

The Guide's Forecast - volume 6 issue number 40

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **April 8<sup>th</sup> – April 14<sup>th</sup>, 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>.

Spring Chinook fishing has still not taken off like most would have anticipated. Sporadic results are being seen throughout the river and most of us are awaiting for the mother lode to come in. Although the Columbia remains a bit colored below the Willamette and Cowlitz, clarity is no longer a factor in success. Davis Bar at the mouth of the Willamette on the Washington side has been a stand-out story. Pinned rule at Bonneville!

Sturgeon fishing remains slow for keepers below Bonneville but both boat and bank anglers are having some luck in the Bonneville, the Dalles and John Day pools.

Walleye fishing has been good but they are moving into the spawning stage and will become increasingly challenging to catch.

The North Coast steelheading was excellent last week after flood waters came down. The rivers should stay in good shape over the weekend but that "mother lode" has come and gone. The Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers remain open and spring Chinook are now an option although far from peaking.

Crabbing is poor and sturgeon fishing has slowed but a favorable tide series this week may bolster catches and bay clamming is now an option. Shellfish harvesters may now target razor clams from the Columbia River south to Coos Head at Charleston.

The surf is big so perch anglers are advised to approach with extreme caution. Bottom fishing anglers will find success when the ocean is calm enough to fish.

The Umpqua spring chinook fishing has picked up now that the river is coming back into shape. Sturgeon are on the bite below Reedsport. Rogue anglers are enjoying catches of springers by the score in the lower river.

Spring chinook fishing improved slightly in the lower Willamette and will continue to pick up with through April. One factor holding back the fish is water temperature in the mid-40s.

While the Clackamas got a good shot of summer steelhead as a result of the recent rainfall, but fishing remains spotty. Anglers are having to work hard for steelhead on the Sandy. Water temperatures remain low as do the numbers of spring chinook entering.

Diamond Lake will be stocked with nice-sized trout prior to the opener on April 23rd.

Trout were stocked this week in Cleawox Lake, Carter Lake, Canby Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Trojan Ponds, St. Louis Pond, Alton Baker Canal, Cottage Grove Pond, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Creswell Pond, Detroit Reservoir, Roaring River Park, Walling Pond, Waverly Lake, Burns Pond, Chickahominy and Krumbo Reservoirs.

***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 steelheading is all but over however, Kalama steelheading still has "game" and there are a few spring Chinook available too.

The Cowlitz River is shaping up for a nice return of spring Chinook this year. Although the run is underway, it is still weeks away from peaking.

Puget Sound Blackmouth are on their way out but offshore, anglers are awaiting the Neah Bay bottomfishery as there are commonly large lings taken in it.

Snake River warmwater species began to stir but have since slowed. Warmer water temps will again stimulate the bite but when exactly will that happen again?

Yakima River trout fishing is holding up well for those willing to downsize to small March Browns. This action should keep up for a little while longer.

Good razor clam digging should take place on many of Washington's razor clam beaches this weekend. Be sure to have your shellfish license with you!

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Action for spring Chinook is starting to improve on the mainstem Columbia. For anglers downstream of the Willamette and Cowlitz, fishing is shaping up after a long stint of less than ideal visibility. I fished in the Westport area on 4/6, only coming up with one fish hooked for about 6 hours of effort. We started off anchored with plugs along Puget Island only to watch a bank angler drag one up the bank after his first 10 minutes of fishing. After the tide slowed, we traversed downriver to Clifton Channel where we put out herring along the bottom in about 20 foot of water. Within 5 minutes, avid angler Gail Aylor was into a Chinook but it came off after a short battle (must have been a wild one). We fished Clifton Channel for about 4 hours only hearing of an occasional fish. There have been sporadic reports of good fishing in the area but as this point, it seems to be an every-other-day scenario. This is much the same with the rest of the river as small schools of fish make their way upstream. Although most of us expect more consistent results as April wears on, one can't help think that maybe they just aren't going to show like it was once predicted. Dam counts at Bonneville can't be ignored as they are running a fraction of what they should be. However, one must also take into account the predators that have taken up residence in the fish ladder.



See **Random Links**, below, for video coverage from KATU.

According to an article earlier this week in the Washington State newspaper The Columbian, "The spring chinook salmon count at Bonneville Dam so far is the lowest since 1949 for reasons that include probably drought and sea lions, scientists say." In a KATU News story aired Monday, April 4th, there were 100 sea lions feasting on springers at that time with numbers increasing.

One of the consequences of this increasing sea lion presence is the discovery that these critters are less likely to attack a hooked salmon or steelhead if the anglers fight the fish sitting down. These smart predators will probably catch on eventually, but for now this odd technique will provide the fishermen an edge. The trick is for everyone in the boat to stay quiet and show no excitement regarding that thrashing chrome salmonid on the end of the line. Right.

Reports from the mouth of the Willamette River seem to be some of the best river wide. Anglers are spending a lot of time trolling herring in the Davis Bar area- across from the mouth of the Willamette. Rumors of 20 – 35 fish days are becoming too regular not to be truthful. **Pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)** has seen a recent improvement in success. He is catching between 2 and 4 fish per day keeping better than half of what he lands due to the fact they are fin-clipped. Dan is keeping his baits close to the bottom of the river where most fish seem to be traveling. **Pro guide Russ Morrow (503-310-9733)** reports, "Davis Bar is doing great as well as Caterpillar Island. Water is perfect. I've been catching 3 to 6 fish a day pulling herring. I did not see much from the anchor guys. The sea lions are bad there, so fighting a fish for any length of time isn't an option. The water in the Willamette is clearing but still a bit muddy. I heard of a good bite in Clifton channel on the incoming tide; however the Cowlitz is still mudding up the Columbia down there."

Some guides in the lower river are finding better success fishing in shallow water. With the impaired visibility the way it is, guides are fishing in 3 to 6 feet of water with some good success. Plugs on the outgoing tide seem to be responsible for most fish in the lower river (below Longview) while herring trollers seem to be doing better in the upper stretch (Longview to I-5 Bridge). **Pro guide Jim Stevenson (503-580-4162)** dropped us a quick report. Jim says, "Fished Government Island area today (4/4). Saw three hooked, two retained, fish checker advised 2 fish for 28 boats." Bonneville anglers have nothing to write home about. Past chief of fisheries **Jim Martin** and **Luhr Jensen's Buzz Ramsey** fished the Bonneville area early in the week. Keepers were hard to

come by although Jim did get one. Some great anglers are reporting to me that they have put in several trips without a fish. If these fish don't show up soon, modifications to our fishery are sure to come. The first run size updates should not happen until late April and since the sportfishery is "self-regulating", that is we can't harvest fish if they are not there, we may not see any modifications until that run size gets updated. Hopefully, things will change in the sportfishery and we won't be talking this nonsense next week.

On the sturgeon end of things, not much has improved on the keeper side of things. **Pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)** reports that shaker action is as good as one would hope for. In just 3 trips, Dan has landed well over 100 shakers and not a keeper in the bunch. Dan reported there weren't even any very close to measure. I can't blame those keepers for keeping their distance with an absence of sea-lion food in the gorge. They have become a menu item recently with a lack of salmon showing in the big river. Ironically, the upper pools- Bonneville, the John Day and the Dalles are producing better results for both bank and boat anglers than downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Walleye provided some good action for some guides and anglers last week. The fish are beginning to enter the pre-spawn period making them rather aggressive. This action is likely to taper as they enter the spawning cycle. **Pro guide Jack LaFond (800-270-7962)** reports, "Walleye fishing on the Columbia below the John Day Dam has been productive in the past few days, with catches of 4 to 10 fish per boat and weights averaging 4#'s to 6#'s. Sunday produced a nice 13 1/2 pounder for one lucky fisherman and when the wind doesn't blow too hard, it is a pleasant time to pursue the tasty old 'marble eyes". Fish the break-lines and sunken islands with a bottom walker and small spinner rig with night crawler. Search in 15' to 27' until you locate them and then pound on 'em!" **Pro guide Steve Leonard (360 835-7995)** also reported good action. Steve states, "We had a very successful trip for the Walleye. We caught and released two nice pre-spawned females that weighed 12lbs and 8lbs and we kept a 7lb. male yesterday. My policy is that if it is a 8 pound or bigger pre-spawned female is released with no questions asked for the future fishery. I take good photos and get the weight and measurements so they can get a reproduction fish mount later if they want. I ended up with 32 Walleye in 7 days so it was good fishing. There were a couple days that the wind was from the west at 40 mph and that makes fishing a little tougher for good boat control. We had several in the 3 to 4 lb range that are the best eating size. My pictures are being developed today and I will email you a picture of the 12 pounder when I get them."

**The Guide's Forecast** – Let's just get sturgeon fishing out of the way....it'll suck. But really, if an angler wants to get serious about sturgeon fishing, it is best to work the pools above Bonneville. Frozen smelt, roll mop herring or sand shrimp are all working well but even with better odds above Bonneville, the action is still a bit sparse so don't venture up there unless you have confidence in where you are going.

Spring Chinook fishing should only improve from here. Insignificant weather may keep water conditions favorable for anglers throughout the system. We should really start to see some improvement in catch this week as the run is due to peak in just a week or so. Davis Bar, Government Island and Bonneville should be good bets but the lower river near Westport should really turn on as well this week. Although the weather is still forecasted to be unsettled, the river does offer some protection in Clifton Channel and Aldrich Point. Boat anglers with "lids" are going to be thankful they have them.

Herring will likely remain the best bet for anglers fishing in the Portland/Vancouver area. For anglers downstream of Longview, the outgoing tide will be your best friend and Kwikfish will be your ticket. As the season progresses, many anglers tend to switch to plugs but herring may provide anchor anglers with a nice change up that can produce some quantifiable results. Lower river anglers have recently found success in the shallow water despite the slower flows this year. This could change at any time but if history repeats itself this week, it may be water that an angler should research.

Bonneville anglers may also see some better results this week as fish are overdue for moving into the area. Some backbouncing guides are rumored to have done well on the last 3 day opener and it should only get better from here. The question will be, can you get your fish in before a sea-lion gets a hold of it?

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – As the Willamette began to clear this week, fishing picked up by trollers at Sellwood Bridge. It remains to be seen if rain this week will allow fishing again by Saturday. It was still off-color at Oregon City Tuesday, April 5th, but boats were seen working the area.

Willamette water temperatures remain in the mid-40s from the Fall through Multnomah Channel. Once the temp tops 50, spring chinook prospects will improve dramatically. Counts at the Falls have not been updated as yet with any data for April.

Sturgeon fishing has been fair although catches consist mostly of under-sized fish. A few legal fish have been caught in the Lower Multnomah Channel and Oregon City area.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The lower Willamette is showing improvement daily in water clarity as the effects of recent rain moderates. April will bring in the spring chinook. Anglers who have been putting in their time and hoping for the best will start hitting fish more frequently. Water temperature is a key factor as to when the fish floodgates will open, however, so watch for temps in the 50s. Trolling plug-cut herring is traditionally the most effective early season technique, but anchor fishermen will also score with bait-wrapped Kwikfish while there's sufficient current to work the lure. Sellwood anglers should see improvement this and every week well into May.

Until the summer steelhead start up in decent number on the North Santiam there are better options for anglers at this time of year.

The McKenzie was rewarding fly anglers prior to the deluge and will fish well again this weekend as it is expected to drop and achieve decent color.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Drought relief came in the form of a major deluge. As the weather moderated streams and rivers started to drop and clear. This freshet would attract fresh, bright fish into the systems where anglers would intercept them, right? It ain't necessarily so.

A few steelhead and fewer springers have fallen to anglers on the Clackamas River.

There were good numbers of steelhead moving through the Sandy River last weekend which provided a flurry of activity for anglers, particularly on Saturday, April 2nd.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The rain brought a nice shot of summer steelhead into the Clackamas system, With most anglers seeking spring chinook on the Willamette and Columbia, pressure has been light. The fish will be there although it takes persistence to locate and tempt them.

Fishing has slowed on the Sandy River since the weekend. Water temperatures in the low-to-mid-40-degree range is failing to entice many springers into the system. Steelhead are present, but anglers have to work at it to catch them.

**North Coast District Fishing Report** – Steelheading on the North Coast was finally in full swing last week after flood waters subsided by late in the week. Anglers that were tuned in to the river levels would have found success on smaller streams first- the Kilchis, Necanicum and larger streams later in the week- the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. The Nehalem remains too high for good success. Guides working the Wilson River experienced multiple fish days in next to ideal water conditions. Upper stretches produced good results on the Wilson with Vanderzanden's to the Guide Shop one of the best. Persistent bank anglers working Hwy. 6 also scored some results as well but you had to be willing to move around. With higher flows however, fish could be found in a variety of water types. High flows has also kept anglers interested in the Dam Hole on the Trask.

**Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** reports, "Nestucca is coming into shape slowly. It remains a touch high, but with good color. There are fresh fish available with a ton of run-backs also. The run-backs break up the day, and occasionally you are surprised by a bone crushing fresh fish. It would seem that fish are spread through the entire river, and each day we find them in different areas, which indicates movers each day. We have been doing best on eggs, which is normally my way to fish. Color does not seem to matter at all. Jigs and float action has been slow. Look for the best results on the lower river, with the late fish shoving in, spawning, and then leaving in a hurry. We expect about another week of good fishing and then the taper off."

Crabbing has certainly tapered off since the influx of fresh flood waters. Sturgeon anglers are still present on Tillamook Bay but it was hard to get a read on their success this week. Judging by the number of boats (albeit small) they must have been doing something to keep their interest. Most boats concentrated on the east side of the bay targeting Bay City and the "Horseshoe" slot which runs from the culvert to Bay City just south of the Ghost Hole.

**The Guide's Forecast** – No significant rises in river levels is forecasted so the larger coastal systems should remain quite fishable throughout the weekend. The exception will be the Nehalem mainstem. Check current regulations on the North Coast drainages however as some of your favorites have closed effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. Many of these fish will be entering the spawning stage in the upcoming weeks so please keep off the spawning tributaries and spawning beds. The Wilson, Trask and Nestucca Rivers will remain open and an early spring Chinook is a possibility on any one of those systems. Steelhead anglers will have an increasingly difficult time engaging fish as they will be on the move and the big flush of them have already went through on last week's dropping river levels. On the Nestucca, 6<sup>th</sup> Bridge down should produce some results and the Stone's Camp to Peninsula drift on the Trask should hold promise for the few willing to negotiate this tricky stretch. Although fish will certainly be present on the Wilson, it may be one of the more challenging rivers to fish this week due to its poor boat access in the higher drifts. Bank anglers may have ample opportunity in their favorite drifts along Hwy. 6 however.

Bay crabbing should not improve much and unsettled weather will keep recreational boats off the "big pond". Bottom fishing remains good for the boats when they can get out but it doesn't make for a comfortable ride for passengers.

Sturgeon fishing may remain a good option for Tillamook Bay anglers. A minus tide series this week (in the am) will last well into next week. The fish seem to be well spread out in Tillamook Bay so be prepared to search for them and bring lots of bait.

Ocean surf will make for challenging times if you plan on perch fishing. The time is ripening but the weather isn't exactly the most friendly for those casting into the big waves. Bay clamming may produce good results in both Netarts and Tillamook. The clam necks are excellent perch baits.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Siletz anglers have enjoyed consistently fair fishing for mostly wild steelhead. Whether the recent rainfall will improve fishing is unknown at this point. It's getting late, even for this system and no pictures at Coyote Rock for either March or April is indicative of the number of keepers recently. The opportunities will be better once the summer run starts up.

Springers are being hooked on the Umpqua in the Scottsburg and Elkton areas. Hooked is the operative word as many anglers are having trouble getting them to stick.

The mainstem of the Coos River has been fair for steelhead fishing. Striped bass are being caught in the lower Coquille River. Fish stripers from Arago downstream.

Sturgeon are on the bite below Reedsport on the Umpqua River. In an ironic twist on the Columbia and Willamette fishing, anglers here have to seek one **small enough** to keep. Most of the fish boated here are oversize. You know you've been fishing, though, after a day of battling a few six-to-eight footers. Use stout tackle to land the big'uns for release with as little stress on them as possible, stay with it towards the last of the outgoing tide and the odds are good you'll find a keeper.

The first spring chinook of the year was counted at Gold Ray Dam on the Rogue River on April 1st. Springers are now scattered through the system although the best fishing currently available is in the lower river. From Gold Beach to Agness, anglers are catching scores of fresh spring chinook daily. On the Rogue, anglers may keep two chinook per day, one of which may be an unclipped fish up to three of the latter per year.

The minus tidal series starting Saturday, April 9th may offer some Razor clamming opportunities along the central Oregon coast which opened for this activity March 11th. Shellfish harvesters may now target razor clams from the Columbia River south to Coos Head at Charleston.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Diamond Lake opens to fishing for the 2005 season on April 23rd. There are some huge Williamsong trout in the lake which will be stocked in anticipation of the opener on April 19th with 3,500 rainbows from 12 to 19 inches and weighing one to two pounds)

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

**Lower Columbia River Fishing Report- Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509) 697-7125** reports fair to good success for spring Chinook on the Columbia River fishing between the mouth of the Cowlitz and Kalama River.

Bob has been very successful this year trolling cut plug herring with a small spinner blade in front of it. "Being close to the bottom is important. I frequently let out line until I find the bottom and then come up 2 cranks". Because of the murky water in the area, Bob has increased his hookups by switching to a larger medium size Fish Flash.

In the last week Bob has seen his plug fishing success improve. "Anchoring up in shallower water we have been able to hook a few more fish this week using plugs." Bob reports equal success using Kwikfish as well as Yakima Bait Company's new M-2 Flatfish. Bob anchors up in 17-18 feet of water and flatlines the M-2 Flatfish letting it dive without any weight. "So far it looks like the new Flatfish out dives magnum Wiggle Warts and Kwikfish."

**Pro Guide Erik Brigham (360-513-2331)** reports 2-4 fish days fishing near Davis Bar on the Columbia. Erik has been trolling herring exclusively. Keeping the herring near the bottom and also keeping your herring fresh is part of the secret to his success.



**The Guides Forecast-** Fishing on the Columbia River will continue to improve as water conditions improve and more fish move into the system. Trolling herring has been accounting for much higher catch rates than anchoring with Kwikfish. With lower than normal numbers of fish in the river, anglers may want to dust off their trolling skills to put a few more fish in the freezer.

**Mid-Columbia River Fishing Report-** A needle in a hay stack best describes walleye fishing at Irrigon this weekend. We fished blades and grubs in 30 to 45 feet of water for a total seven walleye and four small mouth bass. We beat it pretty hard Friday through Sunday scoring only a few fish per day, although we did get three nice walleye from 27 to 32 inches. There were a lot of folks out but we only know of few other fish caught so we felt pretty good about our catch. I feel we need a little warmer water and the bite should improve.

**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-** Nothing to report

**The Guides Forecast-**

**Kalama River Fishing Report-** The Kalama River continues to produce steelhead and spring Chinook for anglers willing to work for them. Fish can be found from the lower river all the way through the canyon. Anglers have even been hooking fish during periods of poor water clarity.

**The Guides Forecast-** Fishing for steelhead will start to drop off as higher numbers of spring Chinook enter the river. Spring Chinook fishing should be consistent until mid May.

**Cowlitz River Fishing Report-** No report for Cowlitz River B run steelhead, but here is some good news regarding the spring Chinook run on this river.

According to Pat Frazier, WDFW's deputy regional fisheries manager, to date, a total of 58 spring Chinook, 57 wild fish and one hatchery fish - have returned to Cowlitz Hatchery, which Frazier says is the largest total through this date since at least 1986.

**The Guides Forecast-** Steelhead fishing should stay consistent with most boat anglers landing a steelhead per rod for a full day's effort. Spring Chinook numbers will continue to build from now through June. Spring Chinook fishing on the Cowlitz starts to really take off in May.

**Puget Sound Fishing Report-** Blackmouth fishing closes in Marine Area 8-2 on April 10 and in Marine Area 9 the fishing closes on April 15. Angler success is low.

**The Guides Forecast-** Blackmouth fishing is pretty much over due to slow fishing and the season closing soon.

**Olympic Peninsula Fishing Report-** Nothing to report.

**The Guides Forecast-**

**Marine Areas 1 – 4 Fishing Report-** Anglers are doing well in Marine Areas 1-3 for lingcod and rockfish. Many anglers are eagerly anticipating the Marine Area 4 lingcod opener for Neah Bay. The Neah Bay area typically produces some very large lings! The Marine Area 4 lingcod fishery opens on April 16.

**The Guides Forecast-** Anglers should continue to do well especially as we get closer to the spawning time for the bottom fish and lingcod, which because of spawning become more concentrated in certain areas.

**Snake River Fishing Report – Pro Guide Pat Long (509) 751-0410** reports, "We fished the Little Goose pool on the Snake today with only limited success, a few small cats and no sturgeon bite at all. Water temps are still in the low 40s and water is clouded (2 to 3ft visibility)."

The Grande Ronde and the upper Clearwater are still kicking out a fair number of pretty sorry looking

(personal opinion!) steelhead but that is about it, we need some warmer weather to get things into a spring mode!!!

**The Guides Forecast-** We need to see around 48 to 50 degree water to get these fish moving, same story with the bass in the upper river-a couple of degrees will kick things into high gear.

**Yakima River Fishing Report – Pro Guide David Child (509) 962-5523** reports, "Trout fishing on the Yakima River continues to be good. We've been seeing some great insect hatches on cloudy days. Anglers should focus on fishing from 12:30 to 3:30 so as to take advantage of the best hatch times."

David continues, "Currently March Browns, Blue Wing Olives, Skwala Stoneflies, and dark bodied caddis in sizes 18-20 (black dubbed or grey) have all been working well. "Later in the hatch you may have to go down to 6X tippet once the fish smarten up and start getting real finicky" says David.

"Dropping an emerger behind your dry fly has been one of the techniques that has been working well us lately." March Browns size 14-16. David likes to put a March Brown dun on top with a trailing emerger 14"-18" behind it and the same technique can be applied to Blue Wing Olives.

**The Guides Forecast-** Fishing will continue to be good as long as the water levels stay the same. Cloudy days will be the best for good hatches. Expect hatches to last 15-20 minutes but sometimes they can be up to 45 minutes long.

### **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.

**Northwest Trout -** From the Good News/Bad News Department, the ODFW stated this week on their website, "Because of unseasonably low lake and river levels quality, stocking conditions are becoming less optimal. ODFW staff are re-scheduling most stockings in August and September to be stocked by the end of May." This means there will be more fish to catch from lakes on the North coast this spring because there may not be any water (or only warm water) this summer.

Stocking of trout continues in earnest with the following locations receiving fresh fish this week: Cleawox Lake, Carter Lake, Canby Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Trojan Ponds, St. Louis Pond, Alton Baker Canal, Cottage Grove Pond, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Creswell Pond, Detroit Reservoir, Roaring River Park, Walling Pond and Waverly Lake. In the Deschutes watershed, Burns Pond, Chickahominy and Krumbo Reservoirs were planted.

### **Reader Email**

This week, Tom N. wrote to Michael inquiring about lake fishing, "I've been in McMinnville a short time and would like to find some small lakes to take my sons to for fishing. What we catch doesn't matter."

I replied, "Thanks for writing. It's always great to hear from readers."

"Most of the (few) lakes in the nearby vicinity which are 'kid friendly' are stocked with trout. This is a great way to keep youngsters entertained and to foster enthusiasm in the sport. Lakes and ponds which

are freshly planted are always listed in the Thursday News Register fishing report.

"The closest to McMinnville is Huddleston Pond in Willamina. It is off the main road (there's only one) on East First Street.

"Other possibilities include two in Salem, both off Mission Road. Walling Pond is several blocks behind the K-Mart store. The second, located in Cascade Gateway Park, is Walter Wirth Lake. It's immediately past the Salem Municipal Airport on an exit 45 degrees to the right.

"One of the most popular lakes is Henry Hagg, located North of McMinnville in Scoggin Valley Park. Take Hwy. 47 out of Mac through Carlton and Yamhill towards Forest Grove. The sign for the facility is large with a turn lane exiting to the West. While crowded on weekends, it has numerous picnic areas and family-friendly facilities. A road circumvents this 1,100-acre impoundment crossing the dam at one point. Be aware, it gets busy on weekends in season. Here's a map and additional information.

"Power Bait is the easiest and most effective method to get youngsters into stocked trout. There is also a warm-water fishery in all these lakes (bass, bluegill, crappie, yellow perch and catfish) which, for kids, is pretty much a bobber 'n' worm routine.

"Enjoy yourself. There's nothing quite like watching kids catch fish.

"I do hope this is of help and if you have questions about this or any other Oregon fishery, let me know!"

Doug L. wrote to Bob Rees this week, "I get your report weekly, but I don't remember seeing anything about Oregon SB #734..which would make the Oregon coast to the three mile limit under the "State Parks and Recreation Commission" instead of ODFW control. Some feel that this could close much of the coast to fishing."

Bob replied, "If this is the bill that brings "Marine Reserves" into the State Parks and Rec Dept. (and I think it is) it is nothing much to worry about. The Governor has already declared he will veto such legislation. It is good to have on the radar screen however.

"Thanks for your insight."

Frankly, it's rare that we get an Email that isn't positive, contributes something to the fishing community or is a question about one of our numerous fisheries. We got one last week, however, from Harry W. "The report for Willamette springers could have been written two years ago by a monkey in a tree. Please do the research that we paid for and have expected. You offered to provide a service and have for many years but I do not see this quality continuing. Just my 2 cents."

I'm Michael Teague, I write the Willamette section (among others) for TGF and welcome suggestions or constructive input. My Email address appears below every week. Spring chinook fishing remains slow, Harry. It will pick up this month and we'll have details here when it does. It's time for my banana break.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: [brees@pacifier.com](mailto:brees@pacifier.com)

Doug Rees: [drees@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:drees@TheGuidesForecast.com)

Michael Teague: [SailCat@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:SailCat@TheGuidesForecast.com)

### **Random Links**

A proctored boater education equivalency exam, which meets the requirements for the mandatory

Boaters Education Card, will be given at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Courthouse located at 850 Main St., Dallas. Pre-registration is required. For information, call: (503) 623-9251. Study materials online: [www.boatoregon.com](http://www.boatoregon.com)

KATU coverage of the sea lion problem at Bonneville:  
[http://easylink.playstream.com/katu/050404sea\\_lions\\_530pm.wvx](http://easylink.playstream.com/katu/050404sea_lions_530pm.wvx)

Salem couple land 258-pound tuna:  
<http://www.gordobanks.com/tuna.html>

Albany man catches potential world-record shark:  
<http://www.statesmanjournal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050407/OUTDOORS/504070372/1034>

**Weekly Quote** – "It seemed to me that my good fortune was almost overwhelming when I caught my first fish. ... Since that early day the expectancy and thrill of capture, whether of a trout, a lordly salmon, or a six-inch bluegill, has lessened none in its intensity, and I hardly expect that it ever will." - John Atherton

**GOOD LUCK!**