregon coast due to a naturally-occurring bio-toxin which can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning. On July 17th, this ban was lifted as biologists determined these bivalves are once again safe to eat.

Boats launching from Winchester Bay to take tuna is good news to locals. There had been no albacore taken out of Reedsport over the past three years. Ocean coho fishing has improved with fish moving closer to shore and holding in water 150 to 200 feet deep although they have been seen feeding right on the surface on occasion. The bay has given up a few salmon with a bank angler catching a couple of coho on a spinner near the Highway 101 Bridge this week. Chinook have started entering the bay but show no interest in striking lures. A few have been taken by trollers near Reedsport where the water temperature is a little higher. Crabbing has continued to improve in the bay with limits reported by some boats over the past weekend and some dock crabbers taking limits this week. One boater pulled a trap with 23 keepers in it. Smallmouth bass fishing on the mainstem above Scottsburg has been spotty but on good days it's been excellent.

A few Chinook are being taken by herring trollers at the bar on Coos Bay. Catches are spotty now but will improve in to August. Bay crabbing has been good with boats returning with limits of Dungeness. Mild minus tides this week will allow bay clamming which can be excellent near Charleston, off Cape Arago Highway, and Clam Island even under these conditions.

Guide boats trolling the bay that the bite slowed a little this week although Chinook can be seen in excellent number. The most recent catch reports indicate a fish per angler so no one is going home disappointed. Trolling anchovies on Rogue River Rigs is used to near exclusion of all other methods here. Warm water has slowed results for early summer steelhead on the lower Rogue although first light anglers are picking up a few on spinners. Bait fishers, spinner flingers and plug pullers are all picking up steelhead occasionally on the middle Rogue. Chinook may be kept on the upper Rogue through the last day of July only. Retention closes on the 1st of August. Egg and shrimp combo baits drifted under a bobber has been most effective this week although plugs have fooled some late-season springers as well. Most of these fish will be showing some color this time of year. Bucks will cut better than hens, the latter of which are consuming bodily resources in egg production. It's still considered early in the summer steelhead season on the upper river but catches have been quite good. This bodes well for the season ahead.

Salmon fishing success rates fell to about 60% overall for anglers launching out of the Port of Brookings. Unlike central and northern Oregon ports where the majority of the salmon being taken are coho, 90% of the salmon caught out of Brookings are Chinook.

Central & Eastern - Steelheading has been slow to fair on the lower Deschutes River. Summer steelhead counts, while modest, have continued to show improvement at Sherars Falls although none of either wild or hatchery origin has been seen upstream at the Pelton Dam facility.

Anglers targeting smallmouth bass on the lower John Day are having great success now. While April is the time to target larger fish, now is the time for numbers. If you've ever wanted to catch 100 fish in a day, the lower three miles of the John Day will deliver.

Wallowa Lake has been producing good catches of trout with best results coming to fly anglers using nymphs near the inlets. Kokanee fishing has been non-productive here.

Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) reports the MT' Hood lakes as fishing well and gave a particular tip o' the fishing hat to Timothy Lake as a best bet.

East Lake has continued to fish well for rainbows, browns and kokanee. Trout anglers should carry Callibaetis patterns in all stages.

Fishing is fair to good for trout at Crane Prairie. Concentrate efforts in the channels where fish tend to congregate in warm weather. Catch them with bait dangled under a bobber. Bass are hitting right on the surface until the sun puts light on the water. Pay attention to the signs posted around the reservoir advising against swimming or wading. Swimmer's Itch is a real pain in the privates. See **Random Links**, below, if you must know more about it.

Hundreds of anglers are catching thousands of kokanee at Odell. This report seems exaggerated but it comes from the resort so it must be true, right? A report of a toxic blue-green algae bloom at Shelter Cove has been a concern to some anglers but the advisory apparently stated not to cook or wash with lake water. It remains to be seen if this has any effect on the derby scheduled for August 16th.

Wickiup is producing fair numbers of kokanee but they are of good size. Hoochies behind a dodger or flasher has been effective. Trollers report catching a few bullhead catfish on this gear over the past week.

Green Peter has continued to produce good numbers of small kokanee. Trollers are tossing back two out of three fish to keep those large enough to be worth cleaning. One may reasonably expect to take a dozen or 15 fish 10 to 12 inches long in this manner.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Reefin' Summer Smallies:

http://www.fishinfo.com/fishing-articles/article_594.shtml

Bill Herzog's Advanced Kokanee Tech:

<http://calsportsmanmag.com/cs-exclusives/news-item5/>

Parasites - Cercarial Dermatitis (also known as Swimmer's Itch):
<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/swimmersitch/faqs.html>

GOOD LUCK!