

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **September 2nd – September 8th, 2005**

Fisheries Update:

Oregon Report

On the Columbia River, the **Buoy 10** fishery is performing although it is clear that catch rates will not be what they have been in the past. The weekend tides will allow for a late start to take advantage of the cooler ocean influenced water to stimulate biting salmon. The bulk of the catch continues to be Chinook but bigger numbers of coho are becoming apparent. Modification to this fishery may take place after the Labor Day weekend.

The **ocean** is still producing fish but it is becoming harder to find coho with missing fins off of the mouth of the Columbia. The Chinook bag in the ocean remains 2 fish/person.

Upriver, Chinook anglers are having an easier time getting in on their one Chinook bag limit using wobblers in the popular tributary mouth fisheries. The **Cowlitz**, **Kalama** and **Sandy River** mouths are only going to get better in the weeks to come. Dam passage increases daily.

Steelhead catches are about on par for the mouth of the **Deschutes**. Anglers willing to target Chinook in this area are taking a few fish.

Catch and keep sturgeon fishing remains closed on the entire **Columbia River**.

The **Tillamook** district is about to kick off its fall Chinook season. Fish are likely available and the weekend tides may favor upper bay spinner trollers. Effort will be light due to timing but success is certainly possible. The **Nehalem** is only producing a few fish but should transition into a productive fall Chinook run.

Crabbing remains best in **Tillamook** and **Netarts Bays**.

All-depth **halibut**, open every Friday through Sunday until the summer quota fills, has been rewarding most anglers with jumbo flatties. Many of these are 50 to 60 inches in length and over 40 pounds. The ports of **Garibaldi**, **Depoe Bay** and **Newport** are all yielding decent catches.

Winchester Bay anglers are taking chinook within the Bay as well as offshore. The Army Corps of Engineers is expected to increase flows on the Rogue which should have a positive effect on the Fall chinook run at that location. The annual ocean salmon derby takes place this weekend at Brookings with a \$5,000 prize for the biggest fish.

Coho are being counted and recycled at the dam on the **Clackamas River** although low water conditions and insufficient numbers do not yet make a fishery. Coho fishing in the Sandy is expected to start up in mid-September with cooler weather and a little rain.

Steelheading in the **North Santiam** remains a hit-or-miss proposition.

Bass fishing is improving at **Hagg Lake**. A smallmouth over six pounds was caught and released earlier this week. **Green Peter** is producing nice kokanee for anglers trolling with downriggers.

Trout were stocked this week in the Willamette Valley at Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Roslyn Lake, Small Fry Lake, Timothy Meadows, and in the Upper

and Lower McKenzie River.

Washington Report

Pro Guide Brad Shride of Onco Sportfishing & Guide Services, Inc. (877-483-0047) tells us that fishing in South Puget Sound area 11 & 13 has been pretty decent this past week for the Silvers and Humpies and a few Kings still in the area. There have been Silvers to 10 pounds along the beaches and points where these fish travel & more in the Northern area of Vashon Island, (area-11). The Humpies are pretty thick in the Puyallup River mouth for those of you that target these guys pulling anything pink.

Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (503.366.4052) tells us that fishing at the Hanford Reach has been slow. Salmon have not arrived yet and though the steelhead are coming through, the season is not open yet. Walleye fishing seems to have slowed but bass fishing is good just about everywhere. Focus on the lower snake and below McNary for bass.

Pro Guide Pat Long (509.751.0410) sends in this information - The Clearwater steelhead fishery is slowly improving, the C&R area has improved since the outflow from Dworshak Dam was reduced (now around 7,000 cfs). The lower catch and keep area is holding its' own and improving somewhat.

Columbia River Fishing Report – The Buoy 10 fishery, although underway, still brings frustration to professionals and avid anglers- even in peak season. This season however, remains one of the least consistent in recent memory. It is becoming more apparent every day that the run may indeed be over-predicted as has been the case with other runs on the mainstem this year. Double digit opportunities should be the rule rather than the exception in peak periods like this one. My best day to date was Friday, August 26th. I fished the Joe, Larry and Frank Ness group and 3 of their good friends and we landed 16 salmon, retaining 7 Chinook, 5 coho and 1 15-pound steelhead. This was also the day of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association's Buoy 10 Challenge. Fishing went very well for the participants with top guns boating 8 salmon totaling 154 pounds of fish. The five member Luhr Jensen team consisting of Ron Hiller, Randy Woolsey, Captain Hugh Peters, Dick Seine and Bill Plasker were these "top guns"! Congratulations team Luhr Jensen! According to sources outside of this circle of winners, their not-so-secret outfit was Luhr Jensen's new line of Guide Tech Spinners and Comet Tail Divers pictured here:



My most consistent water this week was above the bridge on the Washington side using spinners. In particular, a black blade with purple tip, red beads and yellow tubing has been responsible for about 90% of my strikes. Action on that spinner did slow down recently however as the Tongue Point bite took off a few days ago. Alvin wobblers worked well for me on 8/30 as

they were responsible for 3 nice Chinook and one coho for a 7 fish day. The gold color drew the most strikes. Bait was also oddly productive above Tongue Point on this day but by the 31st, action became a lot more sporadic as we only drew a single strike all day. We landed that one hatchery coho. Catches in this area remain predominately Chinook but coho can be expected in the creel for a days effort. It still remains a challenge to target coho as the Buoy 10 line fails to produce respectable results every day. In recent days, the water in front of Hammond has produced fair catches of salmon near the low slack. The green buoy line on the Oregon side is about the most consistent producer at this time of the tide. Early morning has brought the wrath of warm water to the lower Columbia which seems to cause large, purple backed Chinook to porpoise and roll on the surface instead of bite our favorite offerings. As the cooler water influence of the pacific draws in, the salmon's attitude changes and anglers have been expecting good things. Crowds have clearly been down from years past, which adds to a pleasurable experience if the fishing cooperates.

Ocean fishing has been rather neglected due to the productivity of the river. Catches in the ocean remain sporadic however but anglers are not willing to travel very far for them anymore. The salmon (mostly coho) have been closer to the entrance of the river but the bulk of the fish seem to have all their fins intact. Frustrated anglers are finding their way back into the river to finish up their day's effort. The National Weather Service continues to call for 5 to 7 foot seas into the weekend.

Upriver, the anchor fishery for Chinook is well underway. Catches were building last week but consistent results are being observed from Troutdale to Rainier. Wobbler plunkers are finding consistent results using Brads and Alvin lures in chrome and gold colors. Although boats are finding their way into the deeper 35 to 50 foot water, anglers need to be aware that a lot of this water lies in the shipping channel. This is not only unsafe, it is illegal to anchor in the shipping channel as well. The rig up for this fishery is simple with a 30-inch dropper lead and 30 to 40 inch leader line. The outgoing tide is the targeted time for anglers using hardware but anglers should not be intimidated to troll this hardware when the flow is slack. These trolled lures produce upstream and downstream of the popular Portland to Longview stretch.

In the Bonneville stretch, Chinook are passing at good numbers but that does not equate to productive fishing in this area. Effort is light and success is little below the dam. This fishery will not take off until the waters cool and fish migration slows sometime in early October.

At the mouth of the Deschutes, **Pro guide Jack LaFond (541-296-5371)** reports Deschutes River steelhead are finally showing in decent numbers due to cooler weather and water conditions and we are looking forward to some good late summer/fall action. Along with the steelhead there have been some nice catches of fall Chinook off the mouth of the Deschutes by those trolling deep diving plugs. Black/glitter and fire tiger patterns have been the top producers in both places. Faithful reader Brian from Bend reports, "I was out at the mouth of the "D" the 25th and 26th with a friend and got a 35#, 30#, 23#,13# upriver brights with several missed chances. Pulling plugs and persistence paid off, the fish are in excellent condition and I have a batch smoking as we speak, watch those wind reports as the conditions can get out of hand quickly. Thanks for the informative web site and fish on to you all."

The Guide's Forecast – This will be another big weekend for lower Columbia anglers. The weekend will bring on an onslaught of anglers in high hopes of a good return on their investment of time. For river anglers, people will be faced with an extended period of time of outgoing tide where the river water will be at its peak temperatures. Disappointment will likely set in and many will give up before the fishing gets productive. I plan on starting my trips around mid-morning but don't anticipate good action until the afternoon flood tide. Admittedly, this fishery has been challenging to predict and this philosophy may end up burning me over the weekend. In all

likelihood, the best action will be the last hour of outgoing tide in the river below the bridge and the entire incoming tide. Action will likely peak in the first hour of incoming and 4 to 5 hours into the incoming tide over the weekend. Best places for interception will be in front of Hammond, the shallow water above the bridge on the Washington side and there is a strong possibility that the water above Tongue Point may continue to produce. The Tongue Point bite will likely be an early evening option as cooler water won't be present until late in the tide. As we progress further into next week, the first half of outgoing tide may produce some results in the Tongue Point area early in the morning.

More coho should continue to show up but may not dominate the catch. Predicted numbers are forecasted to be about 1/5 of the Chinook run and wild fish may be present in higher numbers this week as well. As previously stated, there is no real way to target coho if you find yourself limited on Chinook. The coho seem to be biting spinners, wobblers and bait equally as well as Chinook. There are VERY few Tule strain Chinook in the catch which may please anglers but jeopardize the Buoy 10 fishery. The Buoy 10 fishery may close near the Labor Day target. The Buoy 10 Brewfest is taking place at the Hammond Boat Basin this weekend so stop by for a visit if you can.

Upriver, anchor anglers will be coming into their prime season as there are still hundreds of thousands of Chinook due to march their way upstream in the next couple of weeks. Peak season for the Portland to Longview season is still a week away but action should be great this week for those lucky (or skilled) enough to land in the right travel lane. Wobblers will take the majority of these fish but spinners will also work. The mouth of the Cowlitz, Kalama and Sandy Rivers should all give up fair numbers of fish this week.

The ocean, although still an option, is not a suggested move for Labor Day weekenders. If you do choose to go, plan on fishing near the CR Buoy or Buoy 2 as the bulk of the coho run is due into the river in the very near future. Fish your baits shallow in the early morning but drop them down as deep as 30 strips to find feeding coho as the day progresses.

Crabbing remains poor in the lower Columbia estuary.

Steelheaders are coming into a nice minus tide series that could put some fish on the bank for lower river beach anglers. The temperatures are running hot however which may hamper success. Steelhead are a better option for gorge anglers however and the mouth of the Deschutes will see a good mix of both steelhead and Chinook in this week's creel census.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Santiam steelheaders remain frustrated trying to target fewer numbers of fish this year.

Trout and steelhead fishing on the McKenzie River has been slow.

The Guide's Forecast – Steelheaders targeting the North Fork Santiam River will do best above Stayton where water temperatures are lower. The water level and flow are stable and will remain that way until flows are increased on September 15th. The river level will rise, re-stabilize and remain at good flow until the heavy Fall rains hit.

The McKenzie River is scheduled to be stocked again this week. Recorded fishing information is available at 541-896-3294 .

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Counts of fish migrating up the Clackamas

River to Faraday Dam near Estacada indicate coho are already in the river. PGE separates the hatchery fish, marks them with a tail punch and returns them downstream to Barton Park. Unmarked native fish are released in the protected waters above North Fork Dam.

As the weather cools, the milky, glacial color of the water in the Sandy River will improve. Some rain is needed to improve the flows which are summer-level low. Given a little precipitation, the Sandy should start producing in a week or two as trollers at the mouth took a couple of coho over last weekend.

North Coast District Fishing Report – Reports from the Nehalem River are still only fair at best. The weak tide series should have provided good action for bar herring trollers but success was limited. The Nehalem is transitioning into its fall run of fish and catches should improve as the month wears on. Crabbing is fair on the Nehalem but better on Tillamook and Netarts Bays.

Although too early to expect great results on Tillamook Bay, there should be jack Chinook and coho available in the upper bay and tidewater stretches of the Trask and Tillamook Rivers. Check your regulations for Tillamook coho restrictions as boundaries are critical in this area. Moss will likely be a factor until we get some precipitation to flush the system.

Sturgeon fishing is slowing in the district.

The Guide's Forecast – Fair tides over the Labor Day weekend will give some options to North Coast salmon anglers. The minus tide calls for spinners in the upper stretches as these tides will move fish into the upper bay faster than normal. Target these areas near low slack for staging Chinook. The jaws will also be a secondary option but a rough ocean may hamper success. Summer steelheading will continue to be challenging for the average angler in the area.

Central & South Coast Reports – All-depth halibut is open every weekend and catches are good. On one successful trip out of Garibaldi, everyone took fish including one that scaled at 53 pounds. The big flattie took a bait of shad strips in 870 feet of water over 30 miles out of Garibaldi.

An unnamed angler fishing out of Newport has taken halibut South of the Rock Pile two weeks in a row, both of which were five feet long.

Fall chinook are being taken on the Siletz with new pictures added daily at Coyote Rock. There's a lot of pressure on the river considering only fair numbers of fish present. Once the domain of anchor fishermen who soaked Kwikfish, now most techniques are practiced and have proved effective. Fishing will improve with a cooling trend.

Anglers are getting a few chinook offshore out of Reedsport over 300 or so feet of water with very few coho showing in the mix. Winchester Bay kicked out a few chromers to trollers over last weekend in crowded conditions. The lower Umpqua has been fair for sturgeon in tidewater, slow for steelhead above.

Gear up for the 9th annual GRWB STEP Labor Day Salmon Derby September 3rd, 4th and 5th in Reedsport and Winchester Bay. Last year it took a 46.5 pounder to win the top spot. This year's winner will walk away with \$1350 in prize money. Tickets for participation are available at local merchants and banks in Reedsport.

The Army Corps of Engineers is scheduled to release water on the Rogue River starting today, September 1st. The increased flow will continue for about 10 days and will hopefully cool the

river and jump-start the fall chinook run. Good numbers of chinook are holding in Rogue Bay but are reluctant to take bait or lure. About a dozen a day are being hooked with perhaps 20% coming over the gunwale. The remainder get nailed by sea lions which are present en masse.

Chinook fishing is fair on the middle Rogue at first light in deep holes. Summer steelhead fishing is fair to good on the upper Rogue although most of the fish hooked are wild and must be released.

On those rare days when a small craft advisory is not in effect, offshore bottom fishing has been excellent off the South coast for china cod, quillbacks, black rockfish, greenling, and copper rockfish. Ling cod to 25 to 30 pounds have been taken recently. Trollers are having a tough time with offshore salmon, making the bounty of bottomfish a welcome alternative.

One of the few ocean salmon derbies takes place this weekend at Brookings. Over 450 entrants have signed up to participate with late-comers expected and welcomed. Competition starts at dawn Friday, September 2nd through 3 PM Sunday, September 4th. The biggest fish landed in that time period will net \$5,000 for the lucky angler. Salmon fishing out of Brookings has cooled off but the bottom fishing is holding up well. Hopefully, it will improve over the holiday weekend for the derby.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Steelheading on the lower Deschutes is slow to fair despite fish plainly rolling near the mouth. The outlook is good as numbers improve but the fish have been reluctant to hit anything. The better fishing is from Pine Tree to Macks Canyon. Trout fishing is beat early and late in the day with caddis patterns still dominant. Fair trout action may be expected in the course of the day with caddis nymph and pupa imitations.

Northwest Bass & Panfish - Hagg Lake has been producing fair catches of largemouth bass on crankbaits with smallmouth falling to soft plastics. These bass are finicky but worth putting in the time. Having produced several consecutive smallmouth bass State records, Hagg is also where the record 3.7-pound brown bullhead was landed. Over last weekend, another smallie well over six pounds was caught and released.

Northwest Trout – Green Peter is producing nice kokanee on the troll at 50 to 60 foot depths. It's downrigger season for those deep kokes.

Trout were stocked this week in the Willamette Valley at Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Roslyn Lake, Small Fry Lake, Timothy Meadows, and in the Upper and Lower McKenzie River.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula:

Pro Guide Brad Shride of Onco Sportfishing & Guide Services, Inc. (877-483-0047) tells us that fishing in South Puget Sound area 11 & 13 has been pretty decent this past week for the Silvers and Humpies and a few Kings still in the area. There have been Silvers to 10 pounds along the beaches and points where these fish travel & more in the Northern area of Vashon Island, (area-11). The Humpies are pretty thick in the Puyallup River mouth for those of you that target these guys pulling anything Pink, pink hoochies, flashers, dodgers, pink spoons, and pink flies will all get you your humpie limits. Still some nice Kings have hit the docks this past week but is dropping off a bit now. Kings will come from the Slag Pile, Dalco and the Clay Banks at Pt Defiance, Gig Harbor area, and in front of the Boat House. Don't forget to try the Browns Point area for your 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.

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 closes on Labor day unless the WDFW extends this. Check the Shellfish Hotline. You can give Brad a call at 206-463-9230 if you have any questions. He is fishing the Buoy 10 on the Columbia River area this week.

Pictured below - Carol Ann picked up this nice king about 18 pounds trolling in the Three Tree point area fishing with **Pro Guide Brad Shride**. They fished about 90 feet of water and down about 75 feet on the riggers. They trolled a Green Hot-Spot flasher and a Cut-Plug herring to put this beauty in the fish box and they hooked others that day to fill the boat with a mixed limit of Kings and Coho using G Loomis STR-1265C fishing rods for our downriggers, Shimano Triton reels filled with 20 pound Izorline, 20 pound Berkley Big-Game leaders with 3/0 & 4/0 Gamakatsu hooks.



Southwest Washington:

Pro Guide Brad Shride (877-483-0047) sends in this information on Buoy 10 on the Columbia River - Fishing on the Columbia River at Buoy 10 this past week was good with some limits and a good mix of URB Kings and Hatchery and Native Silvers, (Coho). Some Tules were caught as well. You have to release the Native Coho. It was definitely a tidal fishery this past week and just a bit spotty at times but not too bad for those of you that target the tides and currents and those areas that produce fish. It was a morning fishery on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday above the Astoria bridge and then again in the afternoon/evenings.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday it was a little different and a bit harder to put fish in the boat as the tides only had about a two to three foot exchange on those days so you had to work and search for your fish and try some other areas. I worked the area at the light marker at the bottom end

of Desdimona Sands on the Washington side first thing in the morning to put a mix of Silvers and Kings in my boat. I worked the 20' to 25' water with 14 to 18 pulls depending on the depth. This was still an incoming tide in the mornings so I worked this area until the tide slacked or started to move the other direction and then went above the bridge and worked that area after that. Here I worked the 30' depth and pulling out about 20 pulls to entice fish. I worked my way down again to below the bridge as the fish moved down river. I trolled a Delta Diver, a shortened snubber, and a Fish Flash in Green, Prism, or Chartreuse, 5 feet of 40# leader with a chain swivel and a cut plug brined herring. I use scent and color on everything and change my gear as often as every 15 to 20 minutes most of the time. I also trolled the same set-up with a Spoon on 1 or 2 rods. The spoon accounted for about 30% to 40% of my fish on most days.

I saw some very nice Kings and Silvers hit the docks this past week from above the Astoria Bridge on the high water and all the way through the outgoing Ebb. As the water started to Ebb and pick up speed you wanted to run up and troll with the Ebb tide and work your way down river as these fish are backing out and moving with that tide. I finished out the Ebb well below the Astoria Bridge almost in front of Chinook, WA. The bite here this past week was about a 40% on trolled Spinners in Red/White or Rainbow color and the Tee-Spoon brand seem to work the best. I was using Mike's Glow Scent in Anise on my spoons. This next week I would suggest fishing at the Buoy 10 Deadline as the tides are mostly incoming early in the mornings or hit the area between Buoy 20 and Buoy 27 (red line) for those incoming fish. The area in front of Hammond on the Oregon side might be a good bet this next week for a mix of Kings and Coho. Follow the Flood into this area as the fish move up river.

For those of you that are willing, able and daring to cross the Columbia River Bar out into the ocean you will find fish without too much problem as long as you look for those fish. Most fish are coming from the CR Buoy and South as far as 12 miles. I didn't fish this area as I stayed in the river but I stayed in touch with some of the guys that did. There was a great mix of Kings and Coho and you had to weed through the Native Coho to get your fish.

Pictured below - Tim, John, Rick, & Jeff fished with **Pro Guide Brad Shride** this past week in the Buoy 10/Columbia River area on August 28th. They trolled Delta Divers, a short bungie, a Fish Flash, 5 foot 40# leaders with a chain swivel and a green label brined cut plug herring with scent on it in the 20' to 30' water from 14 to 20 pulls out on the reel. It was a good mix of Coho and URB Kings this day. They also enticed a fish with a #8 Tee-Spoon in a Chartreuse, Purple and Pink spots & Mike's Glo-Scent/Anise. They were using G Loomis SAR-1084 rods, a Trophy Series C-4 Ambassador reel, 65 pound Berkley Hi-Vis yellow Spiderwire, 40 pound Izorline leaders, and Gamakatsu 4/0-5/0 hooks.



Eastern Washington:

Pro Guide Jeff Knotts (503.366.4052) tells us that fishing at the Hanford Reach has been slow. Salmon have not arrived yet and though the steelhead are coming through, the season is not open yet. Walleye fishing seems to have slowed but bass fishing is good just about everywhere. Focus on the lower snake and below McNary for bass.

Pro Guide Pat Long (509.751.0410) sends in this information - The Clearwater steelhead fishery is slowly improving, the C&R area has improved since the outflow from Dworshak Dam was reduced (now around 7,000 cfs). The lower catch and keep area is holding its' own and improving somewhat.

The fish have started moving across the first three Snake River dams but Lower Granite is still holding back a lot of fish. The rivers have cooled some the last few days and hopefully this will shake them loose at Lower Granite. With the Thursday (Sept. 1) opening on the Snake, for catch and keep, the tailwater at Lower Granite will provide a good option for many fishers, this area can be very productive and is well suited to most fishing styles.

Reader Email

Subscriber Russ G. wrote to TGF on 08/26, "We went out of Warrenton with Backeddy's guide...8-23/8-24 two days..... lots of fish for all and good action with Coho we landed 6 chinook 30's and four chinook 20's and one star flounder for fun."



'Sounds like a fun trip, Russ, and thanks for the great foto!

Faithful reader Dennis F. shares his Columbia River experience, "Hi, just got back from my first trip in my own boat to buoy 10. I had read the report last week about your success with spinners at the bridge at high water. After messing around at the mouth and searching out some of the other holes you have described, I headed for the bridge on the Washington side. Mon. no results. Tue. broke of a large king just before high on... yep, red and white brads ultimate. Wed. Broke off one and had the second takedown 20 mins. later and boated a 15 #. Thurs. missed one, half hour later broke one off... Down to my last red and white... rigged up and in 5 mins had the next strike, boated a 17# king. Your information could not have been more helpful and made my trip a success. Next time heavier leaders! Too bad the other morons didn't make it or I know we would have limits for all. Thank again for the great tips..... "

Thanks for the nice comments, Dennis, and keep those reports coming. It is sincerely appreciated!

On a sad note this week, Marty Peterson, a professional fishing guide for many years, announced that he is closing Nestucca Valley Sporting Goods which he purchased from Ray Hammer. It seems he just couldn't make a go of it between high operating costs and the current economic climate. The last day of operation was Wednesday, August 31st. Here's hoping someone will be able to step in and continue the operation of this landmark store.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: drees@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: SailCat@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Series on beginning fly-tying from ESPN:

*http://espn.go.com/outdoors/tips/s/f_fea_fly-tying_101_pt.1_LB03.html

*http://espn.go.com/outdoors/tips/s/f_fea_fly-tying_101_pt.2_LB04.html

*http://espn.go.com/outdoors/tips/s/f_fea_fly-tying_101_pt.3_LB04.html

Weekly Quote – "When tensions and stress threaten to bring on nervous collapse, it's time to go fishing." - Dr. Jerome L. Sieger & Dr. Armin Thies

GOOD LUCK!