

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 8<sup>th</sup> – July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Fisheries Update:** This weeks issue marks the end of our 6<sup>th</sup> year bringing NW anglers up to date information and an accurate fishing forecast. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our readers for the positive and critical feedback that we have received throughout the years. It has been the pleasure of our "huge" staff of 3 (Bob Rees, Michael Teague and Doug Rees) to bring you this information throughout the years. We are not in this business to make a fortune as all of us have other full time employment that meets the needs of our families but we do it to get anglers invested in our recreation opportunities here in the Northwest. With more people invested, we hope more people feel inclined to protect the valuable resources that provide our families with unparalleled outdoor experiences and fresh, healthy food sources. This year has provided us with a reality check after so many years of bounty - please take only what you will use and continue to fight for what we treasure.

Thanks again for being part of one of Oregon's most valuable fishing resources and if you don't already, please consider receiving the full length version of our newsletter. The more readers who subscribe to the full length version, the more justification we receive to improve our product. We also encourage you to continue to give us feedback so we can continually improve our product for your enjoyment. Now, on to our 7<sup>th</sup> year! Feed back can be delivered through the TGF contact page at <http://www.theguidesforecast.com/contact.shtml>

**Sturgeon** fishing in the **estuary** remains sporadic but action seemed to have picked up this week. Anglers need to prepare themselves for the results of another gillnet opener on the 5<sup>th</sup> of July. The gillnets have been averaging about 300 keepers/week in the "summer Chinook" fishery. Action remains best above the Astoria/Megler Bridge.

The opener for ocean **salmon** out of **Astoria** was far from red-hot. Most anglers gave up as a light NW wind began to hinder anglers. What coho were caught were on the small side. Anglers had to head SW to get into consistent action.

**Bottom fishing** remains good out of **Astoria** but crabbing in the river remains poor and the ocean crab are mostly soft shelled.

On the **north coast**, springer season is all but over for hatchery fish but anglers are switching their efforts to the ocean fishery. Some decent Chinook are being taken out deeper but a quality coho is still hard to come by. Crabbing in the estuaries seems more productive than in the ocean. Rivers are low and clear calling for low water tactics. Three Rivers will close to angling on 7/10.

Coho fishing out of **central Oregon** ports has not yet taken off. Bottom fishing remains excellent with good-sized ling cod amongst limits of rockfish.

**Winchester Bay** anglers have been fishing salmon hard and are reporting decent catches. Tuna are available 50 miles or better offshore.

The **spring chinook** fishery is upstream now on the Rogue but it's slow with disappointing numbers at Gold Ray Dam. While Fall fish are showing in the bay, it's not yet worth making much of a trip for them.

Upriver, **sturgeon** fishing is slowing for oversized and keeper fish. The shad run is winding down which is partly to blame for the drop in success. Salmon fishing remains consistent in this area

but it should be the last peak week of the summer Chinook fishery.

A few **springers** are being taken by boat and bank anglers in the lower Willamette with the emphasis on "few". Those landed recently have been chromers, however. Shad fishing remains good but won't last at this rate. Get 'em while they're hot. Fish sturgeon elsewhere.

The **Clackamas** remains in the doldrums and Sandy steelheaders report a marked slowing in action since the water level has dropped.

Water levels at the **North Santiam** are finally quite fishable and will remain that way 'til the Fall rains. Steelhead fishing is fair for scattered fish.

The **McKenzie** has disappointed steelheaders this year but not trout fishermen.

Catch the latest **bass** fishing info in the full-length TGF report as well as the story and photo of the new Oregon State Record smallmouth bass taken by a 12-year-old angler.

**Kokanee** are scattered at Green Peter Reservoir resulting in spotty catches. Odell is producing 14-inchers on the troll at 50 feet.

The ODFW **planted trout** this week in Big Cliff Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Upper and Lower McKenzie River, North Fork Santiam River, Olallie Lake, Spring Creek, Campbell Lake, Deadhorse Lake, and Spring Creek.

**Southwest Washington** - Anglers on the lower Columbia River are finding the stretch of river from Longview to Woodland to be the most productive for **salmon** and **steelhead**.

Lewis River – **Pro Guide Pete Grace (888.688.4386 / 888.out4fun)** tells us that steelhead fishing has been picking up

**South Sound/Olympic Peninsula** - Anglers are finding hit-and-miss success at catching **chinook salmon** in the Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery near Marysville.

**North Central Washington** - Catch rates and fishing effort on many of Okanogan County's **trout** lakes are slowing down, according to WDFW enforcement officer Cal Treser, who recently checked anglers on several waterways.

**Eastern Washington** - WDFW fish biologist Mark Schuck of Dayton reported that Snake River creel clerks are observing low encounter and harvest rates among anglers out after **spring chinook salmon**.

**McNary** – **Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (509.366.4052)** informs TGF that the shad are harder to catch with sturgeon fishing still good. Walleyes are picking up between Boardman and McNary.

### **Soapbox Update: Washington and Oregon States Move to Weaken Wild Salmon Protections**

#### ***Sports Anglers Cry Foul, Urge Voluntary Release of Wild Summer Chinook in waters shared by Oregon and Washington***

PORTLAND, ORE – June 29, 2005 – Northwest sport fishing organizations are calling on Columbia River anglers to voluntarily release wild summer Chinook, following a broadly opposed regulation change allowing the harvest of wild chinook salmon.

Typically, regulations have required all wild summer Chinook be released back into the river unharmed, west of Bonneville Dam. But in controversial decision made on Tuesday, Washington and Oregon fisheries managers are now allowing anglers to catch and keep wild summer Chinook.

Bill Tweit, Columbia River Policy Coordinator for the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, insisted on the non-selective fishery, citing pressure by the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission.

In response, numerous organizations are calling on anglers to voluntarily release any wild fish they catch. Norm Ritchie, co-president of the Association of Northwest Steelheaders, said he is "personally appealing to the conservation ethic of my fellow Northwest Steelheaders – and all other anglers – to release all wild summer Chinook unharmed."

Sport fishing interests were nearly unanimous in their opposition to the weakening of wild salmon protections. These groups included the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association, Southwest Washington Anglers, Vancouver Wildlife Federation, Northwest Guides Association, Association of Northwest Steelheaders and members of the business community.

"This is the worst possible situation for the fish and sport anglers," said Liz Hamilton, executive director of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association. "Our businesses need consistent fish regulations, and sustainable wild populations. This decision creates uncertainty, and runs counter to the selective fishery ethic that sport fishers are known to support throughout the region. It's bad for our economy and bad for the future of salmon and fishing."

The summer Chinook run begins in June and peaks late in the month, and includes both wild and hatchery fish. This provides anglers the opportunity for catch-and-keep of hatchery fish and catch-and-release of wild fish.

Hamilton commented on how fortunate we are to have any wild summer Chinook given the severe habitat limitations they face.

In addition, sport anglers are concerned about the accuracy of this year's run estimates. The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife has consistently overestimated the number of wild fish returning to spawn this year, according to Jim Harmon, president of Southwest Washington Anglers.

"It's disappointing that our own state didn't listen to its constituents who wanted the most protection for our summer Chinook," Harmon said.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Sturgeon fishing remains sporadic with mixed results coming from different guides. On my last day of sturgeon fishing, we fished close to the Astoria/Megler Bridge in the middle channel landing 4 nice keepers and some good shaker action. Most of our bites came on shrimp but anchovies seemed to draw bigger fish. Around the same time period (July 1), good reports were coming from the deep water at Tongue Point. Lots of lead and lots of bait was required to fish the deep stuff but the fish were present. Some of the better action continues to be above the bridge but occasionally, guides are finding results amongst the crabs in the lower end. And the crabs have been voracious! Sport crabbing has been slow for keepers despite the overwhelming number present. Most of them won't be legal for several more years but what a crop we have! The gillnets continue to seem to have an impact on lower river success rates so thankfully, we only have one more commercial opener to endure. The final summer salmon opener will start at 7 p.m. on July 5<sup>th</sup> and last until 5 a.m. July 6<sup>th</sup>. To

date, the gill-netters have taken just over 1,500 summer Chinook and 605 white sturgeon. More recently, action seems to have picked up a bit as it seems another big bunch of bait rolled its way into the lower river making competition for biters lean. **Pro guide Todd Dielman (503-791-8287)** reported fast action but hard to find a keeper. He was nearing 40 fish with no keepers by mid afternoon on the 4<sup>th</sup>. He was fishing above the bridge. Most anglers know by now that the season is slated to close on the 10<sup>th</sup> while managers review the quota. The river will re-open again from the 15<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> (another 3 days). It is expected the quota of sturgeon in the lower river (Buoy 10 to Wauna) will have been reached by then.

Salmon season opened on July 3<sup>rd</sup> in the North of Cape Falcon ocean fishery. I headed out with a few guide friends hoping for some grand slam action (bottomfish, salmon, crab). We headed over the bar in the early a.m. but realized the better bottom fishing was going to take place near low slack. Besides this important fact, we wanted to wait to hear what other boats were doing before we went on the hunt. The morning bottom fishing effort went good as we were quickly into lingcod using fresh herring bouncing on the bottom in 25 to 60 feet of water. Using a 5 foot leader line and 18 inch dropper, we hugged the bottom off of the sunken jetty (south jetty) for about 2 hours of prime tide. Action for lingcod was great as we took our 8 fish limit of lingcod from 8 to 18 pounds. We took several Seabass and a few cabezon in the process as well but found a little better action as the tide started to run along the south jetty on the ocean side of the jetty. We had set the pots earlier for crab in about 35 feet of water using leftover anchovies from the sturgeon season. We ended up with 16 keeper crab but most of them were soft shelled. This is common for this time of year. Oh yeah, we were supposed to be talking about the salmon season.....well, we stayed bottom fishing and we were glad we did! We ended up taking our limit of lings and rockfish while most salmon guides struggled to get their people into fish. Some boats took limits or near limits of small coho south of the rivers entrance in 200 to 300 foot of water. In the traditional haunts (CR Buoy and near-shore south) fish were non-existent. Fresh trolled herring are always the standby here- you just have to find the fish. One guide reported an easy limit of small coho in the deeper water the next day(4<sup>th</sup> of July).

Upriver, sturgeon action has slowed somewhat for keepers and oversized fish are harder to come by. The bulk of the shad run has passed Bonneville and looks like it will top out around 4 million fish! There used to be a day when we had this many salmon in a season- and they were all wild! Too bad the hydropower systems aren't as hard on sea-lions like they are on salmon.....(save it for the soapbox, I know). Oversized sturgeon are not responding as well to fresh shad but catching shad is becoming increasingly harder to do. Keeper fish are still coming on shad strips and smelt and anglers still have until the end of this month to fish for keepers on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Salmon fishing in the Bonneville area has been steady with passage at a rate of 1600 to 1800 fish/day. The bulk of the fish have passed (assuming that the prediction of 60,000+ fish is accurate). The current count at Bonneville is over 50,000 summer Chinook. Steelhead counts are staying steady between 400 and 600 per day. The poor tide series made for less-than-ideal conditions for plunkers in the lower Columbia this past week.

**The Guide's Forecast** – For lower river sturgeon fishers, look for a downturn in effort and success following the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend and the last of the gillnet openers. Keepers will be harder to come by. None-the-less, there seems to be a lot of fish present in the lower stretches and maybe they will be more willing to bite as the season closes on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Anglers will have a few days hiatus until the re-opener on the 15<sup>th</sup>. The stronger tide series will make deep water fishing more challenging but it seems to be where the bulk of the action is this time of year. Start off in the shallows the closer to high slack that you are and drop off into deeper water and the tide goes out. Wait until you get closer to the slack periods of the tide before you hit the deepest areas and the deeper you fish, the more bait you will burn through- especially downstream of the

Astoria/Megler Bridge. Serious anglers should consider spending the bulk of their efforts upstream of the bridge but experienced anglers in lower river patterns may be able to take advantage of fewer anglers.

Salmon fishing is less than impressive with the few keepers caught being a bit on the small side. The ocean has been very friendly to fish allowing anglers to explore farther offshore and to the south where the bulk of the hatchery coho seem to be. Fairly consistent Chinook action can occasionally be had here as well but anglers must seriously consider the marine forecast before venturing too far away from the mouth of the river. Getting caught by a NW wind 10 to 20 miles from the mouth of the river will be a trying experience. I suggest you keep it simple heading SW from the river mouth to 250 to 300 foot of water. Fish the surface if you get out early but drop those baits down to 16 to 40 foot down as the sun begins to shine on the water sending the bait down deeper.

The in-river salmon and steelhead fishery should perk up this week as we enter into another minus tide series. The best action for plunkers will be beaches downstream of the Longview Bridge using hot colors for steelhead and green spin-n-glos for salmon. Plugs or spinners will work well for the few remaining salmon as well. Steelhead will be the focus of most anglers on this tide series. The head of Tenasillahe Island is a great area to intercept steelhead if you have a boat to access the island. Launch from Westport or Aldrich Point.

Upriver, salmon fishing in the gorge should also remain stable for summer Chinook. Small spinners will again be the ticket this week as we enter the final peak week of this fishery. Swift, deep water will be the area you will want to target these fish and although you are now allowed to keep either finned or non-finned Chinook, please see the press release in the Soapbox Update for reasons why you should opt to fish selectively.

Sturgeon fishing in the area may begin to slow with the dog days of summer. July can be a challenging month as fresh shad become hard to get. Smelt and shad strips will continue to take a few keepers and oversized fish in the area.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Spring chinook and summer steelhead continue to cross Willamette Falls at a steady rate. The average of a couple of hundred per day has held steady for most of June.

Steelhead totals thus far for the year are over 11,000 with spring chinook over the 34,000 mark. The latter number is still far shy of estimates, but better than many thought we'd see this season.

A consequence of this rather steady piscatorial traffic is the sound of late-season bells going off. These would be the ones attached to rod tips along the bank below the Clackamas River where a number of bright chinook, not a great number, but significant, have been taken over the last week.

Many anglers are tossing spinners, sometimes for hours at a time, to intercept the late arrivals. The chrome condition of these fish has surprised many and delighted the few lucky enough to entice one. See **Reader Email**, below, for a late report.

Shad fishing is also holding up very well for the first week of July as anglers who find well-traveled slots and channels continue to fill buckets and coolers with baitfish.

The North Santiam has finally dropped to decent fishing levels and is likely to remain in good

shape until the Fall rains. Steelhead are scattered and available from Packsaddle Park downstream to Green's Bridge.

**The Guide's Forecast** – It's all coming to an end. Not the abrupt, hitting-the-wall sort of conclusion, but salmon, steelhead and shad runs will start to show a decline in the coming weeks. Hopefuls had better get themselves on the water or wait 'til next year.

It's pretty late in the season for springers in the best of years which this isn't. With the shad run still going strong (for now), it'd be a good idea to stock up on these fish for premium crab bait. A few dozen can last all year and it's worth mentioning again that seals don't like shad, hence will leave nets, traps and pots alone.

Fishing has been fair to good on the North Santiam as the majority of summers and springers which continue to cross Willamette Falls are destined for the Santiam system. It's finally on the recommended list.

Steelheading never did take off on the McKenzie River this year although trout fishers are having a good time here.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – The Clackamas River just hasn't shown any reason for fishermen's attention this year and the holiday weekend was no different.

Steelheaders and late-season springer hopefuls reported a slowing on the Sandy as levels dipped low.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The Clackamas is still not worth the trip. One may reasonably wonder at this point if there will be any reason to fish it this season.

It remains to be seen if precipitation this week will be sufficient to rev up the fishing and boost this productive tributary back into action. Even a slight increase will create a window of opportunity for steelheaders as the water drops again.

**North Coast District Fishing Report** – Effort has mostly shifted to the ocean fishery off of Garibaldi and it seems to be one of the brighter spots for action on the North Coast. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** fished on 7/2 heading due west of Twin Rocks into 200 foot of water. He started early but by noon, had his 2 customers into 2 nice Chinook (one at 20 pounds) and 1 coho. The group had several other opportunities and released a few native coho as well. Reports of decent Chinook action continue to come from the Garibaldi area for those willing to travel to deeper water to target these fish. Hoochies and flashers seem to be a better option for the deeper running Chinook.

Crabbing was better in Tillamook Bay versus outside for sporties last week. Crabbers may have an easier time finding hard shelled crab in the estuaries versus the salt chuck this time of year. Nehalem Bay isn't producing as well as Tillamook but the crabbing is fair.

Inland, the spring Chinook run continues to wind down but as **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** reports, it isn't over yet! Jesse states, "The Nestucca is getting low and clear, so summer tactics are best. Most of the best action has been on the lower river if you can find a place to fish. Bait has been the ticket, and they are VERY tough biters. There are a bunch of fish, but are being hit hard, and the weather has put them down a bit. We finally have some good steelhead counts, so they are available now as well. They have been getting quite a few on small spinners. Most are little silver blades, I would recommend more dull colors like tarnished brass or black nickel. We have about a week or two to go and then we will call it quits and

prepare for fall, and get the bait company rolling. We will be producing some of the most beautiful eggs out there, as well as Sardines, and cured fillets."

**The Guide's Forecast** – You'll have to turn to low water tactics on north coast streams if you are pursuing salmon, trout or steelhead. The water is low and clear and the fish are wary. Turn to swift flows at the head of the holes for active biters but be early as they will quickly catch on. Small baits are a must and check your regulations if you are pursuing trout. The Wilson, Trask and Nestucca Rivers are open for fishing salmon or steelhead.

Ocean fishers have good access to salmon and bottomfish if the seas remain friendly. Salmon fishers should head due west of the bay entrance and don't stop until you reach at least 200 foot of water. Fish near the surface at first light but gradually drop your offerings down deep as the morning progresses. Flashers and green hoochies are a strong option. Drop your crab pots off in the bay or saltwater but it will pay to crab away from your competitors. Prepare to sort through some soft shells.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – An 81-inch sturgeon was found filleted in Florence around the middle of last month (see **Random Links**). While a reward for information leading to the capture of the responsible reprobate is being offered, most of us would get all the payoff we'd need from the pleasure of turning in any miscreant who would commit such an offense. Worth noting: The TIP (Turn In Poachers) hotline is (800) 425-7888.

In what may have been the last hurrah for the spring all-depth halibut season, anglers found willing flatties over the holiday weekend out of Garibaldi, Depoe Bay and Newport. The summer season starts soon and will be excellent.

Good numbers of ling cod are coming in amongst limits of rockfish daily on bottom-fishing trips out of Depoe Bay. Coho fishing has not taken off yet, but good numbers are on the way.

**Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411)** reports, " ... salmon fishing is very slow off the central Oregon coast as the salmon are bottled up off of Winchester Bay and Umpqua River. The temperature has dropped some to about 54 to 55 off of Newport, so hopefully they show up soon. Then mean time, anglers are going after either tuna, bottom fish or halibut fishing inside the 40 fathom line."

Salmon fishing offshore out of Winchester Bay has been very good for trollers at 50 to 150 feet over 250 to 350 foot depths. South of Twin Knolls has been popular and productive. Pressure was heavy over the holiday weekend with the individual catch numbers declining as the numbers of boats working this area increased.

Tuna catches have been spotty for anglers launching out of Reedsport but rewarding for those who stay with it to find 60-degree water with decent color. Expect to make a 50-mile-or-better trip out of port. This is sport for the experienced and well-equipped skippers only.

The spring chinook fishery is upstream now on the Rogue but it's slow with disappointing numbers at Gold Ray Dam. The Hatchery Hole has been as productive a location as any for those who enjoy that sort of social undertaking. Summer steelhead are being taken in modest numbers. While Fall fish are showing in the bay, it's not yet worth making much of a trip for them.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Subscriber and regular TGF reporter 'Dobe' wrote this week, "Last Thursday, the 30th. I stopped by Sisters and picked up my old friend Les Haglund on the way to Three Creeks Lake. The lake lies right at the foot of Tam MacArthur Rim at an elevation

of 6500 feet about 13 miles South of Sisters. The road is paved except for the last mile or so. There are no motors allowed on the lake so float tubes are the way to go. Bank access is good clear around the lake and there are a couple of nice campgrounds. Les started out fly fishing from the bank and had little success and meanwhile I was in my pontoon boat out on the lake catching some nice rainbows. In about 2 hours I had caught and released 10 ranging from 10 to 13 inches. Not huge fish but a blast on my ultra light spinning rod. I was trolling a small Mepps spinner in nickel with a red plastic tube over the treble hook shank. Everyone out on the water was having great luck. After lunch, I turned my pontoon boat over to Les and he proceeded to catch fish on a small black fly. I have been trying to get him to purchase a pontoon boat ( inflatable ) and I figured if he got out in one, that would set the hook. And, I believe it did as he had a ball. My inflatable is an ODC 816, eight feet long and four feet wide with a comfortable seat and plenty of storage. A nice change once in awhile from the noise and hassle of my bigger boat. There is a little store a Three Creeks Lake where you can buy bait and a few essentials and they also rent boats. There are great swimming beaches for kids too. Have a good float trip."

**Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411)** tried his luck and shares this report and great photo (below), " ... ran a trout trip on the Deschutes this week. Fishing is good, especially in the evening on dry flies - crippled mayfly. During the day anglers will want to use caddis emergers, prince nymphs and serendipities. One of my clients was not a fly fisherman and he had excellent success casting a small olive colored Kwikfish. The trout was released in photos."



**Northwest Bass & Panfish** - The John Day River on the East side remains red-hot for smallmouth bass action with most anglers losing track of how many fish they land. A hundred in a day is not unusual, but many are small. Much like the sturgeon angling, one has to catch a number of 'shorts' to land a decent fish, but no one's complaining about the action. The Oregon Bass & Panfish Club, the organization responsible for warm water record-keeping, confirmed the smallmouth taken by 12-year-old Nick Rubeo on May 10th as the new state record smallmouth. The 8 pound, 1.76 oz, ounce Hagg Lake smallie measured 23" in length with a girth of 18 1/2". Rubeo was fishing with a Super Fluke plastic bait.



With the last five Oregon State record smallmouth coming out of Henry Hagg Lake, no one speculates much any more about where the next one will be taken, just when and by whom. Early mornings are best for Hagg and most locations now as bass, both largemouth and smallmouth, are in the post-spawn doldrums.

**Northwest Trout** - Kokanee are scattered at Green Peter Reservoir resulting in spotty catches. Odell is producing 14-inchers on the troll at 50 feet.

The ODFW planted trout this week in Big Cliff Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Upper and Lower McKenzie River and the North Fork Santiam River, all of which are in the Willamette Zone. No trout stocking will take place in the Northwest (North coastal) Zone until late August.

Planting took place in the Deschutes watershed this week at Olallie Lake, Spring Creek, Campbell Lake, Deadhorse Lake, and Spring Creek.

**Southwest Washington** - Anglers on the lower Columbia River are finding the stretch of river from Longview to Woodland to be the most productive for salmon and steelhead. Pat Frazier, WDFW regional fish program manager, said fish checkers working during the third week of June tallied 529 bank anglers who kept 20 adult chinook and released 19 adult kings. Bank anglers also kept 30 steelhead and released six fish. The 333 boat anglers who were checked kept 15 chinook and released 18, while also retaining 16 steelhead and releasing 12 others. "The steelhead fishing has been best below the bridge at Longview," Frazier said. Fishers are advised

that summer chinook rules in the Columbia River between Tongue Point and the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, including all of Knappa Slough and areas of Blind Sough and Deep River, will revert July 1 to non-selective fishing to allow retention of both adipose fin-clipped and non-adipose fin-clipped chinook.

**Cowlitz River – Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509.697.7125)** sends this report in; We had a good day on Friday July 1st, side drifting and pulling plugs on the Cowlitz between Blue Creek and Toledo. Fished 4 clients on a 1/2 day trip and was one fish short of a boat limit.

Even with the smaller summer steelhead run forecast on the Cowlitz river, it should build some the next couple weeks and peak around the first week of August.

This is Kaly, she caught a nice Cowlitz Summer run on Saturday evening, for our family 4th of July BBQ.



And another photo from the Cowlitz, taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July off the Cowlitz.



Forecast, the even with the smaller summer steelhead run forecast on the Cowlitz river, it should build some the next couple weeks and peak around the first week of August.

Lewis River – **Pro Guide Pete Grace (888.688.4386 / 888.out4fun)** tells us that steelhead fishing has been picking up. Salmon is about the same as last week, (Saturday they got 4 salmon on 2 rods at Bonneville. The majority of the catch has been native so many are being released), keeper sturgeon is slowing and oversized above Beacon Rock should be good as the week continues.

**South Sound/Olympic Peninsula** - Anglers are finding hit-and-miss success at catching chinook salmon in the Tualip Bay "bubble" fishery near Marysville. Trolling bait or lures behind a flasher and off a downrigger in the deeper "outside" portion of the bubble has proven effective, as has jiggling a two- to four-ounce lure on an incoming tide.

**South Central Washington** - Now is the time to hike into the high country of the South Cascades for some good fishing in alpine lakes stocked with rainbow trout fry. "The fish stocked as fry from 2002 to 2004 have grown to a size that makes them worth pursuing now," said WDFW district fish biologist Eric Anderson of Yakima. "They may range in size from six to 14 inches or even larger, depending on when the lake was stocked. These fish tend to be of higher quality, having grown under more natural conditions than catchable-size hatchery trout." Anderson says the good fishing in the high lakes should hold up all summer long. All of the fry-stocked lakes, their locations, surface water acres, and numbers of trout stocked over the last three years, are now listed after the region's catchable trout plant posting at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg3/index.htm#highlakes>.

**North Central Washington** - Catch rates and fishing effort on many of Okanogan County's **trout** lakes are slowing down, according to WDFW enforcement officer Cal Treser, who recently checked anglers on several waterways. However, Patterson Lake, west of Winthrop, is still producing good for catches of **bass**, he said. In addition, the Methow River is starting to produce some excellent trout for fly fishers, he said, noting that anglers are also taking limits of bass at the mouth of the Okanogan River. WDFW officers remind anglers to check the rules pamphlet before wetting a line, since they have recently encountered several violations of selective-fishery regulations. In the Columbia Basin, Potholes Reservoir water levels are dropping and surface water temperatures are rising, which puts trout off the bite but boosts the action for bass, walleye, crappie and bluegill. Many of those warm water fish are found in the dunes part of the reservoir, where boaters need to be extra cautious in shallow channels. WDFW regional access manager Kerry Taylor reminds anglers out over the Fourth of July holiday weekend that fireworks are prohibited at WDFW water access sites.

**Eastern Washington** - WDFW fish biologist Mark Schuck of Dayton reported that Snake River creel clerks are observing low encounter and harvest rates among anglers out after spring chinook salmon. Adult chinook passage at Little Goose Dam recently dropped off significantly, although fish counts at dams farther downstream appear to be fairly normal. The special-season fishery is still below allowable handling rates for wild fish, with a total harvest of just over 100 hatchery fish as of June 27. The season is scheduled to end June 30. On the other hand, sturgeon fishing below Little Goose dam on the Snake River is reportedly good, Schuck said. There is a one-fish daily catch limit for sturgeon on the Snake, with a minimum size of 48 inches and a maximum size of 60 inches. All sturgeon fishing upstream of Lower Granite Dam, including tributaries, is catch-and-release only. Smallmouth bass on the Snake should be responding to top water fishing now, Schuck said. WDFW sergeant Ken Jundt of Walla Walla reports that bass fishing has slowed on the Walla Walla and Touchet rivers, although some fish are still being caught. Jundt also reports good catches of **channel catfish** in southeast Washington.

### **Snake River – From Pro Guide Pat Long of Snake River Guide Service**

**(509-751-0410)**, the Snake River is still fishing well for trophy sturgeon, water temps are holding in the upper 60s providing good temps at this time. Water flows are fluctuating considerably as water is released from the Hells Canyon complex to facilitate the required spills at the Lower Snake River Dams and McNary on the Columbia. In the area we are fishing the water levels are rising and falling from 18 to 30 inches in a 24 hour period and the best bite seems to be on the fall. Check the USGS water flow tables and plan to be in the best position during the period (usually 3 to 4 hours) the water is dropping heavily. This spill is ordered through August 1st and if the water temps stay under the mid 70s we will continue to have excellent sturgeon fishing throughout the summer. A note of caution: with the fluctuation in flows boaters need to be aware of the drop, as you move further upriver (closer to Hells Canyon Dam) the peak to peak fluctuation becomes larger (as much as 5 to 6 ft. near the dam) and a boat can be left high and dry in a very short period of time.

Our catch and release steelhead season is now open on the Clearwater River and with the counts increasing at Lower Granite Dam we should see some very good steelheading by mid to late July as the fish stackup in the lower 4 to 5 miles of the Clearwater. These are not the big B-run fish that will remain in the Clearwater, they are Snake and Salmon River fish that will hold in the cooler Clearwater until the Snake cools down in September and October. By August we will have a fantastic shirt sleeve fishery that will last well into September, this period is excellent for the fly fishers and light tackle enthusiasts.

Here is a recent photo of a nice Snake River Sturgeon, this fish was landed by Brent Morgenstern ( Pictured-from New York State ) and his father Brent (from RI). This fish is a little over 9 ft. in length and approx. 400 lbs.



**McNary – Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (509.366.4052)** informs TGF that the shad are harder to catch with sturgeon fishing still good. Walleyes are picking up between Boardman and McNary.

#### **Reader Email**

From "Kaptn Ken" Johnson, yet another report from the banks of the Willamette River: "Salmon on the Beach!!!...Reports that a few, yet far between, Chinook are still lingering in and around the mouth of the Clackamas River. A steelhead rod, about 15-20 pound test, a spinner of various colors and styles and about a 1/2 ounce of lead to get you out there is what you need to catch these Chromies. Toss it as far as you can, give it a three count (Unless you're tossing some serious heavy lead) and start a retrieve. Don't be shy about losing a rig or two and be ready to tie up as soon as the bottom 'rig' feeders take your offering and don't give it up. Don't lose gear, you ain't fishin"! Chinook have been picked up on both fast and somewhat medium retrieves. Now, patience is a total virtue here in this fishery. The guys I know who fish it are there 2-4 (or more) times each week and have been known to put in 2-6 hours standing on wobbly Clackamas River rocks on the bank. Not much to say other than that and that there are occasional fish so go get'em. They're BRIGHT and in the 15-22 pound range...Not bad for July! "

Write to the TGF staff:

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#### **Random Links**

81-Inch Sturgeon Found Filleted On Side Of Road:

<http://koin.com/news.asp?ID=3359>

How to clean flounder for the table:

<http://www.daybreakfishing.com/FlounderFillet.htm>

Stream flow information around Oregon:

[http://www.thetent.com/arcadia/or/orsf\\_index.htm](http://www.thetent.com/arcadia/or/orsf_index.htm)

**Weekly Quote** – "Hydropsyche – The water-consciousness collapses and superimposes time, telescopes our personal histories into a simultaneous present – and time, in the ordinary sense,

stops."

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

**GOOD LUCK!**