

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 22nd – July 28th, 2005**

Fisheries Update: Prepare yourself for the most popular fishery of the year with The Guide's Forecast tech report on Buoy 10 fishing. Tech report #4, titled ***Columbia River Estuary Salmon Fishing*** is a 10 page detailed report on how to make the most of your time in pursuit of these fish. Tides, weather and location are critical when deciding how to tackle this immense body of water and this tech report tells you how the professionals do it. Order yours today **before** the season gets underway. Go to: <http://www.theguidesforecast.com/techrpt.shtml> and check out our other reports to help guide you into Oregon's treasures!

Oregon Fishing Report

Sturgeon fishing in the **lower Columbia River** remains open until the 15th of August but success rates continue to be sporadic. The best action remains above Tongue Point and the sculpin and crab are more of a problem than they have been all season for anglers fishing the deep water.

Ocean anglers out of the mouth of the Columbia continue to be challenged by poor ocean conditions. The few anglers getting out are rather disappointed with the results. There seems to be no relief in sight for ocean salmon fishermen but the catch rate is due to improve stated **Pro guide Eddie Carlson (503-348-3573)**. Bottom fishing has been challenging as well due to rough water. Estuary crabbing remains poor.

Lower river **steelhead** anglers should see an improvement in catches over the weekend and early next week. We have a minus tide series to thank for that. We are coming into peak plunking season for beach anglers seeking action on summer run steelhead. Hot colored spin-n-glos is the way to go.

Steelhead anglers in the gorge have recorded good success recently as **Pro guide Dave Johnson (503-201-4292)** tallied double digit opportunities recently. Small spinners in deep water have been productive during this peak time. Heavy lead is required to fish the swift flows when targeting these fish. Salmon fishing has dropped off to nothing.

Sturgeon fishing in the **gorge** remains best for oversized fish reports **Pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)**. Floater shad is the ticket but are becoming hard to find. There are only 2 more 3-day openers for catch and keep **sturgeon** before it closes at the end of this month. It will re-open in the fall.

Lower **Willamette** anglers have it tough as spring chinook and summer steelhead numbers are on the wane. Bank anglers may have a shot. Shad fishing is drawing little interest now with the run just about over.

The **Clackamas** is still very slow this week. A few steelhead are being taken on the Sandy. Persistence and a variety of baits and lures will produce on the North Santiam.

In the **Tillamook** District, poor ocean conditions are keeping most anglers "at-bay" but Nehalem Chinook are starting to show. The best action has been at the mouth but that may change with the extreme tide series that is now underway. Steelhead anglers have been doing better than salmon at this late in the game reports **Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)**. Stealthy tactics are required.

Offshore **bottom fishing** is holding up well out of Depoe Bay and Newport but it's been a windy week on the coast. Tuna may be found far offshore.

Umpqua bassers are having fun with the smallmouth, often losing count of how many have been caught. Fall fish on the Rogue are being taken occasionally but it's still early.

Trout were planted this week in the Willamette Zone at Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Upper McKenzie River, Mid Fork Willamette and Santiam River. In the Deschutes watershed, Campbell Lake, Deadhorse Lake, Walton Lake, Miller Lake, Devils Lake, Spring Creek and Badger Lake were stocked with State-raised rainbows.

Washington Fishing Report

Puget Sound fishing has slowed since the early July opener. Most of the catch is resident blackmouth but the fishery is likely to peak early next month.

A slower than normal start for anglers fishing at the entrance near the **Straights of Juan de Fuca**. The best catch rates are coming from the Illwaco area and that is likely to remain the case for the next couple of weeks.

Olympic Peninsula fishing has been slow on the Hoh reports **Pro Guide Pat Graham (360-374-5313)** however the Sol Duc silvers are starting to show and should improve in the coming weeks.

Pro Guide Eli Rico (425-417-0394) reports fishing on the **Cowlitz** is slow. He is focusing mostly on **Columbia River** steelhead and reports about 60% of his catch is of hatchery origin.

Pro Guide Jeff Knots (509.366.4052) fished steelhead on Sunday at the **Big White Salmon** and while there was some mild pressure there he saw only a couple of fish hooked. (both on his line YEE HAA!)

He guided sturgeon on Tuesday and was surprised to get into a hot bite and landed four **oversized** brutes to 9 feet in only 2 hours of fishing.

Persistence is key for trout anglers in **Eastern Washington**. Summer temperatures have trout down until evening hatches but warm water species such as walleye and catfish are responding well.

Pro Guide Pat Long (509.751.0410) says that the **Snake** is fishing well for sturgeon and bass. his most recent trips have been consistently producing good numbers of small sturgeon and a couple of big fish as well as lots of smaller bass.

The **Clearwater** is getting a little more attention as more of the little A-run steelhead arrive.

Opportunities to catch chinook salmon expand in **eastern Washington** on July 16 when summer chinook season opens on the **Columbia River** from Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph dams, and on part of the **Okanogan River** from the mouth to Highway 97 bridge. Methow River trout fishery is underway due to low snow pack. The river is running clear enough to fish!

Rimrock Reservoir continues to be good for kokanee in the eight- to 10-inch range. Stream **trout** fishing - particularly on the **Yakima** is fairly consistent but lake plants have ceased due to the warmer water temperatures.

Soapbox Update: LA GRANDE - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife today announced three workshops scheduled in northeast Oregon as part of the Becoming An Outdoors-Woman program.

The workshops offer women the opportunity to learn a variety of outdoor recreational skills such as Fly Fishing, Outdoor Cooking, Shooting, Hiking and Rod Building. Three of these workshops are being held in eastern Oregon.

"Providing women with a positive outdoor experience is one of the major goals of the BOW program," said Mary Hoverson, ODF&W's regional BOW Coordinator. "Women learn best by trying activities, and these workshops give them the chance to do just that in a casual, non-threatening environment."

The three eastern Oregon workshops offered are:

Fly Fishing at Beaver Creek Reservoir

Saturday, July 23

Located near La Grande, this workshop offers instruction in the basics of fly fishing for trout. Participants will learn how to select and purchase equipment, how to tie knots specific to fly-fishing, how to select and set up a rod and reel, the difference between wet and dry flies, and lots of time fishing. The \$40 registration fee includes camping Friday and Saturday nights, three meals Saturday, all instruction and the use of all necessary equipment. The Blue Mountain Anglers Chapter of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be on-hand to show participants how to land, release and clean fish.

Fishin' and Floatin' at Magone Lake

Saturday, Aug. 20

During this one-day workshop near Prairie City, beginners and experienced anglers will learn how to take fishing to a new level. BOW will provide the float tubes, pontoon boats, kayaks and fishing equipment. Angling instructions will focus on casting techniques, water safety and proper watercraft navigation. Camping is provided both Friday and Saturday nights for those interested in staying, and lunch on Saturday also is provided. The registration fee for this workshop is \$40.

Outdoor Cookin' at Emigrant Springs State Park

Saturday, Aug. 27

From grub to gourmet, this one-day workshop will show participants how good things can taste in the outdoors. Experienced instructors will help participants try a variety of outdoor cooking techniques. The main emphasis is Dutch oven cooking. Lessons on how to select, season and care for Dutch ovens will be taught as well as a variety of other cooking techniques. Participants will prepare breakfast, lunch, dinner and desserts. The registration fee for this workshop is \$40.

Space is limited, but spots remain available for each of these workshops. For more information about these workshops or others offered throughout the state, call Hoverson at ODF&W's Northeast Region Office, (541) 963-2138 or Paula Booth at the Salem Headquarters Office, (800) 720-6339 or (503) 947-6016. BOW information also is available at www.dfw.state.or.us under Outdoor Skills Education.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Although the lower Columbia remains open for catch and keep sturgeon fishing, success remains sporadic for those still pursuing keepers in this fishery. A weak tide series hampered success this week but as the forecast will point out, better tides are on the way! Results are most sporadic below the Astoria/Megler Bridge but a small number of guides and anglers are finding quality fish in the deeper water below the bridge. Deeper water of course means greater competition for your baits so plan on bringing lots of bait but more durable

baits such as smelt and squid are gaining in popularity in the sculpin infested waters. The last day I fished, we moved numerous times from Hammond to downtown Astoria not able to keep a bait fishing for more than 30 seconds before trash fish had a hold of it. Small crabs also continue to curb success.

At Tongue Point, guides and anglers are finding greater success but still fall victim to localized bites. One boat could be tearing them up just a few feet away from you and you may go strikeless for hours on end. In this fishery, one thing is certain. Don't leave biting fish to find fish! Even on a tide change when the bite slows, if you have been into a good bite, don't change locations because it is quite possible those fish will be ready and able when the flows pick up again after the tide fully changes. Bait has been more challenging to come by due to the drop in effort. There is rarely a bait truck at John Day now so anglers will have to pick up their bait in Hammond or Warrenton these days. Call Free Willy in advance (503-861-1201) to check the status of the John Day bait truck.

Salmon fishing out of Astoria has been sporadic as well. Ocean weather conditions have caused many anglers to turn around or cut their trips short. Wind chop coupled with a significant ground swell has made ocean waters tough to have a good time in. This along with the fact that there doesn't seem to be many fish around has more anglers focusing on sturgeon fishing. **Pro guide Eddie Carlson (503-348-3573)** reported fair action near the CR Buoy on 7/18. Eddie put 4 quick hatchery coho in the boat fishing herring between 10 and 20 strips. They also had several other opportunities and released a few wild coho as well. They did cut the trip short however due to a wind chop that came up later in the morning. Bottom fishing in the ocean has also been challenging due to poor weather conditions. Also, the rockfish limit has been reduced to 5 bottomfish (and 2 lingcod) per person. Weather remains the largest factor for low effort offshore.

In the gorge, anglers targeting oversize sturgeon continue to see consistent results. **Pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)** reports 2 to 4 oversized fish every day using floater shad. The floater shad are becoming a bit harder to come by so be prepared to work for your quality bait. Live shad are next to non-existent at this point. Only 54 crossed the dam on the 19th although the run totaled over 4 million fish! Smelt or shad strips would work for anglers seeking to take home a potential keeper sized sturgeon. The catch and keep fishery will continue to be open Thursdays through Saturdays until the last day of this month. It will reopen in the fall.

Salmon and steelhead fishing in the gorge remains slow. Steelhead are passing at a steady rate but Chinook numbers have drastically dropped. The summer run of Chinook has almost reached the spring Chinook run total for this year. Plunkers targeting steelhead on lower Columbia River beaches drew little success this week as poor tides kept migrating steelhead in deeper water. This too should change this week as indicated in the forecast. **Pro guide Dave Johnson (503-201-4292)** just called with an updated report from his 7/19 and 7/20 fishing trips. Dave has witnessed double digit opportunities for steelhead in the gorge on these last 2 days of fishing landing 7 fish on each of his 2 trips. Dave tipped that gold spinners with an 18 inch dropper and 4 foot leader has been the ticket but an early morning start is critical to his success. These fish travel in well defined slots in this area so the early bird gets the worm! Also noteworthy is the fact that only 4 of the 14 fish he has landed in the last 2 days have been from hatchery genetics. A clear indication that wild fish are more aggressive than the hatchery given the fact that they currently outnumber hatchery fish 2 to 1 on most days. As if we needed more justification for adequate flow and spill and habitat restoration on the Columbia and NW Rivers!

Crabbing on the lower Columbia remains poor and razor clamming remains closed.

The Guide's Forecast – A nice tide series should benefit sturgeon anglers working waters of the lower Columbia. The bigger tides can push sturgeon to shallower sand flats giving anglers a

better opportunity for shallow water action. Anchovies are still holding on as a preferred bait but anglers getting themselves into this shallow water fishing should have shrimp available as an option. The water above Tongue Point will remain the best option and anglers should focus on shallower water on the incoming tide which will dominate most of the days fishing effort. When the tide begins to slack, head for the deeper water but look for fish on your finder before dropping the hook. Waters below Tongue Point will be holding sturgeon but you should prepare yourself for doing battle with trash fish. If there are enough sturgeon around, they will deter the trash fish and make for a successful day.

Ocean salmon anglers can't be too excited about the news that NW winds are forecasted to continue to blow through the weekend. Anglers have not had ample opportunity to explore the ocean for salmon and tuna recently due to a ground swell and significant wind waves. This doesn't look to be changing even though valley temperatures are forecasted to cool. Anglers should keep an eye on the marine forecast, located here: <http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/Forecasts/FZUS56.KPQR.html> and if the National Weather Service is calling for winds from the west or NW, especially above 15 knots, the seas will not be friendly to boaters.

Swells can be tolerable but wind waves create the chop that makes boating uncomfortable and a long run to productive salmon or tuna water. To check the swell, swell frequency, wind direction and wave height, go to: http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station_page.php?station=46029 for the weather buoy off of the mouth of the Columbia River. When swell heights near swell frequency, it isn't any fun out there either.

For example, if the swell height is 5 foot every 6 seconds, save yourself and your kidneys and don't go fishing. If however, the swell height is 4 foot every 9 – 13 seconds, you can have friendly seas if the NW wind isn't going to kick up (at least not above 15 knots). The forecast is calling for not-so-friendly seas this weekend so plan on a bumpy ride or go somewhere else.

Gorge anglers have 2 "best choices" to look at for weekend fishing. The first is for oversized sturgeon which isn't attracting a lot of attention. It can certainly get a bit more challenging these days as quality bait is hard to find. Floater shad will continue to be the bait of choice as many of the oversized herring have spawned and died. I recommend fishing where the bait isn't so ample although fish continue to be concentrated in the faster flows. Only 2 more 3-day openers before the catch and keep option closes above Wauna to Bonneville.

Effort remains low for keeper sturgeon as most anglers are heading to the estuary to take advantage of the extended season. The second choice involves a little more silver as steelhead numbers are peaking and if you get yourself into the right spot, action seems to be consistent for those plunking spinners. Those choice spots seem to fall quickly to the early bird so you not only have a challenge finding those spots but you have to be the first one there to take advantage of it. Solid reds or orange spinners may work well to begin with (before the sun hits the water) but metallic- particularly gold seems to be the color of choice during regular daylight times.

Don't even go crabbing or clamming!

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Daily counts of spring chinook and summer steelhead at Willamette Falls have dropped to double-digits and the season winds down. The river temperature was 73 degrees on July 19th. It's summertime.

Shad anglers have all but given up on the few remaining fish in the river. This has opened up water to smallmouth fishers who are having their way with the basses.

The North Santiam is producing summer steelhead and a few bright chinook to anglers willing to try a variety of bait and lures.

The Guide's Forecast – Spring chinook fishing is all but over in the lower Willamette for this year. The bank fishermen below the mouth of the Clack have the best shot at some action as there are greater numbers of steelhead than chinook present, though not many of either. As the water continues to drop and warm while flows decrease, anadromous fishese will tend to cooperate less. Bass fishing, anyone?

Spend enough time on the water at the North Santiam & you'll eventually score. Early and late-day anglers will have the advantage. Take jigs, spinners and quality cured eggs and stay on the move. Work productive areas thoroughly. The fish are there.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – It's been slow at the Clackamas again this week and given the time of year there's not much hope it'll take off anytime soon. Look for the occasional steelhead and perhaps a late-running springer to fall at the mouth.

The Sandy River offers possibilities for bright steelhead, but only during the wee morning hours. Not only is first light the best time to fish summers, but on the Sandy in many areas it's the only time as the sun worshipers and swimmers will be splash-happy during the day. Once your favorite spot becomes a swimming hole, catching a fish just isn't a possibility.

North Coast District Fishing Report – An easy report for the north coast district. Seas are rough and the bar has been restricted to most recreational craft. It wouldn't be any fun to fish anyway because the ocean has been so choppy from a strong (all day) NW wind. A few spring Chinook are still be tallied on the Trask and Wilson Rivers but most of them are wild and shouldn't be harassed in the warmer water temperatures. Some summer steelhead are in the Nestucca and Wilson Rivers but low water tactics are a must and the early mornings and late evenings are the most likely times to catch them. **Pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)** adds, "The Nestucca is getting very low. Most of the Chinook have been getting colored, and have virtually gone totally off the bite. Steelhead action has been quite good over the last couple of weeks. We have been doing good with eggs, while others have done well with small spinners. I have seen fresh fish every day with lice. Very stealthy tactics are in order, with light tackle and lines, dark clothing, and being quiet will definitely give you an advantage."

Nehalem Bay is producing some salmon near Brighton. The summer run is underway and Chinook catches near the bay entrance have picked up recently. Fish in the 15 to 25 pound range are a bit more common than just a week ago. However, we are coming up on a minus tide series making angling at the jaws a little less productive than up the bay. Spinner trollers and bobber pitchers may have some good opportunity during this extreme minus tide and anchor anglers working the section just upstream of Wheeler may also fall into some salmon using Kwikfish. The best sections to try will be from Mohler Bridge to the mouth.

Crabbing in Tillamook Bay was reported as fair to good by **Val Folkema of Garibaldi Marina (503-322-3312)**. Lots of pots and quality bait is a necessity as pressure is high during these summer months. Netarts Bay is also producing fair results but the more intense the pressure, the harder it will be to take a limit home.

Sturgeon anglers continue to take a few fish from the bank on the lower Tillamook River. Mud shrimp is the ticket but anglers may have an opportunity to jig spawning baitfish (mostly herring) from the handicap dock just upstream of the Hwy. 101 bridge for bait. Sculpin can be pretty hard on shrimp for bait so bring lots if that's all you intend to use.

Central & South Coast Reports – Halibut fishing was rewarding out of Newport near the Rockpile on the last all-depth fishery on July 14th, 15th and 16th. There will be many additional opportunities during the summer months for anglers to wrestle with and land some dandy flatties.

Good-sized Dungeness are available to crabbers at Tillamook and Netarts Bays. Crabbing has been good out of Yaquina Bay although inside Yaquina and Alsea Bays it's been slow.

Offshore salmon fishing out of Winchester Bay is yielding decent catches of chinook ranging from 10 to 20 pounds. Coho are still missing in salmon action. Tuna are being caught thirty miles offshore. In the Umpqua River, tidewater is putting out a few keeper sturgeon on sardine baits and smallmouth fishing is in full swing with 100-a-day catches commonplace.

Steelhead fishing has been an exercise in frustration on the Rogue with the most of the few fish landed being wild and requiring release. With Fall chinook just starting to show, anxious anglers are trying but only a handful have been boated. It'll be a few weeks before it's worth the trip.

Subscriber Roy C. writes, " ... just got back from Rogue Bay very spotty ended up with four and 1/4 for three days 3/4 of one given to Sea Lion ."



Central and Eastern Oregon – While a few steelhead are being taken on the lower Deschutes, the best fishing is for trout upstream and the best time will come as no surprise: early and late in the day. Olive caddises have worked well at these times while deep-drifted nymphs will take fish throughout the day.

Rain storms have plagued the smallmouth fishery on the John Day for weeks with gullywashers taking the river from 6,000 cfs to 12,000 overnight. It's currently high and muddy with little hope of it coming into shape 'til next week.

Northwest Bass & Panfish - Willamette bassers have taken smallmouth with regularity from Salem to below the Falls. A few have been seen which have yet to spawn but the full moon in a few days should erase the possibility of a heavy sow in the catch for the rest of the year. Early mornings will yield the best results.

Northwest Trout – Green Peter is producing some dandy kokanee over 12 inches but deep

trolling is required to take them. Big kokanee are the rule at Odell where trolling at 50 to 60 feet over deep water on the West side is producing slow but steady results. Suttle Lake is very slow for kokes.

Trout were planted this week in the Willamette Zone at Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Upper McKenzie River, Mid Fork Willamette and Santiam River.

In the Deschutes watershed, Campbell Lake, Deadhorse Lake, Walton Lake, Miller Lake, Devils Lake, Spring Creek and Badger Lake were stocked with State-raised rainbows.

Washington Fishing Report

Puget Sound Report- The region's two "bubble" fisheries for chinook salmon are under way in Tulalip and Elliott bays. The fishery on Tulalip Bay has been open on weekends since early June, and the downtown Seattle waterfront fishery just got started July 8, but neither has been red-hot. "We've been at the boat ramps that provide access to both bubbles from dawn to dusk, and there just aren't many fish coming in," said Patrick "Slim" Simpson, a WDFW fish sampler in the region. "Most of the catches in the Elliott Bay bubble were resident blackmouth, and the fishing was pretty good during the first two days of the opening weekend. But by the third day of the opener, only a handful of fish were caught," Simpson said. "The Tulalip bubble has never really taken off, although a few of the chinook we've checked have weighed in the mid 20s." Simpson said the largest fish out of Elliott Bay checked in at about 22 pounds. Fishing has been best early in the morning for anglers slowly trolling large spoons or whole herring off a downrigger. As the day progresses, it's best to move to deeper water and get the gear closer to the bottom.

Pro Guide Pat Graham (360.374.5313) said some silvers coming in the Sol Duc. Limits of reds are still common. The Hoh is almost a void zone. There should be more silvers coming in the Sol Duc as time goes by.

Pro Guide Eli Rico (425.417.0394) said Lake Sammamish cutthroat fishing has been excellent.

Olympic Peninsula- Although fishing for chinook salmon generally improved during the second weekend of fishing on the coast and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca, the season's slow start left most anglers glad to bring the occasional hatchery coho or pink salmon into their boat, said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW Puget Sound recreational salmon fishery manager. "Most anglers are working pretty hard for their fish," Thiesfeld said. The selective chinook fishery from Sekiu to Port Angeles is a prime example, he said. This year, anglers caught 125 chinook during the first four days of fishing, compared to 775 last year. The story was much the same on the coast, where coho and pink salmon have been showing up in increasing numbers, but chinook are few and far between. Illwaco had the highest catch rates through July 10, averaging 1.3 fish per rod - but only one in five of those fish were chinook. In Marine Area 2, anglers were averaging 0.6 salmon per rod with chinook making up about two-thirds of the catch. Catch rates near LaPush and Neah Bay were running about half a salmon per rod, split 50-50 between hatchery coho and chinook. (As in years past, anglers must release any unmarked coho they catch.) Noting that the chinook fishery normally peaks around Aug. 1, Thiesfeld said those catch rates should pick up in the weeks ahead.

Southwest Washington- Warm water in the mainstem Columbia River, combined with the normal transition between summer and fall-timed fish, has created a lull in the action for salmon and steelhead anglers. "We're getting to the end of the early run of fish, and the water is getting warmer, so the fish are probably moving through the lower river quickly or hanging out in the tributary mouths where the water is cooler," said Pat Frazier, WDFW regional fish program

manager. Bank anglers going after steelhead in the lower Columbia below Longview have been averaging one steelhead for every 10 rods, while the action has been much slower for boat-based anglers in the same area. "This is a good time to hunt around for summer-run steelhead in the lower Columbia tributaries, such as the Cowlitz or Lewis rivers," Frazier said, adding that a dozen boat anglers checked on the Cowlitz during the first week of July took home five summer-run steelies. Bank anglers on the Lewis were averaging one steelhead for every four rods. "The guys on the Lewis are catching some really nice fish in the 6- to 12- pound range," Frazier said. Above Bonneville, the place to try for steelhead is Skamania County's Drano Lake, where eight bank anglers kept one steelhead and 18 boat anglers hooked 16 and kept 10 summer-run fish. Angler effort and success for steelhead are both on the rise on the White Salmon River, Frazier added. Catch-and-release sturgeon fishing has been good in the lower Columbia, particularly below the Wauna powerlines, where anglers on charter boats were outpacing anglers on private boats.

Pro Guide Eli Rico (425.417.0394) said the Cowlitz has been slow, 1 fish/rod but below Bonneville, things have been picking up. Below Bonneville, fishing has gone from 3-4 / day to 10 on Monday (July 18th) and he expects that to continue. They have been getting about 60% hatchery steelhead and a few summer chinook although those numbers are waning.

Pro Guide Jeff Knots (509.366.4052) fished steelhead on Sunday at the Big White Salmon and while there was some mild pressure there he saw only a couple of fish hooked. (both on his line YEE HAA!)

He guided sturgeon on Tuesday and was surprised to get into a hot bite and landed four oversized brutes to 9 feet in only 2 hours of fishing. All were taken on fresh shad. It took over an hour to catch 3 of those. The good news was they landed a nice 24inch walleye while fishing for shad. The spill is still on and he believes that may be why the sturgeon are still around. Normally they would dispersed back down river by now.

Eastern Washington- WDFW District Fish Biologist Chris Donley of Spokane reports good walleye fishing continues throughout Lake Roosevelt, "at least for the persistent angler." Donley also said that local rainbow and cutthroat trout lakes, including Badger, Clear, Williams, West Medical and Fishtrap, are still very good in early morning and late evening hours. "The trick to catching the big ones by this time of year is to downsize your gear," Donley said. "The bigger trout have seen the bigger baits or lures at least once, touched them twice and won't come near them again at this point. Try something different, like crawfish tails, something they haven't seen, and you're more likely to hook a good-sized trout." Donley also noted that anglers are doing well on channel catfish at Sprague Lake, most using chunk baits of some kind. Catfish and bass fishing continues to be productive throughout the Snake River system in the southeast district of the region. WDFW district fish biologist Glen Mendel of Dayton says that although no measurable checks have been made recently, he suspects that trout fishing is slow, due to warmer temperatures.

Pro Guide Pat Long (509.751.0410) says that the Snake is fishing well for sturgeon and bass. his most recent trips have been consistently producing good numbers of small sturgeon and a couple of big fish as well as lots of smaller bass.

The Clearwater is getting a little more attention as more of the little A-run steelhead arrive. This is a unique fishery, nearly all of the fish that are arriving now are destined for the upper Snake River tributaries but with the Snake temps in 70s and the Clearwater running in the mid 50s these fish will stack up in the lower stretch of the Clearwater until the temps drop in Snake. The Clearwater is open only to C&R at this time, a short section from the confluence to the Memorial

Bridge at Lewiston will open for catch and keep fishing Aug.1st and the remainder of the river will be C&R only until Oct. 15th.

In the next week or so we will see quite an increase in pressure on the Clearwater as the word gets around that good numbers of fish are being caught. When the retention season opens (Aug.1st) on the lower end most anglers will concentrate their efforts in that area and the C&R areas will be un-crowded and great fishing for the fly fisherman as well as gear and bait fishers.

North Central Washington- Opportunities to catch chinook salmon expand in eastern Washington on July 16 when summer chinook season opens on the Columbia River from Priest Rapids to Chief Joseph dams, and on part of the Okanogan River from the mouth to Highway 97 bridge. The daily catch limit is six, including no more than two adults (at least 24 inches long). All coho and sockeye salmon must be released. Chinook anglers should watch for signs at water access points on these river stretches about cash rewards for returns of newly tagged fish, which are part of a Colville Confederated Tribes' study, in cooperation with WDFW fish researchers. The Methow River resident rainbow and cutthroat trout fishery that opened last month is going well, reports WDFW District Fish Biologist Bob Jateff of Omak. "Our below-average snowpack and runoff has put the Methow in fishing shape early this year, so fishing should be good through July for both rainbows and cutthroat," Jateff said. The season, which continues through Sept. 30, is catch-and-release with selective gear only. Jateff reminds anglers to check the regulation pamphlet for closed areas, designed to help protect endangered steelhead, spring chinook, and juvenile bull trout.

South Central Washington- WDFW Fish Biologist Jim Cummins of Yakima says kokanee fishing at Bumping Reservoir is good now. "The fish are typically small and run from just seven to eight inches," he said, adding that Rimrock Reservoir continues to be good for kokanee in the eight- to 10-inch range. Cummins also reports that river and stream fishing for trout is generally productive throughout the region. "Good bets for trout are the Naches River, Rattlesnake Creek, Naneum Creek, Taneum Creek, and the upper Yakima River catch-and-release fishery," he said. Cummins reminded anglers that these and other rivers and streams generally have special fishing regulations, and reading the regulations pamphlet is a good idea. With warmer weather, there are no new catchable trout plants in local lowland lakes.

Write to the TGF staff:

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Random Links

It's time for better control of commercial crabbing efforts according to this KATU story - Record Dungeness crab harvest breaks last year's record:

<http://www.katu.com/outdoor/story.asp?ID=78415>

Rogue River water temperature and flows: *<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv?14372300>

42-pound ling cod taken out of Brookings:

http://www.currypilot.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=11059



Weekly Quote – "The season is ended. There was not enough of it; there never is." - Nick Lyons

GOOD LUCK!