

The Guide's Forecast - volume 6 issue number 39

Northwest Oregon's most complete and accurate fishing forecast

Forecasting for the fishing week of **April 1st – April 7th, 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>.

Salmon fishing on the mainstem Columbia came to a screeching halt with a plummet in the water conditions. Anglers fishing above the mouth of the Willamette still have some decent conditions to work with. The visibility is over 4 foot. Not the case downstream of the Willamette and even worse when you get downstream of the Cowlitz. A small flurry of activity happened at Bonneville early in the week.

Gillnets will fish for one more 9 hour period on the 31st starting at 9pm and running until 6 am on the 1st. They may get another fishery depending on how the dam passage goes in the near future. To date, they have caught over 3,300 Chinook.

Sturgeon action is picking up but only for shakers. The best keeper action took place in the John Day Pool last week and walleye fishing wasn't so bad either.

North Coast streams went out last weekend but should be in shape for late winter steelhead this weekend. It may be one of the better weekends to target winter fish for the entire season.

Crabbing will certainly turn south with the recent fresh water but a minus tide series may boast well for sturgeon anglers on Tillamook Bay.

The surf is a bit rough for successful clamming on Clatsop beaches. An afternoon minus tide may offer some opportunity however depending on how big the surf is.

The Umpqua has recovered from blowout with some steelhead available and the spring chinook run starting up. Rogue steelheaders should try upriver but the best fishing will be for springers in the middle and the lower river.

While the Willamette will remain high and muddy, the Clackamas and Sandy are becoming fishable with steelhead and springers present. Catching them is another matter as anglers have reported mixed results in the last couple of days.

Smallies will be out in force when the upper Willamette becomes fishable.

Trout have been planted this week at Devil's Lake, Canby Pond, Huddleston Pond, Blue River, Dexter and Dorena Reservoirs, Freeway Lake East, Timber Linn Lake and the venerable Walling Pond.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Just when you thought it was safe to predict success on the Columbia, well, rain, rain and more rain hit our watersheds and put the rivers out of shape. Fish checks were starting to take a turn for the better when turbid water put a halt to that program. The river started going out on Sunday and since we haven't had a weather pattern like this all year, most wonder when it will improve. Visibility went from 7 foot in the mainstem to about 18 inches near Kalama on Wednesday, March 30th. Success went down the tubes with the water condition. It sounds like the fish were present as good numbers were caught in the gillnet opener on the 29th opener. It was rumored that in that 24 hour opener, the nets took more than they have taken all season,

cumulatively! Not so good news for the gillnetters is the fact that a good percentage of those fish were the "black-faced" upriver Columbia Chinook which quickly eats into their impacts jeopardizing their fishery. It is likely however that they may fish a bit into April this year.

On the sport side of things, the best weekend checks came from the lower Columbia near Astoria. A keeper Chinook for every 6 boats was checked in the estuary fishery before the water clouded results. Since the Willamette's input, success has dropped very low. Upriver of the influence of the Willamette, success in the Government Island area was less than impressive with only a fish here and there. The gorge fishery had a good day on Monday with several Chinook taken in the 1 fish/person fishery. Remember, this fishery is only open 3 days/week (Sunday-Tuesday). Bank anglers continue to struggle with results but the bank check in the Portland to Longview stretch improved slightly averaging 0.06 Chinook and 0.03 steelhead caught per rod.

Sturgeon fishing has improved slightly but not necessarily for keepers. The shaker action has picked up significantly so hopefully, the keepers will follow soon. **Pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)** stated they had a high shaker day over the weekend and many of the fish were close to keeper size. They didn't end up with any keepers but the action kept them interested for a while. Smelt continues to be the best bait and since no one has any access to this year's smelt, the frozen stuff will have to do- and it seems to be performing. Shaker action seems to be best in the gorge and even the Bonneville Pool fishery has slowed for keepers and shakers. The John Day pool showed the best promise last week with a few keepers, shakers and an occasional oversize fish showing up in the catches.

The Guide's Forecast – The big question remains, when will the river clear enough to become fishable once again? It will certainly be dictated by the weather. Forecasts for the NW indicate not-so-significant rainfall in our near future which may drop river levels to where we can conduct our business again on the mainstem. Fishing in the area that I prefer- Westport, we not only have the Willamette to contend with, but the Cowlitz as well. Anglers don't need what one would think to be successful on the mainstem. If visibility reaches 2 foot, the conditions are workable. That could happen by late in the weekend or certainly by early next week. With cloudier conditions, bigger baits and slower, wider trolls will produce the best results. Darker colored Kwikfish will also certainly be a better choice too with black and orange a good but hard to find option. White and reds can also produce good results.

Anglers should also keep in mind that with higher flows, fish will concentrate closer to the edges where currents don't drain important "calorie banks". These fish will take the path of least resistance but also keep in mind that despite this spring freshet, flows are still not typical of a normal spring Columbia and bank anglers will continue to find challenging conditions to succeed in.

The best areas for Chinook over the next week will be Bonneville on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The river in the Government Island stretch has not been producing well but may pick up after the effects of the gillnets get shaken off. There will likely be another gillnet opener this week which may further dampen success over the weekend. After the weekend, assuming the rainfall isn't significant, success may once again pick up in the Westport area for springers. Fishing should get much more consistent in the area and we should have relatively net free opportunities for the bulk of the spring fishery. Fishery managers were a bit worried over the lack of success and dam counts in recent weeks but hopefully, the success of the gillnet fishery this week will put many fears at rest. Managers indicated there may be a need for some in-season modifications if numbers don't start "shaping up".

The next gillnet season takes place from 10 pm on 3/31 to 6 am on 4/1. The nets will fish from the mouth of the river to Kelly Point Park using the smaller mesh tooth tangle nets.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – The Willamette River went from 6,400 cfs to 47,500 in a ten-day period ending on March 27th. Visibility as of March 29th is less than one foot. Spring chinook numbers are improving as YTD counts push 300. One may logically surmise from these numbers that springers are in the lower river to be caught when the Willamette recovers to fishable conditions.

Last year at this time, fewer than 10 springers had been counted at Willamette Falls. On this date in 2002, it was less than 40, Yep, it's early, yet. April has been and will remain the door buster month for the spring chinook run. Tie up those rigs, polish blades and sharpen hooks. It will pay off when the time comes.

The rain added 14 feet of depth to Detroit Reservoir at the head of the North Santiam although it's still 60 feet below summer levels. The North Santiam will offer little to anglers until later in the season although it should be fishable next week.

There's promise for the South Santiam once the river settles down as nearly 100 summer steelhead were counted at Foster Dam in the month of March. More summers will enter in April along with improving numbers of spring chinook. Fishing will be great in May.

The Guide's Forecast – As of today, March 31st, the lower Willamette remains high and muddy. Reports from the Eugene area are similar so it would be unlikely the water will be fishable, at least for chinook, by this weekend. If the fever gets the better of you, try the lower Clackamas. Expect some company.

While the numbers at the Willamette Falls might be marginally better than the last couple of seasons for this time of year, consider this: there are 116,600 spring chinook forecast for 2005. It hasn't really started yet. Larger rivers are less predictable as to the amount of time required for recovery, but it's safe to say that this fishery will be worthy in two weeks and great for several weeks following.

The Santiams are many weeks from offering truly worthwhile opportunities. In season, this is a stellar summer steelheading stream. When it happens, you'll read about it here.

Last-minute 'heads up' for registration in the annual Hawgs-n-Dogs Salmon Derby which taking place April 15th. Proceeds from this derby benefit NSIA who in turn improve and enhance salmon sport fishing access. Each tournament participant receives a T-shirt, BBQ and beverages plus a shot at prizes. Three-person teams pony up \$75 a head to fish their choice of the Clackamas, Willamette, and Columbia Rivers. Anglers are off the rivers by 3 PM to meet the 5 PM weigh-in deadline. Headquarters will be the National Guard Armory, 10000 NE Marine Drive in Portland. Call 866-315-NSIA for more information.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – While the roiled Clackamas will take a while to clear to fishable conditions, the Sandy River has been reported as a possibility. Since much of the water on the Sandy results from snowmelt, when the freezing level is low, water conditions improve. Steelhead and spring chinook will be available on both the Sandy and Clack.

The Guide's Forecast – Clackamas water levels are dropping rapidly and while the clearing process has been more gradual, it should be quite fishable by this weekend barring another gullywasher. How well it fishes remains to be seen but with the Willamette blown

The Sandy remains high but has good color and visibility. Steelheading opportunities exist as well as a shot at a springer in the lower river. Fishing will improve as levels drop.

North Coast District Fishing Report – Area guides were grateful for last weeks smaller rain freshet and didn't quite ask for what we got over the weekend. Many North Coast Rivers reached near flood stage with the weekend deluge and are just now coming into fishable shape. **Pro guide Kent Anderson (503-550-6303)** reported excellent results on Friday, March 25th on the lower Nestucca with his experienced anglers. Kent posted a double digit day landing 11 steelhead on 2 drifts of the same stretch of river. Kent admitted his experienced anglers and just plain luck had something to do with it as many other anglers struggled over the course of that day. The fishing turned south soon after that as Saturday

brought fast rising rivers and low success. **Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** also reported good action last week. Jesse states, "Nestucca was in beautiful shape last week, with a bunch of fish moving around. As of late, the river is blown to pieces, and will be for a couple of days. We're not working, but we sure need the rain. It was becoming of great concern for the summer, so we cannot complain. Look for the last of the steelhead season to be in the mid to lower river. Historically, the late fish tend to be in the lower river. They shoot in, spawn, then turn and leave. Hit the lower river and pick them off. We will also start to see some of the early summer fish any day. Who is going to catch the first one?"

The smaller streams like the Kilchis, Necanicum and North Fork Nehalem were in fishable shape on Wednesday. No report on success however. Larger systems like the Wilson, Trask and Nestucca will begin to fish by Friday and should be primed for weekenders. The river level however has been high enough for a long period of time, it gave fish ample opportunity to escape to spawning beds in tributary systems making the chance for great fishing over the weekend a bit of a risk. None-the-less, fish will be available in all North Coast streams over the weekend and the action should be good.

The Guide's Forecast – With the higher flows, it will be important for anglers to get out of the obvious water routine and leave no stretch unmolested. Fish will be well spread out throughout the system and any water deeper than 2 foot will hold fish. Pocket water will again become an option and don't give much credence to the deep water like we did when flows were low. The upper stretches of these rivers will offer excellent opportunities to bank anglers. Stretches along upper Highway 6 and the upper Trask will afford anglers some chances that normally don't exist this time of year. And when was the last time an angler had a good chance at a keeper steelhead this time of year on the Wilson? It will exist this weekend for anglers willing to cover some water in search of.....

Steelheading on the Nestucca closes today, March 31st, above Blaine.

A minus tide series coupled with all the recent fresh water will not make crabbing very opportunistic on coastal estuaries. Netarts Bay may be an exception but don't look for outstanding success on that waterway either. It has been crabbed hard over the winter.

Sturgeon anglers will have an afternoon minus tide series to work fish over on Tillamook Bay. Fish have been present but the recent rain freshet will have unpredictable results on the migration pattern of these fish in Tillamook Bay.

The surf has been rough on North Coast beaches lately. This makes clamming more challenging and surf perch fishing a bit dangerous. Be mindful of the surf this week and don't count on high harvest rates for surf perch or clams with the unsettled seas.

Don't forget the Spring Chinook smolt fin-clipping party at Whiskey Creek Volunteer Salmon Hatchery near Netarts which is scheduled for Saturday, April 9TH from 9 AM 'til early afternoon. Coffee, doughnuts, tea and hot chocolate will be available starting at 8 AM with the traditional Barbecue lunch at noon. No experience is necessary to give something back to the fishery. A raffle for fishing gear will occur in the course of the day.

Central & South Coast Reports – The winter drought came to a dramatic close this week as copious precipitation fell state-wide. Rivers, for the most part, were running high and muddy mid-week, but even in the midst of high, roiled waters, fish are being caught.

The NOAA river forecasts are optimistic, putting far more faith in the prediction of weather conditions than those of us, Oregon-born, who expect rapid changes at the whim of Mother Nature. According to

the website data, rivers will drop several feet by Friday.

Following the blowout earlier this week, steelheading was decent on the South Umpqua with the North expected to fish well when the river drops and clears. Steelheading remains fair with the spring chinook season just cranking up.

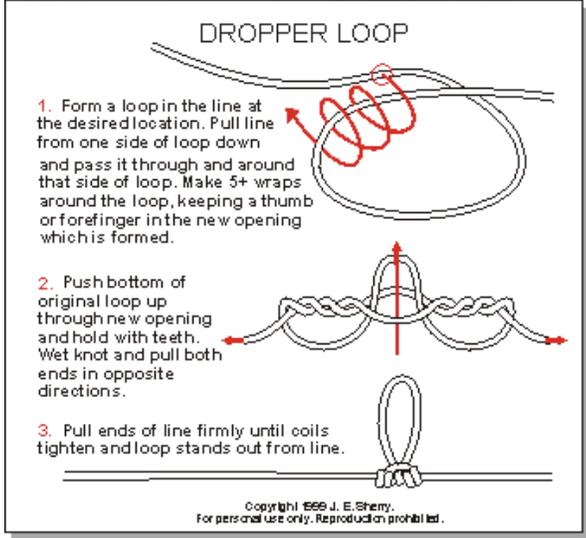
The Chetco and Coos Rivers closed today, March 31st for steelheading. The Coquille closes today above the forks and isn't worth the trip in the main stem with the better fishing elsewhere.

Rogue anglers may expect the productive steelhead fishing to move upriver with the fish as the middle river starts to shine for springers with improving conditions. If spring chinook is the target, the lower river offers the greatest opportunity as even through ought this stormy week, anglers have scored well between fronts. scores of springers have been landed recently just above tidewater. the limit is two fish per day, one of which may be wild with three o unclipped fish allowed per year.

Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411) offers up a lot of quality information this week as he has been targeting bottomfish offshore. Bill reports, "Now that we finally have water in our coastal the big question is will there be steelhead in them when they drop into shape. My guess is that the Siletz River will be better fishing that the Alsea but it will not be red hot. My hot fishing has been for ling cod out of Depoe Bay as we are limiting out on lings every trip with biggest ones running between twenty and twenty-five pounds. The problem is that the flat ocean days are few and far between. On the calm days I have been fishing north of Depoe Bay off the mouth of Siletz where are also catching a vary of bottom fish to go along with the lings. The depth here varies between a hundred and hundred thirty feet. We are using 4 oz jigs with either split tail worms or with the five inch sassy minnows. Above the jig I attach a four foot leader with a couple of shrimp flies. You can save a lot if you make your own leaders and buy the shrimp flies bulk. The one knot you need to know to tie is the dropper loop to attach your shrimp flies. As for rods and reels, a salmon rod will work just fine, especially if you are using Tuft line. The two GPS points I have drifting between are: 44 55.789N/124 03.824W and 44 55.260N/124 03.707W. One trip we had a southern drift and another it was northern drift. This is not a very snaggy reef, especially if you keep your line close vertical. There are no calm days forecast for this week, but hopefully the ocean will calm down next week."

Bill has sent us some quality pictures on how to rig for this type of fishing:





Central and Eastern Oregon – Pro guide Mac Huff (1-800-940-3688) reports, “Three weeks remain in the steelhead season on the Grande Ronde River. With catch rates dipping to two hours per fish there is a lot of action and fun. Fishing slowed early this week following high water but, with snow in the mountains this week, the water is dropping and the catching will be good again later in the week.”

An amusing report from **pro guide Steve Fleming (1-888-624-9424)** this week regarding the John Day River on the East side, This story indicates how quickly conditions can change. He writes regarding a trip with a client named 'Sam' on Monday, March 28th, "Sam caught the first fish at 7:28 AM, a trophy 19 1/4". Sam also caught the biggest fish at 7:28 AM. Sam also caught the most fish at 7:28 Am. You guessed it a one fish day, and the river exploded with slit, dirt, logs, tires, you name it. What a mess!! Needless to say they have a free trip coming in August"

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

Columbia River Fishing Report- Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509-697-7125) reports having some very good days in the Longview area last week before the rains hit. Bob was getting hookups with Kwikfish while on anchor but he was having the most success trolling herring on the incoming tide. “Using the small AI’s Fish Flash and cut plug herring fished just off the bottom and has worked really well for us.”

Bob has seen many anglers this season get robbed of their fish by sea lions. “The guys that seem to be beating the sea lions at their own game are the ones who don’t get excited and make a lot of noise, they

stay seated to fight the fish, and they don't break off anchor." Bob reports the sea lions being a real problem while on anchor but having little to no problems with them when fighting fish hooked trolling.

Pro Guide Erik Brigham (360-513-2331) reports slow spring Chinook fishing at Bonneville on Tuesday March 29. Erik fought the wind for the better part of the day and finally decided to pack it in and head down river. Erik launched at Caterpillar Island with the hope of finding some fish but after several hours he finally had to admit defeat (at least for that day).

Pro Guide Kevin Newell (360-430-2521) My success on Tuesday was the same as Erik's. I took some friends out fishing off of Sand Island near St. Helens Oregon. We had a strong outgoing tide at 6 am. We anchored at the top end of the island and fished Kwikfish until 2:30 when we called it a day. No fish and only one good take down. I didn't see any fish caught around us and other anglers at the launch came in with zero fish. The visibility on the Columbia looked to be about 2.5 feet, not ideal conditions but still fishable.

On Thursday March 31 we worked the Clifton channel from top to bottom. Water clarity was about 2 feet. We managed one hatchery fish and saw no other fish caught for the handful of boats working the area.

The Guides Forecast- These rains should have brought some fish into the river and we are moving into a good tide series, so hopefully we will get back on track and see some decent fishing by the middle of next week.

The lower river's visibility may not improve by the weekend if we get much rain on Friday and Saturday. I think an angler would have as good if not better chance fishing around Kalama or Longview rather than on the lower river. Anglers staying above the mouth of the Cowlitz River will definitely find clearer water.

Lewis River Fishing Report- Steelhead fishing is pretty much over and springers have yet to show in force.

The Guides Forecast- We're still a couple of weeks away from decent fishing on the Lewis.

Lewis River Reservoirs Fishing Report- Merwin Reservoir is still producing a few nice Kokanee for anglers willing to put in there time. Downriggers definitely seem to improve your odds of taking home a limit.

The Guides Forecast- Merwin should continue to produce fish and the fishing will get better as the water warms.

The water at Yale is still to low to launch a boat.

Kalama River Fishing Report- The Kalama River was blown out by the recent rains but is currently dropping and is fishable. Spring Chinook and some nice steelhead are being caught by bank and boat anglers.

The Guides Forecast- The spring Chinook numbers will continue to build and so will the number of anglers targeting them. Get on the Kalama early and fish during the week if at all possible to avoid the weekend crowds. Back trolling K-13 Kwikfish is a great way to target both springers and steelhead at the same time. K-13's can be hard to put a sardine wrap on, but hanging a small strip of sardine off of the belly hook can sometimes produce more hookups than just leaving the lure bare.

Cowlitz River Fishing Report- Curt Carlisle (253-921-3334) reports continued success on the Cowlitz river. Curt fished the Cowlitz earlier in the week and his clients landed 5 steelhead and one springer. "Be prepared for a long battle when you hook into a springer on a light side drifting rod!" All of Curt's fish were taken side drifting eggs.

Pro Guide Eli Rico (425-417-0394) reports the steelhead fishing to be consistent with most days providing a steelhead per rod with the occasional opportunity to do battle with a spring Chinook!

The Guides Forecast- Good steelhead fishing should continue on the Cowlitz for a while longer. Side drifting is the preferred method of finding the fish and presenting the bait in a natural manner. If the Columbia doesn't clear soon, anglers may find the Cowlitz to be a good option.

Puget Sound Fishing Report- Mike Jamboretz (425-788-5955) reports a slow down in the black mouth fishing. Mike has been able to get into a lot of undersized fish and a few keepers but overall the action hasn't been as good as it had been. Mike fished the tin shed hole off of Possession Bar on the south end of Whidbey Island. "The bite has only been lasting around 20 minutes and when it takes off you want to make sure your lines are in the water and not tangled, cause it's not going to last long," says Mike.

The Guides Forecast- Anglers should continue to be able to find some willing blackmouth if they cover a lot of water and keep their down riggers near the bottom. If you can find concentrations of bait stay with them and work them hard.

Olympic Peninsula Fishing Report- Bob Ball (866-347-4232) Fishing has been fair in the fishable rivers (Sol Duc, Calawah) with plenty of fish available, but marginal water conditions. Mostly wild fish into the low 20's; a fair number of fish headed down the river as well right now. A few springers starting to show in the Sol Duc, but as is normal ... won't really show any improvement for a few weeks yet there.

The Guides Forecast- Outlook is questionable for the next week with big rains due on Thursday night and Saturday into Sunday that may render all rivers unfishable. If the rain forecast falls short though and rivers stay in, it would certainly be worth getting some late steelhead fishing in.

Snake River Fishing Report - Pat Long (1-509-751-0410) Bass fishing on the Snake River is just starting to look promising. The past few days of cooler temps and the recent rains have dropped the water temps back down around 42-43 deg and added some color but the bass are moving. During the last few days we have seen an increasing number of smolts in the upper area around Heller Bar and the smallies are starting to move into the eddies and slack lines that attract the smolt.

The Guides Forecast - Best bet for awhile will be working crank baits and jerk baits on the current lines and as the water warms and clears go to plastics and spinners (while the smolt are in the system fish anything that resembles a smolt!).

Little Goose and Lower Monumental Reservoirs are beginning to turn out some fair stringers of catfish (Blues and Channel Cats), with the higher flows and the stained water this fishery should really turn on in the next week or so. As with the bass, the migrating smolts will improve the bite, the areas near the dams will hold fish drawn to the area by the smolt that are stunned or injured as they pass through the system but don't overlook the main reservoir-most days these areas will produce as well as the tailouts at the dams.

Yakima River Fishing Report - Pro Guide David Child (509-962-5523) reports improved fishing on the Yakima. David floated the upper Yakima earlier in the week and had a very successful day dry fly fishing. His boat landed good numbers of trout and 5 were over 16 inches. Recent insect hatches that the trout have been keying in on include Blue Wing Olives, March Browns, Skwala stone flies and some drakes.

The Guides Forecast - Flows on the Yakima River should be very manageable until June. Fishing should continue to be good and we should be experiencing strong hatches especially on the cloudy days.

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/razorclm/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 - Smallies will be out in force when the upper Willamette becomes fishable. Start with soft plastics, progress to crank baits and spinner baits to take advantage of the aggressive bite as the water clears.

A 10 3/4 pound largemouth fell to Portland angler Ed Chinn while tournament pre-fishing Cullaby Lake on the North Coast. This monster ate a Wack'em jig with a pork trailer. More information can be found at www.NixonMarine.com, the source of the jaw-dropping photo, below. As Oregon bucketmouth generally die of old age around nine pounds, this is a once-in-a-lifetime lunker.



Northwest Trout - Lake Billy Chinook is coming into the bull trout season. Shallow-trolling Rapalas is the traditional method of intercepting them.

Trout have been planted this week for your Power-Baiting pleasure at Devil's Lake, Canby Pond, Huddleston Pond, Blue River, Dexter and Dorena Reservoirs, Freeway Lake East, Timber Linn Lake and the venerable Walling Pond. Many of these plantings include trout in the 'larger' and 'trophy' class. Email me (Michael) for particulars if chasing these out-sized State-raised rainbows is of particular interest to you or your kids!

Reader Email

Subscriber Sean T. wrote to Bob Rees this week, "When will the ocean sport salmon season open? I've heard that the commercial guys are cleaning up right up. Can the little sport guys get in the game now? I searched ODF&W home page trying to get the season dates and regs. The regs and updates are posted, but it doesn't give season dates. Can you "hook" a brother-up? Thanks"

Bob responded, "They are still being decided and will likely be put together in early April. The Chinook season is underway and the commercials are getting them! Sporties can go after them too at this point but no one is out. We'll get you "hooked" up when the coho seasons are decided but you'll have to wait a few weeks. Is it coho you are specifically asking about? "

To which Sean replied, "Actually I was asking about the Chinook season for the sport guys like me. I have a boat and usually don't get interested in the ocean fishery until fall. I spoke with some commercial boys last weekend in Tillamook and they were absolutely ripping lips. I didn't see any sport folks out and about though. I'm thinking of hitting it (assuming it's open) this next week weather permitting. The fish that I saw were little guys about seven to twelve pounds but I heard of some twenties getting hooked. They were hitting them in about fifty fathoms, thirty feet down. I'd rather fish the ocean than deal with the weekend warriors on the rivers. Thanks for the heads up and getting back to me."

Subscriber and good guy Scott Kappes wrote to TGF on Friday, March 25th, "Sellwood has been SLOW all week long...that would include from Fred's Marina thru Downtown.. all the way up to Lake Oswego

trestle. When I say slow...I mean really slow. I fished every day this week but Wednesday and did not even get a sniff. All toll, saw or at least "heard" of only 2-4 fish per day at Sellwood. One or two in Downtown. Same for the Lake Oswego area. All on Herring. Guys are using prawns but not catching anything!! Fish flashes have not been effective at all.. way too clear. Deep water trollers are having VERY limited success. We need rain and should get a good dose tomorrow.. along with the wind.

My prediction is that until we see some significant flows.. and the netters out of the lower river..(since they're netting primarily Willamette bound fish)..it'll be scratch fishing at best.

Well, Scott, you got your wish, and we agree. It should be decent when the waters of the Willamette become fishable again. Let's hope for sometime nest week!

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: drees@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: SailCat@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

"Measured in millions of dollars and tons of fish, last year was one of the best on record for Oregon's fishing industry, which is rebounding strongly after the collapse of its former mainstay: trawling for rockfish and other lower-depth species." Read the rest of the story here: *Measured in millions of dollars and tons of fish, last year was one of the best on record for Oregon's fishing industry, which is rebounding strongly after the collapse of its former mainstay: trawling for rockfish and other lower-depth species.

PGE says fish and electricity production get along just fine, thanks:

*http://www.portlandgeneral.com/community_and_env/hydropower_and_fish/Default.asp?bhcp=1

Weekly Quote - "One of the great charms, however, of angling in all its branches is that it gives endless opportunity for difference of opinion and discussion among the followers of the various schools. Every good fisherman and every sportsman will urge his own particular view with all his might, but at the same time will be prepared to listen to the arguments of those holding opinions quite opposed to his own, and will ever be ready to respect these opinions and credit his opponent in argument with being convinced that his (the opponent's) view of the question is the right one." - Frederic Halford

GOOD LUCK!