

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 19<sup>th</sup> – August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

**Fisheries Update:** Anglers that haven't made it down to Buoy 10 will be glad to hear that they haven't missed anything. This fishery is so due to explode however and that I may be fighting a double right now as you are reading this text! The weekend fishing should be the best we've seen so far. The week ahead will offer the best opportunity of the season for quality kings. That is, if the run hasn't been mis-predicted.

The ocean out of Astoria continues to frustrate anglers. Fin-clipped coho seem to be hard to find but should begin to show if they are going to. Chinook are beginning to make up a higher percentage of the catch but limits are not easy to come by. Most anglers are turning south to get their fish but Chinook should be coming from the North.

Summer steelheaders on the lower Columbia will have ideal tides over the weekend. The minus tide series should keep steelhead hugging the beaches where bank anglers fishing spin-n-glos could intercept good numbers of larger B run fish.

The estuary and the gorge consumptive sturgeon fishery is now closed. The water below the Wauna power lines won't re-open until the new year but above, it re-opens in October. Great catch and release options exist in both the estuary and gorge areas. Everyone is after salmon however.

The Deschutes River mouth remains sporadic however more fish seem to be passing into the pool and conditions should improve by the end of this month.

The Grande Rhonde is fishing well for trout and John Day River on the East side continues to kick out smallies with catfishing picking up.

The summer Chinook fishery in Nehalem Bay has been poor and likely won't pick up anytime soon. The big tide exchange over the weekend may bring on a bite in the upper reaches of the estuary but jaws trollers will find it difficult to fish effectively with herring.

Siletz anglers may see another flush of Fall chinook this weekend with the strong tidal exchange. Pressure is on in the Umpqua below the bridge but fishing is spotty. Rogue steelheaders are enjoying decent angling for half-pounders.

The second offshore salmon season opened Sunday, August 13th for a 29-day run through September 11th from South of Port Orford to Horse Mountain in California. Fishing has been slow.

The ODFW trout stocking remains in a mid-summer lull with only Carmen Reservoir planted in the Willamette Valley this week. In the Deschutes watershed, rainbows were stocked in Spring Creek and Devils Lake.

**North Puget Sound**

Starting Tuesday (Aug. 16), anglers fishing in ocean waters off Neah Bay will be allowed to keep up to two chinook salmon per day toward their two-salmon daily limit, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) announced.

### South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Fishing in South Puget Sound area 11 & 13 is still a bit spotty but not too bad for those of you that target the tides and the mornings and evenings this past week. Some nice Kings have hit the docks from the Slag Pile, Dalco and the Clay Banks at Pt Defiance I saw a couple of fish in that 25 to 30 pound range.

### Southwest Washington:

**Pro Guide Erik Brigham (360.513.2331)** reported that the Lewis River has some summer steelhead available and the Cowlitz has been fishing well. Fish have slowed down because of the lower water so fish should be available for another four weeks or so. Drifting with eggs seems to be the best way to go.

**Pro Guide Pete Grace (888.688.4386)** reported that fish are being caught between 45-50 pounds around Buoy 10 but only five or so fish per thirty boats are being caught. On the mouth of the Lewis catches have been spotty. He has seen a few people stuck either at the dock or being towed in and wants to remind everyone to prepare yourselves.

### Eastern Washington:

**Pro Guide Pat Long of Snake River Guide Service (1-509-751-0410)** brings us this report: Bass fishing on the Snake is holding up well and even improving to some degree. We are seeing higher numbers of nice fish (3 to 4 lbs.) in the catch and the bite is holding up later into the day. I don't recall a year when the bass fishing has come on this strong as early as it is this year but if this is any indication we should see some fantastic fishing as we move into the early fall period.

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**Columbia River Fishing Report** – This fishery is about to break loose! The much anticipated Buoy 10 fishery is on the hinges of happening- in a big way! As of this writing, it hasn't happened yet but my prediction of 8/17 is on the cusp of this writing (hopefully a late report is forthcoming!). To date, I have only fished 2 days in the Buoy 10 fishery. The first day (8/15) I drew 3 strikes for 6 rods landing a single Chinook and the second day, I drew 4 strikes for 5 rods landing 3, 21-pound Chinook and one 6-pound hatchery steelhead. I have been fishing mostly spinners but have been running herring every day on at least 2 rods. I have yet to get bit on herring although there are folks catching fish on bait. The favored spinners for now are the red/white blades and they are hard to find! Some folks are catching fish on chartreuse and green blades and if you are fishing multiple rods, it is wise to try different colors. The bite has been very sporadic but the most consistent bite has been above the bridge on high slack. On some days, there are a fair number of fish being taken in front of Hammond and the saw dust pile towards the mouth of the Skipanon River. Buoy 22 has also been producing some results on the first half of the incoming tide. The best day so far, seems to have been Sunday, 8/14 when several guides had between 3 and 5 fish/boat. A good deal of those fish were caught in front of Hammond or on the Washington side at the bridge. The incoming bite at Buoy 10 has been disappointing but tides are ripening for a good low slack bite near the deadline (see the forecast). There have been very few coho caught in the river so Chinook is the main target specie and don't count on finishing up on your coho limit anytime soon.

On that recent report, my prediction that 8/17 was the day it would break loose did not come to fruition. The tides were ripe but the wind was blowing significantly from the south, which hampered our ability to fish effectively. Despite the poor fishing conditions, the fish were simply NOT there. No bite at low slack (Buoy 11), no bite on the flood in front of Hammond or the sawdust pile and only a few fish above the bridge at high slack. To date, I still haven't been hit on herring and red/white spinners continue to be the go-to color. The first fish that we caught

today was on a purple/black tipped spinner (KAW #8 from BC Angling in Oregon City) in front of Hammond. The second fish came on a red/white blade above the bridge on the Washington side, above the bridge. To date, 9 bites, 7 Chinook- all on spinners.

The ocean has been challenging despite good conditions. Smooth bar crossings and calm seas have greeted anglers over the weekend and into the early part of the week. This has allowed many guides to glide far south to Gearhart and Seaside in search of Chinook and some coho. Chinook catches are outnumbering keeper coho causing many to wonder if mis-predictions are more common than not. Hatchery coho don't seem to be abundant anywhere right now. Guides that have been putting in long hours on the ocean are coming up with near limits on many days but full boat success is far from a given. **Pro guide Bill Kremers (541-602-0881)** reports, "We ended up with 6 salmon today, 5 coho and 1 Chinook - nothing inside all outside and on herring, between 7 and 12 pulls. Also released several natives." It seems the native coho will outnumber the hatchery fish this year but only time will tell. There was a handful of guide boats that fished south of the mouth on 8/16 and came back in the river to try and finish up on their Chinook. At the end of last week, sport anglers hadn't even attained 30% of their quota.

Upriver, fishing is a little ways from taking off. Dam counts at Bonneville are still low with just over 600 fish passing on the 15<sup>th</sup>- that was high for the week. Steelhead counts are still running high although little pressure exists to harvest them. Good numbers of the larger B-run fish are beginning to show but most of those fish are still a few weeks out. The mouth of the Deschutes has been extremely windy the last few days but the boats that stuck it out have been averaging about a fish for every 2 rods.

Next to no sturgeon effort is taking place river-wide as the estuary is now closed to catch and keep. The season ended with estuary sport anglers taking their quota of just over 17,000 fish. Some guides did well for keepers near Tongue Point but now that salmon season is underway, no one will likely participate in the catch and release fishery. The gillnets will fish again 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>. Look for those floater sturgeon and take pictures of them so we can get this fishery modified and reduce mortality. Further upstream, sturgeon effort is also very light but one guide reported a double-digit day on the 15<sup>th</sup> with almost half of his fish being oversized.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Since I missed the mark on predicting when the salmon would arrive to the Buoy 10 fishery earlier this week (what was I thinking on a year like this?), why not go all the way and state that if the fish don't show by the weekend, this prediction is also an airball.....My personal belief is that the Chinook will indeed show this year but I question the prediction on the hatchery coho. My gut feeling is the Chinook will show by the weekend and the weekend fishing should be good, if not great! The anticipation is running high as the Astoria area braces for what will likely be the busiest weekend of the year. Plan on long lines, frustrated anglers but good fishing this weekend. Make sure you are prepared for the onslaught by having enough rigs tied and the motor running true. Weekend anglers will be faced with unfavorable tides for the early part of the morning as the first several hours of daylight will be the last part of outgoing tide. This is the least productive time of the tide as the temperature is at its warmest due to the heavy influence of river water. It is likely that the best fishing won't start until low slack near the Buoy 10 deadline. The non-existent incoming tide bite should once again start up and the water in front of Hammond and the sawdust pile should heat up like in years past. The bridge bite on the Washington side should get good as well and high slack above the bridge should pay dividends as well. The beginning of the outgoing tide should also produce well on the Washington side in 26 to 30 foot of water. Keep your baits fishing deep. On the Oregon side, the green buoy line should also produce on the outgoing tide and we should all be happy that things are the way they should be. Subscribers should take advantage of last years archived reports and note what worked well. Right now, all we are missing is fish but if they are going to show this year, it WILL

be by the weekend!

Upriver anglers don't have a lot to look forward to this week. The fish will likely move into the estuary and the warm water temperatures of the Columbia will likely cause them to move upstream at a slow pace- reluctant to bite all the way up. Cooler tributaries will be the exception but we are a few weeks away from any peak fishing. Steelhead may still be an option in these tribs as that run seems to be materializing. Steelhead anglers in the gorge can also take fish and competition should be light as most of the boat traffic will be pursuing salmon in the estuary.

Deschutes anglers will likely continue to experience sporadic results but numbers of fish at the Dalles Dam seem to be a bit more representative of what the run should be. Wind may be a factor in success however.

Sturgeon anglers will be few and far between and successful salmon anglers will likely not be so inspired to target fish in the estuary. Gorge anglers will also not be so motivated despite the fact that not many will be fishing. Shrimp will be the better producer in the estuary while smelt rule the gorge. Shad are still crossing the dam but in such low numbers, you can't count on them for a bait source.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – A few fresh summers are moving into the North Santiam in an attempt to escape the 70-degree water of the Willamette River.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Better fishing on the North Santiam will available upstream around Packsaddle and Minto Parks. The river is in great shape but the fish are finicky. Drift-boating isn't possible this high and fish are fewer in the lower river. We just didn't get the big numbers of steelhead this year.

Fly fishing remains decent on the McKenzie using dry caddis imitations.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – The Clack remains very low, clear and warm. The Sandy will run milky until the temperatures moderate. In the weeks to come, a coho fishery will develop on the Sandy, but neither the Clackamas nor Sandy River offer much for fishermen at this time.

**North Coast District Fishing Report** – Reports from the Nehalem continue to be dismal. The summer Chinook run simply did not materialize. Hopefully it is not an indicator of the fall run to come. The morning outgoing tide may be favorable for jetty herring trollers but the fact that it is a big tide doesn't bode well for safety reasons. Better fishing usually takes place upriver in the bigger tide exchanges. One fishing buddy I talked to reported that he didn't even hear of a fish taken in the Nehalem when he fished it earlier this week. The summer run is an official bust.

The incoming tide is bringing with it evidence of the photoplankton bloom taking place in the ocean which has turned the water a red/brown color. It sticks to fishing lines, especially braids, and is tough to remove.

Marie Will of Tillamook Bait (503-842-5031) reports a customer coming in with a 35 pound ocean-caught Chinook on Friday, August 12th. The jumbo salmon fell to a red spinner on the troll outside Nehalem in 47 feet of water where the fisherman reported seeing others land Halibut.

Offshore salmon fishing out of Garibaldi is a hit-or-miss affair with seas often unpredictable this week. Downriggers will be preferable for chinook to effectively ply the 50-to-65-foot depths over

225 to 250 feet of water which has been most productive. Trollers report releasing many wild coho in a day's fishing.

Steelheading is about the only other thing going on this week in the North Coast district. Water levels continue to be low so sneak tactics will be important. Some fall run fish should begin to show in the upper bay of Tillamook but the way things are going this year, it is a definite crap shoot.

Bottomfishing remains consistent and ocean crabbing is closed. Bay crabbing is holding up well in Netarts and Tillamook Bays. Limits however are not all that common.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Nehalem Bay fishing may improve slightly in the reaches from Wheeler to the mouth of the North Fork. However, the poor showing this season this season shouldn't inspire many to put a lot of effort into this fishery.

Extreme tides will hamper success for coastal crabs and clamming remains closed in most Northern Oregon estuaries so check the shellfish hotline before heading out.

No sign of relief in sight for low water steelheaders.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Siletz chinook fishermen continue to take an occasional Fall fish but historically this fishery cranks up the third or fourth week of August. All methods take fish here since techniques have expanded beyond anchor-fishing Kwikfish. Crabbing has been good in Siletz Bay for hard-shelled Dungeness.

Ocean salmon fishing out of Newport has been very slow, even for the charter boats, although crabbing has been fair to good in the bay. Bottom fishing remains a slam-dunk out of Depoe and Yaquina Bays.

Chinook hopefuls may be seen by the score below the bridge on the lower Umpqua although the action is spotty. Chinook, when taken, are running in the mid-teens to low 20s. Seals may be seen by the hundreds on the South side of the sand bar.

Summer steelheaders on the Rogue are hitting the half-pounders (which actually weigh about four pounds each) as counts at Gold Ray Dam top 4,000. There has been a fair morning bite but the evening hours have been most productive. Look for this fishery to improve through August, offering the best promise in the first week of September.

Offshore salmon fishermen on the Southern Oregon coast have been subject to a split season from Humbug Mountain (South of Port Orford) to the Horse Mountain in California. The first was a two week opportunity which ran through the Fourth of July and was spectacular; the best on over a decade. The second season opened Sunday, August 13th for a 29-day run through September 11th. Those who navigated through thick fog for the opener found no huge schools of chinook, but managed to land a few stragglers. Many were thankful the bottomfishing has been great so they wouldn't have to return to port with an empty fish box. It remains to be seen if the ocean chinook fishing will turn around here.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Fly fishing on the Deschutes River is fair during the day but quite worthwhile at dawn and dusk, particularly in the back eddies. Caddis dries work well early and late while nymphs are effective when the sun is high.

Steelheading on the lower 10 miles of the Deschutes has been spotty at best. Warm weather has caused the water temps to approach 70 degrees, which means early mornings will offer the only chance at one in the river and there's little to tempt fresh fish to enter from the cooler water of the Columbia. Fishing will improve when temperatures moderate in September.

There are several boats pulling Brad's Plugs and Wiggle Warts at the mouth of the Deschutes but fishing hasn't been better than fair. The cooler glacial water at the mouth of the Wind and Klickitat offers more temptation for the steelhead, so that's where the fish seem to be holding. Although salmon season opened August 1st on the Deschutes, it'll be a couple of weeks before chinook fishing is worthwhile up this high.

The Grande Rhonde is fishing well for trout averaging 12 inches with the occasional fish measuring 19 to 20 inches. Bead head nymphs are taking these fish all day long.

**Northwest Bass & Panfish** - Smallmouth bass fishing is still a rewarding pursuit on the Umpqua around Elkton, but with the bright sunshine and high daily air temperatures, mornings have been the best time to try. Small crankbaits will take the greatest numbers while larger soft plastics will tempt the larger fish.

McKay Reservoir on the East side offers some fine fishing for crappie and yellow perch with the catfishing improving daily. The water level has dropped below the boat ramp, however, making the last part of the launch a muddy endeavor.

John Day smallmouth fishermen are still making good catches with the lower river offering good prospects for channel cats now.

**Northwest Trout** - Jigs are taking some nice kokanee at Lake Billy Chinook. If you're catching only smallish fish, move to find a school of larger ones. Trollers are getting the most hits at Green Peter. The algae alert has been rescinded at Odell which fishes best early and late in the day and now offers fairly clear water.

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## **Washington Fishing Report**

### **North Puget Sound**

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### **South Sound/Olympic Peninsula**

"Submitted By" Brad Shride, Onco Sportfishing & Guide Services, Inc, 206-463-9230 or 877-483-0047 Toll Free

Fishing in South Puget Sound area 11 & 13 is still a bit spotty but not too bad for those of you that target the tides and the mornings and evenings this past week. Some nice Kings have hit the docks from the Slag Pile, Dalco and the Clay Banks at Pt Defiance I saw a couple of fish in that 25 to 30 pound range. Some pretty decent catches are still coming from the Gig Harbor area and farther North at Pt Robinson, Three Tree Point, and Dolphin Point off Vashon Island. Don't forget to try the Browns Point area for Silvers and lot's of Humpies. Trolling here will get those extra two fish in the boat and the Humpies can be a lot of fun on lighter tackle.

Morning bites have been pretty good this past week with the early morning tides. There has been a little bit of a bite for the moochers on the slack incoming tide change at Pt. Dalco. Tides are a factor for putting fish in your boat as with getting on the water as early as you can. You need to be on the water and your gear in the water during the best times to fish, mornings, tide changes and evenings. Don't be shopping for a place to fish during these times.

The trollers seem to be doing the best in most places. It's the same old stuff we are using. The green Hot-Spot flasher and hoochie combo in glow white, purple haze, green spatterback, Coyote spoon and of course straight herring in the 40 feet to 90 feet range all will produce fish. I have been using straight herring trolled in 40 feet of water to put those extra humpies in the boat. Be sure to hit Pt Dalco area on the incoming tide and get there as it starts to turn and work this area until the bite is over. Moochers are doing okay here in the afternoons. You will still have to work for your fish so be patient.

I was hitting Kings in the 75 foot to 90 foot range in the areas where we fished this week. Pay attention to your rod as I am still hooking fish by seeing a little tap, tap, tap on the downrigger rod and setting the hook myself. Soft biting fish are hard to detect so pay attention to your rod. I usually don't recommend this but set the hook once you get them off the downrigger. We have lost more fish this year from light hook sets??

Crab fishing has been producing some crab but you will need to look for them to get your limits. Just a note to everyone. Crab fishing is only allowed from Wednesday through Saturday and enforcement is out and writing tickets. Give me a call at 206-463-9230 if you have any questions. We will be fishing the Buoy 10 on the Columbia River starting this week. If you are interested in a buoy 10 trip on the Columbia River from August 17th through Labor Day weekend I have a few spots available for the Buoy 10 fishing on the Columbia. Please give me a call at 206-463-9230 or 877-483-0047. Thanks and good fishing!

#### **Southwest Washington:**

**Pro Guide Erik Brigham (360.513.2331)** reported that the Lewis River has some summer steelhead available and the Cowlitz has been fishing well. Fish have slowed down because of the lower water so fish should be available for another four weeks or so. Drifting with eggs seems to be the best way to go.

**Pro Guide Pete Grace (888.688.4386)** reported that fish are being caught between 45-50 pounds around Buoy 10 but only five or so fish per thirty boats are being caught. On the mouth of the Lewis catches have been spotty. He has seen a few people stuck either at the dock or being towed in and wants to remind everyone to prepare yourselves.

#### **Salmon/Steelhead -**

**Cowlitz River** - Wind River - Light effort; 5 boats were counted here last Saturday (August 13) morning. Some steelhead are being caught.

**Drano Lake** - Catch slowed from the previous week. However, boat anglers still averaged nearly a steelhead kept/released per rod. Bank anglers were also catching some fish. Still pretty high effort with around 100 boats counted last Saturday morning.

**White Salmon River** - Anglers are catching steelhead and chinook, some of later that are showing some color.

About 45 water craft observed last Saturday morning. Highway 141 is lined with autos, campers, etc.

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** - Including fish released, boat anglers averaged a steelhead per every 4.4 rods based on completed trips while bank anglers averaged one per every 7.8 rods based on mainly incomplete trips. Fish are being caught throughout the river. 71% of the fish caught were hatchery fish. Some fall chinook are also being caught. Nearly 40% (46 boats) of the 114 boats counted during last Saturday's flight were found at the mouth of the Cowlitz.

From August 1-14, a total of 4,469 adult fall chinook had been counted at Bonneville Dam. It's the lowest total since 1992 (2,118 fish). In addition, this year's count to-date is approximately 60% of the recent ten year average of 7,543 adults.

#### **Bonneville Pool –**

No report on angling success. A few boats are appearing at the mouths of the Washington tributaries. The pool level has been reported to be dropping.

#### **Sturgeon -**

**Lower Columbia from the mouth upstream to the Wauna power lines** - Lower Columbia from the mouth to the Wauna powerlines - 143 private and 3 charters were counted during last Saturday's flight. Today is the last day of the year to retain sturgeon in this section of river.

**Ports of Chinook and Ilwaco** - Charter boat anglers averaged 0.77 legal white sturgeon per rod while private boaters averaged 0.18 per rod.

**Knappton and Deep River ramps** - Boat anglers averaged 0.24 legal white sturgeon per rod.

**Lower Columbia from the Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam** - Very light effort (21 boats and 1 bank angler counted during last Saturday's flight) in the current catch and release only fishery.

#### **Huge catfish landed at Round Lake**

A 33 pound 8 oz. (36") catfish was landed by a bank angler at Round Lake (just below Lacamas Lake) on the evening of August 10. James L. Hutchison of Vancouver caught the fish using chicken livers. Mr. Hutchison had caught several smaller brown bullhead catfish before the larger fish struck. He reported it took a half an hour to land the fish on a light, 6 foot long trout rod. The fish has been tentatively identified as a channel catfish. Channel catfish were released into Lacamas at least twice, once in the late 80's and again around 1993. Channel cats were sampled by the state in Lacamas Lake a few years ago.

FYI - The Washington state record channel catfish is 36.2 pounds. It was caught from the I-82 Pond #6 (Yakima County) in September 1999.

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year but if this is any indication we should see some fantastic fishing as we move into the early fall period.

The Clearwater steelhead fishing is still slow, the fish are still stalling below the dams but when they move we should have some great fishing on the Clearwater and as we get into October the Snake will turn on. There have been a few of the early run fish caught as far up as the mouth of the Grande Ronde already but this fishery will be hit and miss until early October at best.

### **Reader Email**

Due to an Email glitch, this failed to appear as it should have in last week's TGF. It's a story about a bass fishing trip on August 9th from Grant L., the Fishi'n Magician: "It was HOT yesterday as I hauled my brand new float tube, new chest waders, three fishing rods, and tackle box down to Henry Hagg Lake (not saying where this time.....but maybe somewhere else...you'll have to fish for it). About 91 degrees at 4:30PM and I had the drink all to myself. MUCH more wildlife to be seen/heard when the suburban denizens aren't burning fuel.

"Ok so first time in a float tube - managed to situate and get out without much hassle. MY problem is the old "kid in the candy store" routine.....Senkos? Rapallas? Spinnerbaits? Lizards? The more I pondered the longer it took to get my line wet so - began on a 5" Senko weightless.

"Area I was fishing had plentiful undergrowth and weedless was mandatory. Managed to nail about 6 LM (no larger than 10") before I landed in front of an exposed island (water is dropping incredibly FAST!). Bingo for 4 smallmouth (no larger than 10").

"By now the surface water began breaking all around me - and not just from fish! Bald eagle, osprey, and herons were dive bombing dinks. Now I had told a fellow IFISHER fish'n pal that I was bringing my fly rod on this trip - and I'd even bought new flies, leader, and tippet. In the end however I only brought my spinning gear.

"My line-sight was quickly disappearing as the sky darkened hue and I was assailed by both bat and prey. Fishing the Senko was not easy and thus I hurled it out 40' behind me and tucked the rod while I rigged a second.

"First bat hit my tube. Next one almost took my hat off, which would have freaked me out if I wasn't busy inhaling swarms of gnats while tying a fisherman's knot while kicking my fins. THESE are the trials and tribulations of a lone angler (man what a great IFISH handle!). I grinned like the cheshire cat, knowing these would be the memories I would cherish as an old fisherman.....then bellowed laughter as I realized I turn 40 in 3 months!

"My tube jerked...or.....poked me? I caught a glimpse of my line (still in water) as loop morphed to taunt. I grabbed the rod (rigged with Senko) and brought the tip down so I could catch a glimpse of the line by the reflection of the moon. The line went tight and I leaned back hard. My Ugly Stick bent like a reed of grass in the wind.....drag was unforgiving because I was fishing so much damn cover.

"So you HAVE to picture this in your mind. Its pretty much dark. Here I am a float tube green horn weighted down by all that gear and this monster LM hits my line and, because it was dark, I wasn't sure where the fish was when I set the hook. Turns out the fish was about 45 degrees to one side, so when I set the hook and she pulled back - it sent my float tube into a spin. I ended up backwards with my rod held high. Kicking my feet as hard as I could - one fin popped off as I managed to spin around to see the fish break water.

"I screamed words you'd never use around Mom, and when that fish landed back in the water

she hit the throttle. Did you ever realize that when your fins are facing forward and you get PULLED forward that they act like an anchor? Shifting my weight I was able to keep from tumbling out of my tube but now realized I was being dragged.

" "YAHOOOOOOOOO GOING FOR A RIDE" I screamed like a kid on a roller coaster. I don't think the fish liked this because my ride stopped and I cranked the reel...realizing he was heading straight back at me....AND a jungle of submerged bushes. I stayed on that [petunias!] (that's right....I said it!) the best I could, but the environment was too treacherous. I lost the fish and reeled in a clump of whatever it was the lake offered up instead.

"Yet all I could do was say "Ya Ya ya!!" over and over again. I did not need to thumb that fish in order to put her on my memory mantle. Indeed, this was the best ride of my life and I will never forget it.

"Does anyone ELSE have this fever? I'm sacrificing work and family cause I just can't get it off my mind."

Grant invites folks to "Find The Most Informative And Outdated Oregon Fishing Information At Fish'n Magician HQ." Visit his website at \*<http://home.comcast.net/~glansing/fmhq>

Subscriber Keith W. wrote to ask, "Do you have any information on how to fish the John Day River for smallmouth and catfish? I would like to know where I could launch a drift boat and what to use for bait. Do you know how many fish you can keep? Do you have any tech reports on this fishery?"

We often mention the John Day in our weekly reports, and though the fishery often holds up through summer, early spring is prime time for smallies. Most bass fishermen catch and release; I (Michael) had to look up the bag limit which turns out to be five per day of which three may be over 15 inches in the Northeast Zone for both small- and largemouth bass. Crankbaits and scented soft plastics work well for river smallies. The catfishing is reported as good and improving on the lower river. Planted trout which aren't destined for the table are excellent bait for channel cats. Don't ask me how I know this. Nightcrawlers scented with anise oil are also quite effective. There's no length restrictions or limits on these fish which are often kept for dinner. LePage Park on the East side has a camping facility with showers and restrooms. There's a ramp there at which you can either launch for fishing or to head upstream five miles to the next camping area at Phillipie. Keep an eye out for rattlesnakes in either location and prepare for the wind which can be ferocious in the afternoons, but hey, the fishing is great. Thanks for writing and please do so again anytime!

Bob Rees also responded to subscriber "Corey" who wrote asking about catfishing and to whom Michael wrote last week, "There really isn't a lot of local catfishing available. Sauvie's Island has some, Willamette River above Willamette Falls and from there, you have to go pretty far east (Brownlee Reservoir) to get your hands on some. Another high action fishery would be shad but that season has passed now. It doesn't sound like you have a boat so that limits your opportunities. We do have a series of technical reports available from our homepage that may aid you. They can be viewed at:

<http://www.theguidesforecast.com/store/cart.php?cat=Tech+Reports>

"Good luck this season!"

Subscriber John W. wrote this week, " ... after reading the TGF WASHINGTON FISHING UPDATE on IFISH (8-8-05), I signed up for the free emailed report. and I looked at a sample of the "subscription report."

"I live near Olympia, Washington, and have a question: over time, what percentage of the

subscription report/forecast would you estimate pertains to Washington state fishing, particularly southwest Washington, both the coast and rivers?"

Bob Rees responded, "Thanks for your inquiry. We had a great writer helping us out before he got too busy with his guiding program. We are in search for another from Washington. Until then, our reports will be sporadic but if we put together a package like what we have for Oregon, it will be a fine piece of work. We won't compromise on quality just to get some info out there."

Pete Johnson, IGFA Public Relations Counsel, wrote to TGF with this story and confirmation of a new world record: "The International Game Fish Association (IGFA), the organization which among its many duties maintains world records for both freshwater and saltwater game fishes, has approved a 124 pound blue catfish caught in mid May by Tim Pruitt of Alton, Ill.

"Pruitt and the catfish, which was caught in the Mississippi River, received a great deal of media attention throughout the nation and internationally as well.

"Using cut herring for bait, Pruitt took 40 minutes to land the catfish. Efforts were made to keep it alive for a new home in a glass tank for public display but it died several days later. According to June newspaper reports, Pruitt hoped to have it mounted and put on loan to the nearby National Great Rivers Museum in East Alton, Ill.

"Two weeks after the catch, Pruitt sent in the required IGFA application, which included certified weight documentation, witness statements, photographs and line sample.

"The IGFA certified Pruitt's catfish for two new records; an all-tackle world record for the heaviest species caught and a freshwater 50 pound line class. Pruitt's fish broke the all-tackle record by three pounds over a 121 pound blue catfish caught in Lake Texoma, Texas, by Cody Mullennix in January, 2004. His 50 pound line class record bested a blue catfish caught in 1999 by Bruce Midkiff at the Cannelton Dam on the Ohio River in Kentucky."



Write to the TGF staff:

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**Random Links**

Off Topic - Sent to Michael by Kapn Ken Johnson (who writes the Blacktop [Meldrum Bar] Report in springer season), a voicemail message, left by one friend to another when an incident occurs which he describes as it unfolds. His infectious laugh should brighten your day. Placed online by Pacific SW Bell and a Texas television station:

<http://home.swbell.net/kf5tv/voicemail.mp3> (this file is LARGE)

**Weekly Quote** – "All the Navigable Waters of the State shall be Common Highways and Forever Free." - Oregon Admissions Act, 1859

**GOOD LUCK!**