

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

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **November 14th – 20th, 2014**

Metro - The Bonneville fishery is over with only dark Chinook remaining in the catch. Coho numbers at Bonneville are also finally in the downturn. It's about time to put the salmon gear away and hope for a productive spring Chinook run.

Willamette Valley Fishing Report - Water level of the lower Willamette we will see little change due to rain this week. Catch-and-release sturgeon fishing has been good.

Winter fly fishing is expected to be fair on the McKenzie.

Fishing on the Santiams is slow and expected to remain that way for a while.

Clackamas and Sandy level and flow will remain little changed in the coming week. Coho fishing is slow. Targeting late summers is best at this time. Winter steelhead are on the way.

North Coast - Frigid weather kept most anglers off of Tillamook Bay recently but Chinook remain available for those fishing Bay City and the Ghost Hole. Herring remains the top bait but the bite has been best at first light and then it becomes a struggle for the rest of the day.

District rivers remain in excellent shape for drift-boaters and bank anglers. The Wilson will be the best bet but the Kilchis and Trask are also options. The tidewater stretch or below Sollie Smith should continue to output the best catches.

North Fork Nehalem hatchery workers have reported their first winter steelhead returns. The recording stated 2 winter steelhead were in the trap on Wednesday, somewhat confirming theory that the run may be large this year, especially given the magnitude of the coho return. It's still a bit early to get too excited, especially when a cold east wind is blowing.

Crabbing should be good in most coastal bays this weekend and if the east wind doesn't blow up too bad, the lower Columbia should be an excellent option.

Central & South Coast Reports - The ocean is open to all-depth fishing for rockfish and ling cod through the end of the year.

Ocean crabbing remains closed until December 1st but bay crabbing is making up for it with boats taking limits or near-limits from many coastal estuaries.

Halibut fishing is closed coast-wide now. The next opportunity will come in spring of 2015.

Wild coho are now in and available at Siltcoos, Tahkenitch and Tenmile Lakes.

Coho are still entering the Alsea System with fish scattered up to the deadline at Rivers Edge boat ramp.

Catches of Chinook have really tapered off for trollers at Coos Bay although rock-fishing is good from the jetties. Crabbing, as usual, is some of the best on the coast.

There's not much happening for salmon fishers at Rogue Bay now. Steelheading on the middle Rogue has been worthwhile. Steelheading on the upper Rogue has been quite good.

The Elk and Sixes may see enough precipitation to once again be fishable.

Central & Eastern – The Deschutes holds promise for larger steelhead now although few are fishing it.

Reports from Crooked River indicate that trout are being caught there.

SW Washington - Action for coho is finally slowing on most district streams. The Cowlitz and Lewis remain the best options. Anglers are still averaging nearly a fish per rod so prospects remain strong in these fisheries. The Lewis also remains a good late season option for bright Chinook.

Both boaters and bank anglers continue to catch the heck out of coho at the mouth of the Klickitat River. Jig and bait fishers often have no problem catching their limits of fish. This fishery will likely last into early December.

Columbia River Fishing Report – With frigid east winds keeping lower Columbia River conditions dangerous, crabbers were not able to take advantage of optimum fall crabbing tides in what is likely one of the more productive opportunities this year. With most of the fish gone from the estuary, it's really only a crabbing show right now, at least in the estuary.

Gorge salmon anglers were catching only a rare bright fish but even the "bright" fish would quickly deteriorate after dispatch. The quality of fish, especially Chinook, is quite low right now. It's spawning time. Coho do remain available however, for plug and spinner trollers working the gorge between Horsetail Falls and Camas. Coho counts at Bonneville are tapering dramatically however.

The Guide's Forecast – If the weather improves over the weekend, the tides are still ripe for great crabbing out of Hammond on the lower Columbia. If you have fresh bait to use, you won't go home disappointed. Although east winds aren't supposed to be too terribly bad, they could still be a factor for crabbers openly exposed on the lower river's wind tunnel.

Put a fork in it, salmon fishing is over below Bonneville Dam.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – While weather this week has caused distress, based primarily on concern over snowy conditions which never actually materialized, the actual amount of precipitation was slight. As a result, there will be little impact on the Willamette.

McKenzie water levels have been dropping steadily since the first of November but the river is expected to pick up a little level and flow with precipitation this week.

The Santiams are rising as of this writing but will be dropping once again through the coming week.

New-ish sporting goods retailer Fish Field is holding a free spinner building seminar on Monday, November 17th from 7 PM to 9 PM. They're located at 12540 SW Main St #120 in Tigard.

The Guide's Forecast – Since the first of the month, daily counts of coho at Willamette Falls have dropped from triple digits to single digits, another indicator that the 2014 run is about done. Catch and release sturgeon is excellent according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** although effort for them is light. Plenty of fish are being landed with many large to oversized. Oregon City to Portland Harbor and Multnomah Channel have all been productive at times. For an example of a Nantucket sleigh ride, see **Random Links**, below.

Expect the McKenzie to offer fair winter fly fishing with Caddis and BWOs the patterns of interest. This will be a sport for those wishing to get away from the crowds.

Even as the Santiams come back into shape, there's not a lot of reason for optimism at this time of year.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – The Clackamas River will experience negligible impact from the little precipitation falling this week.

The best part of a low freezing level is that waters of the Sandy River will be in decent condition for fishing. Levels have continued to drop slightly this week.

The Guide's Forecast – Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) reports that it's getting late in the season to expect much in the way of coho in the Clackamas. Some late summer steelhead are around and while it's too early to expect winter steelhead in any great number, there may be a few early fish around. For diehards hoping for late-season coho, try the Feldheimer to Barton stretch. Campbell mentioned that the neat thing about the Clackamas is that there is always something to catch here at any time of the year.

Coho fishing is about wrapped for the season according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**. It would be smarter to try for late summers. Campbell stated that there are always a few that enter late in the season.

North Coast Fishing Report – Cold weather has kept most sane anglers inside or at least only fishing for a short while on the north coast. Bay trollers typically get hit full frontal although those fishing the Ghost Hole or at Bay City can find some reprieve with the land mass blocking a share of that wind in those locations only. Most recently, Bay City continues to be the most productive option with the first light bite producing the best results. The last day I fished was Monday, 11/10, taking 2 fish at Bay City and losing a 3rd in the Ghost Hole to a harbor seal (sorry for disturbing the hole my fellow anglers). All fish were taken on herring, mostly plug cut with the best action during the first 1.5 hours of daybreak. We saw very few fish after that, when historically, the first part of incoming tide is quite productive. There's simply not a lot of fish around right now.

Wilson tidewater anglers are finding some solace from the brutal east winds but with a prolonged period of high water, only small pulses of fish are coming through. Back-bouncers seem to be getting the best response but plugs are taking a few fish as well. Like the bay, first light is most productive and downstream of the Shilo Hole, which is just above the Highway 101 Bridge.

Other river systems are not seeing a strong influx of fish. The Kilchis and to a lesser degree, the Nestucca should continue to see some adult Chinook through Thanksgiving. The Trask may actually be one of the better late season options in the Tillamook district but you're more likely to find dark fish on this system this time of year. No sign of early winter steelhead but incidental coho and chum are still taking baits and plugs on occasion.

Bay crabbing seems to be picking up a little for the few brave enough to bear the elements. You'd have to like crab a whole bunch however but the Tillamook and Nehalem Bays are producing fair catches. You still can't expect limits but if you are using quality bait and crab close to the bay entrance, you may be pleasantly surprised by your results. Recent bar reports indicate it's quite safe to crab out there. When the east wind blows, it knocks the westerly swell down, making for safe bar crossings and nearby crabbing. I don't know how long these conditions will last however. The ocean won't open for another few weeks.

The Guide's Forecast – With persistent east winds keeping morning temperatures low, action for late season fall Chinook will likely remain subdued. When we experience conditions such as this, it becomes a good strategy to wait for air temperatures to warm up and the East wind to subside before heading out. Besides those factors, your fellow anglers are often off the water by then. Bank anglers have even largely vacated the most coveted areas, which can produce great results by boaters.

So, starting with the signature district fishery, Tillamook Bay, action could remain consistent through Thanksgiving on the bay. With an improving tide series, especially after the weekend, more fresh fish could come into the bay (I had to hold myself from using the word "pour"). Herring at Bay City is the likely winner again this week. It might be fun to fish along the jetty again on the last part of outgoing tide, just to say you could do it if the bar conditions remain friendly. The offshore swell forecast remains at 6 foot but with a wide interval. None-the-less, I'm not sure there's much of a reason to pursue quarry outside of the jetty tips. The ocean salmon season is officially closed.

River fishers should be pleased that river levels will remain quite friendly for driftboaters and bank anglers. If the forecast comes in as predicted, there should be Chinook pocketed up in the deeper holes on the Wilson, Kilchis, Trask and Nestucca in that order of performance. The Wilson and Kilchis should be the best producers and depending on early morning air temperatures, you would be doing yourself a favor to try a late start. It's still a bit early but if the winter steelhead run is going to be as big as we think it's going to be, we may see an early fish poking into the Wilson, Kilchis, North Fork Nehalem (hatchery workers confirmed 2 winter steelhead in the trap on 11/12!) and Necanicum Rivers. Those that watch these things realize with the whopper coho run we had this year, winter steelhead success may prove highly successful too. It's a bit early to target them however.

Crabbers may find favorable conditions although it will still be cold out there. None-the-less, some quality keeper males should be available in some estuaries. Tillamook and Nehalem should prove to be the most productive. Crab seem to migrate into these areas in hopes of snagging a dying, spawned out salmon.

Central & South Coast Reports - We were blessed with some fine offshore conditions early this week and we're confident the situation proved fatal for numerous bottomfish. These opportunities become a rarity at this time of year although this coming Saturday November 15th, holds promise to once again allow low risk ocean access.

The ocean is open to all-depth fishing for rockfish and ling cod through the end of the year. When boats have been able to get out, bottom fishing results have been excellent. The marine fish daily bag limit is seven fish (one of which may be a cabezon) and a separate daily limit of two lingcod.

Ocean crabbing remains closed until December 1st but bay crabbing is making up for it with boats taking limits or near-limits from many coastal estuaries.

Halibut fishing is closed coast-wide now. The next opportunity will come in spring of 2015.

ODFW biologists announce this week that the last day to fish wild coho on Beaver Creek at One Beach near Newport will be November 16th. The nearby Yaquina, Alsea and Siletz rivers remain open to wild coho through November 30th.

Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) reports that a couple of winter steelhead were caught recently from the Siletz River.

Wild coho are now in and available at Siltcoos, Tahkenitch and Tenmile Lakes. Be certain to stay above the Highway 101 Bridge on the Siltcoos River. Anglers are reminded that a two-rod endorsement does

not apply when fishing for salmon. For those fishing Siltcoos from larger craft, the boat ramp at Westalke is recommended.



TGF field informant Dan O. shows off a lake-caught coho.

Coho are still entering the Alsea System with fish scattered up to the deadline at Rivers Edge boat ramp. Drifted roe or spinners have been taking fish. There are few Chinook in the system and most are well past their prime.

Crabbing remains good at Winchester Bay. Chinook catches have slowed as the curtain is closing on this fishery. Fishing is slow in the mainstem Umpqua at this between-season time. Late season summer steelheading is fair on the North Umpqua with the Narrows and Swiftwater areas providing the best chance of a hookup. The South Umpqua will open on December 1st.

Catches of Chinook have really tapered off for trollers at Coos Bay although rockfishing is good from the jetties. Crabbing, as usual, is some of the best on the coast. Boats are predictably doing the best although dock crabbers report taking fair numbers of legal Dungeness.

There's not much happening for salmon fishers at Rogue Bay now except for the occasional fish taken at the mouth of Indian Creek. Steelheading on the middle Rogue has been worthwhile if less than spectacular. Spinners and plugs have been effective at drawing strikes. Steelheading on the upper Rogue has been quite good at times with predictions this fishery will continue well into December. Catches are best in the stretch where bait is legal to use although egg flies are effective throughout as summers have become accustomed to sucking up roe below spawning Chinook.

Waters of the Chetco River started to rise overnight on November 12th. It's just as well as the summer-level low levels were a discouragement for Chinook anglers who could only tempt the occasional salmon with offerings of bait beneath a bobber. This latest freshet gives hope for rejuvenation even as the run is winding down. The Chetco is expected to crest in the morning of November 15th at around 3,000 cfs so this won't be a gully washer by any means. It will then drop over the following week. Anglers can keep up to five jack Chinook per day along with two adult fish in a daily limit. Jacks don't have to be tagged but once you've caught your two adults, that's it for the day. It's not legal to continue fishing.

The Elk and Sixes may see enough precipitation to once again be fishable. Only one wild fish is allowed but a hatchery fish can be kept for a two-per-day limit.

Central & Eastern - While traffic is lighter, there are some larger steelhead available to catch according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**. Campbell prefers taking Highway 197 to Maupin when he goes over. "It's a little longer that way," he said, "but avoids bad weather and really takes no longer to drive."

Trout fishing has been good on the Crooked River with Blue-Winged Olives hatching periodically and midges effective anytime here.

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Random Links

Oversized Sturgeon pulls Kayak on lower Willamette November 10, 2014:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nUqo-TyTuAE&feature=youtu.be>

Grant McOmie Visits the Trask Hatchery:

<http://traveloregon.com/trip-ideas/grants-getaways/trask-hatchery/>

GOOD LUCK!