

[The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 35](#)

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 29th – September 4th, 2014**

Willamette Valley/Metro – Anchor anglers remain anxious for the upriver brights to show in better numbers. The greatest amount of effort will take place between Longview and Portland with anglers fishing wobblers in the deep shipping channel where temperatures remain coolest. Estuary catch rates jumped on Sunday and Monday, indicating the run may finally be underway. Counts at Bonneville look like they're about to take off.

Chinook counts at Willamette Falls switched from spring to fall in mid-August although there have been fewer than 100 counted. There are still 20 or 30 summer steelhead making their way over the Falls every day despite the 73-degree water. Smallmouth bass fishing remains good on the lower river.

Water flows at the McKenzie have stabilized at 2,400 cfs at Vida. Fly anglers will do well to use Caddis and midge imitations in low water conditions.

The Santiam system is low and clear, offering little of interest to anglers. Fishing prospects are expected to improve into September and October.

Sandy continues to run glacial gray-green in color and offers little in angling prospects. Steelhead are in the Clackamas but have not been biting. Coho will trickle in even in current extreme low water conditions but the fishery will get underway in both rivers with fall rains.

Northwest – Larger numbers of chinook finally started to show in the Astoria area on Sunday. Those sticking it out through high slack found great chinook action above the bridge on the Oregon side both Sunday and Monday. Tides are strong enough to take cold, saline water well above the Astoria/Megler Bridge, stimulating the bite through the first part of outgoing tide. Both coho and chinook are now present in good numbers. Complicated regulation changes are likely to take effect beginning August 30th so check the ODF&W web site for the area you plan to fish.

Unless the north coast chinook run was also compromised, fall-run chinook should start to show in good numbers in the Tillamook, Nehalem and Nestucca systems in the coming weeks. The ocean will be the best option and offshore regulations relax to where anglers are allowed any salmon; coho or chinook, fin-clipped or not beginning August 30th. It's a season anglers haven't seen in decades. Fish close to the bay entrances to target fall returning chinook, especially at Tillamook. Ocean and bay crabbing should also produce good catches of quality Dungeness.

Offshore tuna fishing looks to be a viable option from now through Friday. Live bait should produce the best results but hardware proves effective this time of year as well.

Southwest- Long-range offshore forecasts from the NOAA indicate the long holiday weekend should allow for ocean launches.

While the ocean holds abundant herring and anchovy this year, tiny, baby crabs are the primary food source for coho in some locations. With coho growing rapidly, offshore anglers need to know how to distinguish them from Chinook until the next fishery opens August 30th. On that date through September 30th of fulfillment of quota, all coho may be kept in addition to Chinook.

Tuna fishing has been good out of Newport and Depoe Bay for boats which have been able to find schools of active, biting albacore.

Excellent results for deep water halibut resulted in catches the remaining quota, closing all-depth halibut

from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain. The Central Oregon nearshore fishery remains open seven days a week through Oct.31 or the quota is attained.

Winchester Bay has been producing large Chinook with several reported over 30 pounds and a few over 40. Crabbing has been good in the bay, excellent offshore.

When boats have been able to get out of Coos Bay and offshore conditions have allowed for the 30 mile trip, fishing for tuna has been worthwhile producing an average of seven albacore per angler. Tuna have been running 25 to 35 pounds. Crabbing inside Coos Bay has been good.

Ocean Chinook fishing out of Gold Beach has been good one day, poor the next. Reports from bay trollers indicate similarly spotty catches. Some guides have speculated that cool water could improve catches but it's just as likely to send the salmon upriver. Trollers dragging anchovies around the area of the Highway 101 Bridge are taking fish daily. Half pounder fishing is good fun spinners or flies in the Agness stretch. While middle Rogue results have been slow, the Grants Pass stretch could light up any day for Chinook fishers. Summer steelheading is fair but steady on the upper Rogue.

Ocean Chinook catches have been good out of the Port of Brookings for trollers using anchovies near the bottom in 100 to 120 feet of water. Mostly limits of rockfish and ling cod are being taken. As an additional bonus, despite the south coast halibut quota filling, the season remains open due to plentiful numbers. An ODFW meeting on Sept. 4 will determine whether this fishery will remain open or close for the season.

With water temperatures dropping into the low 60s at Diamond Lake, trout fishing has started to pick up.

Eastern – Wildfires remain a problem in eastern Oregon. Be certain to check conditions before making a trip.

Lake Billy Chinook has been fair for bull trout and is producing good numbers of smallmouth bass although must have been small.

Kokanee are showing spawning colors at Wickiup Reservoir. Trout are being spotted but have been off the bite.

Now that flows and water temperatures have dropped, the Wallowa River is fishing well and producing some good-sized trout. It's early, but a couple of steelhead catches have been confirmed.

The Grande Ronde River has started producing a few summer steelhead which bodes well for this fishery which should be worthwhile in September.

SW Washington- Much remains quiet for anglers looking for fresh-run chinook and coho in district streams. Summer steelhead remains the best option on the Cowlitz but chinook should start to show on most district rivers in the coming weeks. Coho are likely to follow later into October.

Drano Lake steelheaders continue to do well for mostly wild fish. Chinook catches should be improving in the coming weeks.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Well, they finally came in. Chinook salmon fishing in the Buoy 10 region finally lit up last Sunday and little has slowed since. As a matter of fact, it may be getting better each day! Couple that with a strong showing of coho in recent days and limits are becoming a fast and easy rule for salmon anglers near the Astoria area.

Most recently, guides getting after them early have started to pick up fast limits of chinook starting Wednesday morning. Action above and below the Astoria/Megler Bridge for chinook really lit up with guides taking 6 (or 7) fish chinook limits by 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday. It's clear that the bulk of the run is upon us as some of the larger fish are now upriver and cookie cutter 12 to 17 pounders (4-year olds) are now making up the bulk of the catch. These are high quality upriver brights however, cutting nice and fat, such fine eating.

Good action came from the south channel, which runs south to north from the East End Basin (Turkey Coop) to the shipwreck for those that have this area marked on their GPS. Bait continues to take the bulk of the catch but spinners are turning on just fine too. Other guides reported insane action from the red roof to the church on the Washington side with limits also falling early this a.m.

I've been choosing to do the late start, catching the last part of outgoing tide and the first push of incoming. I hit it just right on Wednesday, taking 5 chinook (only averaging 12 to 17 pounds) in the first hour of fishing between the red roof and the church on the Washington side. After the action slowed, we headed to the Oregon side for the Hammond hover and got our 6th chinook.

There wasn't much of a bite there so we went back to the lower Desdemona Sands tongue and trolled uphill as Mach 5 (actually, just over 5 MPH) but there was a great bite taking place; an indication that there were a lot of fish present.

After a dry 2nd pass, we just trolled our way upstream towards the bridge and finished off our 14 fish limit with 8 coho and 6 chinook. The coho action in 16 to 20 foot of water on the Washington side was fantastic, trolling both spinners and bait (both herring and anchovies). We never made it to the bridge and never saw high tide; that would have been pretty special. Action has been this way the last several days and it's likely to continue through the mark-select fishery (August 30, 31 and September 1st).

Starting September 2nd, chinook fishing from Buoy 10 to Tongue Point will close but the coho limit increases to 3 coho per person and if the numbers continue to build, that doesn't look like it will be a problem. We're in for a banner coho season down here.

Action in other places:

Chinook wing jetties on the last trickle of outgoing tide, first part of incoming: Good to great!

Buoy's 20 and 22 on the last trickle of outgoing but particularly the first part of incoming: great!

The Hammond Hover: good on Monday and Tuesday, fair at best on Wednesday

Lower Desdemona Tongue to the "checker board": good to excellent the middle 2 hours of incoming.

From the checker board to the Astoria/Megler Bridge, middle 2 hours of incoming: good to great!

The Bridge hover, both sides of the river: good to excellent, a LOT less boats on the Oregon side

The humps, above the bridge, WA side: good to excellent at high tide, first part of outgoing

Blind Channel and the south channel: spotty but the south channel was great on Wednesday a.m.

The Green line, above the bridge on the first part of outgoing: Good to excellent (will be afternoon)

The Church Hole to the tunnel, first part of outgoing tide (afternoon): only fair

Just use these reports as references for your upcoming fishing trip but we'll go into more detail in the forecast section.

As far as what to use, as we've mentioned earlier, both spinners and bait have been working well. With more coho in the mix, anchovies will become an important tool but spinners seem to be producing good results for coho as well. Keep in mind, the larger the spinner you use, the larger the coho you will catch... really! Silver continues to be one of my better producers and it certainly doesn't hurt to have pink, red or orange on that blade either. Copper blades have not been working all that well when they are typically a staple down here this time of year. Red/white and white/pinks have also been producing well. UV spinners have become quite popular recently.

As far as depth is concerned, we're sure to be on the bottom, no matter if we're in 20 foot or 50 foot, on the outgoing tide. Your fish finder will verify that most of the fish are gravitating towards the bottom on the outgoing push. I'll still fish pretty close to the bottom at the beginning of the incoming tide but when we're on full flood, fish will oftentimes be suspended and I've heard multiple anglers tell me the story of taking fish 4 to 12 strips out, as they're letting their baits or spinners out. If you have the rods to experiment with, do not fish them all at the same depth, stagger depths for maximum output. I'm using 12 or 16 ounces on my bow rods and going 12 to 16 strips depending on the depth and speed of the current, 8 or 10 ounces on the middle rods and going 22 to 24 strips, and 6 to 8 ounces on the back rods and fishing then as deep as 32 strips. Each day seems different but the bow rods are going over most frequently but that wasn't true for my Wednesday trip.

As for the ocean, it remains really productive but coho are the main target out there. If size matters to you, the coho entering the river are running quite large now, but that may have something to do with the size of the baits I'm running. When chinook are around, I put out more of the larger herring and when the coho are present, I'll run some large anchovies out there and sometimes, some smaller ones if I have to. We're getting numerous coho over 8 pounds and up to 13; that's likely to only improve in the coming weeks. Ocean anglers are still fishing to the north and coho are running 5 to 9 pounds out there with an occasional one topping 10#. There has been rumor of action to the south but the north has been slam dunk all season, why deviate?

With peak salmon season upon us, not many others are doing much else. Ocean crabbing remains open and for commercials on the north side of the river as crab pots continue to little the shallows over there. Watch out for them! River crabbing is improving too although a strong tide and a ton of trollers is deterring a lot of crabbing effort (thank God).

Albacore anglers out of Astoria are reporting great success just over 30 miles to the west. Wednesday's offshore conditions were excellent and Thursday and Friday should be good as well. It's live bait time but those jigging iron are sharing reports of excellent fishing as well. This is the time of year when we start to see some good sized "albie's" hit the deck.

The Guide's Forecast – Only a few days left in what is finally becoming an epic season. The action should last well past Labor Day, especially if the run is coming late this year. First up, a softening tide series will begin to produce good results in the early a.m. As a matter of fact, we're already seeing that, still with a lull during peak ebb however but not as big a lull as one would expect when trolling downstream at over 5 MPH. It's an indication that there are a LOT of chinook in the system. As the weekend progresses and the tides soften, there will be a heck of a morning bite coming on. It's really going to be game on from now through the weekend but come Saturday and Sunday, the action should be epic!

Lots of options to choose from but the most consistent will likely remain from the Astoria Bridge to the Chinook wing jetties on the Washington side. Early a.m. action should improve on the Oregon side sometime soon (maybe by Sunday when high tide is just at sun-up) but the sure shot is going to be the

Washington side. Anglers may have to get creative to find their coho after beating up on the chinook but if you go to shallow waters, you might get lucky during the ebb tide. If you find yourself in the good position of just seeking coho, switch to smaller spinners and anchovies as coho seem to respond fairly well to those offerings as well. It could very well end up that the coho bite turns on even better over the Labor Day weekend.

I'll likely stick to the Washington side, at least until Sunday. Although when I depart the West End Basin, I'll be able to see if anyone is hitting the fish on my way to the Washington side. As the tide exchange weakens, willing chinook should stay lower in the drift so don't be afraid to start lower as we near the weekend. The better action has been taking place downstream of the church from 28 to 50 foot of water.

Don't be afraid to get away from the line of boats and fish the deeper water as you'll see there are plenty of fish utilizing this deep water option. Spinners will be a good option but bait will likely produce the better action. One thing to keep in mind however is that although you may get fewer bites on spinners, your strike to land ratio is likely to be better, much better. Fish the whites/reds and whites/pinks in the early morning and switch to the metallic colors as the sun goes overhead.

Silver has been the go-to metallic but brass is working well too. Of course, you can't go wrong with bait but keep in mind that the larger baits (i.e. herring) will work well for chinook and larger anchovies have been producing just fine too. Remember to keep your baits on the bottom for outgoing tide and suspend them, especially in water deeper than 40 foot, on the incoming tide.

Coho may be hard to find until the incoming tide. They are clearly washing in from the ocean on our afternoon incoming tides but you may be able to find them in shallower water, most often found on the Washington side of Desdemona Sands. Seek 16 to 21 foot stuff and switch to coho gear for best results. We'll likely start seeing them on higher concentrations with the chinook as we near Labor Day.

As a general rule, chinook on the outgoing tide, coho on the incoming.

By early next week, the tides will soften enough to get excited about Tongue Point fishing. By Sunday and Monday, it should be game on up there and it could be a great week of fishing for any chinook come the chinook closure in the Buoy 10 area. We often see some great weather and the best fishing of the season during this time of year. Remember, a 3 coho limit begins on September 2nd but yes, the regulations get complicated but here they are, cut and pasted directly from the ODF&W web site:

SALMON, STEELHEAD, and SHAD

Summary of 2014 fall salmon regulations for the Columbia River *

Buoy 10

- Area definition: From the Buoy 10 line upstream to a line projected from Rocky Point on the Washington shore through red buoy #44 to red marker #2 at Tongue Point on the Oregon shore.
- August 1 – December 31: Retention of adipose fin-clipped adult coho (16-inches or longer) and adipose fin-clipped steelhead allowed.
- August 1 – 29: Retention of adult Chinook (24-inches or longer, fin-clipped or not) is allowed. The daily bag limit is two adult salmonids, only one of which may be a Chinook.
- August 30 – September 1: Retention of adipose or left-ventral fin-clipped adult Chinook is allowed. The daily bag limit is two adult salmonids, only one of which may be a Chinook.
- September 2 – 30: Retention of Chinook is prohibited but the daily bag limit increases to three adult salmonids, of which no more than two may be adipose fin-clipped steelhead.
- October 1 – December 31: Retention of Chinook is allowed (fin-clipped or not). The daily adult bag limit is two salmonids.

- Jacks may only be retained October 1 – December 31 under permanent rules. The daily bag limit for jack salmon is five fish. Any Chinook jack (fin-clipped or not) may be retained. Coho jacks must be adipose fin-clipped.
- All other permanent rules apply including the Youngs Bay Control Zone (YBCZ) which is closed to recreational angling from August 1 through September 15. The YBCZ includes waters from the Highway 101 Bridge crossing Youngs Bay northerly to a line originating on the Oregon shore at the east end of the seawall at the Warrenton Fiber log yard (approximately river mile 10.1) northeasterly through green navigation buoys 29, 31, 33, and 35A to the center of the Astoria-Megler Bridge abutment adjacent to, and north of the ship channel, and continuing southerly in line with the center of the Megler Bridge span to the Oregon shore ([see map](#)).

Lower Columbia – Tongue Point/Rocky Point upstream to Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island

- Area definition: From a line projected from Rocky Point on the Washington shore through red buoy #44 to the red marker #2 at Tongue Point on the Oregon shore upstream to a line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore through red buoy #4 to a marker on the lower end of Bachelor Island.
- August 1 – December 31: Retention of adipose fin-clipped coho and adipose fin-clipped steelhead allowed. Coho jacks must be adipose fin-clipped.
- August 1 – September 6: Retention of Chinook (fin-clipped or not) is allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmonids, only one of which may be a Chinook. The daily bag limit for jack salmon is five fish. Any Chinook jack (fin-clipped or not) may be retained.
- September 7 – 14: Retention of adipose fin-clipped Chinook is allowed. The daily adult bag limit is two salmonids, only one of which may be a Chinook. The daily bag limit for jack salmon is five fish. Chinook jacks must be adipose fin-clipped.
- September 15 – 30: Retention of all Chinook is prohibited (including Chinook jacks). The daily bag limit is two adult salmonids.
- October 1 – December 31: Retention of Chinook is allowed (fin-clipped or not). The daily bag limit is two adult salmonids. The daily bag limit for jack salmon is five fish. Any Chinook jack (fin-clipped or not) may be retained.
- Each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid bag limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- All other permanent rules apply.

Lower Columbia – Warrior Rock/Bachelor Isl. upstream to Steamboat Landing Park/Marker #50

- Area definition: From a line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore through red buoy #4 to a marker on the lower end of Bachelor Island upstream to a line projected from the most downstream point on the Steamboat Landing Park (100 S. Washougal River Road) dock on the Washington shore through navigation light #50 to the Oregon shore. This area does not include fishing from the [Steamboat Landing Park](#) dock.
- August 1 – December 31: Retention of Chinook (fin-clipped or not), adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead allowed. The daily bag limit is two adult salmonids. The daily bag limit for jack salmon is five fish. Any Chinook jack (fin-clipped or not) may be retained. Coho jacks must be adipose fin-clipped.
- Each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid bag limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- All other permanent rules apply.

Lower Columbia - Steamboat Landing Park/Marker #50 upstream to Bonneville Dam

- Area definition: From a line projected from the most downstream point on the Steamboat Landing Park (100 S. Washougal River Road) dock on the Washington shore through navigation light #50 to the Oregon shore upstream to Bonneville Dam. Fishing from the [Steamboat Landing Park](#) dock is considered within the fishing area.

- August 1 – December 31: Retention of Chinook (fin-clipped or not), adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead allowed. The daily bag limit is three adult salmonids, of which no more than two may be adipose fin-clipped coho or adipose fin-clipped steelhead (in any combination). The daily bag limit for jack salmon is five fish. Any Chinook jack (fin-clipped or not) may be retained. Coho jacks must be adipose fin-clipped.
- Each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid bag limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- All other permanent rules apply.

Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam)

- August 1 – December 31: Retention of Chinook (fin-clipped or not), coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead allowed. The daily bag limit is three adult salmonids, of which no more than two may be coho or adipose fin-clipped steelhead (in any combination). The daily bag limit for jack salmon is five fish. Any Chinook jack (fin-clipped or not) may be retained.
- All coho (adults and jacks) retained downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be adipose fin-clipped.
- Each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid bag limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- All other permanent rules apply, including bag limits for jacks.

Anglers fishing upstream of Longview, should start to see their catches improve dramatically and right away. The wad of chinook that started in the estuary are well into the river system and wobbler anglers should find more consistency in their catches by the weekend. You've already heard multiple warnings about anchoring in the channel, be very cautious and prepared to move if need be. Yes, that's where the fish will be. Most wobbler plunkers will employ the 5 X 5 rule. That is, use 5 foot of leader and a 5-foot dropper line with your favorite chrome wobbler to get the job done. Upper river anglers should see the big boys early but believe me, the smaller 4-year olds are on their way. The Longview to Portland stretch should start to produce well.

Yes, you can keep going into the ocean but you don't need to. Save your gas and get on these larger river coho. You'll burn a fraction of the fuel but here's the pretty cool offshore forecast:

FRI NW WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

FRI NIGHT NW WIND 10 KT...BACKING TO W 10 KT OVERNIGHT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT AT 10 SECONDS. CHANCE OF SHOWERS LATE.

SAT SW WIND 10 KT OR LESS. WIND WAVES 2 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SUN NW WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT.

MON N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT.

And yes, tuna will be an option but be prepared to go out 30 miles or better. Live bait or iron will continue to produce the best results. Look for jumpers in the calming seas.

Ocean and estuary crabbing should be good this weekend. You'll just have to be mindful of the trollers and expect to see broke off mooching rigs in your lines (if you don't get them cut off by an upset angler or prop). Um, fresh salmon carcasses should be available.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – As counts of summer steelhead and spring Chinook fade to nil for 2014, Fall Chinook number are building at the rate of 100 every two or

three days with well over 6,000 above the Falls as of August 28th. Of no particularly positive note, the water temperature increased another degree to 74 on that date.

Stable flows on the McKenzie River are forecast to remain this way as snowmelt is no longer an option (the snow if gone) and there's no rain in sight.

The Santiam system is a summer level lows and will remain that way until fall rains reverse the current gradual drop.

The Guide's Forecast – Lower Willamette smallmouth bass fishing will remain the only option until weather conditions start to lower water temperatures and precipitation improves flows.

The McKenzie River will be boat stocked this week from Finn Rock to Good Pasture Boat Ramp near Leaburg Lake with a total of 3,850 rainbow trout. All non-adipose fin-clipped trout must be released unharmed. Tiny spinners and Caddis imitations will score trout here although those of the hatchery variety are generally less particular about fly patterns.

Fishing remains slow in the low waters of the Santiams although trout fishing has been fair at times. As with any Oregon river flowing at summer level lows, the upper sections of the North Santiam hold the most promise and the greater number of fish.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – The Sandy and Clack are in the throes of Dog Days, flowing low and, in the case of the Clackamas, clear. In the Cast of the Sandy, not.

The Guide's Forecast – While not the sort of optimistic forecast we prefer, we're realists and there's no relief in sight for low water conditions on the Clackamas River. It's going to get worse before it gets better.

Spey fishers swinging flies upstream seemed to be having a particularly good time not catching anything.

The bright spot is passing of the Labor Day holiday which marks school resuming which will result in lighter traffic from happy splashers on weekdays.

The ODFW referred to the current Sandy River levels as "new summer lows," a less-than encouraging description. There's a great coho run on the Columbia this year and these fish will be entering the Sandy. Just add water. A couple of steelhead have been landed in early morning hours over the past week but with fishing this slow, we can only encourage anglers to look elsewhere.

North Coast Fishing Report – It's another low reporting week for the north coast. The Nehalem is really the only game in town and the jaws don't fish all that well on the extreme tide series we're just coming off of. There were some fish taken at Wheeler and Nehalem and spinners and bobber tossers ruled the week in the upper reaches of tidewater. Overall however, it wasn't a great week on this system. There are more and more crabbers showing up in the north coast estuaries and success rates are improving for keepers.

Ocean remains closed until September 1 but after that, watch out!

The Guide's Forecast – Like the Columbia system, the softer tide series we're coming into will bode well for Nehalem Bay chinook trollers working the mouth and offshore anglers wishing to take advantage of an ample supply of coho (both wild and hatchery) that should be actively feeding off of Garibaldi. It's an unprecedented opportunity that may or may not produce results. Let's start with the Nehalem:

Jetty trollers should find another good weekend of opportunity on the lower Nehalem. Keep those blue and purple label herring fishing close to the bottom for best results and although the bulk of the effort will be up on the Columbia, there are a good handful of boaters that will want to avoid the mayhem in Astoria and target the first returning fall chinook to this system, along with any straggler summer runs that are left to come in. Anglers may be able to work the water just outside of the mouth but remember, you'll have to use barbless hooks out there.

Anglers willing to ply the waters of Tillamook Bay may find similar results for early returning fall chinook in this estuary. Bay crabbing on most north coast estuaries may produce well this weekend although better crabbing is likely to happen later on in September. Ocean crabbing should be excellent.

Bar crossings should be easy for those seeking to participate in the offshore "any salmon" fishery starting up August 30th. The season map can be found here, along with pertinent regulations:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/salmon/Regulations/docs/2014_Ocean_Sport_Time_Area_Graphic.pdf.

It's always hard to tell how this season is going to go down but with the large return of Columbia River coho, both A and B run fish, this should be a good offshore season. Some chinook will undoubtedly be in the mix, especially if you stay close to the bay entrances but if it's nice coho you seek, target the 170 to 200 foot of water, fishing shallow in the morning and dropping down deeper as the sun rises higher in the sky.

Fall regulations on most coastal systems start on August 1st but for your convenience, they can be found here:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/coastal_salmon_seasons.asp.

Central & South Coast Reports – Ocean salmon fishing has been good off the central Oregon coast and is about to get even better. Starting August 30th from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mountain, any Chinook 24 inches long or better and any coho salmon 16 inches long or longer will be legal to keep as part of the two salmon per day offshore limit. An additional 15,000 coho from the selective season earlier this year were rolled onto the non-selective season for a total of 35,000 fish. Still, if catches are good, the season may close before the scheduled September 30th date if the quota fills.

Trips for tuna are being planned out of Newport and Depoe Bay for the long holiday weekend. Weather a week ago was challenging with unsettled offshore conditions and lingering fog while the forecast for the next several days looks much more promising.

Tuna charters did well out of Newport mid-week, returning to party with several large albacore for every angler on board. Charters targeting bottom fish have been returning to port with a variety of colorful rockfish along, good sized ling cod and lots of ocean Dungeness.

Deep-water halibut fishers did great over the last all-depth opener, wiping out the quota for the year. This leaves near-shore halibut fishing the only option. Flatties may be taken on the central Oregon coast inside the 40-fathom line through October 31st or fulfillment of this quota.

Fly-rodders are starting to target coastal sea-run cutthroat now that they have started to arrive in fishable number. Brightly colored flies will fool them as will dries at times but these fish will also readily hit small spinners. Concentrate on the top of tidewater at this time of year.

Chinook anglers have been taking a few fish on the Siletz above the Highway 101 Bridge and some have been large. Overall, it has been slow but steady.

Trollers in Alsea Bay picked up a number of Chinook over the past weekend. This fishery will heat up in the coming weeks and will move into the river with the first fall rains.

Siuslaw Chinook fishers are starting to score. An angler limit earlier this week angler limit included a dandy 33-pounder.

Chinook fishers at Winchester Bay have been doing well outside in the ocean and fair in the lower river. there has been plenty of pressure with an estimated 100 boats in the Umpqua at Reedsport on Tuesday this week and even more on Wednesday with the fish checker seeing fewer than 10 Chinook. Speaking of which, enter the Gardiner-Reedsport-Winchester Bay STEP Chapter annual Labor Day Salmon Derby for just \$10 per angler or \$25 per boat for a chance to win \$650 for the heaviest fish caught between daybreak and 6 PM on Saturday, daybreak until 6 PM on Sunday or from daybreak until noon on September 1st. Various prizes will be available with the biggest fish taking the big money. Call Steve Godin at 541-255-3383 for information or with questions.

Those who are dropping pots or traps outside the bay report catches of ocean Dungeness are excellent. Crabbing in Winchester Bay has been fair to good of the docks while boat crabbers are taking limits. Turn in any tagged crab to the Sportsman Cannery for a free hat and a chance to win \$1,000. A few hatchery coho have been taken on the lower Umpqua along the south jetty. Up to two fin-clipped coho may be retained on the Umpqua River year-around. Smallmouth bass catches remain steady despite low water in the Umpqua mainstem. Summer steelheading has been fair on the North Umpqua with best results coming from the Narrows and Swiftwater stretches. Smallmouth bass are being taken un fair to good number on the South Umpqua.

Boats have been returning to Charleston with tune but results have been better out of Newport. Coos Bay's Marshfield Channel near the BLM boat ramp has been productive for Chinook trollers using plug-cut herring. Crabbing has been good in the bay with boat crabbers reporting limits.

On the lower Rogue, Chinook are moving upstream with recent releases from Lost Creek Reservoir although catches remain fair but steady in the estuary. A report this week indicated a good bite on Wednesday this week resulted in scores of Chinook taking trolled anchovies. Water temperatures in the river are still too high to create a decent bit with Chinook heading upstream. Half-pounder catches have been good in the lower Rogue on flies and spinners. Chinook are being taken on the Grants Pass stretch as well as a few summer steelhead but results have been slow and are expected to remain that way until water temperatures drop further. Summer steelheading has been fair good on the upper Rogue from Gold Hill to the hatchery. Starting September 1st, the river above the old Gold Ray Dam site will be closed to Chinook fishing. In addition, only artificial flies will be legal from Gold Ray to Cole Rivers Hatchery.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Expect to see the lower Deschutes productivity improve for reddsides in the coming weeks. Summer steelheading will also be picking up.

Trout fishing is expected to improve on the Metolius in September.

Suttle Lake has been performing poorly for kokanee, putting out only low numbers of small fish. There are a few decent-sized brown trout around.

Wickiup offers some possibilities for bank anglers but this will be the last week to try it as the season closes at the end of August.

Results at East Lake have slowed slight but is still better than many locations, producing decent numbers of brown trout 15 inches or better to fly anglers using Chromonid imitations.

Odell Lake has been remarkably productive and will probably get some pressure over the Labor Day weekend. Good numbers of kokanee on hoochies behind flashers at 40 to 50 feet are being taken along with some dandy lake trout have made for some memorable trips recently.

Kokanee fishing at Green Peter has been fair but steady with catches coming at depths of 50 to 100 feet or deeper. Catches are averaging a little fewer than 25-fish limits but are of health fish averaging 10 inches.

Write to the TGF staff:

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Random Links

Ocean anglers - Derelict Gear Recovery Program:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/shellfish/commercial/crab/psdgrp.asp>

Bandon wind, waves, weather, whales: <http://www.bandon.tv/>

For bottom fishers - 30-Fathom Line Waypoints:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/regulations/sport_fishing/docs/30fmwaypts.pdf

Biologists Discover Landlocked Chinook Salmon In Oregon:

<http://earthfix.opb.org/water/article/biologists-discover-landlocked-chinook-salmon-in-o/>

GOOD LUCK!