

The Guide's Forecast - volume 6 issue number 38

Northwest Oregon's most complete and accurate fishing forecast

Forecasting for the fishing week of **March 25th – March 31st, 2005**

Fisheries Update: Spring Chinook are on their way so make sure that you have the tools you need to put more fish in the creel! Our technical report #1- Willamette River Spring Chinook Tactics and Locations for the Boat Angler is a real hit and a real help! These reports and several more are available at:
<http://www.theguidesforecast.com/techrpt.shtml>.

Columbia River salmon fishing is starting to heat up but far from great results. Better catches are getting reported every day although recent tides have favored the herring trollers. This weekend will likely be the best yet as gillnets will not have fished for almost 2 weeks!

With the remarkable addition of a Washington version of The Guide's Forecast by pro guide Kevin Newell, this weeks full version report comes in at over 5,600 words! Take advantage of this citadel of knowledge that Kevin brings to the program and subscribe today!

<http://www.theguidesforecast.com/signup.shtml>

Sturgeon fishing on the Columbia remains disappointing. Don't waste your time in this fishery.

Tillamook area steelheading was not what most expected after the recent rainfall. There were some good results posted just prior to the rain but the precipitation has spread the fish and river levels are quickly dropping back to low.

Sturgeon fishing in Tillamook Bay as well as crabbing remains fair. The upper and middle sections of the bay are producing best for sturgeon.

The big news on South Coast rivers isn't declining winter steelhead run but rather the kickoff of the spring chinook season on the Umpqua and Rogue Rivers. Expect to encounter these early fish low on the river.

Counts at Willamette Falls indicate a gradual, seasonal improvement in the numbers of springers and summer steelhead crossing.

Rain had little effect on the levels and quality of fishing at the Sandy and Clackamas Rivers, but seasonal improvement is expected in the coming weeks.

Smallmouth bass are active and cooperative in the upper Willamette River. Fishing for smallies has been fair to good on the John Day River (East side).

Only Hebo Lake is scheduled for trout planting this week although most lakes and ponds in the Willamette Valley and along the coast were heavily planted last week in anticipation of spring break.

Full length subscribers will note a significant section on Washington fishing this week. The Guide's Forecast-Washington edition is coming to fruition as requested by our numerous readers and **pro guide Kevin Newell (360-430-2521)** is doing a bang-up job of making it happen. Enjoy the fruits of his labor and for our free version subscribers, here is a re-cap of the Washington report:

Lewis River steelhead fishing has slowed and the salmon have yet to show up on force. Trout fishing in the reservoir (Merwin Dam) is picking up nicely for kokanee.

Kalama steelheading for broodstock and native fish is still happening. Even a few spring Chinook have been taken

in recent days despite the low water.

On the Cowlitz River, steelhead fishing is much more consistent than spring Chinook fishing. There was however a batch of salmon that provided some sport in recent weeks.

An early morning bite has been taking place for Puget Sound anglers- especially in the Bellingham and Hood Canal areas. Keep the rigging deep as these fish are low to the ground! As is the case with most years, the fish are not large.

A few rivers on the Olympic Peninsula are producing some quality size steelhead. The Bogachiel and Hoh are two of those rivers. Low levels are making fish a bit easier to target but anglers must practice stealth technique.

Soapbox Update: Many sports crab enthusiasts aren't aware of the commercial effort which takes place in bays and estuaries along the Oregon coast, as they work only weekdays and at night. Senate Bill 729 would eliminate commercial crabbing competition in the estuaries (although the Columbia would not be effected). Those who would support this measure are urged to write their legislators to that effect.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Salmon fishing on the mainstem is beginning to show signs of life although far from consistent. Sporadic results seem common for those fishing lower in the river system, taking advantage of the higher Willamette component only available downstream of Kelly Point Park. Guides report 2 to 4 opportunities per day and since the sea-lions have been underfed this season, they are taking particular advantage of sport caught fish. Recent tides have favored herring trollers but by the weekend, strong outgoing tides will make anchor fishing and bank plunking particularly attractive. Recent reports from the Westport area indicate an 8 fish for 11 boat effort on 3/23 and closer to a fish every other boat check on 3/24. Most fish landed at the Westport ramp are taken in Clifton Channel or nearby wing jetties.

The Bonneville opener was less than impressive as reported by **pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)**. Dan stated there were not many fish around for the opener and although fish will certainly show up in droves there soon, dam passage also indicates a slow jump start to this season's run. Dan also reported sturgeon fishing remains poor in the gorge.

Smelt appear to be a no show this season. I think it is worse than the fish agencies had even anticipated.

The Guide's Forecast – This weekend may prove to be the best opportunity yet for salmon anglers on the mainstem. The gillnets have yet to fish this week and a proposed opener for Thursday was postponed until after the weekend! Test results showed a lot of steelhead in the catch. One begins to wonder if these nets will ever fish again this season and if so, how long into April will they go?

For bank anglers, beach fishing will hold some promise with the big minus tides forecasted. With less than normal flows this spring, good beach opportunity will just not exist for much of the season. It is best to take advantage of these tides. Beaches along Sauvie Island and downstream of Rainier will be better bets. Jones Beach near Westport is a great standby. For boat anglers, Clifton Channel and the Westport wing dams offer some of the best opportunity. Also, the mouth of the Multnomah Channel may be a good place to fish. Anchor fish with Kwikfish on the outgoing tide and troll herring on the incoming.

Sturgeon fishing will be another waste of time this week although there were some good results reported at the John Day Ramp near Tongue Point. The group followed up the next week in the same area with little success however.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Willamette Falls data as of March 21st indicates

spring chinook and summer steelhead crossing in the double digits daily. Over 170 springers and 240 summer steelies have been counted. Winter steelhead YTD counts are over 3,400 but are still down about 60% of preseason prediction.

The lower Willamette has been a slow but steady producer for spring chinook. Anglers fishing between Hawthorne and Sellwood Bridge have seen flurries of action as numbers continue to improve weekly. Multnomah Channel trollers are taking a few, particularly in the lower end of the Channel.

Plunkers at Meldrum Bar have yet to see many rods go off. Improved current will certainly help to move fish. The minus tidal series starting on Monday, March 28th will continue into the first weekend in April, providing better conditions and current.

Sturgeon fishing may be worthwhile as action for shorts is guaranteed and a few keepers have been taken. ODFW checkers over the Thursday, Friday and Saturday retention period reported seven legals taken by 42 boats.

The March Brown caddis hatch on the McKenzie River has trout keyed on these insects.

North Santiam water levels are fair for this time of year, but with Detroit at the headwaters at summertime lows, unless there's some additional precipitation and snowpack, it'll be tough for smolt passage later in the year.

The Guide's Forecast – Much of the forecast is contingent upon the weather. With some projections forecasting as much as three inches on Saturday, March 26th, it's tough to put together a concise profile for anglers. It's safe to say that spring Chinook numbers will improve, but with a gullywasher, the Willamette will be a muddy mess.

Match the hatch on the McKenzie for some rewarding long-rod action if it doesn't turn too stormy this weekend.

Figure about 50% of the Willamette Falls counts as fish destined for the North Santiam. Consequently, numbers of summer steelhead and spring chinook will improve weekly. If the fish counts continue to improve at the Falls, this will be a viable alternative in a few weeks.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – There seemed to be less impact on inland than on coastal rivers from rain this week.

Steelheaders on the Sandy didn't see much improvement, although fish showing some color were seen on the move. It may be that this freshet will move the steelhead, which have lingered in the low water conditions with the next rain providing fresh quarry. Water temps remain in the low 40s.

The Clackamas River remains slow to fair for both steelhead and springers, although a mix of hatchery and wild were seen amongst the few taken. Anglers also encountered the occasional summer fish.

The Guide's Forecast – Rain increased the level and flow improved the color on the Sandy River, but it dropped and cleared again by mid-week. Fishing should pick up if the rains come to pass as forecasted.

Expect to find a mix of wild and hatchery steelhead in the Clackamas in the upcoming week with numbers of spring chinook improving with a rain freshet.

North Coast District Fishing Report – Despite the rain we had which should have significantly stimulated steelhead fishing, the fishing was not what most expected for this time of year. It certainly improved but anglers showed mixed reactions to this season's woes after the rain hit. I started off on Monday (3/21) on the Trask River and although there seemed to be fish present, we had about 5

opportunities but only landed one steelhead and some dandy cutthroat trout. Some of the takes we had were strong enough to be steelhead but may have been cutthroat trout as they were on the large size this day. The water was about ideal but judging from the results of one guide from Saturday, we missed the batch of fish that had traveled through just prior to the high water. This guide stated double digit results for that Saturday as this proves fish know when things are going to break loose. Following the fish we landed on the Trask, we headed over to the Wilson to flog the much worked over water from Mills Bridge to Donaldson's take-out. We managed one broodstock buck from the run just above the Donaldson's gravel bar before quitting for the day. It was taken on side drifted eggs. Speaking on Donaldson's gravel bar, **avid reader Jon B.** writes, "A couple of buddies of mine were fishing on Friday 3/18 on the Wilson River. They put in at Mills Bridge and took out at Donaldson's. They ran a shuttle with the Guide Shop that day. Their vehicle was broken into while at Donaldson's; they fished from 7am-12pm. They stole everything out of it, even their shoes. I know that area has been a big problem in the past and I always asked the Guide shop to leave my rig on the beach, it has not been messed with but when vehicles are parked back in the woods there seems to be break-ins. There was no sign of break in so they either did a good job of picking the door or it was left open. I have heard complaints even from The Guides Forecast of break-ins happening at Donaldson's, last I remember was a guide who lost a lot of \$. I don't know what could be done there to prevent break ins but something needs to be done. More patrols or something, I'd like to get my hands on the people doing it. I thought others should be aware and take precautions if parking your rig at Donaldson's on the Wilson River." What a great way to end a day, huh? If anyone gets a hold of these people, be sure to tie them up to a nearby tree so we can all have a "talk" with them!

On the brighter side of things, there was a spring Chinook reported from the Wilson River below Donaldson's. The fish reportedly had all of its fins but the season for Chinook doesn't open until 4/1 anyway. The fish was released (supposedly).

When I mentioned mixed reactions to the recent rain freshet in a previous paragraph, some anglers and guides had told me that there had been good fishing in the summer low flows of last week. These anglers were successful because the fish were concentrated and there was no one else pursuing them. One angler told me there were about 80 fish stacked up in the Duyck's drift prior to the high water and he had almost exclusive access to them! His results had dropped off when the rain hit. **Pro guide Kent Anderson (503-550-6303)** had a 9 and 10 fish day on the Nestucca River prior to the rain freshet. All of his fish were taken in 2 holes however. With higher flows, come spread out fish. As flows once again subside, the fish will again concentrate. More recently, Kent reported excellent results for several Nestucca River guides on 3/23. Some double digit opportunities presented themselves on the river even though conditions were less than ideal that day. The river is beginning to look like the last pre-rain condition making for more challenging situations.

The next day, we took a ride over to the mainstem Nehalem for a drift from the Beaver Slide to Mohler Sand and Gravel. The water color was in ideal shape but the flow was stronger than I had hoped. I had experienced anglers and we hit every piece of productive water only to come up with one fish rolled. That fish hit a drifted rag and egg cluster. I am pretty sure the flows were up high enough to keep the fish on the move. They were simply not holding on all of their traditional haunts as I am sure we should have had ample opportunities for them. This river fishes best in low water conditions and this just wasn't the case on 3/22.

I finished up this reporting week on Tillamook Bay in pursuit of crab and sturgeon. We hunted sturgeon all morning on the not-so-favorable tide only to come up with one fish- it was a 45 inch fat keeper. The fish took a mud shrimp on the upper bay. Crabbing was a bit better than it had been the last time I was out but we still only ended up with 19 keepers for two pulls of the pots. Crabbing for most was sub-par even though the crowds were light.

Ocean season for Chinook is open for sport and commercial fishers and the commercial trollers are

getting good numbers. There is no sport pressure for these fish and I don't even know how far these folks are going out to get these fish. The best part about this fishery is that they don't need to be fin-clipped to retain. This is for outside of the triangle zone from Tillamook Bay.

Sport crabbing outside of Tillamook Bay (in the ocean) is only fair.

The Guide's Forecast – A weekend forecast of rain may change steelhead success on the north coast only slightly. The bulk of the steelhead clearly took advantage of last weekend's rain freshet and bolted upstream. If weekend rains once again raise river levels, fishing should improve but it will be far from "wide-open". Depending on how much precipitation we receive (predictions have been consistently off) will dictate which river system to target steelhead on. It is likely that the most productive rivers will be the larger systems with the broodstock options. That would be the Nestucca and Wilson Rivers. If flows remain low, the mainstem Nehalem will be one of the better options and is likely the best option until we receive another shot of rain.

Morning minus tides for early next week could prove beneficial for Tillamook Bay sturgeon anglers. The south and middle channels were producing some catches of fish and we took one keeper in the upper bay on 3/23 and another in the middle channel on the afternoon outgoing.

Extreme tides may mean rough bar conditions for those wanting to pursue bottom fish and ocean crabs.

Central & South Coast Reports – As expected, the rain this week caused a brief flurry of activity in the Oregon fisheries. Steelhead took advantage of better flows as steelheaders tried their best to take advantage of the fish with mixed results.

Oregonians know better than to place any large wagers on the forecast of our mercurial weather conditions. Disturbing, long-term predictions indicate we may be in for a dry year, so take advantage of the precipitation when it comes.

Anglers were rewarded with a mix of native and hatchery steelhead of respectable size on the Siletz River. That guide boats were working the river as the waters receded should come as no surprise.

The Umpqua River received a much needed freshet which resulted in an improvement in conditions and catches. Although late in the season for steelhead here, these should be some fish to provide action. Use cured salmon eggs for best results. A few spring chinook have been taken in the lower river. If the rain materializes as forecast, the season will be underway here.

Rogue anglers welcome the beginning of the spring chinook run. Following the "first of the season" reported here last week, chinook have continued to enter with improved flows and several more have been taken. The best place to intercept them has been just above tidewater. Steelheaders will find some takers in the Grants Pass area. Staying on the move and trying a number of different types of holding water to establish a pattern will result in hookups. Eggs have been more effective than lures.

Central and Eastern Oregon – The Deschutes River will open to chinook fishing this year on April 15th. Two fin-clipped salmon and five jacks may be kept per day with a good return anticipated. Hood River will also open for chinook on this date.

Pro Guide Steve Fleming (888-624-9424) reports on smallmouth fishing from the John Day River, "March 20: Fished with a Father/Son team from Cashmere, Washington, Dick and Kurt Ryan. It was 43 in Fossil, 44 at the river with the water running 41 degrees, 1010 CFS, 3-4 clarity, and clearing skies. Kurt caught the first fish on crankbait at 8:35 AM (nice 16 1/2" smallie), and they had boated 4 fish by lunch.

After lunch the temp was 62 and the water had come up to 45 degrees, The sky was also turning black. A big storm was on it's way in/ They boated 6 fish after lunch and both ended up with a nice 17" smallie. Most of the fish were caught on Texas or Carolina rigs fished on the bottom and covered with Craw/Anise Smelly Jelly. When Dick was bringing in a nice fish a huge fish came up and bit the tail off the Outlaw 5" Ripple worm that was in the hooked fish's mouth. I'm not trying to make anything out of it, but you had to be there and see it.

"March 19: Fished with old friends Gary and Heidi Blaser (503-318-7510). It was 41 in Fossil and 43 at the river with the water running 42 degrees, 1110 CFS, 3-4 clarity, and very overcast. It was a tough weather day and the barometer was going down. We had 000 fish at lunch, then Heidi caught a beautiful 21 1/2" X 13" Master Angler Smallie. It was a great fish and her second in two years. She caught the toad on an Outlaw Bait 4 "Tube fished Texas rig. The tube was filled with Smelly Jelly Craw/Anise, and in color was green pumpkin. Check out their website: www.outlawbaits.com for a store near you. We ended up with three fish, but lost about six who would get on but not get up to the hook. Next time!!"

Brought to you by The Washington Guides Forecast Editor and Pro Guide Kevin Newell (360-430-2521)



Columbia River Fishing Report

Some days have provided decent fishing on the Lower Columbia around Cathlamet and on other days the fishing has been down right poor. On Monday, March 21 my boat didn't land a single fish for an all day effort. However, on Tuesday, March 22 my boat landed a 13 pound and a 14 pound hatchery fish, released a large wild springer and lost one to a sea lion. What a difference a day makes.

The Guides Forecast

Overall the fishing on the Columbia around Cathlamet is still sporadic. The fishing has definitely picked up but it has a long ways to go before it is what I would consider "good" fishing. Rain runoff combined with a stronger outgoing tide series next week should get the fish motivated to come up the river. Usually the lower river around Cathlamet fishes better than the Longview to Portland stretch.

Lewis River Fishing Report

According to **Pro Guide Erik Brigham (360 513 2331)**, steelhead fishing has slowed considerably on the Lewis River and spring Chinook are few and far between.

Lewis River fishing is Erik's specialty but now that the fishing has slowed Erik has moved to the Multnomah Channel. Erik got into some fish while in the Channel and on the Columbia River around St. Helens on Thursday, March 24. Erik was trolling cut plug herring and his boat landed one hatchery fish and lost two others at the boat. Erik reported seeing several other fish caught and noticed one boat doing well on prawn spinners.

The Guides Forecast

Steelhead fishing is done for a while on the Lewis and we are still a few weeks early for good numbers of spring Chinook. The rains that are forecasted should bring a few spring Chinook into the river, so if you don't want to brave the Columbia and battle the sea lions you may be able to scratch a springer out on the Lewis.

Lewis River Reservoirs Fishing Report

Anglers have been enjoying some successful Kokanee fishing on Lake Merwin this month. The fish that I have seen caught are a good size for this early in the year; they are around 14". Generally, Merwin doesn't get much fishing pressure in March but with the low water and recent warm temperatures it seems that things are starting a bit early. Some anglers are taking home limits of 5 fish but most anglers are averaging around 2 or 3.

Almost all of the Kokanee are being caught trolling. A popular setup among anglers at Merwin is trolling with small willow leaf pop gear in silver or silver/gold with an 18" – 24" leader tied to a wedding ring spinner. I always use Green Giant brand White Shoe Peg corn on my wedding ring spinners and I soak the corn in anise oil. Using the Green Giant brand White Shoe Peg corn and anise oil has really increased the number of fish I hook. I have tried other types of corn, as well as night crawlers but this type of corn really seems to work best. Down riggers are working best because the fish are deep. Start fishing around 25' deep in the morning and go deeper as the day goes on. A fish finder is a must. Once you are able to pattern the Kokanee you should be able to stay with them and be successful.

The Guides Forecast

Lake Merwin should continue to produce Kokanee and as the water warms the fishing will just get better. With the fish being this large this early, expect to get into some nice 17" fish in May and June.

Launching a boat at Yale Reservoir is currently not possible due to low water. The water in Yale has been lowered to allow reconstruction of the Swift No. 2 powerhouse at the east end of the reservoir. Currently it is estimated that boaters will be unable to launch at Yale for the next 3 weeks.

Kalama River Fishing Report

Some nice native and brood stock steelhead are being caught on the Kalama River. As of March 24 the Kalama is low but it is driftable. We should start getting some rain this weekend and the Kalama will stay in pretty good shape for the first few days of rain but if the forecast is correct; look for the river to be blown out by Monday or Tuesday. It's good to hear that a few spring Chinook have been caught over the last couple of days!

The Guides Forecast

After the water drops get ready for some pretty good fishing for native and brood stock steelhead, and there should be more spring Chinook in the river by the end of next week.

Cowlitz River Fishing Report

Pro Guide Eli Rico (425-417-0394) reports continued steelhead success on the Cowlitz River for the second run fish. Eli is averaging around a fish per rod with some days producing better than that. "We were seeing some spring Chinook being caught but that has really died off, hopefully it will pick up soon but in the meantime we have some pretty good steelhead fishing."

Pro Guide Curt Carlisle (253-921-3334) also reports success on the Cowlitz River for second run winter steelhead and a few jack spring Chinook have been caught by his customers as well.

The Guides Forecast

Good steelhead fishing on the Cowlitz will continue into April and then we will start seeing some spring Chinook being caught. The Cowlitz is currently flowing at summer levels so be cautious if your going to be running the river in a big boat.

Puget Sound Fishing Report

Puget Sound blackmouth fishing continues to provide hard working anglers with fish. The blackmouth aren't huge but nice fish continue to be taken near Everett, Camano Island, Possession Sound and near the southern tip of Whidbey Island. The best fishing is taking place near Bellingham and in Hood Canal. Hood Canal anglers are averaging a fish per rod. These fish are being taken right on the bottom and the bite has been tapering off towards late morning so get there early.

The Guides Forecast

The blackmouth Chinook fishing will continue to be good. The last part of the season is always the most productive time for this fishery. Many of the areas that are currently open will soon be closed to angling so check the fishing regulations before you go.

Eastern Puget Sound will have their halibut opener on April 14 which is 3 weeks earlier than previous seasons. Halibut tend to bite well earlier in eastern Puget Sound and the early opener allows anglers to target these fish before the halibut start their migration toward the Strait of Juan de Fuca. Many of these areas are protected from strong wind and waves, and usually have calmer water.

Olympic Peninsula Fishing Report

Some of the guides I have spoken with report good fishing on a few of the Olympic Peninsula Rivers. Not all of the streams are fishing well but there are a few rivers that have good numbers of steelhead in them and some of these are very large 18 pound plus fish. The recent rains have caused many of the fish to move into the upper parts of the rivers and now that the water has been dropping, the bite has really started to pick up.

The Bogachiel is certainly one of the Olympic Peninsula streams that is producing well. In recent years the Bogachiel has surpassed the Cowlitz for the title of Washington's premiere winter steelhead river and recently the Bogachiel has been producing a lot of fish. In low water the fishing can get tough on this river, but we shouldn't have to worry about that with the recent rains we received and also with the blast of rain that is due this weekend.

The Hoh River which was producing good numbers of fish has recently started to slow down according to **Pro Guide Dan Little (541-993-1351)**. Dan is expecting the Hoh to fish well again after these upcoming rains.

The Guides Forecast

Some Olympic Peninsula rivers are fishing well and others are dead. With the rains that are forecasted, look for many of these rivers to blow out. After the rains subside and these rivers start dropping back into shape we will see some of the best steelheading in the northwest! The rivers that were fishing well will fish great and even the rivers that have been slow should have some decent numbers of wild fish.

Trout Fishing

Lenore Lake in central Washington has been fishing really well for fly fisherman but expect crowds if you go. Chironomid patterns under strike indicators are one of the "go-to" methods on this lake. Lenore holds the large Lahontan strain of cutthroat trout and catching fish in the 20"-22" range is not uncommon on this lake.

According to the WDFW the following lakes received recent plantings of hatchery trout. "Kliline Pond recently received 1,000 rainbow trout, while Lacamas Lake in Washougal got 6,000 brown trout and 2,000 'bows. Sacajawea Lake in Longview recently received 4,500 catchable rainbow trout, while Mayfield Lake, the impoundment behind the Cowlitz River's lower dam, received 17,000 rainbows - mostly half-pound fish."

Children love fishing and many of these stocked lakes have great shore access, lots of room to run around and pretty good fishing as well! Catching trout in lake creates memories that last a lifetime. Take a kid fishing!

Razor Clam Digging

Currently the WDFW is planning to allow razor clam digging at all five of Washington's razor clam beaches. These digs are scheduled for April 9-11 and April 23-25. Clam digging is always contingent upon low toxin levels. You can visit <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/razorclam/season.htm> to find out more about clam digging opportunities.

Miscellaneous

Don't forget to buy your new Washington fishing license. Current licenses expire March 31.

Northwest Bass & Panfish - Smallmouth bass remain active in the Willamette as the fish near spawning. Catch and release fishing for bass will ensure a future fishery.

Northwest Trout - While still early for Suttle Lake kokanee, the brown trout are active making the next couple of weeks a prime time to target them. See the "**Reader Email**," below for more kokanee information.

While only Hebo Lake is scheduled for trout planting this week, most lakes and ponds in the Willamette Valley and along the coast were heavily planted last week in anticipation of spring break.

Reader Email

Reader 'Karl' posted this question to the message board at the TGF website and since the reply might benefit others, here it is: "I was wondering if anyone has gone been kokanee fishing in Billy Chinook? I am thinking of heading over for a few days but have never fished so early in the year. Any information and/or advice is appreciated."

Michael replied, "Kokanee are falling to jig fishermen at Lake Billy Chinook. Reports would indicate it's fait to good. Also, trollers are scoring kokes 10 to 12 inches at Green Peter and while fishing is good, limits are rare.

"Hope this helps!"

When subscriber and regular contributor Jerry H. ('Dobe') saw that information was needed, he was quick to send this, "I called a guide friend of mine yesterday about Billy Chinook. He guides on the lake for Bull Trout in the Spring and late Summer. I told him about your inquiry and his suggestion was for you to check out his website where he posts all the latest fishing news about Billy Chinook. Bob, this guy is a real straight shooter otherwise I wouldn't suggest you hook up with him. He is most known for catching large Browns and other trophy trout. He is a member of the "Brown Baggers Club", an informal organization that you have to have caught at least 2 Brown Trout over 10 lbs to belong to. He is also a sports writer and has articles regularly published in a lot of magazines. Anyway, you might want to check out his website, so your subscribers could access it for Trout fishing info. His name is Rick Arnold and his website is *www.trophytroutguide.com "

Subscriber Bob S. wrote to Bob Rees this week with a question about chinook, "Thanks so much for the valuable updates and even more so for your active participation in keeping our future salmon fisheries strong. One quick question please. Once a Spring Chinook enters the Columbia River approximately how many miles would it travel each day?"

To which Bob Rees responded, "The last work done on this subject was many years ago. It was found that the spring Chinook in the Columbia travel approximately 7 miles/day in the mainstem. It would certainly be quicker if you had a 2 ton pinned on your tail however!

"Good luck this spring!"

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: drees@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: SailCat@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Here's a cool 10-day forecast with a scorecard of sorts at the bottom to check the accuracy of the

previous day's forecast. Why don't TV weathermen do this?:
*http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/weather/10_day.cgi

The **really** big picture. Wave watch in the Pacific:
*<http://facs.scripps.edu/surf/images/maps/ganimnep.gif>

Weekly Quote - "The angling hydropsyche, the fisherman's absorbing consciousness of water – its motions, sounds, and texture; its variety and constancy; the scope and density of the life it sustains – this awareness is a habit of mind and temperament. It is a way of seeing and thinking about things, an orientation born from a mind magnetized by an irrepressible fascination with springs and creeks and rivers." - Ted Leeson

GOOD LUCK!