

The Guide's Forecast - volume 6 issue number 47

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **May 27th – June 2nd, 2005**

Fisheries Update: The sturgeon are beginning to show! Do you know how to fish them? The best advice we can give you is head to our technical reports page and check out report #3. This detailed report will give you the best clues on how to maximize your efforts while in pursuit of Columbia River estuary sturgeon. These reports and several more are available at: <http://www.theguidesforecast.com/techrpt.shtml>.

Sturgeon fishing in the Astoria area is finally beginning to show signs of life. The Tongue Point area seems to be the more consistent place to fish but the water below the Astoria/Megler Bridge is beginning to show signs of promise as well. The bigger tide series opens up more opportunities for anglers to pursue these fish in the estuary.

Upriver, sturgeon fishing in the gorge remains good for keepers, shakers and now oversize fish. The oversize bite is really beginning to take off with the improved shad fishing. Shad are there for the taking and make the best fresh bait available for fish to 10 foot.

The Columbia River steelhead fishing is open but not many anglers are participating. We are on a good tide series but passage at Bonneville is not impressive enough to entice anglers to put in the time.

Spring Chinook fishing in Tillamook Bay was red-hot on Wednesday, 5/25. I use that word cautiously but I had never seen as good a bite on the bay as I did on that day. There were a lot of boats AND a lot of fish taken. A surprising amount of wild fish were released that day- which is a good thing!

Sturgeon action has slowed on Tillamook Bay but so has the effort. The tides are ripe over the weekend for sturgeon but most anglers are choosing to fish on the Columbia instead.

Crabbing on Tillamook Bay is only fair but the surf perch fishing may hold promise as long as the surf stays calm. Bottomfishing remains great out of Garibaldi.

Umpqua anglers are catching lots of sturgeon, but they're oversized whites or short greens. Rogue springer fishermen are enjoying an unusually late run which is providing opportunities from the Hatchery Hole to tidewater.

Razor clamming remains closed on the entire Oregon coast. Check to be certain bay clams may be taken at any particular locations as partial bay closures coast-wide are now in effect. Don't take a chance.

Willamette springer fishing is slow but steady and is not expected to change much through June unless the numbers drop off significantly.

The Sandy is slow, but producing the occasional springer and summer steelie. The Clackamas River, which looks as if it will have only a marginal run of any kind this year, is very slow.

While the Santiams are high, the water color is good. The North is producing a few summer while not much is happening yet on the South. Both will improve as levels moderate the first part of next week.

Bass have been active in the temperate coastal lakes and with the war weather anglers will find largemouth on the prowl in the valley. Columbia pre-spawn smallies are aggressive now. Look for the upper Willamette to turn on in the next few days if the water clears

The crappie tournament is coming up at Brownlee Reservoir June 18th and 19th at Holcomb Park out of

Richland. Call 341-523-3199 for info.

Kokanee fishing is good in most of Oregon's lakes where this species is present. See the full-length report for details, locations and productive techniques.

This week, Henry Hagg Lake, Huddleston Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir, Timothy Meadows, Trillium Lake, Carmen Reservoir, Clear Lake, Coast Fork Willamette, E. E. Wilson Pond, Foster Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Upper and Lower McKenzie River, Salmon Creek, Diamond Lake, Clear Lake, Kingsley Reservoir, Thompson Reservoir, Big Cultus Lake, East Lake, Lake of the Woods, North and South Twin Lakes, Ana Reservoir, Century Gravel Pit, Sprague Gravel Pit, Walton Lake, Fall River, Ochoco Creek, Shevlin Pond, Simtustus Lake and Spring Creek. have been planted with trout.

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:

Mid Columbia River Fishing Report – **Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (509) 366-4052** reports, "Warmer weather this week has the smallmouth bass really biting! Walleye are starting to pick up below McNary dam.

Snake River Fishing Report- Pat Long Snake River Guide Service (509-751-0410) reports the outlook for a holiday weekend on the river is fair at best, we are still seeing a lot of debris in the river (small stuff, sticks, weeds, etc.) but conditions are much better than a few days ago and improving daily. Sturgeon fishing on the Snake is good and the bass fishing is fair. The Clearwater springer season is open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays only and will remain open through the holiday.

Lewis River Reservoirs are still producing Kokanee for those willing to work for them. Limits are being had by some anglers but not all. The fish are still scattered throughout the lake which makes them hard to find in decent numbers

Cowlitz River Fishing Report – **Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509) 697-7125** reports, "The Cow was a little better for us the last 4 days, no skunks, our worst day was (5-23) yesterday 1-1 and our best was Sunday 3-3. We are also seeing a few more summer steelhead in our catch.

Kalama River Fishing Report – **Wayne and Rob Orzel (360) 673-3557** report the river is currently dropping from the recent rains and the color looks great! There are still good numbers of spring Chinook in the river and we are seeing a few summer steelhead every day.

Neah Bay Fishing Report – Charter Captain Mike Jamboretz (206) 595-9526 or (425) 788-5955 says, "Bad weather has really put a damper on things, there have been several days when we haven't been able to get out because of high seas. The U.S. halibut season only lasted 7 days, so U.S. halibut is pretty much over except for two days in June. The good news is that we have been fishing in Canadian waters which are open 7 days a week until this fall, and have been getting limits every day.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Sturgeon fishing on the lower Columbia should be in full swing right now but instead, limited action has most of us wondering just how far these compromised fish runs extend? Not only is it challenging to get keepers in the boat but shaker action seems to be less than exciting as well. It seems that there are plenty of fish around but getting them to bite is another scenario. Many of us witnessed a large anchovy die-off near the East End Boat Basin on 5/20 and it has us playing that up as our customers leave empty handed after a full day's effort in one of Oregon's most popular fisheries. We lucked into 3 keepers on 5/23 with guests Dennis Mallory, Rich Green and co-writer

Michael Teague and his father-in-law John. We plugged away above Tongue Point all day- in the shallows and in the deep. We were fishless until the tide started in around 10 a.m. and we headed around the corner from Marker 5 just upstream of Tongue Point. We targeted fish in the deeper water near Svenson landing 2 keepers at 45 inches and another at 51. We only landed maybe another 4 or 5 shakers but were pleasantly surprised that we could fish sand shrimp in the deep water without getting taken for a ride by trash fish. We switched back and forth depending on the chub bite and managed these fish in a span of about 4 hours. Thankfully, the weather was beautiful (finally), the eagles were out and we were protected from the NW wind which seems so typical this time of year by the time lunch is finished. The previous 3 days, we totaled about 2 keepers although we got so fed up with the weather and the action on Sunday, that we only fished a half a day. The odd component is, there seem to be lots of fish around! There were some periods of the tide when we saw multiple fish jumping and we have been marking a LOT of fish on our finders. We simply believe these fish have filled their bellies with food after the big bait fish die off last week. What squashes this theory is the fact the fish we have checked, do not have bait in their stomachs! They have been feeding on the tiny shrimp like creatures that they sift out of the mud and sand.

Fishing improved significantly for all anglers on the 24th and 25th. Limits came easy for my boat when Service Partners representative Phil Knight brought out his crew of 5. We fished the waters above Tongue Point and managed landing 8 keepers in the 46 to 51 inch range. We had a good handful of shakers to cut loose as well. Fish were taking shrimp and anchovies equally well in the shallow water (about 7 to 10 feet deep). Upon our arrival back to the John Day Ramp, the fish checker had indicated his check had jumped significantly from the poor weekend results. (And I can verify those poor weekend results). Fishing guides again reported good success in the Tongue Point area but also lower river guides out of Hammond realized a good bite on lower Desdemona Sands on 5/25. The action below the bridge has certainly been sporadic with fair bites coming on one part of the tide, only to be inundated with crabs and trash fish upon tide change. The shallow water is usually the best place to escape the carnage of the bullheads and crab but some of the deeper water off of Illwaco has been producing fair catches for the Illwaco charter boat fleet. That water is as deep as 50 feet.

Upriver, sturgeon fishing is reported as excellent by **pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)**. Although Dan is mostly targeting oversized fish, both keeper and shaker action remains good in the gorge. Action is particularly good on the catch and release days. Oversize action is well underway with 6 to 10 fish days common. With shad fishing in full swing, bait is both fun and easy to get. Dan suggested running gold and green Dick Nites or the chartreuse crappie rubber jigs. The water is running good so plan on using lots of lead. For keepers, run shad strips or smelt for slam dunk action. Many of the keepers have been running large, as in over 55 inches! Skamania Flats to the deadline has been the most productive area.

Although steelhead fishing opened on Sunday and the tides were quite favorable, effort was light in the early part of the week. Counts at Bonneville don't have anglers enthused but hopefully, the summer run won't meet the same fate as the spring Chinook run.

The Guide's Forecast – Estuary sturgeon fishing should only get better from here. Memorial weekend will produce high effort and favorable tides will likely produce favorable catches. The bigger tide exchanges open up lots of different water to fish. Higher flows tend to move fish around more and therefore are more likely to bite. There has been no shortage of fish in the estuary but getting them to bite has been another story. The recent trend looks to change that. Action may be most consistent in the Tongue Point area but recent reports indicate that there is fresh, ocean going sturgeon on their way into the estuary. Hammond may turn into a consistent fishery but since the action only took off on 5/25, the verdict is still out. Shrimp and anchovies will be good bets with the shrimp faring better in the shallow water. It could pay dividends to try shrimp in the deeper water but be sure to have plenty on hand as it may take lots of bait to find a quarry of keepers. The most productive times of the tide will be the first half of the outgoing and the first part of the incoming tide. Morning outgoings will work to the angler's advantage in the entire Astoria area. Recently, incoming tides have been producing the best above

Tongue Point but that may be because we have only had the last part of outgoing tide to work with.

In the gorge, fishing should remain good with the next big food source hitting the area. Shad fishing is excellent and should remain so. This will also put the oversized fish on the bite and I suggest getting after them this week if you plan on hitting them before they get gorged with shad. The swifter water is producing the best results for shad but be aware that higher flows mean more treacherous anchoring conditions. Boats get lost every year out there so be sure you know what you are doing before you drop the hook! For those wanting to target keeper fish- and they are of fine quality, bring smelt if you have it. Shad strips may also work well this time of year. Smelt will also take an occasional oversized fish as well so be prepared for it by beefing up your gear. You are doing no one a favor by overplaying these fish with light gear and compromising their chances for survival.

Steelhead anglers will have good opportunity with the prolonged outgoing tide in the lower Columbia River. It doesn't look to be a bang up year but mixed stocks should be present allowing some good opportunity for bank anglers at Prescott Beach near Westport or Reeder Beach on Sauvie's Island. Red, pink or orange spin-n-glos will do the trick and keep in mind, this is the only technique where fish HAVE to come to you so your favorite scent is very necessary!

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – With many streams and rivers still showing the effects of recent rains, the dry spell we're experiencing currently will result in an improvement in the angling prospects. This coincides with burgeoning spring chinook, summer steelhead and shad runs to produce a sunny outlook for the fishing weekend.

Few chinook were taken in the lower Willamette over last weekend, although the Sellwood area produced some chrome on trolled herring despite roiled water. Multnomah Channel has poor visibility with water temps in the low 50s. Needless to say, fishing is poor for both shad and springers in this stretch.

As of Wednesday, May 26th, the latest data available showed 22,247 spring chinook had crossed at Willamette Falls. Summer steelhead numbers are nearing 4,300. Daily counts seem to rise and fall every few days and no day this month has come close to the first two in May when over 1,300 springers crossed each day.

Comparative update: On Friday, May 27th, 2004, the Willamette Falls spring chinook YTD count topped 80,000. Summer steelie numbers approached 18,000.

Sturgeon fishing is great in the lower Willamette for shorts but not for keepers.

The brown water at Oregon City has been producing few shad earlier this week, but with improved weather conditions numbers will pick up by the coming weekend. Fishing was pretty good at the Garbage Hole on Tuesday, May 24th. Look for anglers to start lining the bank at Clackamette Park.

The Santiams have been high but there's hope for fishing this weekend if the nice weather holds. The south Santiam has been very slow this week with a few summers being reported coming from the North.

The Guide's Forecast – Unless the showers forecast for the weekend turns into serious rains, conditions in the lower Willamette should change little. An interesting observation regarding fish counts: If the June daily numbers remain fairly consistent with those over the past month, although the big push we normally get in April never materialized, anglers may expect fairly average June numbers.

Stay with it with the knowledge that hardware is traditionally the weapon of choice as the season wears on. As unpredictable as this spring chinook season has been, however, it'll pay to stay versatile and offer the fish a variety. When in doubt, put a blade on it.

Look for the shad fishery to approach sure-thing status in the lower Willamette with clearing water. These fish

are confined to this section of the river as they will not cross through an enclosed fish ladder, or as it's usually quoted, they won't swim through a pipe. This is why the upper Willamette is devoid of shad.

Decent numbers of spring chinook and summer steelhead will be available on the Santiams eventually as these fish move upstream. The South Santiam is a better destination for chinook while the North, which is exhibiting good color now and will be dropping into fine fishing shape the first of next week, should provide rewarding summer steelheading this weekend. It's gotta turn around soon, but if there's another hard rain, expect an accompanying stall in the action.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – While the Sandy River is still a bit high, the color is good and springers are being taken. It'll be a good bet this week and into the weekend. Fish are scattered throughout the system with recent catches coming from the mouth and reports of successes and failures at various locations and drifts from all points upstream.

Clackamas anglers are having a tough time as they watch springers roll but not bite. An occasional summer steelhead has been banked at Rivermill.

The Guide's Forecast – Anglers may expect slow but steady action on the Sandy River for the weekend, barring the showers predicted for Saturday and Sunday turning into serious rainfall in which case another destination would be in order. Modest numbers of summer steelhead and spring chinook are available for anglers with both species being recycled from the hatchery at Cedar Creek. Keep at it. Fishing at Cedar Creek has been spotty.

Expect an even slower pace on the Clackamas for springers and steelhead. When water conditions improve on the lower Willamette there will be less pressure on the Clack. With fish scattered as they are, anglers will do best to stay on the move in search of them.

North Coast District Fishing Report – Salmon fishing prior to this tide series was very quiet in Tillamook County. However, that all changed with the prime set of tides that came beginning on 5/24. With the big minus tide in the morning and a good push of incoming the previous evening, the spring Chinook showed up in force in the upper bay at Tillamook at mid-week. As a matter of fact, I don't ever recall seeing as many spring Chinook caught on Tillamook as I did on 5/25. We started out our day at the oyster house and ended up towards the middle of the bay. There were a lot of boats fishing and we saw consistent catches for the entire outgoing tide! We had four opportunities that day and managed to land just 2 of them- and they were both wild! I have seen more wild fish this year than I ever have before since this fishery became selective. We were using spinners and had grabs on red/white, gold with red beads, and chartreuse/green dot spinners. The lower the tide got, the more fish were caught. There were a few boats using herring and they posted good results as well. All the boats (and subsequent action) happened between "Ray's Place" piling and the Memaloose boat ramp. I know of one bobber fisherman from the Trask River that took two fish from the lower tidewater section. All in all, it will be a hard day to beat for springer fishermen on Tillamook Bay!

Here. Jennie Logsdon Martin of [*www.ifish.net](http://www.ifish.net) proudly displays the first of two spring chinook she took on upper Tillamook Bay on Tuesday, May 24th. Both springers fell to a spinner white blade, chartreuse dot spinner. This one hit 30 feet into her first trolling pass.



River anglers had only fair results after last week's rain. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** scored fair results on the Wilson and Trask late last week. He drifted the Trask on Friday hooking and releasing 2 fish. He headed over to the Wilson River and took one 12 pound hatchery fish home. Overall, drifters didn't do as well as they should have but hard-core anglers did post results.

Springers are definitely the best thing going on the north coast right now. It seems that many of the sturgeon have exited Tillamook for more productive grounds. Crabbing has been fair but the extreme tides are keeping many from having high catches. Most of the crabs are in good hard shell condition however.

The Nestucca is producing occasional spring chinook and summer steelies are starting to show in fair numbers. June is generally considered the best month for summers on the Nestucca although experienced anglers have enjoyed good steelhead fishing as late as the Fourth of July depending on water conditions.

Bottom fishing remains excellent and weather conditions are again becoming favorable after last weeks whacky weather events. Water spouts anyone?

Trout season is open for catch and release and the sea-run cutthroat are in the bay. They are feeding on chum salmon fry this time of year and for an adventurous angler, good action could be had. Target the rocky shorelines as that is where they seem to hunt their prey. We landed a sea-run cutt today in the 18 inch class. It took a size 8 spinner if that gives you any idea how hungry they are around here.

The surf is also favorable for perch fishing. Sand shrimp tails are the only thing to use but anglers must continue to be aware that the extreme tide series we are experiencing warrants extreme caution.

Razor clamming remains closed on the entire Oregon coast. Be sure to check specific areas as bay clamming is also effected with certain sections of many bays also closed as the concentration of the naturally-occurring bio-toxin, domoic acid, at high levels now. They darned near closed sand shrimp harvest. Now, that would have been silly, wouldn't it?

The Guide's Forecast – As good as the springer fishing has been, it isn't going to last. The minus tide series will play into the weekend and the later it gets, the more productive fishing time you will have. By the weekend, the entire morning will be outgoing and if you start at the break of dawn, you should have good opportunities throughout the tide. Spinners are the best choice as the high tides are taking a lot of debris off of the banks making for semi-weedy conditions. It is nothing like the fall however and quite manageable. The tides will get weaker by the weekend and eelgrass may not be such a problem by then. With these extreme tides, the best action will occur in the upper bay as the bulk of these fish are bound for the Trask and Wilson Rivers. Be sure to check for fins as a lot of these fish have them all this year. Stick with the solid colors for the morning hours and switch to the metallics by late morning when the sun is overhead. Red and white or Chartreuse and white are good choices in the morning while all gold or brass with red or green tip is a good choice later in the day. Herring is another great option and go with the smaller green label in an attempt to get them to spin tighter.

Herring fishing in the lower bay should not be as productive as spinner fishing in the upper bay. Crabbing will provide some additional opportunity if you limit yourself to the lower estuary however. Be wary of where you place your pots in the heavier currents as they may wash away if not properly weighted.

The tides are good for sturgeon effort on Tillamook Bay and the first part of outgoing will be when you want to concentrate your efforts. Don't wait too long before you switch over to salmon however as the last half of outgoing will be prime for salmon.

If the weather continues to cooperate (and the forecast is mixed), surf perch fishing could be a fun one along Tillamook County Beaches. I recommend using slinkies with shrimp tails as if you were steelhead fishing. Just be aware of what your tide is doing and where you are fishing at all times.

Central & South Coast Reports – Summer steelhead numbers are improving on the Siletz.

The Umpqua is running high and off color which caused a stall in all fishing, even sturgeon. On Wednesday, May 25th the sturgeon action improved with numerous fish cooperating, but the take was a mix of over-sized whites and undersized greens. At least they're biting. As the river comes into shape, spring chinook fishing in the main stem has shown recent improvement.

Several Southern coastal streams open this Saturday, May 28th following an extended closure, although none are prime fishing destinations at this time. Check the regs.

Boats seeking halibut out of Winchester Bay on the all-depth opener May 12th through 14th did well. Haceta Banks produced fine catches of flatties up to 70 pounds. Limits also came from the Chicken Ranch. The ocean was not so friendly on the last opener May 19th through 21st, keeping boats at bay. Additional all-depth fishing dates will occur on June 2nd through 4th and again on June 9th through 11th as the quota has not filled.

An unusual, late-season spring chinook opportunity has emerged on the Rogue River as it recovers from the last rain storms. Now that the river has dropped and cleared, springers are available in good number - and biting - all the way from the Hatchery Hole to tidewater. While fish are being taken along this entire stretch, the best action seems to be the area of Pearce Riffle and Savage Rapids. Rogue anglers are benefiting from the late run this year.

Beaches remain closed to razor clamming. Be sure to check specific areas as bay clamming is also effected with certain sections of many bays also closed as the concentration of the naturally-occurring bio-toxin, domoic acid, at high levels now.

Below is Jeff Carlson with his halibut caught on the opener out of Newport with Fast Eddies Fishing Adventures - fished 35 miles out in 550ft of water - everyone limited and were back on the docks at 11:00AM.



Central and Eastern Oregon – The stonefly hatch is occurring early on the Deschutes. Consequently, long-rodders are throwing large flies with good results for redsides from Maupin to Mecca Flats. Nymphing remains effective in the early mornings and in slower eddies.

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

Mid Columbia River Fishing Report – Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (509) 366-4052 reports, “Warmer weather this week has the smallmouth bass really biting! Small males are pouring out of the Yakima and are being caught all around the tip of Bateman Island and the flats in Yakima River delta. Walleye are starting to pick up below McNary dam. Try worm harnesses around Plymouth Point. 15-25 feet of water is where I have been catching the most fish.”

The Guides Forecast- The lower Yakima River, the Columbia near the mouth of the Yakima and all of the other go-to areas such as Plymouth Point, should continue to produce quality fishing for the next few weeks.

Snake River Fishing Report- Pat Long Snake River Guide Service (509-751-0410) reports, “All area rivers are coming back into shape after a period of high flows, the Snake is back down to around 70,000 cfs (down from 106,000 last Saturday), the Clearwater is around 30,000 and the Salmon and Grande Ronde are also dropping fast. The outlook for a holiday weekend on the river is fair at best, we are still seeing a lot of debris in the river (small stuff, sticks, weeds, etc.) but conditions are much better than a few days ago and improving daily.

Sturgeon fishing on the Snake is good and the bass fishing is fair. The Clearwater springer season is open on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays only and will remain open through the holiday at least- fishing is poor, but we are still seeing an occasional catch. The middle section of the river (Cherry Lane to Orofino) has been the best fishing lately.

Lewis River Reservoirs Fishing Report- Merwin is still producing Kokanee for those willing to work for them. Limits are being had by some anglers but not all. The fish are still scattered throughout the lake which makes them hard to find in decent numbers. Be prepared to get here early now that we are having some nice weather, the boat launch fills up early with ski boats.

The Guides Forecast- Fishing should continue to improve as the water warms.

Kalama River Fishing Report – Wayne and Rob Orzel 360-673-3557 reports the river is currently dropping from the recent rains and the color looks great! There are still good numbers of spring Chinook in the river and we are seeing a few summer steelhead every day and the summer runs that we've seen are brutes, nice fish in the teens! Anglers in the canyon have been getting fish, boaters have had some really good days and bank anglers in the lower river have been getting into them as well.

The Guides Forecast- The springer fishing on the Kalama isn't over by any means and with the water dropping the fishing should just get better through the weekend. Summer steelhead numbers should increase as we move into June. June is typically one of the best months for summer steelhead because the water is still cold and has a good flow. Once the water level drops and starts to warm, the steelhead can be hard to find and even harder to hook.

Cowlitz River Fishing Report – Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509) 697-7125 reports, “The Cow was a little better for us the last 4 days, no skunks, our worst day was (5-23) yesterday 1-1 and our best was Sunday 3-3. Again most of our fish are coming on M-2SP's and spinners. We are also seeing a few more summer steelhead in our catch.”



Paul Zito, 85 of Yakima with his first Cowlitz springer.



Max Wagner of Spokane with his first ever springer caught on a M-2 SP Flatfish in "Double Trouble".



Doug Fix of Mount Vernon with a 15# -16# "Cowlitz Cookie Cutter" springer.



Springer Jack on M-2 SP Flatfish

The Guides Forecast- The Cowlitz is currently flowing at 6000 CFS and this higher water flow should really turn the bite on! If the fishing is going to get good on the Cowlitz then it is going to happen now. As long as the water flows stay up (6000 cfs is ideal) then the fishing should remain good as long as there are good numbers of fish in the river.

Neah Bay Fishing Report – Charter Captain Mike Jamboretz (206) 595-9526 or (425) 788-5955 reports, "Bad weather has really put a damper on things, there have been several days when we haven't been able to get out because of high seas. The U.S. halibut season only lasted 7 days, so U.S. halibut is pretty much over except for two days in June."

Mike says, "The good news is that we have been fishing in Canadian waters which are open 7 days a week until this fall, and have been getting limits every day. The Canada trips have been producing halibut in the 30 pound class. After we get our halibut we then try for lingcod and we have been getting

some giants, they're real monsters in the 20 – 40 pound range! Were using pipe jigs for the ling cod and the lings are a nice bonus."

The Guides Forecast- As long as the weather cooperates the fishing should remain good. The nice thing about fishing in Canada is that you can retain two halibut per person! Don't forget that you will need a Canadian license which you can obtain for a small fee a short distance over the border.

Northwest Bass & Panfish - Bass have been cooperative in the temperate coastal lakes for a couple of weeks now and Valley anglers will find largemouth on the prowl as the warm weather this week urges them into the shallows.

Columbia smallies are aggressive now with good catches to four pounds reported around Cascade Locks. Soft plastics have been most effective on these pre-spawn smallmouth. Look for the upper Willamette to turn on in the next few days if the water clears and warms a bit. If showers in the forecast come to pass and cause turbidity, this fishing opportunity will be delayed until conditions improve.

The crappie tournament is coming up at Brownlee Reservoir. Scheduled for June 18th and 19th at Holcomb Park out of Richland, interested participants must call 'Terry' at 341-523-3199 to get on board with a shot at \$1250 in prizes.

Northwest Trout - Odell is reliable for kokanee averaging 12 inches with limits coming to those who persist. Wickiup is productive when the wind isn't blowing too hard. At Green Peter, kokes are abundant and the limit is a generous (and attainable) 25 fish per angler. GP kokanee are running 12 inches or better this year. Crescent Lake is rewarding jig fishermen with limits of kokanee averaging 13 inches. Wickiup is producing decent catches of kokes on the troll. Suttle Lake is producing good numbers of small kokes. Roslyn is putting out easy limits of rainbows while Lava Lake has been rewarding Power Baiters with jumbo trout up to 18 inches.

In the Willamette Zone this week, Henry Hagg Lake, Huddleston Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir, Timothy Meadows, Trillium Lake, Carmen Reservoir, Clear Lake, Coast Fork Willamette, E. E. Wilson Pond, Foster Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Upper and Lower McKenzie River, and Salmon Creek have been planted with trout.

Heavy stocking took place this week in the Deschutes watershed, most significantly the 16,000 catchable-sized planted in Diamond Lake. In addition, the following locations will be stocked: Clear Lake, Kingsley Reservoir, Thompson Reservoir, Big Cultus Lake, East Lake, Lake of the Woods, North and South Twin Lakes, Ana Reservoir, Century Gravel Pit, Sprague Gravel Pit, Walton Lake, Fall River, Ochoco Creek, Shevlin Pond, Simtustus Lake and Spring Creek.

Reader Email - Reader John S., a resident of Michael Teague's home town, inquired via the Contact Form at the TGF website that he was "Trying to get information on where to crab on Alsea Bay."

I replied in part, "Regarding locations to crab at Alsea Bay, I was unable to find any specific information as there is no defined channel there so the levels and contours can change from one year to the next with winter storms. Crabbing out of Waldport is some of the best on the coast, however, and folks often do well right off the docks.

"For more specific information regarding where boaters have been getting Dungeness limits this year, contact True Value Hardware in Waldport at 541-563-3199. They're the only local ODFW license agent. Also try the Port of Alsea at 541-563-3872 who will be anxious to have you visit so you'll find them very helpful.

"I've recently re-located to Lincoln City and hope to be able to take advantage of the new location to do

more fishing and crabbing on the coast myself. Perhaps I'll see you out there!

"Good luck and if you go, please let me know how you do."

Writing about fishing in Oregon is second only to actually going fishing. Hearing from readers is a bonus.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: drees@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: SailCat@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Shad fishing info & recipes:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/outreach/fishing/shad/shad.htm>

Dr. Ernest L. Brannon theorizes on the late arrival and low numbers of the 2005 Columbia Spring Chinook Run:

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

2005 Fishing Forecast, Zone by Zone, from the ODFW:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/RR/fishing_forecast/

Another record blue catfish with photo:

<http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/05/25/big.fish.ap/index.html>

Weekly Quote – "Nothing is more trying to the patience of a fishermen than the remark so often made to them by the profane: "I had not patience enough for fishing!" - Arthur Ransome

GOOD LUCK!