

The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 38

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **September 19th – September 25th, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – Chinook fishing on the mainstem Columbia remains open upstream of Warrior Rock only, until October 1st. Action has been sporadic but anchor anglers using wobblers are taking fish occasionally.

Lower Willamette water temperatures are gradually coming down thanks to cool nights. The latest coho count at the falls was 264 with about 600 fall Chinook upstream now. Bass fishing is good and a few coho have been taken.

Water conditions on the McKenzie are rock-stable and are expected to stay that way with only light showers falling in the valley.

North Santiam flows remain low and are expected to be unchanged through the coming week. A similar situation exists on the South Santiam with water conditions forecast to remain the same over the coming week. Fishing is slow.

There will be no relief in low, clear water conditions on the Clackamas River despite the forecast for rain this week, at least according to NOAA predictions. There may be an improvement in the last week of September, however. Predictably, the Bowling Alley Hole is shoulder to shoulder with spinner flingers.

Sandy levels, while low, are maintaining a glacial green color that no angler will find objectionable. A few coho have been taken over the past week.

Northwest – Coho are still present in good number in the Astoria area but a lull is expected in the coming weeks as anglers await later returning Washington bound fish. Crabbing is picking up on the lower Columbia

Chinook are starting to show in good numbers in the Tillamook and Nehalem systems. Both estuaries produced good catches on Sunday and Monday. Coho are present in good numbers as well but you'll have to watch for fin-clips on most north coast systems. Check here for important details:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/docs/2014_coho_fisheries.pdf

Chinook have been reported at Loren's Drift on the Trask River, coho should be present as well. With no measureable rain in the forecast, most fish will remain in the tidewater stretches for the foreseeable future.

Trollers working the jaws at the Nestucca and Salmon Rivers as well as the Alsea are scoring good results for chinook. It's peak season on some of these systems and coho should start to make a good showing as well.

Crabbing is improving on the north coast but condition and quantity should improve even more by early October.

Southwest- The central Oregon nearshore had 39% of the quota remaining as of the week of September 1-7 which is the latest data available. In any event, a closure hasn't been announced so go get 'em.

Despite the southern Oregon halibut fishery filling the quota weeks ago, it's still on due to a bounty of 'buts. Leftover poundage from other areas have been rolled into this fishery. Over the past week, halibut of 50 to 60 pounds have been landed.

Charters out of Depoe Bay continue to score rockfish limits for clients and one reported and incidental catch of a 55-pound halibut. That's a good day!

Wild coho fishing will open on October 1st at Tenmile, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch lakes. This is mostly a troll fishery although only one rod is allowed per angler during wild coho retention season and anglers may take only one unclipped coho per day and two for the season.

Crabbing has been good in Winchester Bay.

Tuna are being taken out of Charleston. Chinook fishing and crabbing are good in Coos Bay.

Rogue Bay has continued to produce good catches of Chinook. The lower Rogue is fair for steelhead and half-pounders. Middle Rogue fishing is slow while steelheading is good on the upper Rogue.

Eastern – Fishers at the mouth of the Deschutes have been doing well this week. Boats pulling plugs have done best with those drifting eggs getting fewer hookups.

Dries have been effective on the Metolius with hatches ongoing throughout the day.

The John Day has been producing smallmouth bass on all manner of lures and flies. Finding anything large has been a challenge but there are plenty of 'em.

SW Washington- Chinook are available in many SW Washington tributaries but regulations vary by watershed. Coho are starting to show as well but the big push will happen later this month and well into November.

Cowlitz action for steelhead remains an option but anglers will begin putting most of their energy into salmon fishing for the next several weeks.

Boaters and bank anglers are working Drano Lake and Wind River pretty hard right now. Chinook and steelhead should both be available but coho are on their way where anglers are likely to intercept them in good numbers at the mouth of the Klickitat in the coming weeks.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Coho action on the lower Columbia couldn't get any better this week. Anglers taking advantage of the morning high tide, above the bridge on the Washington side were treated to ocean-like action with many taking 3-fish limits on their first pass. Fishing 6 rods for 7 anglers, we took a 21-fish limit on Sunday by 10:37 a.m. Action remained that good on Monday as well but we chose the ocean, thinking another early limit was at hand. Well, we were mistaken as it appears we finally put a dent in the saltwater coho population. As we have all season, we headed north, targeting coho in 25 to 35 foot of water along the Long Beach Peninsula, only to go an unprecedented 15 to 20 minutes without getting a bite. We finally quit 1 fish shy of a 12 coho limit by 11:45; we had other activities to do. It's clear by now, the bulk of the early run has entered the mainstem lower Columbia. Our wild to hatchery ratio in the ocean was likely around 50%; fortunately, we didn't have to pay attention to fin-clips on Sunday. There were still a few ocean chinook being hooked and taken over the weekend but they were indeed rare.

WEDNESDAY MORNING REPORT: Coho action above the bridge slowed slightly on Wednesday morning but the soft outgoing tide still produced fair action. Early limits are not currently a reality. It has clearly slowed from the weekend however. Fish are moving out!

Back to the river, fresh anchovies took the lion's share of coho with spinners and frozen herring a distant 2nd. With the declining density of boats in the area, more anglers were falling victim to sea-lion predation. They're trailing some boats, just waiting for a hook-up. Further upriver, the weakening tide series likely made Tongue Point a great coho option but people were rightfully focused on the water above the bridge, on the Washington side. Fin-clipped chinook were still allowed above Tongue Point although catches have been sparse and inconsistently slow. Even further upriver, the wobbler fishers weren't impressed with hatchery chinook options; effort was high but take-home fish were somewhat scarce. Most would agree, dam passage has peaked and we will be falling quite short of the pre-season forecast of 1.6 million chinook. Dam passage at Bonneville is good for coho and jack counts are down-right exciting. There have been periods of success for the wobbler fishers but overall, the season has been a large disappointment. Bonneville backtrollers have also seen inconsistent fishing but action should pick up as water temperatures cool. Most guides are working plugs this time of year but fish motivated to get upstream, seeking cooler waters, often ignore the "invaders" until temperatures cool and the run winds down.

Albacore anglers had friendly seas over the weekend although fish remained far enough offshore that interest was low. There were certainly some tuna taken but anglers reported spotty action for what is typically peak season. This is the time of year when anglers should be using live bait or "iron" to catch willing schools of fish.

Crabbers are starting to become more interested in the lower Columbia estuary where this week's softening tide series produced fair to good catches, especially for those that took advantage of fresh salmon carcasses from your local fish cleaning table.

The Guide's Forecast – Anglers might expect to see a slight lull in action this week. Despite excellent catches over the weekend, this kind of action can't last forever. Our recent downturn in success in the ocean is an indication that the river run is due for a downturn as well. This lull is common this time of year as we transition from early returning Oregon bound fish to later returning Washington bound fish. The Washington run fish, also known as "B" run coho, typically peak by mid-October. The run forecast for late returning coho is expected to be impressive. Fresh anchovies may become harder to find however. None-the-less, the lower Columbia should remain one of the best coho options in the state this weekend. It may be wise to take advantage of the weak tides in the Tongue Point reach as long as they last but fresh fish will hopefully ride the tide on the strengthening tide series by the weekend. The outgoing tide last week produced very well for coho anglers, which is commonly not the case. It was an indication of the sheer numbers of fish present in the system. As we're likely to experience a downturn this weekend, it would be wise to once again focus your efforts from the first part of incoming tide through the first part of outgoing tide with the best action likely to happen around high tide.

The ocean is forecast to roughen up a bit. With a declining bite outside, along with declining conditions, the ocean may not be a great bet for a while now. Here is the forecast:

THU

SE WIND 10 KT OR LESS KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 6 FT AT 16 SECONDS. SHOWERS LIKELY.

THU NIGHT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. SW SWELL 5 FT AT 15 SECONDS.

FRI

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...STRONGEST S OF NEWPORT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 15 SECONDS.

SAT

E TO NE WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 8 FT.

SUN

S WIND 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 5 FT.

Upriver, the mark-select fishery is now closed, pending the final passage of Washington bound tules. The river will reopen for any chinook in early October. The river remains open for a generous bag limit above Warrior Rock. Here is a refresher of the regulations:

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

Backtrollers working the Bonneville area should start to see improving catches as fish begin to slow down when the water cools. You likely won't have the interaction you had with sturgeon as predating sea-lions have altered the life-cycle of these behemoths. Unfortunately, anglers haven't found an effective way of taking coho in this reach.

Lower Columbia crabbing should continue to improve well into November but with a strengthening tide series, your window of opportunity will be more limited. Take advantage of the fresh salmon carcasses at a nearby fillet station, you won't be disappointed.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Lower Willamette water temperatures are gradually coming down thanks to cool nights. The latest coho count at the falls us 264 with about 600 fall Chinook upstream now.

Water conditions on the McKenzie are rock-stable and are expected to stay that way with only light showers falling in the valley.

North Santiam flows remain low and are expected to be unchanged through the coming week. A similar situation exists on the South Santiam with water conditions forecast to remain the same over the coming week.

The Guide's Forecast – To say that smallmouth bass fishing is all that's available at this time of year really does this fishery and injustice. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** referred to it as "world class" and he's in a position to know. Coho are being caught in the Willamette at the mouth of the Clackamas River by plug pullers and spinner tossers as well as by plunkers at Meldrum Bar.

Trout on the McKenzie will be responding to hatches of Pale Morning Duns, Blue-Winged Olives and Mahogany Duns. Keep an eye out and match patterns accordingly. Egg imitations will be effective once the spawn begins and may result in summer steelhead hookups despite a disappointing return this year.

Santiam flows will be improving later this month and the ODFW predicts that coho will be entering in fishable number. That seems a little optimistic but 2014 seems to be the Year of the Salmon so we'll see. I got one report of seeing some snagging on the South Santiam. Remember to turn in snaggers, use the TIP Hotline 1-800-452-7888.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – There will be no relief in low, clear water conditions on the Clackamas River despite the forecast for rain this week, at least according to NOAA predictions. There may be an improvement in the last week of September, however. Predictably, the Bowling Alley Hole is shoulder to shoulder with spinner flingers.

Sandy levels, while low, are maintaining a glacial green color that no angler will find objectionable. A few coho have been taken over the past week.

The Guide's Forecast – Coho movement is influenced more by the calendar than by water conditions. They will enter regardless. That's not to say they aren't influenced by improving conditions which, despite the lack of water depth, are occurring in the Clackamas in the form of lower water temperatures thanks to cooler nights. Catches are slow to spotty with spinners the top choice and pink blades most popular. The lower river holds the best chance of a hookup now. Coho, like summer steelhead, will bite when they're moving. As this starts to occur, concentrate efforts on riffles and pocket water. The Clack is still giving up a few summers for those using hardware high on the river.

Coho fishing will be steadily improving over coming weeks as a good return is expected this season. There are a few springers in the system but stay clear of them as they're on the verge of spawning and worthless to keep. Fresh fall Chinook will be entering soon and while only hatchery fish may be kept here, there should be a good percentage of finclips. Summer steelhead are still available in the Cedar Creek area.

North Coast Fishing Report – This just in - 9/17/14 ACTION NOTICE - Recreational Ocean Salmon: NOAA Fisheries in consultation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, representatives from the recreational fishery, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council, has taken in-season action with respect to the recreational salmon fishery in the area from Leadbetter Point to Cape Falcon.

ACTION TAKEN:

Within the Columbia River Ocean Salmon Management Area (Leadbetter Point, Washington to Cape Falcon, Oregon), recreational ocean salmon fishing closes effective 11:59 PM on Sunday, September 21, 2014.

RATIONALE AND NOTES: The Coho Salmon quota in this area is expected to be met by the end of the day on Sunday, September 21. Recently a transfer of 1,000 non selective Coho from this area was made to the Westport area in order to keep the salmon season open in that area. The Westport area will close to recreational ocean salmon fishing at the end of the day on Friday, September 19. Through a series of shifts of Coho remaining from other commercial and recreational seasons, the 1,000 Coho that had been transferred to Westport has been returned to the Columbia River Area so the full quota within this area was restored.

Salmon anglers on Tillamook and Nehalem Bays have enjoyed plentiful catches of chinook and coho in recent days. Tillamook in particular, heated up on Monday with ample numbers of chinook and coho falling in the jaws on the soft tide series and just outside in the adjacent ocean waters. Several chinook in the high 20's and low 30's have been reported lately. Similarly, the Nehalem jaws put out great catches of chinook and coho on Sunday and continue to produce great results for those working herring at the jaws. Several limits were reported for herring trollers here over the weekend.

It's prime time for chinook trollers working these two estuaries right now. Hatchery coho have been available on Tillamook Bay for the last 10 days and given the magnitude of the coho return this year, we

should have ample opportunity for hatchery (and wild) coho for another several weeks. Also in recent years, early returning chinook, destined for the Trask and Tillamook Rivers have been strong, out-pacing the Wilson/Kilchis returns that have fallen for about the last 4 years. These Wilson/Kilchis fish largely return in the second half of October through mid-November and later; we haven't been impressed with these numbers in recent history.

We're currently on the ideal tide series for low bay production on all these north coast systems. The weak tides and calm ocean keep savvy anglers focused on the lower bay where fish are more likely to bite in the first place. Higher saline levels and cooler waters keep these fish motivated to feed, to some degree. A calm ocean in recent days has further contributed to high success rates recently. Bar crossings have not been an issue. The west channel in Tillamook Bay has been devoid of activity but there is a growing presence in the Ghost Hole every day. There has been consistent catches of coho and chinook in this reach in the recent week and it will likely continue to produce throughout the season. Bay City should be about the upper most productive point on these weak tides. On the Nehalem, there are a lot of fish stacked in tidewater below Mohler but they're not very motivated to bite given their extended stay in tidewater and the weak tide exchange. Bobber tossers are in pursuit none-the-less.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON REPORT: the big wad of hatchery coho around the Ghost Hole has largely disappeared but good numbers of chinook have become available. The soft outgoing tide is producing best using spinners and herring.

River fishing remains predictably stagnant, along with the water up there but chinook are being reported at Loren's Drift. Bobber tossers are taking a few fish from the area. The Tillamook tidewater stretch, mostly accessible at the handicap ramp, should hold good numbers of chinook and likely some coho right about now.

The Nestucca and Salmon River estuaries are also producing predictable catches of chinook. The Salmon River near Lincoln City peaks about this time of year. Check here http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/coastal_salmon_seasons.asp to check updated regulations for your water body. Trolled herring typically takes the bulk of the chinook in these estuaries, I would expect nothing different this year. Spinner tossers and bobber pitchers will work the lower Nestucca tidewater hard this time of year and the Highway 101 Salmon River hole is quite popular too.

The Alsea River blossoms as well around this time and the recent weak tides has prompted great catches of chinook near the bay entrance. This action will likely continue well into October but this tide series typically kicks off what is likely to be a productive season on this system.

The offshore ocean fishery is going better than expected. Excellent coho catches have prompted the ODF&W to reconsider their coho predictions and nearshore chinook fishing isn't bad either. Sticking with coho, action out of Garibaldi continues to produce better than expected results with a coho quota that's fast getting eaten up. Preliminary results indicate less than 20% of the quota remains; it seems unlikely that we'll get through the month at this rate. Updated catch stats can be found here: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/salmon/docs/2014_SOF_Sport_Update.pdf.

Offshore crabbing is improving slightly but still is trailing behind what we're typically used to. Crab condition is improving but limits are not the rule as it typically common this time of year. We should still be thanking Gary Kish, an avid angler, for submitting the regulation proposal for an extended ocean crab season.

Bay crabbing has not been all that impressive with Tillamook, Netarts and Nehalem taking the bulk of the effort. The Nestucca estuary can be a sleeper this time of year and you can productively salmon fish here too.

Halibut season remains open in the nearshore with almost 40% of the quota remaining. Not too many people are targeting halibut specifically this time of year but we occasionally intercept them while chinook fishing out of Garibaldi.

The Guide's Forecast – A strengthening tide series will make lower estuary salmon fishing a bit more challenging for north coast anglers. This will however, give the small boat fleet a little better access to chinook and coho that will get pushed up further into the estuary on the stronger tides. Also, fish tend to bite better in stronger tide exchanges, at least around the tide exchange itself.

Tillamook anglers should continue to find success in the Ghost Hole, Bay City and in the upper bay on the stronger tides. Keep in mind however that many chinook and coho will continue to get culled out of the fishery if the ocean remains calm. With a strong fleet presence near the entrance and adjacent ocean waters, there won't be a ton of biters that get through the gauntlet of herring to be presented throughout the week and weekend. With Trask and Tillamook fish continuing to make a strong early season showing however, upper bay trollers should continue to find success this weekend using spinners, herring and plugs. You can even go old school and backbouce eggs on the flood tide if you're so encouraged. Tidewater anglers should also have a fair week as river levels are forecast to remain low and clear, likely keeping fish downstream of the head of tidewater where bobbers and baits should produce results. Despite the low water situation, chinook and coho are available in the Loren's Drift area. Small clusters of eggs could produce measureable results.

Nehalem Anglers should see some improvement in upper bay action by the weekend. Trollers working herring and/or spinners from Wheeler and into Nehalem could win big with ample numbers of chinook and coho available as upriver water levels remain low and warm. The tidewater reach should get plugged with fish, the question is, now motivated will they be to bite?

It's much the same on the Nestucca and Salmon River systems. This could be a good week for anglers here with a bigger tide exchange. Trollers working tidewater with spinners or herring should fare well and bobber anglers should also do well around tide changes. On the Nestucca, the Woods area is likely to heat up but the Boat Ramp Hole and Guard Rail could provide some action for moving chinook on the flood tide and again near low slack. A shrimp and egg combo will likely yield the best results.

The Alsea should be receiving its first good push of chinook (and some coho) this week. Bobber tossers and tidewater trollers should produce good results. Through the weekend, herring trollers working the high slack and outgoing tide near the mouth should produce very well too. Crabbing is fair at best on the Alsea.

Ocean crabbing likely won't pick up significantly but the quality of crab should continue to improve. Of course fresh bait will produce the best results. Bay crabbing will likely produce fair at best with increased pressure (from those also fishing) and an increasing tide series.

Halibut fishing and bottomfishing will be low priority with the ocean coho season about to close. Offshore coho action should remain good but plan on an early closure. Bottomfishing and halibut should produce fair results; you'll be most motivated on calmer seas. Here is your weekend forecast:

THU

SE WIND 5 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 4 FT AT 11 SECONDS...SHIFTING TO THE SW 3 FT AT 16 SECONDS IN THE AFTERNOON. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

THU NIGHT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT...EASING TO 5 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SWELL SW 4 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

SECONDARY SWELL NW 3 FT AT 11 SECONDS.

FRI

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT...BECOMING W IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 3 FT AT 12 SECONDS. SECONDARY SWELL NW 3 FT AT 10 SECONDS.

FRI NIGHT

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT AT 15 SECONDS.

SAT

NE WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 8 FT.

SUN

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 5 FT.

Central & South Coast Reports – This just in: 9/17/14 ACTION NOTICE (1 of 2)- Recreational Ocean Salmon: NOAA Fisheries in consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, representatives from the recreational fishery, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council, has taken in-season action with respect to the recreational salmon fishery in the area from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt.

ACTION TAKEN:

Cape Falcon, Oregon to Humbug Mountain, Oregon: Retention of Coho Salmon closes effective 11:59 PM on Friday, September 19, 2014. Retention of all salmon except Coho remains open through October 31, 2014 within this area.

RATIONALE AND NOTES: The non selective Coho Salmon fishery opened in this area on August 30 under an adjusted quota of 35,000 Coho. The season was scheduled to run through the earlier of September 30 or the quota.

The Labor Day Weekend opening presented anglers with optimal ocean conditions and hungry Coho. Fishing has remained excellent through this season with catch rates over a salmon per angler from Newport north throughout the season. Coho catches through Sunday, September 14 totaled 29,500 leaving 5,500 remaining on the quota. Forecasts for catches this week indicated that the quota would be exceeded if the season remained open past Friday.

The central Oregon nearshore had 39% of the quota remaining as of the week of September 1-7 which is the latest data available. In any event, a closure hasn't been announced so go get 'em.

Despite the southern Oregon halibut fishery filling the quota weeks ago, it's still on due to a bounty of 'buts. Leftover poundage from other areas have been rolled into this fishery. Over the past week, halibut of 50 to 60 pounds have been landed.

Charters out of Depoe Bay continue to score rockfish limits for clients and one reported and incidental catch of a 55-pound halibut. That's a good day!

Wild coho fishing will open on October 1st at Tenmile, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch lakes. This is mostly a troll fishery although only one rod is allowed per angler during wild coho retention season and anglers may take only one unclipped coho per day and two for the season.

Crabbing has been good in Winchester Bay. Keep an eye out for tagged Dungeness as turning in these at

the Sportsman Cannery will be good for a fishing hat and will be put into a drawing for a \$1,000 top prize. Trollers are taking fall Chinook at a pretty good clip. The Umpqua River wild coho fishery opened on September 15th along with many other coastal rivers. On the Umpqua, however, the fishery will run through November 30th or a quota of 2,000 unclipped fish, whichever comes first. Anglers may keep one wild fish per day and two for the season. Bank fishing with spinners has been quite productive for those casting from Half Moon Bay and Osprey Point. Most are using spinners with pink or green blades. The Umpqua mainstem and South Umpqua have continued to produce decent numbers of smallmouth bass despite low water levels. On the North Umpqua, anglers are catching summer steelhead in the Narrows and Swiftwater areas although catches are just fair. Results for summer steelhead are somewhat better in the fly waters although there's more pressure here.

Warm water moved closer to shore over the past week and with it, albacore. Some of the best catches occurred out of Charleston where boats had to travel only 16 miles at times to get into tuna. Chinook catches are good for trollers in Coos Bay with best results coming from the stretch around the Highway 101 Bridge to the BLM boat ramp. The wild coho fishery started here on September 15th and is scheduled to continue through the end of November. Crabbing in the bay has been good with most boats taking limits of Dungeness.

Salmon fishing has been slow in the Coquille estuary although wild coho can be kept as part of a two-fish limit here. Results are expected to improve around the 1st of October.

Bottom fishing has been excellent out of Gold Beach with the ocean providing limits of rockfish. Fishing has slowed on the lower Rogue River with the water level low. It started dropping on Thursday last week and by Monday, September 15th it was down about a foot at Agness, effectively turning off the steelhead and half-pounder but and shutting down movement of fall Chinook. Low, warm water in the lower Rogue means plenty of salmon are available to trollers in the bay. The bite has been fair one day and really good the next but it has been worth the trip every day. Chinook fishing and steelheading has been slow on the middle Rogue. The upper river remains restricted to flies only and catches of summer steelhead have been good.

Recent calm ocean conditions allowed easy launches out of the Port of Brookings where offshore anglers caught copious quantities of rockfish and ling cod. Inside Brookings Harbor, trolling for Chinook has produced fish to 30 pounds or larger. Trollers are mostly using a spinner/anchovy rig although herring is often substituted to good effect. The Chetco Hawg Derby will be limited to the first 200 participants who pay the modest \$40 entry fee. Three-quarters of the fund collected will be returned to the anglers as prize money. The bobber and bait fishery on the Chetco River has yet to get underway although boats have been taking fish by pulling plugs.

Fishing has improved a little at Diamond Lake although most of the fish being caught are eight-inchers from this year's trout stocking. Power Bait remains effective although trollers are also taking fish.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Fishers at the mouth of the Deschutes have been doing well this week. Boats pulling plugs have done best with those drifting eggs getting fewer hookups. Nighttime temperatures have dropped as the season changes from summer to fall and with it, cooler water temperatures in the lower Deschutes. Steelheading remains best at the mouth but fish are now scattered up to Maupin and with these improved condition, are biting. Morning hours are still the most productive. Steelheaders are catching fish below Sherars Falls and have been inadvertently taking decent numbers of reddsides.

Crooked River trout seem to be responding to the change of seasons as well. Fishing is good with Pale Morning Duns and Caddis imitations with overcast skies providing the best results.

Dries have been effective on the Metolius with hatches ongoing throughout the day. The John Day has been producing smallmouth bass on all manner of lures and flies. Finding anything large has been a challenge but there are plenty of 'em.

Crane Prairie has been fishing well with dark colored wet flies and leeches productive.

Write to the TGF staff:

We heard from **Kaptn Ken Johnson** this week about his Columbia River trip, "Water temp hovered around 73 degrees this entire trip, which is way too warm for a good bite. Not many fish were caught from all the other boats on the river. We got two, a 16 pounder and my 17 pounder, and were lucky we did."



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Random Links

Bad Timing - Memaloose Point boat launch may be unusable this season:

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

How Often Do Trout and Grayling Eat Mammals?:

<http://blog.nature.org/science/2014/09/10/rainbow-trout-grayling-eat-shrews-bristol->

bay-alaska/?utm_campaign=social.nature&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_content=1410360024

Fly Fishing is a Joke (video): <http://vimeo.com/21580651>

Oregon fishing resource: <http://www.bestfishinginamerica.com/OR-oregon-county-fishing-locations-home.html>

GOOD LUCK!