

The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 37

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **September 12th – September 18th, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – Wobbler anglers are entering peak season in the Portland to Longview stretch. Although action has been hit or miss, those working the shipping channel should expect good results well into mid-month. Use the 5 X 5 method; fishing a 5 foot dropper lead line with a 5 foot leader for best results. You can troll spinners on the incoming tide if you're so motivated.

Northwest – The offshore coho season is producing good results for herring trollers. It's expected to continue to produce through the closure later this month.

The Tillamook Bay fishery is producing coho in the Ghost Hole and at Bay City as well as the South Channel. There are some chinook available but action has slowed in the ocean recently. The softening tide series should bode well for ocean anglers if the offshore weather cooperates.

Nehalem Bay should produce both decent coho and chinook catches through the weekend. Troll herring near the mouth for best results. Check regulations for each of the estuaries for wild coho opportunity.

Offshore crabbing should be improving and tuna fishing may once again become an option when the weather settles down.

The Salmon River as well as the Nestucca should produce good action well after the weekend. Troll herring near the mouth for best action.

Southwest - Tuna charters out of Depoe Bay have endured a challenging week with anglers returning with only two or three fish each. Newport albacore fishers did very well over the past weekend and trips are being planned for the coming weekend as well.

Bottom fishing has been good for rockfish and fair for lings out of central Oregon ports. Ocean crabbing also remains good. Salmon fishing has been rewarding anglers with mostly limits consisting primarily of large coho.

Reedsport boats have hit the ocean only to return with limits of salmon this week. It is an outstanding season this year. The upper Umpqua mainstem and South Umpqua remain productive for smallmouth bass despite low water levels. Steelheading is fair to good for summers in the flies-only stretch of the North Umpqua.

Tuna fishers launching out of Charleston have been making 30- to 35-mile trips this season and the past week has been no different. With tuna averaging 30 pounds, though, many feel it's worth it.

Boats out of Gold Beach had a good weekend for bottom fish with multi-colored limits. Trolling in the bay was rewarding over the past week with many limits landed and the bonus of jacks was just gravy. Best results have come in the first three hours of daylight. Good numbers will endure in the absence of precipitation.

Eastern – Reports of big trout are being caught at Timothy Lake on spoons and spinners. Fishing is fair but spotty at the mouth of the Deschutes. Counts at Sherars Falls indicate an ever-greater number of Chinook and steelhead are moving upstream. Chinook are legal to fish below Sherars Falls but not above.

Kokanee are starting to show signs of the upcoming spawn at Odell. The West Fork fire south of Joseph has burned 120 acres, and is uncontained; the Freezeout Ridge fire east of Joseph has burned 250 acres is uncontained and the Deception/Staley complex west of Oakridge has burned nearly 4,900 acres. Fire danger extremely is high; please use every precaution in the outdoors.

SW Washington- Chinook action is picking up but anglers have to pay attention to regulations for the body of water that they're fishing in. It will be a while before coho action picks up as these SW Washington tributaries typically get the bulk of the "B" run coho that come back in late September and early October.

Drano Lake is starting to produce good catches of chinook and the Wind River should pick up as well. Summer steelhead are still available but the bulk of the catch is wild.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Coho salmon fishing remains the last option in the estuary. The Buoy 10 fishery has been producing consistently over the last week. With the strong minus tide series upon us, savvy anglers have not been starting at the crack of dawn. We have managed however, to find a good pocket of biters by fishing out of the fast velocities around the Desdemona Light Marker. Desdemona Sands itself prevents the swift outgoing tide from forcing us to troll our baits too fast by these fish. As the tide gets closer to low, the action has been quite good. Following that Desdemona Sands bite, we have simply been slipping over to the Oregon shipping channel, where the first trickle of incoming tide has been producing good action. Once the incoming tide begins to push hard enough to cause you to slip back on the hover, the action seems to slow dramatically. That's when I've taken back to the Desdemona Sands tongue troll, where the upstream troll has been productive on the second half of incoming. I've been rounding my day off upstream of the bridge on the Washington side, fishing the shallow 15 to 17 foot water, slightly to the south of where most trollers are working. This shallow water, on these strong tides, has been very productive for those trolling fresh anchovies. Spinners are taking fish as well but fresh bait clearly rules the roost. If necessary, the side channel slot upstream of the ship wreck, that works its way to the south towards the East End Mooring Basin, has been producing phenomenal results for coho for the first hour to hour and a half of outgoing tide. Keeping your baits on the bottom during this time of the tide is strongly recommended. Blind Channel, just adjacent to this side channel ditch, should also be producing good catches on this first part of the outgoing tide, should also be producing good catches. The Oregon side, above the bridge, on the first part of outgoing tide, is also a strong option. There have been some sea lions working this water however so you have to be crafty after hooking a fish.

Nobody has been targeting chinook in the Tongue Point area as most thought (including me), we weren't getting the record run that was forecast in the pre-season. It looks as if we've hit the peak passage the last few days and if so, we're far from the record run that was forecast. To date, only 435,000 adults have passed Bonneville. If that's the 1/2 way mark, we're going to be well shy of a million fish. Let alone, 1.6 million. Besides, the strong tide typically doesn't produce great chinook catches at Tongue Point, and on the last weak tide series (last weekend), catches were poor for chinook and just good for coho. We're clearly not getting the pre-season chinook forecast, as predicted.

As far as the ocean, it remains a bit epic out there. Of course you have to check your conditions as the recent minus tide series has made bar conditions on the early morning ebb, a bit challenging. Most recently, with the wind coming from the east, the ocean has been nice but the river re-entry, with the East wind and incoming tide, has been no-so-fun. Opposing tides and winds are not fun for anyone. Chinooks have been very rare out there, furthering the facts that the run isn't coming in as predicted this year. Anglers continue to turn to the north and fish close to the Long Beach Peninsula where hungry coho will eagerly sacrifice themselves for a fresh herring or anchovy. With a strong "B" season forecast, this fishery should last well into late September if the weather holds.

Bank anglers working Clatsop Spit on the raging outgoing tide have been doing ok for coho out of Fort Steven's State Park. Bank anglers plunk a herring with a cork bobber just 10 inches from the bait to keep it off the bottom where crabs are likely to take it. The strong minus tides concentrate fish close to the shore where fish don't have to work so hard to get upstream. Sound familiar? It's exactly like the summer steelhead fishing up a little higher in the Columbia system.

Upriver, action for plunking wobbler anglers has been sporadic. Anglers are reporting hit and miss action in the Portland to Longview stretch but like lower river anglers, it's clear that the run is far less than anticipated. There has been some good action but it's been far from consistent for this fishery. The mouth of the Cowlitz has been one of the better bets but anglers have had to look at the adipose fin to see if it's missing or not.

The Guide's Forecast – With the softening tide, anglers should have a good shot at coho in the lower Columbia River estuary. Although we'll have to deal with the outgoing tide for the bulk of the morning, it's soft enough that we can expect good action for trollers working fresh anchovies near the bottom of the river. If you have to fish in the early morning, take advantage of the soft water downstream of Desdemona Sands where willing coho should strike trolled anchovies on the last half of the outgoing tide. Be prepared to fish the incoming tide on the Oregon side (the shipping channel), fishing 16 to 28 strips down to target upriver running coho. Good action should hold up well through the weekend if you're using fresh anchovies or small herring for bait.

Here is the ocean forecast:

FRI NE WIND 15 TO 20 KT...BACKING TO N IN THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 11 SECONDS.

FRI NIGHT N WIND 15 TO 20 KT...EASING TO 10 TO 15 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

SAT NE WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

SUN NE WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 2 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

SUN NIGHT N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 2 FT.

MON S WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 2 FT.

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

By Saturday, the inshore winds should calm down and action should continue to be good if you follow the advice in the report section of this report. Don't feel like you have to start early in the a.m. as you can expect good results on the top part of the incoming tide and the first part of outgoing if you plan on fishing the first part of the outgoing tide.

By early next week, the tides will soften, allowing anglers to take advantage of a prolonged opportunity for good action. When we're able to troll our baits at speeds less than 3.5 MPH, we're in good shape. Follow the suggested trolling lanes in the report above.

If you're going to the ocean, pay attention to the bar report that we have on our home page. If you go north, plan on good action for coho, primarily; be sure that you have ample amounts of fresh anchovies available. Saturday and Sunday look like the best options for an early morning foray.

Not many people are targeting offshore albacore. The offshore forecast is just rough enough to discourage anglers from making the run. September frequently offers up some good opportunity but we may have to wait a bit longer for that to happen.

Offshore crabbing is improving with not much competition for keepers. Good action should continue through the closure on October 15th.

If you're fishing upriver, don't expect great action despite the fact that we're entering peak season in the Portland to Longview stretch. Wobbler anglers are not impressed with the action in this stretch, despite the liberal limits for this area. Not to say that you don't have good options here but check the ODF&W website for accurate info on how the seasons are structured here.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Water temperatures at Willamette Falls have dropped (barely) below the 70-degree mark due to cooler nights. As of September 10th, 66 coho had been counted with daily numbers gradually increasing. Actually, fall Chinook are passing in greater number, pushing the total to 416 as of that same date.

Following a drop in flow at Vida from 2,700 cfs to 1,900 cfs on September 10th, the McKenzie River has once again stabilized,

The Santiams are suffering from a lack of rain right along with the rest of the valley rivers. According to the NOAA forecasts, there should be some relief in the third week of the month, however. Perhaps they know something we don't. Wait ... of course they do. That's still a long ways out to forecast in Oregon.

The Guide's Forecast – The lower Willamette is still producing smallmouth bass at a pretty good clip. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** describes it as "a world class fishery that nobody knows about." He has had bass anglers come into the store and proclaim it's the best they've ever seen it. They're catching big fish now. Steelheaders floating the Town Run are catching summers occasionally on spoons and spinners. Catches of cutthroat trout have been fair to good. Even though it's a big river, this is best attempted from shallow-draft craft. This is a place where pontoons shine as a casting platform and one which will traverse over rocks where the water is thin. The Middle Fork at Oakridge has been producing trout to fly anglers but it has been slow.

There's not a lot happening on the McKenzie River although it's beautiful and a fly rodder could do worse than tossing a few Caddis imitations while wearing little more than shorts and a T-shirt.

Try the North Santiam up high for the best shot at intercepting a late summer steelhead. It has been slow all season, however, and right now is certainly not primetime.

Anglers on the lower Tualatin River report seeing a number of coho jumping. The water is far too warm to entertain this as a fishery but in a week or two? You never know.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Water on the Clackamas is low. It was speculated weeks ago that the level was as low as it could get. That was incorrect as it found a way to get even skinnier. Coho will enter by the calendar rather than appropriate water flows, however, so they have started nosing into the lower river. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-**

557-5600) reports that coho are staging at the mouth of the Clack and that bank anglers throwing spoons and spinners from the blacktop at the mouth have been catching these fish.

While the Sandy is well-known for its glacial origin and just as widely believed to run off color in warm weather as a result of it. This week, however, the color is green but not opaque. The problem is really that there's not enough water, not that it's off color. On Monday this week, river flows below Bull Run were 391 cfs with the depth reading only 7.86 feet.

The Guide's Forecast – Fly rodders on the Clackamas have been enticing summer steelhead on dark-colored leech patterns but these fish are two-tone, and that's not lead and mercury, it's bronze and wine colored. Try shallow riffles and fish with maximum stealth. Warm water is being affected by cooler overnight temperatures. This means that first-light anglers are fishing the coolest water of the day, another reason to get up early. There have been seven coho over North Fork Dam according to a report from an angler today. A few have been taken here and there. According to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**, it's worth a try now for coho on the Clack. He reports that Nick Amato (who lives on the river) took three bright fish upriver earlier this week on a #4 Blue Fox spinner. Campbell went on to say there are coho in every hole from Eagle Creek to the mouth, particularly at Deep Creek.

The Sandy River is getting very little angling pressure. The regular suspects, Oxbow to Dabney, Oxbow Park, Dodge Park and around the mouth Cedar Creek are all possibilities to hold a few fish. Early mornings are about the only chance to fool one. This is a banner year for coho. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** mentioned a group of anglers who fished the Sandy this week throwing spoons and spinners. They caught a decent number of silver jacks. Campbell predicts that adult fish are just days away with that many jacks in the river. He also mentioned that between shallows and log jams, drifting the Sandy is hazardous. Stick to bank fishing for a while.

North Coast Fishing Report – Action is heating up on Tillamook Bay but for primarily hatchery coho this early in the season. Trollers working the inner bay have scored some decent numbers of hatchery coho, which is a good indicator of the returns we can expect for this year. The Ghost Hole and South Channel is producing some fine catches for this early in the season. Spinners are taking the bulk of the catch but trolled herring should also produce well for those diligent in their effort.

Nearshore anglers are also taking fair numbers of chinook and some coho in the adjacent waters of Tillamook Bay but action slowed a bit on Thursday. There is a good season for trollers ahead with great opportunity for chinook trollers close to Tillamook Bay and offshore anglers in pursuit of wild and hatchery coho NW of the Tillamook Bay entrance.

Offshore anglers have been producing great catches of hatchery and wild coho when the ocean has been safe and fun to fish. That like won't change through the closure later this month.

Nehalem anglers continue to catch fresh run fall chinook from Wheeler to Nehalem on spinners and herring trolled close to the bottom. We're entering peak season for this fall run of fish so be prepared for good action for both chinook and coho through early October on this system.

The Guide's Forecast – With the softening tide series, anglers can look to the lower bay, both the Ghost Hole and the Jetty to target chinook and coho through the weekend. Hopefully, the ocean lays down and provides opportunity for anglers wanting to fish the south jetty and adjacent areas. There should be ample numbers of fish available for herring trollers working the outside areas if the ocean is friendly. Don't overlook the offshore coho opportunity either as trolled green label herring should also provide some opportunity for those targeting these quality fish in 150 to 200 foot of water SW of the Tillamook Bay jetty.

Nehalem Bay anglers should expect good action for those soaking herring near the river mouth. A softening tide series should provide some action for those working the jaws in what is likely the peak week for fall run chinook and coho to this system. Although action should continue through mid-October, early run fish are more likely to bite. Fish blue label herring for best results.

Ocean and bay crabbing should be good this weekend with the favorable tide series. Use fresh salmon or tuna carcasses for best results.

Central & South Coast Reports – Tuna charters out of Depoe Bay have endured a challenging week with anglers returning with only two or three fish each. A couple-three albacore in the 30 pound range won't spoil anyone's day but catches have slowed somewhat. Warm water could move farther offshore, putting tuna out of reach and at this time of year, such an occurrence could signal the end of the season.

Newport albacore fishers did very well over the past weekend and trips are being planned for the coming weekend as well. As long as warm water remains within reach of well-equipped sport craft, this fishery will continue but the clock is running out.

Bottom fishing has been good for rockfish and fair for lings out of central Oregon ports. Ocean crabbing also remains good. Salmon fishing has been rewarding anglers with mostly limits consisting primarily of large coho. As of the end of day Sunday, September 7th, about 19,200 of the 35,000 coho quota has been caught so this fishery will continue for a while but it remains to be seen if the quota will fill or this fishery will go the distance through September 30th as scheduled.

South coast beaches have been producing good catches and some 15-fish limits of surf perch. Concentrate efforts during the last two hours of the incoming tide and fish through the turn.

Trollers in Siuslaw tidewater have been dragging herring and landing Chinook to 30 and 35 pounds this week. Try just below Cushman's.

Reedsport boats have hit the ocean only to return with limits of salmon this week. It is an outstanding season this year. Some anglers have started fishing wild coho early although it is not legal to do so until September 15th. The upper Umpqua mainstem and South Umpqua remain productive for smallmouth bass despite low water levels. Steelheading is fair to good for summers in the flies-only stretch of the North Umpqua.

Tuna fishers launching out of Charleston have been making 30- to 35-mile trips this season and the past week has been no different. With tuna averaging 30 pounds, though, many feel it's worth it. As part of the offshore bounty, these anglers are pulling crab pots loaded with Dungeness on their way back to port. Inside Coos Bay, salmon trollers have been averaging a Chinook per rod or a little better working the areas between the BLM Boat Ramp and California Street Boat Ramp now that the season is underway. Marshfield Channel has also been productive but fishes best at the slack tide. Bay crabbing has been producing limits and clam digging has been excellent near Charleston during low tides. Wild coho may be taken starting September 15th.

Boats out of Gold Beach had a good weekend for bottom fish with multi-colored limits. Trolling in the bay was rewarding over the past week with many limits landed and the bonus of jacks was just gravy. Best results have come in the first three hours of daylight. Good numbers will endure in the absence of precipitation. Once the fall rains hit - and it can't be long 'til this occurs - Chinook with high-tail it up the Rogue. As it is, some salmon are moving upriver despite low water levels to Indian Creek and the location of the old mill. This movement of Chinook has created a decent, steady fishing on the middle Rogue and with most of these fish bound for the Applegate River at this time of year, it has been a

hotspot. Long-lining plugs has been particularly effective. A couple of weeks remain in the flies-only restriction on the upper Rogue where results for summer steelhead have been slow to fair.

The near-shore halibut fishery south of Humbug Mountain remains open with about 20% of the quota remaining. Salmon fishing closed out of Brookings on September 7th. The next opportunity for offshore Chinook will come October 1st through 12th. The ODFW calls it "2014 Chetco River Fall Chinook State Waters Terminal Area Recreational Season." We call it the Chetco Hawg season or bubble fishery and look forward to it every year as many fish die and they are usually big ones. While the Chetco River is now open to bobber fishing, it has been slow with the water level low in the absence of rain.

The 790 fire northeast of Medford and the Yellow Point fire west of Cottage Grove have burned thousands of acres in the southwest. While both are partially contained now, please be careful when outdoors and be aware of prohibited activities such as smoking, campfires, off-roading and use of power tools.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Robert Campbell at Fisherman’s Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) spoke of the hot fishing at Mt Hood Lakes that is ongoing. "Big trout are being caught at Timothy Lake on spoons and spinners," he reported.

Fishing is fair but spotty at the mouth of the Deschutes. While pulling plugs and jigging are hooking a few, the most productive technique is to drift eggs. Lately, pressure has been heavy while catches have been light but counts at the dams are building up. Counts at Sherars Falls indicate an ever-greater number of Chinook and steelhead are moving upstream. Chinook are legal to fish below Sherars Falls but not above.

Fly rodders casting Callibaetis dries and nymphs are taking fish all day at East Lake, taking good numbers of rainbow trout.

Kokanee are starting to show signs of the upcoming spawn at Odell. While trollers have taken 25-fish limits this week, a number of the fish were starting to show some color and some of the males were getting hook-jawed.

The West Fork fire south of Joseph has burned 120 acres, and is uncontained; the Freezeout Ridge fire east of Joseph has burned 250 acres is uncontained and the Deception/Staley complex west of Oakridge has burned nearly 4,900 acres. Fire danger extremely is high; please use every precaution in the outdoors.

TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail

Subscriber Terry T. wrote to TGF via the Contact Form at our website, "Just a note to let you know that your report reads like Wickiup Reservoir is closed August 31. The Deschutes arm upstream from the ODFW marker does close Aug. 31 but the main reservoir is open until Oct. 31.

"Thanks for all the great info."

TGF co-editor Michael Teague replied, "Thank you for reading, Terry, and for the clarification. You are correct."

Write to the TGF staff:

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Random Links

Disabled kids, volunteer helpers invited to fish-in and free barbecue in Netarts:

http://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/bill_monroe/index.ssf/2014/09/disabled_kids_volunteer_helper.html#incart_river

Jetski Tuna 9.9.14 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i-47wrV-lvI&feature=youtu.be>

How Fishing Makes You a Better Person (According To Science):

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/06/benefits-of-fishing_n_5754408.html?utm_hp_ref=email_share

GOOD LUCK!