

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 17<sup>th</sup> – October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** – Bonneville plug pullers are starting to see their fishery wind down but should experience one last hurrah for chinook, both bright and coloring. With cooling waters, action should remain more persistent throughout the day. On good coho years, there is often a successful troll fishery in the gorge although successful anglers keep it pretty tight lipped. It should be worth exploring this season with early November a peak period.

Steelhead counts are dwindling as are fall Chinook numbers. But coho, they are going strong. Since counts fall behind when fish traffic is heavy, data hasn't been updated since October 5th when the total on that date was nearly 12,000. Something between 200 and a 1,000 a day have been passing since then so that equals a lot. The passage is nearly equal to that of last year at this time and much better than 2012. The ODFW announced earlier this week, "Effective Wednesday, October 15, the daily bag limit for coho salmon increases to three fish on the Willamette mainstem above Willamette Falls, and the Molalla, Santiam, Yamhill, South Yamhill and Tualatin rivers. Prior to the rule change, the limit was two coho per day."

Coho taken in the Willamette above the falls or in any of the above-mentioned tributaries do not have to be fin-clipped.

McKenzie River levels have yet to show any impact from precipitation. This isn't unusual following a dry spell as the ground will soak up rain for a while before it starts to effect river flows.

Over 3,000 summer steelhead had been counted at Foster Dam on the South Santiam as of October 14th. While this is off about 30% from last year's run, there are still a catchable numbers of fish in the river.

Level and flows on the Clackamas improved somewhat October 14th with showers starting up on that date. If you aren't deterred by fishing amongst other anglers, Bonnie Lure has good numbers of coho for those who and hike down to the river from there.

Sandy River levels rose just a bit starting October 12th at which the river picked up about six inches of depth measured at the town of Sandy. Coho numbers are decent on the Sandy River and the improvement in flow should have a positive effect on the fishes' inclination to bite or strike.

**Northwest** – Chinook action in the Tillamook district remains largely focused in the middle and upper estuary of Tillamook Bay itself. The predicted rainfall was greater than anticipated, making it a possibility for driftboating possibly into the weekend but rivers still only came up about a foot. None-the-less, a slug of fresh fish entered the Wilson and driftboaters did really well here on Thursday. The Trask will be a primary target but the Wilson should produce some new fish as well.

The Nehalem system has a lot of wild coho present but they could all escape upstream on the current rain freshet. Trollers working the bay this week did fairly well on wild coho.

The Nestucca and Salmon Rivers are slowing although there should be more chinook to enter the Nestucca Basin over the next few weeks. The Nestucca looks like it may come up enough to spur some upstream opportunities.

There is still some effort for coho in the Columbia River Estuary but this fishery should finally fade. Throw in the fact that the gillnet fleet will be fishing multiple days per week and it seems even more challenging. Most coho have moved into the tributaries by now but action should hold up through the weekend.

Crabbing is good in the lower Columbia but challenging in other north coast estuaries. That likely won't change in the coming weeks.

The ocean will be a poor option for all effort well into the weekend.

**Southwest**- High winds and an angry ocean has kept boats in port this week. Most charter operations are taking some time off with operations to resume as the weather allows.

From Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain, Chinook salmon fishing remains open through the end of October. Catches have been slow and spotty when boats have been able to get out at all.

The 2014 albacore tuna season has been a very productive one. It ranked third highest overall recreational landings on record. That said, it may or may not be over. If warm water remains offshore when boats are again able to launch, they plan to go.

Razor clamming is closed from Heceta Head near Florence south to the California border to because of elevated bacteria levels.

Nearshore halibut fishing is still open off the central coast with the 29% of the quota yet to fill. The South Coast fishery endures despite the quota filling weeks ago as it absorbs additional poundage left over from earlier seasonal halibut quotas elsewhere on the coast.

Most of the crabbing in Winchester Bay is taking place in the Half Moon Bay area and crabbers are doing well. Since the coho quota filled, far fewer boats are trolling for salmon in the bay.

The most productive area for salmon trolling at Coos Bay remains the Highway 101 Bridge to the mouth of the Millicoma River although action has slowed.

Trollers using anchovies on Rogue River Rigs have been making good catches of a mix of Chinook and Coho. Skinny water is challenging steelheaders on the middle Rogue now that Chinook fishing is closed above Hog Creek. The seasons have definitely changed as it is cold water being released from Lost Creek Lake which has lowered water temperatures, slowing results in the flies-only area of the upper Rogue.

**SW Washington** - The Cowlitz is producing very well for coho anglers and with the recent rains, good action should continue for these late run fish. The Lewis is also an option with some coho and sea-run cutthroat trout an option as well. Both of these systems should be peaking for the next 2 weeks.

The Klickitat fishery is beginning to pick up more momentum as coho numbers continue to impress passing downstream facilities. Plug trollers working these impoundments are also taking a few quality steelhead.

**Eastern** – Steelheading is fair to good on the lower Deschutes with the bulk of the run yet to enter. While it can be crowded, drift fishing near the mouth can be effective.

Now is a good time to hit East Lake for brown trout but be certain to check the weather report. It can make a trip pleasurable or miserable at this time of year.

Odell has continued to produce 25-fish limits of kokanee on most days. We say "most days" because it does fish better when the weather is pleasant.

**Soapbox Update:** Do you have your seats secured for the Association of NW Steelheaders 26<sup>th</sup> annual Hall of Fame Banquet on November 15<sup>th</sup>? This is the big one with lots of great auction items and a great program that highlights all the good things our association does for NW sports anglers. Go to the Steelheaders web site and secure your seats now. The Association would also LOVE to have any wonderful donations you're able to provide. You can contact us through the web site with all your creative ideas. Thank you!

<http://nwsteelheaders.org/events/hall-of-fame/>

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Coho anglers are still taking fish in the Astoria area although there isn't much interest for them right now. Despite a better than expected return, hunting season is upon us and coastal fall chinook are still stealing the interest, despite sub-par catches. Limits were still reported over the weekend and into this week but guides admittedly stated it's been a bit more challenging lately. One report came from a sport angler dying to get some more Fatal Flash spinners for a white-hot coho bite in the Buoy 10 reach. The spinner bite overall hasn't been all that impressive lately. Weak tides this week should have spurred even better catches, especially downstream of the bridge. For those waiting out high tide above the bridge, you should have been rewarded. **Pro guide Kevin Newell (360-430-2521)** reported good action for his combo crab/coho trips last week, catching between 5 and 18 keeper coho and 20 to 30 keeper crab for an afternoon soak. A great option but not one that everyone can exercise when we have the bigger tide swings. Green label herring remain the top bait since fresh anchovies are hard to come by. Spinners, if you put them on all rods that are fishing, are also a good option of late if the reports are accurate.

The mid-river wobbler fishery is done but some trollers are still taking an occasional chinook upstream of Longview. This fishery will continue to wane.

Bonneville backtrollers struggled for several days last week but saw a fresh push of new fish over the last few days. Anchor anglers were also producing fair catches using plugs near the bottom but guides working this area are in agreement that this fishery is winding down and likely to peter out in the coming weeks. Numbers crossing Bonneville are dwindling but resident numbers should remain strong enough to allow for some action through the next week. The quality of fish is likely to dissipate however as fall turns to deeper fall. It's been a fair season here with a good day being 5 nice fish for take-home. The bite is more consistent throughout the day versus just an early morning bite in the warmer waters we're just coming off of. Plugs have remained the go-to technique.

Crabbing as a stand-alone recreation has been good in the lower Columbia. It's not uncommon to take a limit of quality crab this time of year and effort is increasing as is the catch. The soft tide series this week has been ideal but that is due to change shortly. Fresh salmon carcasses are becoming harder to come by but fresh-frozen salmon carcasses are a close second.

**The Guide's Forecast** – This is about the time when we have less and less to write about on the Columbia River fisheries. It used to be when we could brag up the keeper fishing in the gorge but since the Stellar Sea Lion population has exploded in this reach, we have even less to worry about this time of year.

That said, this will be the last feasible week to expect any good results for estuary coho (near Astoria) and Bonneville backtrollers or anchor anglers targeting chinook. For coho, we'll have incoming tides for most of the morning with a high tide late in the morning. If you're really motivated, you can start at the Buoy 10 line on the early part of the incoming tide and troll your way upstream for high tide above the bridge on the Washington side. Same story as all of the previous season but this should be the last

hurrah for Buoy 10 anglers. You can bring your crab pots too but pay close attention to high tide. If you wait too long after high tide (which is certainly possible to do when the bite is on above the Astoria/Megler Bridge) you'll likely be too late to retrieve your pots before the tide starts running out. You won't like that, I assure you. If you have pots out, you may consider just fishing downstream of the bridge and actually leave to retrieve your pots before the high tide slacks out; hopefully, you have your limit by then (that remains 3 fin-clipped coho by the way). Although the tides aren't too extreme, action may slow slightly as the tide changes increase.

Bonneville chinook seekers may get another week of opportunity but don't expect all of your fish to be in great shape. Darker fish will begin to make up the bulk of the catch in the coming weeks but there should still be some fresh ones coming in and taking the bait on occasion. Don't bother with an aggressive salmon/sturgeon adventure, you'll likely be disappointed with both if you are only putting in a half-effort. Stick with plugs for this fishery, it will be your best bet.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Steelhead counts are dwindling as are fall Chinook numbers. But coho, they are going strong. Since counts fall behind when fish traffic is heavy, data hasn't been updated since October 5th when the total on that date was nearly 12,000. Something between 200 and a 1,000 a day have been passing since then so that equals a lot. The passage is nearly equal to that of last year at this time and much better than 2012. The ODFW announced earlier this week, "Effective Wednesday, October 15, the daily bag limit for coho salmon increases to three fish on the Willamette mainstem above Willamette Falls, and the Molalla, Santiam, Yamhill, South Yamhill and Tualatin rivers. Prior to the rule change, the limit was two coho per day." Coho taken in the Willamette above the Falls or in any of the above-mentioned tributaries do not have to be fin-clipped.

McKenzie River levels have yet to show any impact from precipitation. This isn't unusual following a dry spell as the ground will soak up rain for a while before it starts to effect river flows.

North Santiam levels rose slightly earlier this week but are actually forecast to drop in the next few days. Over 3,000 summer steelhead had been counted at Foster Dam on the South Santiam as of October 14th. While this is off about 30% from last year's run, there are still a catchable number of fish in the river.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host its last family fishing event of the year Saturday, Oct. 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mt. Hood Pond. The event is open to anglers of all ages. ODFW will loan out rods, reels, tackle and bait, while it lasts, free of charge to participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Anglers are welcome to bring their own equipment and bait if they prefer. To ensure that everybody has the opportunity to catch fish, ODFW will release more than 1,800 rainbow trout into the pond just prior to the event, including a couple hundred "lunkers" weighing in at more than a pound apiece. Mt. Hood Pond is a five-acre pond located on the Mt. Hood Community College campus in Gresham, at 2600 SE Stark Street.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Bass fishing remains good on the lower Willamette and will continue until the water temperature drops enough to shut it down. Coho can be difficult to catch on the upper Willamette this time of year due primarily to water temperatures but level and flow is also a factor. Rain forecast in the region over the next several weeks should improve fishing prospects as coho continue to congregate at the mouths of the Tualatin, Molalla and Yamhill rivers. Fish will begin moving into tributaries after significant rains increase flows and serve to cool water temperatures. Unless and until so much rain falls that it raises and roils the waters of the Middle Fork Willamette and Town Run, summer steelheaders will be able to chase fish with a degree of success.

The McKenzie River can provide a pleasant experience for fly anglers in the fall. Trout action is generally fair but steady and while there aren't tons of summer steelhead in the system they are available in modest number and once located, should be willing to play.

Despite modest numbers of summer steelhead in the North and South Santiams, fall is a great time to hunt some of them down. Traditionally, dark--colored or orange lures are effective at this time of year with this fishery enduring into early November. Coho have started entering the Santiam mainstem but it remains to be seen if the population reaches fishable levels here. This would be the year as the run has been excellent.

Check **Random Links**, below, for a video of fall fly fishing for summer steelhead filmed only a week ago.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Level and flows on the Clackamas improved somewhat October 14th with showers starting up on that date. If you aren't deterred by fishing amongst other anglers, Bonnie Lure has good numbers of coho for those who and hike down to the river from there. The crowds thin out a little at Barton Park, Carver, Riverside and other locations where a longer walk is required to reach the fish. Keep in mind that most people don't like to hike.

Sandy River levels up ticked just a bit starting October 12th at which it picked up about six inches of depth measured at the town of Sandy. Coho numbers are decent on the Sandy River and the improvement in flow should have a positive effect on the fishes' inclination to bite or strike.

The daily limit on the Sandy and Clackamas is three adult salmon or steelhead in combination but at least one of those must be an adipose fin-clipped coho. For example, an angler may keep two chinook and one coho; two steelhead and one coho; one chinook, one steelhead and one coho; or three coho. All fish must be adipose fin-clipped.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Those frustrated by coho might try for summer steelhead on the upper river. Numbers are decent and this fishery, while often overlooked in the fall, can really shine. Keep in mind that summer steelhead spawn on the same schedule as winters. This can be as early as January or as late as March. The upper Clack has been producing good numbers of summers on jigs and corkies. Boats drifting downstream from Bonnie Lure have been doing quite well on bobber and eggs but be prepared to release some wild fish in order to fill out with fin-clipped keepers. Summer steelhead are eating beads in this stretch. Eagle Creek has been productive immediately following rain showers but it drops back to low levels quickly. When there was water in the creek over the past weekend, a fly angler targeting trout caught a coho on a dry fly. For those who don't fly fish, this would be considered a rare occurrence.

A few coho are being hooked on the Sandy although prospects will be even better with a little additional precipitation. Coho can be seen rolling and jumping below the mouth of Cedar Creek and all along the river throughout Oxbow Park. Try drifting good-quality, cured eggs with little or no weight to entice them. Dodge Park has also put out some fish but has been subject to a great deal of pressure. Speaking of which, 100 or more vehicles are parking at the Cedar Creek Hatchery daily. They're all fishing the pool below the creek mouth on the main river. Yeah, it's a zoo. This week, results have been poor. Coho are obviously in the river but are snubbing angler offerings.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – Tillamook Chinook seekers are still finding success in the middle bay while lower river trollers are struggling to find fish on what has historically been a productive tide cycle for trollers working the jaws, the Ghost Hole and Bay City slot. For those paying attention to ocean conditions, it simply hasn't been an option out there as the bar has been restricted to most recreational craft.

With the middle bay and upper bay the only feasible options lately, that's where the bulk of the effort is taking place. The middle bay is also the most complicated to fish, making it a low priority for most Tillamook Bay anglers. With finite channels and complicated techniques (relatively speaking), there isn't a large contingency of anglers that choose to participate in this fishery. That has made for some relaxing fishing, as long as you're one of the lucky ones catching fish. Spinners continue to dominate the action but with cooler fall temperatures coming on, herring may play a bigger role in the very near future. On Tuesday, I did see a few more boats successfully taking chinook (and some coho) on herring in the middle bay. Again however, spinners have been the bigger hero with the red/brass and silver/pink or red playing a significant role in angler success recently.

Despite the Monday deluge, the Wilson River only came up about a 1/2 of a foot. This is often enough to move fish out of the estuary however, especially if the watershed hasn't seen measureable precipitation in several weeks. That clearly wasn't the case however as ample numbers of coho and chinook continued to taunt us by jumping on all sides of our boat on Tuesday. We did manage to take 2 nice chinook and released 2 wild coho, all on spinners for an 8-hour effort. We saw several other chinook and coho taken throughout the day. It seemed the best bite was about 2 hours after high slack and about 2 hours after incoming tide. We got our fish on white/red/pink/brass back size 6 Fatal Flash and the black nickel/red time size 6 Fatal Flash blades with pink beads. The West Channel continues to be void of chinook but coho are there in numbers. That only really matters on Fridays and Saturdays however.

The upper bay at Memaloose has been productive at first light (it's helpful that there's been a high tide at daybreak) and on the afternoon high tide as well. Herring and spinners have been effective here. With very little rise in river levels, fish were anxious but unable to make fast tracks up the river systems to escape bay anglers.

Tidewater anglers are consistently taking fish in the Trask and the Tillamook/Trask ditch, especially close to low tide. The current tide cycle allows for an extended period of opportunity as tide change lasts a bit longer on these weak tide exchanges. Bobber and egg/shrimp combo's have been most productive. There have also been some fish taken in the Wilson tidewater but this fishery is still on the front end of production. It should kick in after the next bigger tide series after this weekend.

Nehalem Bay continues to kick out ample numbers of wild coho. With a 7-day a week opportunity, there have been lots taken and it hardly seems to be making a dent in the abundant return this year. They are willingly taking spinners and small herring but spinners seem to be the most productive. The Wheeler to Fisher Point reach seem to be the best and although the jaws should have fished well on this weak tide series, the bar has been so rough that it's hard and a bit unsafe to effectively fish. That doesn't look to be changing anytime soon. Chinook have been a bit rare in the catch here however. That's no surprise as we near the tail end of the season here.

The Salmon is largely over with most anglers reporting a sub-par run this year. The Nestucca remains an option with fair numbers of fish stacked in tidewater. Although this system too seems to be under-performing, savvy bobber tossers are taking fair numbers of fish above Woods. The lower reaches of the bay and tidewater have produced fair results at best this season.

Crabbing is closed on the ocean right now but prior to the big water, produced good catches of hard-shelled keepers. There wasn't much competition out there as poor reports for much of the fall deterred many from participating but on the last day we crabbed (10/10), we took 52 nice keepers for 2 pulls of 4 pots. Using fresh salmon carcasses certainly helped. Bay crabbing has been a bit disappointing but persistent crabbers are taking fair numbers. The crab, like the ocean, is producing a quality keeper when their present.

Albacore is no longer an option as migratory patterns shift westward. Deep-reef lingcod action has been great when charter boats have been chasing them. It's a long ways out there but worth the trip. Sea bass

action fair too but much of the nearshore is fished out. The ocean will largely be put to bed from here on out.

Rivers remain too low and are forecast to remain that way, for the driftboat fleet to get on them. There are fish available for the low water tactician but most of the fish are dark and less than adequate for table fare. Hopefully, that changes soon. The hatchery hole on the Trask is now an unexpected option with coho largely the target. Here is the recent press release on the opportunity:

### **Trask 'Hatchery Hole' opens to salmon fishing Oct. 16**

Oct. 14, 2014

TILLAMOOK, Ore. – A popular Trask River fishing hole will open early this year to give anglers more opportunity to capitalize on continued strong returns of Chinook and coho salmon.

The Hatchery Hole will open to fishing Oct. 16 under temporary rules adopted this week by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Hatchery Hole is a popular section of the Trask River located 200 feet above and 900 feet below its confluence with Gold Creek, approximately six miles southeast of Tillamook. It normally remains closed through November to protect hatchery broodstock but will open early this year in response to returns in excess of hatchery needs on the Trask River.

“With observed and anticipated continued good returns of hatchery coho and fall Chinook we are implementing this additional opportunity,” said Robert Bradley, ODFW fish biologist in Tillamook, who noted that the opener will coincide with forecast rains that should bring more salmon into the Trask river basin.

Anglers may keep up to two adult salmon or steelhead per day in any combination. Both clipped and unclipped Chinook salmon may be retained whereas coho and steelhead retention is restricted to adipose fin-clipped fish. See the 2014 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations or the ODFW website for further details. ###

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**The Guide's Forecast** – Anglers will remain focused on chinook in the Tillamook area but coho remain a strong option on Friday's and Saturday's for those willing to modify their technique. Focusing on chinook however, anglers can't overlook the middle bay opportunity that has been going on for several weeks now. No matter how strong or weak the tides are, the fish have been present in the middle part of the bay, which is pretty hard to figure out how to effectively fish unless you have the channels marked off in your GPS unit. The more obvious stretch is the Ray's Place Piling slot, which runs several hundred yards and has been packed with boats when conditions allow. Spinner trollers are consistently taking fair numbers of chinook about an hour after high slack and the middle of the incoming tide as well as high slack on occasion. The fish are jumping everywhere, including shallow water where no one tends to fish. This is the perfect time to remove those dropper leads and fish leadless in these areas. You'll have this water largely to yourself.

For those used to fishing Tillamook Bay for chinook this time of year, you'll want to stick with tradition and target the Ghost Hole and Bay City on the incoming tide. Typically a good strategy, this fishery has not been producing all that well in recent weeks. Even on these small tides when seaweed and eelgrass has not been a big problem, action has been less than impressive in what is commonly a staple when the

late season chinook, largely destined for the Wilson and Kilchis Rivers, are coming through this area. These chinook seem to be bypassing the east side of the bay and coming up the middle channel, rarely fished by anyone and filtering into the middle bay where spinner trollers are taking advantage of it. If you ask jetty and ocean guides how the season has gone, they'll say it's been a bust but upper bay spinner trollers have a much different perspective. The west channel will likely continue to be sparsely populated by chinook but ample numbers of coho should remain present and jumping until the next large rain event. If we ever get that rain event, chinook should once again populate the west channel again.

With this ocean forecast, don't look west to make any of your wildest dreams come true:

**FRI** SE WIND 25 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT. COMBINED SEAS 16 FT. RAIN.

**FRI NIGHT** S WIND 20 TO 25 KT...EASING TO 15 TO 20 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 5 FT...SUBSIDING TO 3 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT. SW SWELL 15 FT AT 11 SECONDS...SUBSIDING TO 12 FT AT 10 SECONDS AFTER MIDNIGHT. SHOWERS.

**SAT** S WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 10 FT. SHOWERS LIKELY.

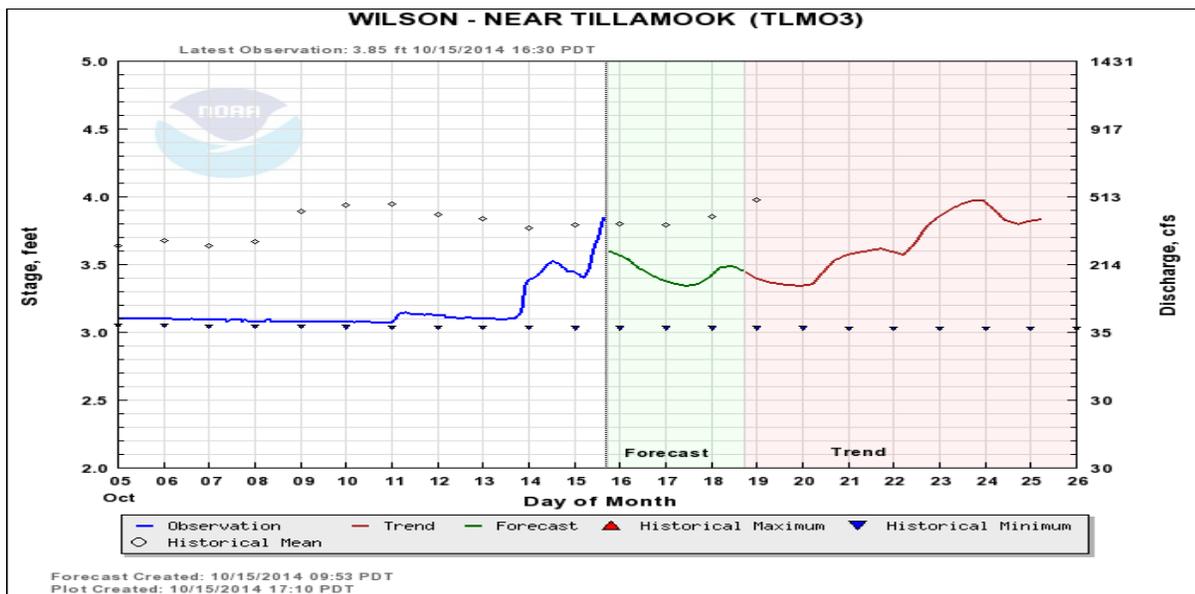
**SAT NIGHT** S WIND 10 TO 15 KT...BECOMING SE 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 7 FT.

**SUN** S WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. W SWELL 13 FT.

**MON** S WIND 15 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 14 FT.

Makes writing this section easy. The bar is likely to be restricted for a long time. Ocean crabbing is closed anyway and it's best to stay inside the bay for salmon for the remainder of the year..... Deep reef bottomfishing won't be an option either for a little while.

Not such great news for driftboaters just yet either. River forecasts are expected to be accurate, maintaining low river levels that will keep chinook in the bay or tidewater sections of these systems. The Trask is primed for action once the water starts flowing and the Wilson will traditionally start getting fresh fish about this time of year if the water rises. It looks like it will be a while before we see that kind of driftboat opportunity but here's the forecast so you can judge for yourself:



In order to really get things jumpstarted for north coast driftboaters, we'll want to see the Wilson River gauge jump to about 6 or 7 foot before dropping. The Trask eclipsed at about 7.3 feet, enough to get some fish moving but far from bringing a bunch of fresh fish upstream. We really need a gully-washer to send the darker fish way upstream and bring silver-sided chinook into the lower reaches of these rivers. It's looks like we're still a ways away from that happening.

Bay crabbing won't get any better as the tide cycle increases. Persistent crabbers should take fair numbers but don't expect limits for everyone.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – High winds and an angry ocean has kept boats in port this week. Most charter operations are taking some time off with operations to resume as the weather allows. The marine aggregate limit in Oregon remains seven rockfish a day although there are talks of a significant reduction in 2015. Make your voice heard whenever you're able. The lingcod limit is two a day, 22 inches or better in length and they're often much better than that.

From Cape Falcon south to Humbug Mountain, Chinook salmon fishing remains open through the end of October. Catches have been slow and spotty when boats have been able to get out at all.

The 2014 albacore tuna season has been a very productive one. It ranked as the third highest overall recreational landings on record. That said, it may or may not be over. The ocean has been too rough to launch but warm water is still within reach. Late October has been good in seasons past and sometimes tuna have been taken in November. Sports tuna fishers are talking. If they go, we'll report about it.

Ocean crabbing closed at the end of day October 15th. Fortunately, bay crabbing is great at this time of year with most boats returning to the docks with limits or near-limits of good-quality Dungeness. That's most bays; it has been slow in Alsea Bay and Siuslaw tidewater.

Razor clamming is closed from Heceta Head near Florence south to the California border to because of elevated bacteria levels.

Nearshore halibut fishing is still open off the central coast with the 29% of the quota yet to fill. The South Coast fishery endures despite the quota filling weeks ago as it absorbs additional poundage left over from earlier seasonal halibut quotas elsewhere on the coast.

Without rain, plenty of it and soon, there's little hope for a coho fishery this season at Tahkenitch and Tenmile lakes. In the absence of precipitation, fish will be dark when they finally do enter. There is a chance for table-quality coho at Siltcoos at the lake outlet.

The Alsea River has been on the rise over the past two days. Chinook will follow. It has been slow but that situation is about to improve.

Most of the crabbing in Winchester Bay is taking place in the Half Moon Bay area and crabbers are doing well. Since the coho quota filled, far fewer boats are trolling for salmon in the bay. Bobber & bait fishers at the mouth of Winchester Creek are doing well in a fishery that's showing ongoing improvement. Summer steelheading has been fair on the North Umpqua. Rock Creek Hatchery is once again open for visitors. The hatchery is open to visitors from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. The South Umpqua is closed until December 1st.

The most productive area for salmon trolling at Coos Bay remains the Highway 101 Bridge to the mouth of the Millicoma River although action has slowed. There are good numbers of Chinook jacks in the Coos River now and like all jacks, they love to eat eggs so the bobber and bait crowd is having fun with them.

When boats have been able to cross the bar out of Gold Beach, bottom fishing has produced limits of rockfish. Trollers using anchovies on Rogue River Rigs have been making good catches of a mix of Chinook and Coho. This could change as rain is in the forecast for Friday this week and an increase in Rogue flows will send salmon upriver. Fly fishers swinging flies and hardware anglers tossing spinners are making steady catches of steelhead in the Agness stretch despite low water levels. Skinny water is challenging steelheaders on the middle Rogue now that Chinook fishing is closed above Hog Creek. The seasons have definitely changed as it is cold water being released from Lost Creek Lake which has lowered water temperatures, slowing results in the flies-only area of the upper Rogue.

Bottom fishing out of Brookings Harbor has been excellent whenever boats have been able to get out. While the Chetco Bubble fishery ran hot and cold, it produced some large Chinook with fish to 55 pounds reported. It was a good run with flat conditions through October 10th although boats endured lumpy conditions the last couple of days prior to the closure. Chinook fishing is now focused on the bay where trollers are taking salmon and the Chetco River, with recent rainfall, has moved good numbers of fish upstream. Bobber fishing will be the primary method of extraction. Action will only improve in coming weeks.

It appears the first fall rains have come to southwest Oregon. If enough precipitation falls to raise the level of the Elk River, Chinook fishing will finally get started here.

Trout fishing is holding up well at Diamond Lake since the water temperatures dropped with cooler weather. Bait fishing is the way to go here as trolling has been ineffective. The limit is still eight trout a day measuring eight inches or longer although only one can be over the 20 inch mark can be kept. With the freezing level dropping mid-week, Diamond Lake received its first trace of snow.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Steelheading is fair to good on the lower Deschutes with the bulk of the run yet to enter. While it can be crowded, drift fishing near the mouth can be effective. Upriver, spinners, spoons and dark-colored corkies will all take fish at times. Experienced anglers do well with bobber and jig. The stretch above Rattlesnake Rapids has been productive. As the season develops, expect company wherever you fish on the D. Bait is allowed from Sherars Falls to the first railroad trestle. Counts at the Falls have been fair but steady. Trout fishers will do well around Warm Springs with hatching and October Caddis patterns as well as Mayflies.

Mann Lake has been fishing very well for trout in the 17 to 22-inch range. Cast dark-colored wooly buggers and strip in slowly to entice them. Expect to encounter some algae but it strips off easily. Fish are active mornings and evenings, moving to deep water during the day. Time is limited for access here as winter weather will put it out of reach.

Now is a good time to hit East Lake for brown trout but be certain to check the weather report. It can make a trip pleasurable or miserable at this time of year.

Odell has continued to produce 25-fish limits of kokanee on most days. We say "most days" because it does fish better when the weather is pleasant.

**Write to the TGF staff:**

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## Random Links

Save the Newport Rescue Helicopter:

<http://www.newportfishermenswives.com/#!about1/ccmz>

Tagged trout in Hagg Lake may reward the angler:

[http://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/bill\\_monroe/index.ssf/2014/10/tagged\\_trout\\_in\\_hagg\\_lake\\_may.html#incart\\_river](http://www.oregonlive.com/sports/oregonian/bill_monroe/index.ssf/2014/10/tagged_trout_in_hagg_lake_may.html#incart_river)

Oregon Summer Steelhead Fall 10-10-14:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOerO-tGqS4>

ODFW has new tools to help anglers navigate marine reserves:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2014/october/101414f.asp>

**GOOD LUCK!**