

The Guide's Forecast - volume 6 issue number 44

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 12<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>.

Sturgeon fishing remains the fishery to par-take in according to **pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)**. Dan reports that fishing was great in the swift water (including the sanctuary) but that area (Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam) closed on May 1<sup>st</sup>. None-the-less, fishing in the gorge will remain steady this week with hard to find smelt a top bait! A few oversize fish are beginning to show.

Estuary sturgeon fishing is getting better too, but catch and release remains the only option until May 14<sup>th</sup>. Bottomfishing out of Astoria remains excellent and ling cod are a top target. A large die off of bait fish was witnessed in Astoria this week indicating ample food supply in the estuary for feeding sturgeon.

The Columbia mainstem will not reopen to salmon anglers but the select area fisheries are now open and offer some opportunity for salmon anglers. The best bets will be Young's Bay and Blind Slough but for the first time angler, it may be hard to fish there with confidence. Commercial fishers get their opportunity on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Pro guide Jack LaFond (1-800-270-7962)** reports that the walleye fishing has slowed due to spawning adults. Sturgeon fishing is fair but should improve later this month when shad begin to arrive.

Pikeminnow season opened May 2nd on the Columbia from the John Day Dam to the mouth with a bounty of \$4 to \$8 per fish. For more information and upcoming free clinics, call 1-800-858-9015

Halibut fishing out of Astoria is also great for the few anglers that know the GPS coordinates. Check new regulations in this fishery as restrictions have eased on halibut and become more rigid on bottomfish.

The 2005 halibut season opened offshore inside the 40-fathom line on May 1st off the central Oregon coast from between Cape Falcon and Humbug Mountain. All-depth fishing will be allowed on May 12th, 13th and 14th, the 19th through the 21st. Check the new regs!

Tillamook Chinook should make a show on this weekend's tide series. The minus tide will produce some results to spinner trollers in the upper bay. Ocean fishing for salmon has been decent off of Tillamook Bay when the ocean cooperates. The crabbing is fair in the ocean as well. Commercials offshore scored big catches early in the week but most of these fish are bound for other river systems. Some huge schools of small anchovies and a whale were spotted off of Tillamook Bay on 5/3.

Sturgeon fishing on the bay was slow all week but the minus tide series may change that as well. Bay crabbing has been challenging.

Tillamook streams are too low for productive fishing but a few savvy anglers may take Chinook in the deep holes of the Trask and Wilson Rivers. Don't count on great results until we get another wet weather system to stimulate migration.

Bottomfishing is excellent off of the Northern Oregon Coast.

The entire Oregon coast is closed for razor clam digging.

Fishing has been dismal on the Clackamas River. Prospects are slightly better for springers on the Sandy which will continue to improve, offering good prospects in a couple of weeks.

Chinook counts at Willamette Falls have taken a dramatic jump, indicating the run is on. Water temperatures are a little high for the best bite, but the fish are there. It's still early for the best fishing at the Santiams, but a few chinook are being taken daily in the mainstem.

Spring chinook angling has fallen off dramatically due to low water conditions on the Southern Oregon coast. Fortunately, the shad are in thick, smallmouth bass are on the bite and sturgeon are being taken regularly at the Umpqua. Surf perch fishing is good.

Smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing is taking off in the Willamette Valley and in temperate coastal lakes.

Fly fishing is good on the Deschutes but bass fishing is slow on the John Day East Side.

Carter, Cleawox, Munsel and Sutton, Bethany Lakes, Canby and Dorman Ponds, Leaburg, Blue, Henry Hagg and Commonwealth Lakes, Carmen and Detroit Reservoirs, Freeway Lake East and Hills Creek, Kingsley. Rock Creeks and Yellow Jacket Reservoirs, Delintment, Laurence, Lost and Simtustus Lakes have been planted with trout this week. Foster Reservoir has been well-stocked for a special kids fishing day on Saturday, May 14th from 9 AM to 2 PM at Sunnyside Park.

**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:

**Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (509) 366-4052** reports slow fishing on the Yakima River for bass but action is good below McNary for walleye. Patterson to Crowe Butte is also producing some results for bass on the mainstem Columbia. Trout fishing on the Yakima is also reported to be very easy if you know what you are doing as reported by **Pro Guide David Child (509) 962-5523**.

"Cookie cutter" Wind river Chinook are still being taken but some days are certainly better than others. **Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509) 952-9694** stated that plugs are still outfishing bait in this fishery. It has been taking a full day's effort to realize any results for most anglers.

On Drano Lake, they are throwing everything at them mostly due to the fact fishing is rather spotty. **Guide Eli Rico (425) 417-0394** reports most of the fish that are being caught are taken by trollers fishing the bridge.

Guides **Erik Brigham (360) 513-2331** and **Pete Grace (360) 513-5256** say they are no longer holding out hope for the Lewis River. The fish are a no-show. They are hoping the summer steelhead come through but that won't be for another few weeks.

Anglers are quite happy with limits of quality kokanee from Lake Merwin. Not only is it good fishing but large fish are not uncommon either! Some theorize fish to 17 inches will come by summer.

The Kalama River is in ideal shape and fishing well for springers. Steelhead shouldn't be too far behind them. The Cowlitz River is also a disappointment for this time of year and anglers are also not holding out for much.

Anglers in Neah Bay are anticipating a good halibut opener. May 10<sup>th</sup> is the day of reckoning. Marine

areas 1 – 7 are putting out limits of good halibut.

The shrimp season along with ling cod season gets underway this week in Puget Sound. It is always productive if the weather is cooperative.

**Pro Guide Pat Graham (360) 374-5313** reports steelhead fishing is all but done on Olympic Peninsula streams. The Sol Duc is putting out a few spring chinook in the high teens and lower 20 pound range. It should only get better from here.

The Snake and Grande Ronde Rivers are putting out good numbers of small mouth bass and the sturgeon fishing has picked up nicely on the Snake for oversize fish. No hope for a springer season with the returns we are seeing.

**Soapbox Update:** Please join us for our second annual Bounty on the Bay fundraiser to support salmon restoration efforts in the Tillamook area. Last years event was a smashing success and we think the fishing will be even better this year! We will start off the event with a seminar by **pro guide Bob Rees** on how to catch Tillamook Chinook using herring trolling techniques. Follow this with a great tournament and win yourself some great prizes for biggest and most spring Chinook landed on the bay that day!

The biggest catch of the day is the opportunity to fish with **NW legend Buzz Ramsey!** The current high bid of \$225 holds this seat but hopefully you will drive the price up- all in the name of salmon recovery!

Go to <http://www.tbnep.org> to register or call the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership at (503) 322-2222 for any questions. You won't want to miss this event!

May 14<sup>th</sup> is also the Nestucca River clean-up! Headed by guide Jesse Zalonis and Marty Peterson, volunteers are meeting up at Nestucca Valley Sporting Goods on the morning of 5/14. For more details, contact Marty at (503) 392-4269 or Jesse at (503) 392-5808.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Sturgeon fishing in the gorge continues to be the talk of the town on the big river. **Pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)** reported the fishing in the sanctuary was as good as he has ever seen just prior to the May 1<sup>st</sup> closure. Dan stated it didn't matter how old the smelt was, (he was using a 2001 batch- but don't tell his customers) you just needed to get it down to the bottom. Action was intense and remains good from Cape Horn to the new deadline at Beacon Rock. This time of year, it is best to seek swifter flows to get into fish. Some oversize sturgeon are beginning to show- hence the "sanctuary" closure. Both bank and boat anglers were doing well prior to the closure but that section of the river will not re-open until August 1<sup>st</sup> (Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam).

Fishing from Portland to Longview has also picked up but the action isn't as good as the gorge area. Reports from the estuary prior to the May 1<sup>st</sup> closure to retention were mixed but some reports suggest fishing will be good for the May 14<sup>th</sup> opener. One guide reported checking some sportanglers not in-the-know as they had a nice 3 fish limit of keepers from Hammond on May 1<sup>st</sup>. A day too late gentlemen...

Salmon fishing will remain closed on the mainstem as counts continue to be disappointing. However, select area fisheries will open on Young's Bay and Blind Slough. A 6 hour commercial fishery is slated for Blind Slough from 6 p.m. to midnight on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The revised Columbia spring Chinook run has been revised to somewhere between 70,000 and 100,000 fish. A far cry from the predicted 253,000.

Some hard core hazing will take place at Bonneville for problem sea-lions in the area. The idea is to send these "problem" sea-lions far enough downstream to reduce the impacts to listed fish. We'll report on the results when we get them.

Another possible solution to the increasing presence of sea lions on the Columbia would occur if the Native American tribes are granted permission to hunt them as they did in the ancient past. Talks are underway, but if implemented, the earliest such a solution might be put in place would be 2006.

One reader did ask about walleye fishing recently. Thankfully, we have **pro guide Jack LaFond (1-800-270-7962)** to respond. Jack reports, "Walleye fishing has slowed dramatically due the spawning season. Look for the bite to resume around late May to early June. We did a short day sturgeon fishing at The Dalles on Sunday, and fishing 2 rods were able to catch a dozen fish including a 43" keeper size that we released as well. Roll Mop herring and pickled squid seemed to produce equally as well. As the shad runs begins this fishery will improve greatly in the near future."

Pikeminnow season opened May 2nd on the Columbia from the John Day Dam to the mouth. A few anglers without need for a great many luxuries actually eke out a living by catching these critters and turning them in for the bounty. Formerly known as squawfish, with these smolt-eaters bringing \$4 to \$8 a head (or tail), such a trip will at least pay for the gasoline required to get there and back. For more information and upcoming free clinics, call 1-800-858-9015 or see **Random Links**.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Sturgeon anglers should be excited about the Thursday – Saturday sturgeon opener in the gorge area. Fishing should be great on Thursday and almost as good on Friday and Saturday. Smelt seems to be the easy ticket- but who has smelt anyway? Guides are desperate and don't seem to be too picky as to how old it is. The gorge will remain the best place to fish but be aware of the May 1<sup>st</sup> sanctuary restriction. Stick to the swifter flows for best action. Like salmon, sturgeon are more active in stronger flows. For a great time, call.....on the gorge fishery during catch and release days (Sunday – Wednesday). The action is great and you can fish where ever you want to! Really, it's not all that bad!

The estuary fishery remains closed to catch and keep until May 14<sup>th</sup>. Fish do seem to be showing for those willing to practice catch and release.

Although a day late for our readers, select area fisheries would have offered some opportunity to sportanglers prior to the commercial opener at 6 p.m. on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Although unmolested all season, numbers are clearly down. Opportunity does exist however it may take a while for these areas to "fill" back up again with springers once the nets clean sweep them on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – It appears the Willamette River will not disappoint springer hopefuls this year.

While the catch rate is not yet hot, spring chinook were being taken at a rate of about one per hour near the Garbage Hole Sunday. A few bright steelhead and chinook are being landed every day by the bank fishermen below the mouth of the Clackamas. Springers are averaging in the high teens and low 20s.

Water in the lower Willamette is 58 degrees with a visibility of 4.8 feet. Summer steelhead are averaging about 100 per day over the Falls as YTD totals push 2,100. well over 1,000 spring chinook are being counted at Willamette Falls daily with YTD totals approaching 15,000. They're not coming, they're here. And many more are on the way.

We heard from **pro guide Jay Daly (503-341-9571 )** regarding the lower Willamette on May 2nd, "We have been getting between 4 and 6 opportunities per trip lately mainly fishing green label plug cuts. Last Friday my group doubled up twice that morning fishing the Mult. Channel. We ended up four for five, retaining three hatchery fish.

"Pictured are Dave King, Josi King, Mark Underhill, and Rusty Bridgers.

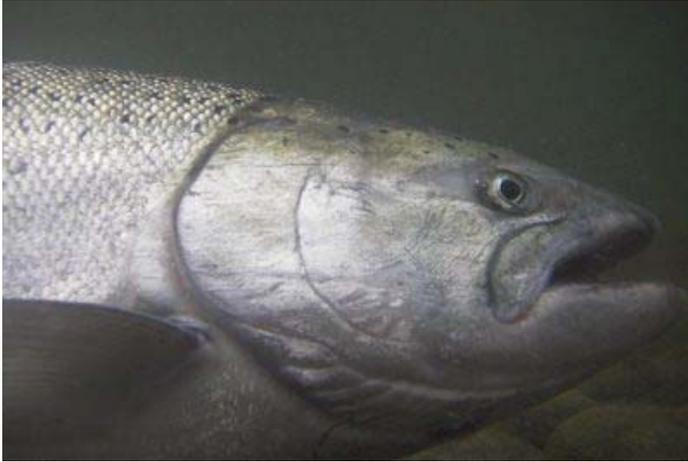


"Last Saturday was a tough one. After losing one in the morning we struggled through the day till about 3pm when we had 3 more chances and retained two keepers, one of which we practically stole from a huge bull sea lion.

"Pictured are Jim Renken, John Renken and Jimmy Jeffries. We tightened the drag and prayed the hooks would hold as John rushed to land it. Just after we did net the fish the salmon thief rolled under the boat. Not this time fat boy!



"I also included an underwater shot of a Spring Chinook. Not sure if it's TGF quality but I'm working on it.



"I still look forward to many more Willamette Springers this May."

**Pro guide James Stevenson (503-580-4162)** reported on May 2nd, "... lower Willamette near Sauvie Island was a no show on fish, saw one hooked, 45 boats. Upper Willamette fish are moving through however water temps and moss making it difficult to get one to bite. so it goes."

Be sure to check the **Reader Email** section, below, for more information on the river and the near-weekly Blacktop Report from Kap'n Ken.

A few shad are showing in the lower Willamette and the first have been counted at Bonneville Dam. Look for great shad fishing in the Oregon City area in a few weeks. Shad won't cross the Falls due to the enclosed design of the fish ladder; they won't go through a 'pipe.'

Salem area springer fishermen are being plagued by algae in the water already, but the upper Willamette remains quite fishable in the Wheatland Ferry to Newberg stretch. It's slow, as it is most years, but the occasional chinook or steelhead is being intercepted.

With the big push at hand, the Santiam system will be getting additional pressure in the coming weeks as ever-greater numbers of spring chinook find their way to that river. A few are being taken in the mainstem with fine fishing in to come. It seems these fish get lockjaw in the upper river but bite again once they hit the Santiams. Go figure.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Now is the time and the lower Willamette is the place. Whether dragging plug-cut herring or sitting on anchor, numbers will continue to climb in the coming week. Like Christmas, springers come but once a year. Rightfully considered the finest of all salmonids on the table, get yours and get grilling. There's nothing like it hot off the barbeque. Oops ... drool on the keyboard again.

We can only hope that rain showers materialize to help in dropping the water temperature. Just a few degrees would help, but if it rises those few degrees, it'll be tough fishing.

Sturgeon fishing will continue to improve on the lower Willamette, although prospects for a keeper are better on the Columbia.

The Santiams will be fair in the upcoming week, but will start to provide really worthwhile spring chinook results around the third week of May and for weeks following. The South Santiam gets better springer numbers.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Steelhead and spring chinook have been slow to enter the

Clackamas where fishing reflects that fact.

There aren't many fish in the Sandy River, although a few are being taken by both bank and boat fishermen in the Oxbow and Dabney areas. The best drift is likely to be from Dabney to Lewis and Clark.

**Pro guide Trevor Storlie (503-307-5601)** reports, "The Sandy is starting to see some activity. Not any real big numbers but there are fish available. Reports coming in over the weekend were promising compared to what it has been over the last two weeks. Sounds like there are fish trickling throughout the entire system. I did hear of fish being caught above Dodge Park and fish caught down by the mouth. May is the month to be on the Sandy. Late May is when our run normally peaks. Don't forget we have our annual fundraiser May 14th, **The Sandy River Spring Chinook Derby**. All proceeds will be going to the Wild broodstock Recovery Projects." For more information, call Trevor at the number above or Jason Hayes at 503-880-8104.

On May 4th, **pro guide Kent Anderson (503-550-6303)** sent this report, "Clackamas and Sandy both seem to be void of significant numbers of both Springers and Summer steelhead. Current conditions are decent on the Clackamas with level just above 12' and temperature at 52 degrees. Found a couple biters (1 wild springer and 1 steelhead) between McIver and Barton and a lot of empty water down to Riverside (fished on Sunday and Tues). Floated Sandy on Monday, Oxbow to Dabney, and hooked 2 springers (lost both at the boat). All fish were hooked back trolling with fresh sand shrimp. Conditions are excellent just not a lot of fish in the rivers."

**The Guide's Forecast** – With springers and to a lesser extent summer steelhead on the move, the lower Clackamas may be worth a shot. It's overdue. Fish the lower river to the mouth.

The Sandy River is a better prospect with a greater spring chinook presence. Fish are being taken every day, but it's been single digits. Give it another couple of weeks at which time it'll start to shine.

**North Coast District Fishing Report** – I should have taken my own advice and stayed home this week. Fishing in the Tillamook District is really no fun at all! I put in two days of fishing to come up with no fish for the grill. We started out salmon fishing on 5/3 along the inside of the north jetty. Hoping to catch the first part of outgoing tide, we kept our baits low to the ground and trolled both directions. We didn't last long as I got a call that **pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** was getting some bites just off the mouth of the bay in the very flat ocean. Yes, against my better judgment, we "bite-chased" (see dumb move in the dictionary) for no good reason. The ocean was very friendly to fish in and was clearly alive with life. We saw more birds working bait balls than I have ever seen before! When we chased down these bait balls, there was no bait to be found but the ocean was so clear, you could see silver scales everywhere! Chris was getting his bait down to the bottom in about 80 to 100 feet and reeling up about 10 cranks off the bottom. Well, I did everything he did, except catch fish! Chris ended up landing 3 fish and having another 3 opportunities. Of the 3 he landed, only 1 was fin-clipped. Chinook taken west of the green buoy out of Tillamook Bay do not need to be fin-clipped. Chris noted that 2 of the fish had tight scales indicating that they were likely Tillamook Bay bound springers but one of the fish had very loose scales indicating that it was likely a feeder Chinook. Here is a photo of Chris' harvest:



The bait seemed present most of the morning but we found no biters. And speaking of bite chasing, since the ocean was so flat, we headed to the commercial fleet fishing grounds where we came across about a dozen boats working the 330 foot water. I was told later that the commercial fleet did exceptionally well on Sunday with a lot of big fish taken. Monday was equally productive for the fleet but the fish were smaller in size and by Tuesday (the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the day I went out there) the fishing had slowed down. We ended up about 7 miles west of the Cape Mears Light House. No bites.....Some sportanglers have been Bottomfishing with great results since the seas have been friendly. We even tried this off the tip of the south jetty and got no takers. I don't recommend that you try fishing off the south tip as sneaker waves break across that tip all the time. I won't be back! We also tried the late afternoon tide and did get 2 bites along the jetty on the last part of outgoing tide, but neither stuck. Too hard to say if some of those jetty bites are rockfish as they seem to be present at times along the jetty this time of year. We did witness some of the jetty fishermen take a few rockfish to the creel.

The next day, the weather left a little to be desired after the blue bird day we had on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. We started off along the jetty again and did get one bite at high slack. No hook-ups however and when the tide got ripping, we headed in for some sturgeon bait and went to the upper bay. There we sat while the crabs and trash fish worked our fragile sand shrimp. Herring stayed on a bit longer but didn't do much to attract any sturgeon. I finally got one good take and landed a shaker of about 36 inches. This was the only fish we had to show for the day. We even went back out to the jetty for the last part of outgoing tide. No luck here either even though the wind did lay down and the place felt "fishy".

The ODF&W reminds boaters in a May 5th Release, "The boundary for the "Tillamook Triangular Control Zone," or "triangle," has been re-defined by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. The new boundary is defined by a line extending from the green buoy approximately one-half mile off the mouth of Tillamook Bay to Pyramid Rock on the south and Twin Rocks on the north. The new boundaries are permanent natural features that anglers should easily recognize. Previously, the boundary lines extended to markers on the beach on either side of the bay."

Area rivers are again too low for productive fishing. There is likely a few anglers that are scoring some results in the deeper holes of the Trask and Wilson Rivers. A few springers are hunkered down and

bobber casters will have the best opportunity. The weak tide series that we are on is not pushing many fish into the upper bay and tidewater stretches of the Trask and Wilson.

The Nestucca remains slow as well but guides down there expect different results next week.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Things are about to change in Tillamook and I must say, I am looking forward to the change! Better tides are the key and the spring tides are very easy to read. Starting Friday, a minus tide series in Tillamook Bay should stimulate the first decent wave of spring Chinook to the bay. Don't expect huge numbers but we should begin to see some more consistent fishing over the weekend. The biggest push of fish will happen in the second minus tide series beginning May 21<sup>st</sup> but catchable numbers should be present in Tillamook this weekend. The best fishing will likely take place in the upper bay with spinner trollers taking a few at the Oyster House Hole and in the middle bay. As the weekend progresses, the low slack will become later, offering more opportunity for bay spinner trollers. The last half of outgoing tide is always the most productive for upper bay springers. Just be aware that the middle bay has changed so negotiating to Bay City is going to be rough on props this spring (just ask mine). Best spinner colors this time of year are red/white for first light and then switch to green/whites on overcast days and green/metallics (brass/copper or silver plate) on sunny days. Keep in mind on sunny days, your day may get cut short due to the standard NW wind that kicks up right at tide change from low slack to incoming tide.

Ocean herring trollers won't go wrong either as favorable conditions may allow for some productive fishing offshore. The south jetty seems to be a bit rough for fun trolling but the entrance of the bay may produce some results over the weekend. I don't know if I would encourage a 6 to 9 mile run offshore to fish amongst the commercial boats as this fishery does seem volatile. The NW wind is notorious for kicking up right after tide change and that wouldn't make your run back to port very fun OR safe! If your boat can accommodate such conditions, you may want to mix it up with a bottomfishing trip.

Ocean crabbing should be more productive than bay crabbing even though the bay is absent a large amount of fresh water.

Sturgeon fishing on the bay may again be good with the upcoming tide series. Most anglers aren't comfortable finding the holding slots in the middle bay giving the advantage to the local crowd. Mud shrimp is a must as sand shrimp are just too fragile to hold up for good results. Call your favorite bait shop to check for available supplies. Garibaldi Marina (503-322-3312) or Tillamook Bait (503-842-5031) are the best options.

River fishing may be best when the rivers swell again. No sign of measurable precipitation this week. Bobber tossers in the tidewater sections of the Trask and Wilson may experience limited results this week as higher tides will push a few biters past the trollers.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – The entire Oregon coast remains closed to the taking of razor clams but bay clams remain safe. A decent morning minus tidal series will occur this weekend, continuing through mid-week. While crabbing has been very good at Tillamook Bay recently, strong tidal exchanges are not the best conditions in which to chase sea spiders. Dungeness catches will be better the weekend of May 14th during the milder tides.

The 2005 halibut season opened offshore inside the 40-fathom line on May 1st off the central Oregon coast from between Cape Falcon and Humbug Mountain. Anglers should note that the 32-inch minimum length restriction has been dropped this year and that anglers do not have to keep the first fish caught. No bottom fish (so-called groundfish) may be on board if a halibut is taken with the exception of sablefin in May and October. All-depth fishing will be allowed on May 12th, 13th and 14th, the 19th through the 21st and in June on the 2 through the 4th and again on the 9th, 10th and 11th. We'll list additional days as the quota of 173, 372 pounds is unlikely to fill.

Late-arriving, bright winter steelhead have been taken recently on the Siletz River.

Salmon are being taken with regularity by offshore anglers out of Newport and Depoe Bay. Chinook have been taken by trollers working 150 to 200 feet of water with fish hitting anywhere from the surface to 100-foot depths. Bottom fishing remains great for rockfish and lings.

Umpqua sturgeon fishing continues to be good for a mix of oversized and large legal fish. Shad have been taken by the score this week end below Elkton which area also offers good smallmouth bass action. As the river level falls, smallmouth bass fishing will only get better. It's possible to catch 50 or 60 in a day currently, but landing over 100 will be possible when the level falls to five feet or less. It's a good thing for Umpqua anglers that the shad, smallies and sturgeon fishing is hot because spring chinook fishing has stalled. The mainstem is the only possibility for springers.

Chinook fishing has been very slow on the Rogue River this week with the water level low and locals hoping for a heavy spring shower. There has been a slight improvement over the last couple of days but it's much slower than most years at this time of year. Fish the lower river for the better chance of an encounter, but don't expect much. Springer just haven't shown in decent number, yet. Dark winter steelhead are present, but leave 'em alone; they're on the beds now.

Most other streams and rivers on the South coast are closed currently but some will re-open towards the end of May.

Pinkfin surfperch are being taken from the ocean beaches.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Fly fishing on the Deschutes remains rewarding with Blue-Winges Olives a dominant pattern although large stonefly nymphs are becoming more effective with the insects due en masse any time now.

**Pro guide Steve Fleming (1-888-624-9424 )** reports from the John Day on the East side, "May 3 & 4: Well the Fishers of Men, fellows from the Christian Destiny Church in Puyallup, WA came down for their annual Fishing Tournament. We had all kinds of weather, and very dirty water. They've been here many times, and know what it's like when its real good. It was 39 in the morning, 54 at the river and the water was running 54 degrees, 7-8 clarity, 3230 CFS, rainy morning the first day and beautiful the second day. They boated 88 fish for six fishermen in two days. The biggest fish was 19" beauty caught by Sam Benson (253-952-5745), and Matt Benson (360-893-3607) with an 18" smallmouth. The overall Champion was Nate Benson, he caught the longest fish over 12 ". It took some very slow fishing on the bottom, with a huge helping of patience to catch and keep the fish on."

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

### **Lower Columbia Fishing Report**

Sturgeon fishing in the Gorge is improving, with catch rates during the last week of April averaging nearly one legal fish per boat angler above Washougal, and one legal kept for every five bank rods. The area from Beacon Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam is closed to all sturgeon fishing May 1 through July 31. The lower Columbia from the Wauna power lines downstream to the river mouth is closed for sturgeon retention May 1 through 13, then re-opens seven days a week beginning May 14 for retention of sturgeon 45 to 60 inches long.

### **The Guides Forecast**

Fishing in the Columbia River Gorge should continue to be good until anglers cull the keepers out of the sturgeon herd. This may not happen for a while since many anglers are still focused on Willamette River spring Chinook opportunities, and we also have shad starting to come up the river which is going to bring fresh sturgeon up as well.

### **Mid Columbia River Fishing Report – Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (509) 366-4052**

Jeff reports “Recently I spent time on the lower Yakima river fishing bass with poor results. Even though the river seems to be dropping back into shape there weren't many bass in the holes I have finding them in before.”

“We fished walleye Sunday below McNary Dam and scored five nice fish between 18 to 29 inches, all on worm harnesses. The best bass reports I am hearing are coming from Patterson to Crow Butte and some of my friends are doing very well fishing structure in the 8 to 15 foot depths” said Jeff.

### **The Guides Forecast**

A better bet may be the evening bite just off Bateman Island at the mouth of the Yakima. The Patterson to Crow Butte section should continue to fish well for the next week or so. Tube jigs and avocado or pumpkinseed grubs are some of the go-to lures this time of year.

### **Wind River Fishing Report – Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509) 952-9694**

Bob reports, “I fished the Wind River the last 3 days. There were lot's of boats fishing, but we managed 3-5 springers a day. Plugs are still out fishing bait, with sardine wrapped M-2SP Flatfish and Magnum Fatfish accounting for most of our catch, with a few fish caught on herring trolled off a dropper.



Rich Wojohn with a 27 pound Wind River Springer!

Most of the fish average 12#-16#, but Saturday we boated a dandy 38"x22" weighing in at 27 pounds caught by Rick Wojohn from Lacey WA.

### **Pro Guide Kevin Newell (360) 430-2521**

Kevin reports, "I fished the mouth of the Wind River last Thursday. Earlier in the week there had been a pretty good morning bite so we got to the Wind at first light on Thursday. Unfortunately the morning bite was somewhat of a non-event. A small handful of fish were caught during the first hour and then an occasional fish was picked up throughout the day. We lost one and put a nice 13 pound fish in the boat for a full day's effort. Magnum Fatfish in the fluorescent orange and silver glitter pattern have accounted for all of the fish we have caught at Wind River this year."



A cookie cutter, Wind River springer taken Thursday April 28.

### **The Guides Forecast**

With the fish counts at Bonneville Dam hovering around 2000 fish per day, the fishing at Wind River is going to be spotty at best. Anglers fishing affectively and putting in their time can hope to pull a fish or two out, but unless the counts get above 3000 fish a day, most anglers fishing in this area are just going to be enjoying a nice day on the water.

### **Drano Lake Fishing Report – Pro Guide Eli Rico (425) 417-0394**

Eli reports, "Fishing at Drano has been spotty. If your willing to work for it, you may come across fish. You just have to be in the right place at the right time. During one of my better days we had 8 hits with five fish on and put two in the box. We're running herring, prawns, Mag. Warts and sand shrimp. A few

fish are being caught out on the lake throughout the day but for the most part the majority of the fish being caught are being taken by anglers trolling in the circle near the bridge.”

“On the bright side sturgeon fishing on the Columbia near Drano Lake has been pretty good as long as the wind doesn’t kick up too bad. On a couple of occasions we have fished for salmon in the morning and rounded out the day with pretty good sturgeon fishing in the afternoon,” says Eli.

### **The Guides Forecast**

It’s not looking good for upriver fisheries like Drano Lake and Wind River. These areas were forecasted to have decent runs of fish but not the record numbers that they have produced over the last couple of years. An average run being forecast, along with a recently lowered run estimate for up river bound fish, makes the season start to look pretty bleak.

The best days to fish are going to be whenever Bonneville Dam gets over 3000 fish a day going over. If there are a couple days in a row with counts of 3000+ fish, then Drano and Wind River are going to produce, but until then we are going to see more of the same slow fishing.

Don’t forget that Drano Lake is closed to sport fisherman on Wednesdays due to tribal netting. According to Eli even the nets haven’t been doing that great.

### **Lewis River Fishing Report – Pro Guide Erik Brigham (360) 513-2331**

Erik reports, “Fishing on the Lewis is still very slow were getting a couple fish on a good day. I have kind of given up on the fish showing at this point.”

### **Pro-Guide Pete Grace (360) 513-5256**

Pete reports more of the same, “The Lewis is dead slow.”

Pete has found success trolling in Oregon’s Multnomah channel. “Were using cut plug blue label herring behind a Kone Zone chartreuse flasher and trolling with the tide. A dead slow troll is the key; I’m sometimes even putting the motor in neutral to slow the boat down. We’re getting some nice fish, with most of them being in the high teens to low 20’s.”

### **The Guides Forecast**

Scratch fishing for springers is going to continue until we get summer run steelhead in the river. Summer steelhead should start showing around the end of the month.

If you want a chance at a spring Chinook in the Lewis your best bet is to get to the Cedar Creek launch at first light, you may have a chance at putting a fish in the boat during the first hour or so of fishing.

### **Lewis River Reservoirs Fishing Report**

Kokanee fishing on Merwin continues to be good. The fish seem to be scattered throughout the lake. The fish are holding in 30 – 50 feet of water. Fluorescent orange bead wedding ring spinners have been very productive when the standard red or green aren’t the ticket. These orange bead spinners are made by Luhr Jensen.



A couple nice limits of Lake Merwin Kokanee! The fish are large this year and 17" fish shouldn't be too uncommon by mid summer!

### **The Guides Forecast**

Fishing should continue to get better at Merwin. Kokanee can sometimes be hard to find with the fish being scattered throughout the lake, don't sit in the same spot if it isn't producing, keep fishing different spots until you find an area that produces. If you have a GPS, an effective technique is to mark where you're catching fish or where you're marking schools of fish on your fish finder, by doing this you can play connect the dots and keep circling back through the area where they are holding.

Fishing at Yale Reservoir should be starting to pick up now that the water has had a little time to warm up. The fish are smaller than those in Merwin but anglers are allowed a higher limit of 16 Kokanee per day. Anglers do catch occasional bull trout in Yale so make sure you identify your fish correctly and release the bull trout unharmed.

### **Kalama River Fishing Report - Pro Guide Rob Orzel (360) 673-3557 and Wayne Orzel of Prichards Western Anglers**

Wayne reports, "Currently the river is in perfect shape for fishing, it has dropped and cleared since the recent rains and is currently fishing well. Chartreuse jigs, Bobber and eggs/shrimp, bait divers and #5 Blue Fox spinners with blue bodies are all fishing well."

## **The Guides Forecast**

There is rain forecasted for Sunday and as long as it isn't a multiple day deluge then the rain should do nothing but make the fishing better.

The Kalama should continue to fish well as long as the water levels don't get too low. The month of May produces good numbers of springers in this river and we should start seeing a few summer steelhead before too long.

## **Cowlitz River Fishing Report**

### **Pro Guide Brad Shride (206) 463-9230**

Brad reports, "Yesterday (May 3) I fished on the Cowlitz, there were 5 guys in my boat and we landed one fish for an all day effort. We had one other good take down and the herring came back mangled, hooked another one and lost it and then landed just that one. We tried fishing below and above 1-5 with the same results in both areas. I worked every single hole twice and it didn't seem like that made a difference. I hit them with everything, herring scent, sardine scent, anise oil, sand shrimp, and I hate to say it but the one fish came on a WD-40 herring! The old standby WD-40 is hardly ever used but it always stays in the boat to be brought out as a last resort, and it was the key to success for that one fish."

## **The Guides Forecast**

According to Brad, "I don't think the fishing is going to pick up much. I hate to say that, but I think it's going to be a little tough fishing for a while."

Fish are in the river and they can be seen rolling and jumping up near Barrier Dam. Currently the thing that is hurting fishing on the Cowlitz is the low water flows. Water flow at Barrier Dam at 3:00 on Thursday is 3,450 CFS. Cowlitz river spring Chinook fishing doesn't really get good until the water is flowing around 6000 CFS, and with the weak snow pack that we currently have in the mountains, the flow may not ever get that high. If we were lucky we may see some higher flows in June similar to last year.

## **Neah Bay Fishing Report - Charter Captain Mike Jamboretz (206) 595-9526**

Mike has been spending the last week readying his 37' Delta charter boat, the C/V "Malia Kai". "Going through the engines, replacing belts and checking pulleys is an absolute necessity when you're going out for deep water Halibut" says Mike. "You can't just pull over somewhere if something goes wrong. I make sure everything is in absolute perfect running order so that we don't have any problems while we're out there fishing."

Getting a charter boat ready for a long season of hardcore fishing can be a long drawn out process, full of many small details that have to be done right in order to ensure success out there on the salt. Mike says, "We've re-spoiled all of the reels with new line, gone through the tackle to make sure we have everything we know we need, and also everything we think we might need. I've also gone through the boat at least a dozen times checking and double checking everything!"

According to Mike, "This year's halibut season (in Marine Areas 3 & 4) is going to be open starting May 10 with Sundays and Mondays of each week being closed. As long as the quota hasn't been reached, then we can keep fishing. Weather is a big factor in determining how fast the quota is reached. If the

weather is bad then a lot of the smaller sport boats can't get out to the deep water where the halibut are, and this keeps the season open a little longer. The overall catch is usually around 10,000 pounds a day and the quota goes fast at that rate."

We're usually fishing in 450-500 feet of water and we use all artificial baits for halibut. We usually run white 8" or 9" B-2 squid, white split tail scampi grubs or something similar as long as it's white. For sport anglers, bait always works and horse herring is a good thing as long as there aren't any dogfish around.

### **The Guides Forecast**

Mike says, "If the weather is good I think we will see the Washington season close after 8 days of fishing. After the Washington season closes, we will start fishing in Canadian waters. I've been talking to the guys that have been running Canadian trips and they report getting 24 halibut in about an hour and a half! In Washington waters anglers are allowed 1 halibut per day but in Canada anglers are allowed two per day. Canadian fishing remains open until fall and is usually very good as long as we don't get weird water conditions. As a rule we usually get two fish per angler in less than two hours."

There will also be another short 3 day Washington halibut season in June

### **Puget Sound Fishing Report**

According to WDFW Weekender Report, "Lingcod hook-and-line season runs May 1-June 15 throughout the region. Lings must be between 26 and 40 inches to retain and there is a one-fish daily limit. Rockfish season opens May 1. There is no minimum size, and the daily limit is the first legal rockfish caught. No yelloweye or canary rockfish may be retained. Fishing for rockfish in marine areas 8-1, 8-2 and 10 is allowed only during lingcod or salmon seasons. Cabezon fishing also begins May 1 throughout the region, with a daily two-fish limit and no minimum size.

May 7 is the first day of the Puget Sound recreational shrimp season and this includes the Hood Canal area. Shrimp fishing on the Canal will be permitted May 7, 11, 14 and 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on a Wednesday-and-Saturday schedule. "The Hood Canal fishery is opening earlier this year than in past years in an effort to help distribute fishing effort throughout Puget Sound," said Dave Sterritt, WDFW shellfish biologist. Even so, Sterritt anticipates seeing 1,900 boats on the 60-mile-long fjord on opening day.

Shrimp districts in Port Angeles and Discovery Bay, as well as marine areas 8, 9, 10 and 11, will also open May 7 on a Wednesday-and-Saturday schedule - but from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. - until quotas for those areas are reached. (The Port Townsend Shrimp District will open on the same schedule, although the fishery for spot shrimp in that area will remain closed due to extremely low catches in the pre-season test fishery.) Marine areas 4 (east of the Bonilla Line), 5, 6, 7 and 13 will be open daily starting May 7 with standard fishing hours; pots can be checked only from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. In establishing this year's recreational shrimp season, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission also adopted several new fishing rules, including one that requires the use of a 7/8-inch mesh on all pots fished during May anywhere in Puget Sound."

To get more information on Puget Sound shrimp fishing, go to <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/>. Shellfish harvesters can also check emergency regulations by calling 1-866-880-5431.

### **Marine Areas 1-7**

Halibut fishing got off to a quick start May 1 on the south coast (marine areas 1 and 2), "with limits all 'round," said Greg Bargmann, WDFW marine fish manager. "At Westport, most charter boats have been pulling in to the dock with limits by 1:30 p.m.," Bargmann said. The biggest fish so far weighed in at 75 pounds. Marine areas 3 (La Push) and 4 (Neah Bay) open May 10 for halibut fishing, while the lingcod fishery is already producing limits coast wide.

### **Olympic Peninsula Fishing Report – Pro Guide Pat Graham (360) 374-5313**

Pat reports, "Fishing has been spotty, were seeing a few springers coming in and were hooking 1-3 a day. The springers are running in the high teens to low twenty pound range. Steelhead season is pretty much over, but we're still seeing some fresh steelhead and also some downriver fish every day. Right now I'm just fishing the Sol Duc. The Sol Duc and the Quilayute are the only rivers open right now until the Hoh opens in mid May."

#### **The Guides Forecast**

According to Pat, "Today (May 4) was a good high tide, and when the water is low and we get any tides over 8' then we get fresh springers moving into the river. Currently the (tribes') nets are out of the river, so the fish aren't being caught up in those. The water is low and clear and anglers should use 8-10 pound test leaders and little tiny plugs or baits. We've been mainly using floats and sand shrimp."

### **Snake River Fishing Report – Pro Guide Pat Long (509) 751-0410**

The Snake and Grande Ronde are consistently producing good to excellent catches of smallmouth, with some very nice fish in the 4 1/2 to 5lb. plus range showing up regularly. The Snake above Asotin and into Hells Canyon has also been very good for catch and release sturgeon fishing. Water temps are holding in the low to mid 50s and clarity is good and all area streams are holding or dropping slightly.

The impounded section of the Snake-above and below Lower Granite Dam is kicking out some good stringers of catfish as well as a few sturgeon. The pool above lower Granite will produce the biggest cats on the Snake; fish in the mid teens to low twenties are not uncommon, along with a few fish even larger than that! If you want to get good numbers of catfish then target Lake Bryan, below Lower Granite. This are will not produce the size but for numbers of fish in the 2 1/2 to 5 or 6 lb. range it can't be beat.

#### **The Guides Forecast**

The upper Snake is fluctuating daily due to power generation at Hells Canyon Dam, caution is advised in the upriver area because water levels will rise and fall from 2 to 5 ft daily, depending on outflow and proximity to the dam. Fish the drop for best success, but make sure you have plenty of water under the boat when beached or tied up.

Springers??? We'll see...

## **Yakima River Fishing Report – Pro Guide David Child (509) 962-5523**

Holy cow, we've had some good fishing. The caddis, PMDs, and Baetis have been hatching, and we've been catching some beauties. We've been out for 3 different floats this week on three different sections of the river. The other day on a single angler guide trip we whacked fish, and I mean whacked fish; one after the other!



A nice Yakima River Rainbow!

Today we whacked fish, and I mean we whacked fish; one after the other, and they've been big. The fishing has been really good! Today we boated at least 6 over 16 inches, including two at 18 inches. I don't know how many total fish we boated, but that doesn't really matter. It was a lot. The day had a story of the one that got away as well. The 20 incher got off right at the boat after a long fight at the end of the float. If your looking for great fishing with a very good Yakima River guide then give David a call. You will be glad you did!

### **The Guides Forecast**

More of the same contingent upon water flows not getting too crazy!

### **Razor Clam Digging**

A two-day razor clam opening - likely the last dig of the season - has been approved for May 7-8 on morning tides at four ocean beaches. Twin Harbors, Mocrocks, Copalis and Kalaloch beaches will be open for digging between midnight and noon those days. Long Beach, will remain closed due to elevated levels of domoic acid in clams tested by the Washington Department of Health.

### **Miscellaneous**

Pike Minnow fishery begins May 2! For more information on this, visit:  
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/do/newreal/apr2905a.htm>

**Northwest Bass & Panfish** - Smallmouth bass are active in the upper Willamette River and at the jewel of Scoggin Valley, Henry Hagg Lake. It's getting to the time of year when the fishes metabolism will allow for stepping up the speed of retrieves and use of crankbaits and spinnerbait. This allows for more casts per hour and, when productive, a greater number of fish to the boat or bank. If the smallies don't cooperate, drop back to drop-shot rigs or grubs on lightweight jig heads.

Largemouth bass are also gearing up for springtime feeding sprees. Temperate coastal lakes have been productive recently, but don't neglect the backwaters and sloughs on the upper Willamette. Four and five pounders have fallen over the past week on the river and a few larger from coastal lakes.

**Northwest Trout** - For those who want tasty salmon for the barbecue, Odell is rewarding jig fishers with kokanee averaging 12 to 13 inches with a few anglers limiting out on these landlocked sockeyes.

Silverton Reservoir has been producing good numbers of trout in the 12-inch-range. Foster Reservoir has been well-stocked for a special kids fishing day on Saturday, May 14th from 9 AM to 2 PM at Sunnyside Park. In addition to the "catchable-sized" trout, 50 big 'uns in the two-pound range from Clear Creek Rainbow Ranch in Oregon City have been planted. Kids under 14 fish free while those 14 to 17 will need to have a juvenile angling license.

The ODFW is certainly spending some money on fuel for their tank trucks this year to the benefit of armchair Powerbait anglers state-wide. This week, look for fresh rainbows at Carter, Cleawox, Munsel and Sutton Lakes in the Northwest Zone along with at Bethany, Canby and Dorman Ponds, Leaburg, Blue, Henry Hagg and Commonwealth Lakes, Carmen and Detroit Reservoirs, Freeway Lake East and Hills Creek in the Willamette Zone. Kingsley and Rock Creeks, Yellow Jacket Reservoirs, Delintment, Laurence, Lost and Simtustus Lakes will be planted in the Deschutes watershed.

### **Reader Email**

Subscriber and almost-regular-with-just-a-nudge contributor Ken Johnson reports regarding the bank anglers on the lower Willamette below the mouth of the Clackamas, conditions and prospects in that area, "Meldrum Bar Report: Hung out at Meldrum Bar but didn't fish today, Wednesday May 5th. Word in that as of 2:00pm, only 2 fish were brought to the bank at "The Bar" itself. I would guess there were probably 25 poles in the water from the South End of Meldrum Bar to "The Point." Chinook on the bank were basically non-existent. Upriver at the "Lower Bulkhead" there were about 10 fishermen (usually there are 25-30++) with only one Chinook reported taken on the bank. The water is still extremely low and the rain that's falling isn't doing the trick. At "The Blacktop" you might as well have pulled up an easy chair, thrown out a large picnic blanket and basket and enjoyed the view. You wouldn't have been in anybody's way as there was only two poles in the water up to about Noon, then down to one from noon to one, then "Painter Bill" showed up and tossed in using his " Original" Ugly Stick! His pole is a 12 footer that was built in about 1963. His paint has mysteriously made it to his fishing pole (This one is really a 'pole' not a Rod!) but the Bill's persistent and he brings home a fish now and again. A lot of guys use a "real" Ugly Stick but Bill protests because his is the original, and I have to say, there is no way anyone can win that argument. No fish at "The Blacktop" so far today. Again, the water line is waaaaaay out there making it tough to fish in the 14'-18' of water the Salmon like to swim through. While scoping the area out and parked at the Lower Bulkhead "parking lot" I watched the hog line across the river and witnessed the third boat in line from the East side of Goat Island drop out of the line with a "Fish On!" About 12-15 minutes later, a 15 pound hatchery fish was netted and brought into the boat...He returned to the Hog Line a few minutes later. Again, this week, the fishing is great but the catching is rather slow. Fish are to be had, however, so if you have the time, get on out there. The water is hovering around 57+/- degrees so the boaters are starting to use Prawn/Spinner combo's, some Alvin's, always a flatfish or KwikFish and anything else with a little flash, noise and scent. They're still fishing a 1-1/2', or so, off the bottom and hoping for the best. Another 4-5 degrees warmer in the Willamette and it will all be hardware. The

bankers are using the old tried and true...Spin-n-Glo ahead of a Prawn. Saw a couple of rigs with doubles, Spin-n-Glo/Prawn Combo with an Alvin or Wobbler on the top. Rain would really change the bite but it would have to be steady and light. What we need is snow in the mountains, and well, it's pretty warm up there. Last year there was a late run of Chinook in June right up through part of July. While most fishermen were finishing up on Shad or heading to their favorite trout hole, a few diehards were pitching spinners, Metrics, Panther Martins and the like and catching a lot of fish. They're out there, you just gotta find'em! Get out there and have a perfect day!"

KaptnKen Johnson also sent this report regarding the chinook tournament last weekend, "Now I'm going to practice what I've been preaching about the fishing being a bit on the lame side, this year 'so far,' for Springer Chinook Salmon in the Willamette.

"I and a bunch of good folks participated in the 1st Annual Gladstone High School Salmon Derby held last Saturday, April 30th. This derby was designed to raise funds to help out with the ever climbing costs of putting on this years graduation seniors "All Night Graduation Party." We started trolling at about 5:15am and trolled non-stop until about Noon+. The weigh-in was at 1:00pm at Gladstone High School we had to quit fishing at about Noon. There were 109 entrants @ \$25.00 apiece and for that number of participants, only 9 fish were caught. The proceeds go to help the GHS Senior Overnight Party coming up in June, so Thank You Participants for helping out in a big way in these lean times at all school levels. The winner for the BIGGEST fish was Dave Pierce who netted a keeper weighing 26.9 pounds...Nice fish indeed.



"This fish was caught while back trolling mid-way up the Clackamas River. The smallest fish also won a prize and that fish weighed in at about 5.5 pounds. (I didn't even know they made Chinook Salmon that

were 5.5 pounds!!!) Originally I thought the Raffle Prizes would be fairly lame considering it was a "1st Annual" derby for "just a high school." Boy, was I was totally wrong. Without naming business names, the contributors were local Gladstone and several Clackamas merchants with their 'two wheels on the ground' and had 'balanced' generosity amongst them all. There were some tackle suppliers, stores for 'fisherman' and women alike plus many other general merchants too. There was even a couple of generous souls who requested to remain anonymous for their various contributions who hung out at the MAC club for kicks. Prizes included a Fish Finder, quality heavy duty Elk and Deer hangers plus quality 'ww g' fishing rods. Other prizes included boat related fun stuff, and some seriously in 'Motion' add-ons for your boat. If purchased in a local sporting goods store these ad-ons for boats in 'Motion' would have tallied to nearly a Hundred bucks apiece. They had some knives that were won in the raffle that would not only cut 'leather, man,' but take the lid of any pop bottle in town and make a screw loose too. These weren't your typical knives 'made' on any old 'Bench,' either. Quite the quality knife, for sure. There were several bags full of 'Rags, Man' that are appreciated by all whether they fish or not. There were T-Shirts o'plenty...Plus some girlie things that some of these big burly men just wouldn't have looked right wearing. There was a Crab Cooker and some candle sticks too. But, nothing to bake on! There was a lot more but I only have limited space and a very limited mind. What I do know for sure is even though the Catchin' was pretty lame, the Fishin' was fantastic!

"It was for a worthy cause and instead of "just" selling pepperoni sticks, washing cars or collecting cans, this derby fulfilled not only the needs of many high school budgets, it brought smiles and fun times to many sportsmen and sportswomen alike. (And, the GHS Booster Club does do the other things to help out too! Thanks Gladstone High School Booster Club!

"We all hope that next year you celebrate the "Second Annual GHS Salmon Derby." And, the rumor I heard from someone is that the principal's office promises to "Turn on the bite," next time around! Hey...Count me in!"

Write to the TGF staff:

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

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

#### **Random Links**

Mother's Day Coupon for 25% savings thanks to Jennie Logsdon Martin at [www.ifish.net](http://www.ifish.net):

[http://www.ifish.net/MomShopNite\\_gijnet.pdf](http://www.ifish.net/MomShopNite_gijnet.pdf)

Mystery of Missing Salmon MSNBC:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/7708591/>

The 2005 season for the pikeminnow fishery from The John Day Dam to the mouth of the Columbia River will started May 2nd. Here's the place to find out when, where and how to make money catching them:

<http://www.pikeminnow.org/>

Free Pikeminnow Fishing Clinics:

<http://www.pikeminnow.org/clinic.html>

**Weekly Quote** – "The true trout fisherman is like a drug addict; he dwells in a tight little dream world all his own, and the men about him, whom he observes obliviously spending their days pursuing money and power, genuinely puzzle him, as he doubtless does them." - Robert Traver

**GOOD LUCK**