

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 28th – November 3rd, 2005**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- The re-opening of the Columbia was met with success in the gorge but Chinook anglers had to weed through several fish to find quality ones to take home. Anglers working eggs in the Tanner Creek area are frequently finding themselves hooked up with oversized sturgeon working the spawning beds in pursuit of fresh salmon roe. There has been some confusion with bag limits for Chinook in the Tanner Creek area versus the rest of the river so check your regulations carefully.

Sturgeon fishing remains best in the gorge for both bank and boat anglers. The catch is surprising fishery managers to where a previous liberalization of the season remains in jeopardy. The river from Wauna to Bonneville is open to retention on Thursdays through Saturdays. Pressure remains light on catch and release days.

Bass fishing continues to improve on the Willamette with many of the smallmouth being landed of decent size now.

Coho are scattered on the Clackamas with a few fish being taken. Anglers are wise to take both bait and hardware to cater the whims of the quarry.

Cured salmon eggs are the bait of choice for coho on the Sandy now that visibility is over 12 inches. Fishing is reported as fair to good.

Mehema and above will be the stretches to target late-season summer steelhead on the North Santiam River. It's only fair fishing with the level and flow on the high side, but the Fall foliage adds an additional dimensions to the experience.

Mid Columbia/Deschutes River - Steelhead fishing at the mouth of the Deschutes remains hit-or-miss but John Day Pool and the mainstem are just coming into their prime. Trolled plugs produce the best results in the water upstream of the John Day Dam while mainstem anglers pursue steelhead with a bobber and jig in the low flows. November is the peak month for this fishery.

Upriver, **pro guide Jeff Knotts (509-366-4052)** reports, "The Hanford Reach closed between the wooden power lines to Priest Rapids Dam. Ringold area also remains open and is kicking out some steelhead but is only producing sporadically. McNary walleye are biting dark colored Hotlips plugs in the 1/2 ounce and 3/4 ounce size just before and after dark though pressure has lessened since the full moon has passed on by. Walleye are running larger this time of year as is often the case when using plugs."

Caddis continues to be the predominate pattern of choice in both dries and pupae's for successful trout fishers on the upper Deschutes although Mayflies are also appearing with cooler Fall weather.

North Coast - Tillamook Bay has slumped from the previous week as the tide series slumps. Usually, the lower bay produces good catches with a weaker tide series but the fish did not show in good numbers this week. The first boats through the Ghost Hole are most likely to catch Chinook but the bite seems to die after the first hours of sunrise. Herring is outperforming spinners in the lower bay unless the seaweed is troublesome. The ocean remains closed due to breaking waves on the bar.

Although Chinook are present in the tidewaters of most Tillamook area rivers, the bite has been poor. Recent rains may stimulate biters but the river forecast is not calling for the big push of fish that driftboaters anxiously await.

Crabbing in Tillamook Bay is productive but salmon carcasses don't make the best bait as seals are tuned into this easy meal. They have discovered a way to penetrate the crab traps too.

Crabbing continues to gain momentum in the Columbia River estuary where limits are frequent.

Clamming on Clatsop Beaches should get good again for the evening tides starting on Sunday. Success may be hampered by a high surf however and caution should be a priority.

Mid-Coast - Chinook fishing is very slow on the Siletz. With a few fresh fish trickling in, the fishing is fair on the Alsea. Rain would improve the situation.

A few chinook continue to be taken from the lower Umpqua and Winchester Bay. Those that have been hooked have been chromers. Steelhead fishing is holding up well on the North Umpqua.

South Coast - It took 80-year-old Jack Shumaker of Reno half an hour to land a 61-pound chinook last week which he hooked while trolling the lower Smith River. Other than this remarkable catch, fishing is reported as only fair here.

Fall chinook fishing remains fair on the Coos and Coquille Rivers.

Anglers will find the percentage of wild steelhead to hatchery fish increasing on the Rogue where it's the twilight of the Fall chinook season.

Beaches are closed again on the South coast from Gold Beach to the California border because of elevated levels of the toxin in razor clams. The next minus tidal series starts the first of November, so it'll be another nighttime foray for Clatsop razor clammers.

Crabbing is rewarding in bays and estuaries but crabbers are finding a higher percentage of soft-shelled Dungeness on the South coast.

Eastern Oregon - The Grande Ronde River is coming into its prime time with steelhead success nearing 6.5 hours per steelhead on the river. The fishing should remain good for another several weeks. Trout fishing closes here on October 31st but will remain open on several lakes to check the regulations before venturing out.

Catch reports for the Umatilla River were reported as excellent last week but the bulk of the catch is dark coho salmon. The steelhead have yet to show in any good numbers on this system.

Trout fishing- With stocking schedules winding down this time of year, no planting occurred in the Willamette Zone this week. Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake will be planted with a mix on Halloween day, including some "trophy-sized" trout.

SW Washington- The Cowlitz River still has good numbers of coho present. Fishable numbers are present but many of the late run coho are beginning to turn color and aren't making good table fare. Only small numbers of coho, Chinook and steelhead are being recycled in the system.

The Kalama and Lewis Rivers also have coho present but not in any great numbers. These systems along with the Washougal will remain quiet for the next several weeks.

Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509-697-7125) writes, " .. we're winding up our Klickitat Coho trips in the CR gorge this week. This years Coho run is smaller than the last few years, but the fish are holding up great and are running 6#-15#. Most of our action is coming on trolled 1/4oz. and 1/2oz. Fatfish plugs and small prawn spinners. Action should remain fair to good the next 2 weeks. As for me, I'll be starting Chehalis river Coho trips this weekend. Below picture is Mark Dissmore from Pullman Washington and Denney Rutherford from Port Townsend with Klickitat Coho from Friday Oct. 21st."

Columbia River Fishing Report – A not-so-surprising response to the re-opening of the salmon fishery on the mainstem Columbia. Anglers anxiously awaited this surprise opening as previous weeks creel checks indicated there were a lot of willing fish present. Reports coming in from the Bonneville area indicated good success from both bank and boat anglers. Weekend creel checks showed a fish/boat and success rates were very comparable from bank anglers with almost a fish for every two anglers in the Tanner Creek area. It is however, late in the season and fish are beginning to turn dark. The action is great but to find some quality fish, one has to expect to weed through numerous fish to find one worth taking home to "mama". Plugs and backbounced bait were key to anglers success and **pro guide Dan Ponciano (360-607-8511)** reported many of the salmon anglers were tangling with oversize sturgeon in the area. These oversized fish are keyed into spawning salmon and the eggs they are depositing on the spawning redds. They make for easy opportunity for salmon anglers in pursuit of salmon. Bank anglers do best plunking bait or hardware in the area and are often not equipped to fight the large sturgeon. Limits were common however on the opener and there has been some confusion as to the bag limits for these fish. Check the regulation carefully as bag limits are different for the Tanner Creek area. The Troutdale area is also producing some catches but success rates are not even close to those being experienced in the gorge fishery.

Upriver, **pro guide Jeff Knotts (509-366-4052)** reports, "The Hanford Reach closed between the wooden power lines to Priest Rapids Dam. Ringold area also remains open and is kicking out some steelhead but is only producing sporadically. McNary walleye are biting dark colored Hotlips plugs in the 1/2 ounce and 3/4 ounce size just before and after dark though pressure has lessened since the full moon has passed on by. Walleye are running larger this time of year as is often the case when using plugs."

Sturgeon fishing in the same area is holding up well with some really impressive catches coming from the bank anglers. Almost one in five bank anglers in the gorge took home a keeper sturgeon last weekend while boat anglers tallied a keeper per boat. If it's not keepers you're catching, there is plenty of action for shakers and a few oversized fish. Avid anglers are anchoring very early in the morning for prime spots and although it is paying dividends, it's getting harder every year to find this motivation level. Smelt remains the bait of choice but for those willing to try other baits in combination, fishing can be pretty good.

Crabbing in the estuary continues to pick up but we may see a lull in this fishery in the upcoming week due to large tides. This may however make for a good "crustacean slam" with crab during the slack tide periods and clams in the evening. Razor clamming remains open on Clatsop Beaches but it recently closed on the south coast.

The Guide's Forecast – As a general rule, the higher quality, brighter fish are being taken downstream of the deadline and Tanner Creek. The action is obviously going to be slower due to the fact there are less bright fish available but this is where the quality keepers are! Backtroll plugs or backbounce eggs in the swifter water near the deadline or shallow gravel bars. Keep in mind however that fish in the shallower water are spawning and you shouldn't really be harassing those fish. Anglers in the Troutdale area are using hardware- particularly wobblers to entice the few

remaining fish migrating through this area. Overall, action is holding up very well in this area but don't expect this week to be as productive as last.

Sturgeon anglers will likely continue the carnage for keeper sturgeon in the gorge. Smelt will be the bait of choice but it seems the most productive areas are being snatched up in the pre-dawn blitzkrieg for the best slots. The Portland to Longview stretch is more productive than in recent years but doesn't hold a candle to the gorge fishery. Although this fishery generally holds up well into November, there often is a mass exodus of sturgeon from the Columbia to other parts of the Northwest. Estuaries such as Tillamook will soon recruit sturgeon into them as the opportunistic fish seek alternative food sources during the winter months.

Although the John Day Pool is beginning to boot out respectable catches of steelhead, we are still a few weeks away from the peak period. Trolled plugs are taking fish in the mainstem while John Day Arm anglers are mixing it up with steelhead by using bobbers and jigs. Look to November for this fishery but fill up your propane tanks NOW!

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Sturgeon fishing is in the little to none category this week on the lower Willamette including Multnomah Channel. There are a couple of factors effecting this fishery now, both of which are subject to change in the near future.

It's only fair fishing for summer steelhead on the North Santiam with the level and flow still on the high side, but the Fall foliage adds an additional dimension to the experience. Fly fishers have been finding success with both rainbows and cutthroat by offering dry and pupae caddis patterns on the North Santiam. This river closes to trout angling on November 1st.

The Guide's Forecast – The turbines at Bonneville act as fish grinders, chumming sturgeon to that location. This is the reason the Columbia River gorge offers the most productive sturgeon fishing currently. Another factor is that the temperature of both rivers is similar now. Later in the year, the Columbia water temps will be reduced to a greater degree than that of the majority of its tributaries. As the Fall salmon run winds down, so will the food supply at Bonneville Dam. The warmer water of the Willamette will then entice sturgeon to enter and improve sturgeon fishing. Fall rains roiling the water will further contribute to conditions suitable for successful angling if not angler comfort.

Mehema and above will be the stretches to target late-season summer steelhead on the North Santiam River. The next real motivating factor for anglers to hit the North Santiam will be for often-good catch-and-release action with winter steelhead.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Coho are scattered on the Clackamas with a few fish being taken. The best place to target them is at the mouths of streams that feed it, although Eagle Creek where the hatchery is located is popular, hence generally crowded in season. Anglers are wise to take both bait and hardware to cater the whims of the quarry.

Cured salmon eggs is the bait of choice for coho on the Sandy when the visibility was over 12 inches and fishing was reported as fair to good. Rain is likely roil the water, bet whether the impact is positive or negative remains to be seen.

North Coast District Fishing Report – The Tillamook Bay bite has been consistent lately- that is, consistently poor. But really, we seem to be able to bank on that traditional Ghost Hole bite in the wee early morning hours of daybreak. The fish are clearly present on the lower half of the bay as the upper bay around the Memaloose Boat ramp is a ghost town for fish and anglers. This time of

year (as mentioned in previous editions of TGF), most of the fish entering the system are bound for the Kilchis and Wilson Rivers. They migrate on the east side of the estuary and when the bay fills up on flood tide, the fish scoot across Kilchis Flats to head for their natal rivers. Chinook are responding well to herring in the Ghost Hole but spinners seem to be the favored technique just a mile upstream at Bay City. The bite on 10/26 was slightly slower than the previous day with about 8 fish taken in the early morning flood in the Ghost Hole. Thankfully, the bite picked up a bit along the north jetty (on the inside) on the outgoing tide. The tides have been so weak that even during the peak outgoing, boats are able to troll forward. Herring is the rule out here and even though the eel grass is not too bad, you still must check frequently to ensure you are still fishing. On fishing the outgoing tide along the jetty: keep those baits close to the bottom for best results. These fish are calorie counters this time of year and utilize the lack of current on the bottom of the bay. The ocean remains closed and it is even a bit hairy near the bar. With the lack of ocean angling taking place this year, there should be a bunch of biters on their way into the bay!

LATE, GREAT TILLAMOOK REPORT: Fishing dramatically improved on 10/27 with several fish taken in the Ghost Hole early, Bay City later in the flood tide and along the jetty during the middle 3 hours of outgoing tide. Most fish were taken on herring but spinners did take a few fish- especially near Bay City. And finally, great fishing was reported at the Oyster House this morning with some boats of 2 taking early limits! The fish sure came in on this day and the tides look more favorable for the rest of the week and into the weekend!

Tidewater fishing with bobbers and bait has also been slow this week. Tides have everything to do with activity in this part of the river and these fish are craving current! The Trask and Wilson both have good numbers of fish present; they just aren't in the mood.

The Nestucca was good late last week but has since slowed dramatically. Anglers working the Cloverdale to Woods stretch are taking a few fish but many of the fish are dark. All North Coast systems are in need of a good downpour to really get the action started.

Nehalem Bay has slowed down dramatically. Many of the regular guides on that waterway have shifted their efforts to Tillamook Bay. There will be November fish but better action is due on Tillamook.

Another week of disappointing precipitation models. It looks like driftboaters can keep the canvas on but when this rain does come, the action will be worth calling in sick for. I just wish I had an understanding boss.....

Crabbing was great for the people out doing it. Lyster's corner and crab harbor on Tillamook Bay produced good catches on this last tide series.

The Guide's Forecast – The tide series is gradually improving into the weekend and run timing is looking good for a productive week. The weather forecast however looks to be unsettled making for unpleasant conditions for bay anglers.

The bite should remain in the lower bay and along the jetties. Wilson and Kilchis fish will make up the bulk of the return this week however this time last year, there were spurts of fish that made their way into the upper end of Tillamook for the few fishing there. Herring will be the preferred bait but fish should respond well to spinners in the Bay City area. If the area is cluttered with eelgrass or seaweed, spinners could have a real advantage for trollers as they whip their rod-tips free of the junk.

Bobber tossers may also find more favorable conditions by the weekend. Increasing tides should push biters into the lower Wilson for boats and a few privileged bank anglers to access. Always tip your bait with shrimp for best results.

The tides aren't too extreme that one can still expect to do fairly well sport crabbing. Tillamook and

Netarts remain the two best options but Nehalem and Nestucca estuaries are also possibilities.

Central & South Coast Reports – Diehards on the Salmon River continue to pound it and game officers continue to ticket snaggers, but the number of viable chinook in this early starter is seasonally declining.

Chinook fishing is very slow on the Siletz. Another river which is blessed with an early run means it'll time out early as well. That time seems to be at hand. The showers forecast this week may mean a few fresh fish but there are locations more likely to reward anglers. For those giving it a late-season try, spinners and Kwikfish, the latter either slow-trolled or fished on anchor, seem to be out-producing bobber 'n' bait.

With a few fresh fish trickling in, chinook fishing is fair on the Alsea. Rain will improve the situation. Reports are mixed but that's not surprising given the nature of Fall chinook fishing and this river in particular which has been hot or not one day to the next.

Subscriber, contributor and avid angler **David M.** shares this experience from his trip on Sunday, October 22nd, "We fished Saturday and Sunday anywhere below Kozy Kove and above the bridge. We started with bobber and eggs with no luck and switched over to trolling after nothing was happening-for anyone! My dad hooked this on an orange blue fox #6-flatlined. Sunday morning only a few were caught and they were by those who put in their hours. Its tough fishing at times and you really just have to be lucky to be in the right place, right time, with the right bait/lure. I wish it were more skill dependant (or maybe not). Good times though. Going back to fish Friday morning. Hopefully we can get a couple more weeks out of this run. PS-the seals are doing very well fishing!"



A big TGF thanks and tip o' the fishing cap to you, David, for the report and great photo!

Siuslaw anglers report fair to good fishing. The chinook run should hold up here for another couple of weeks. Trolling plug-cut herring is working here.

A few chinook continue to be taken from the lower Umpqua and Winchester Bay. Trollers dragging spinners or plug-cut herring are taking a few every day, but must take some long boat rides to do so. Those that have been hooked recently have been good-sized chromers, however. Steelhead fishing is holding up well on the North Umpqua where cured salmon eggs or imitations seem to be

out-producing lures. Coho are being taken in the lower stretch.

Still no reports forthcoming from Siltcoos or Tahkenitch Lakes, both of which are open for a rare opportunity to take harvestable numbers of wild coho. Trolling spinners is historically effective. If anybody's fishing these waters, shoot us a note about your observations and experiences.

It took 80-year-old Jack Shumaker of Reno half an hour to land a 61-pound chinook last week which he hooked while trolling the lower Smith River. Other than this remarkable catch, fishing is reported as only fair here.

Fall chinook fishing is reported as fair on the Coos but has picked up on the Coquille River. Coho fishing is on the upswing in both rivers.

Anglers will find the percentage of wild steelhead to hatchery fish increasing on the Rogue where it's the twilight of the Fall chinook season. Trolling the bay has become an exercise in fuel consumption and frustration. Mention has been made in this space previously regarding the "flies-only" area which is essentially the upper river. That restriction will be lifted on November 1st, good news for many as both hard lures and bait may be used, but odd in that the chinook restriction will no longer be in force. The vast majority of salmon are spawning or too dark to keep. Regardless, steelhead fishing should be good, with the best results (and pressure) downstream from the Hatchery Hole. Bait may be used in this stretch but it's lures only below Shady Cove.

Beaches are closed again on the South coast from Gold Beach to the California border because of elevated levels of the toxin in razor clams. The next minus tidal series starts the first of November, so it'll be another nighttime foray for Clatsop razor clammers.

Crabbing is rewarding in bays and estuaries but crabbers are finding a higher percentage of soft-shelled Dungeness on the South coast.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Steelhead are still being caught on the Deschutes but the action dropped off a bit over the last week. Caddis continue to be the predominate pattern of choice in both dries and pupae's for successful trout fishers on the upper Deschutes although Mayflies are also appearing with cooler Fall weather.

Pro Guide Bill Kremers (541-754-6411) sends this report, "[We] fished the Deschutes River between Warm Springs and Trout Creek on Saturday. Steelhead fishing was very slow in the morning. We switched over to trout fishing and action pickup with the evening shade. We landed several nice trout, primarily on October caddis emergers. Then on Sunday we did some pheasant and chucker hunting on the ranch there along the canyon."

Washington Fishing Report:

North Puget Sound:

Westport Boat Launch Private - Grays Harbor

Date	Boats	Anglers	Chinook	Coho
October 15, 2005	5	11	0	1
October 16, 2005	4	11	0	1
October 22, 2005	2	4	0	2
October 23, 2005	3	8	0	1

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula:

Johns River Boat Launch - Grays Harbor

Date	Boats	Anglers	Chinook	Coho
October 9, 2005	8	18	0	7
October 14, 2005	8	19	0	4

28th Street Landing Boat Launch - Grays Harbor

Date	Boats	Anglers	Chinook	Coho
October 15, 2005	10	19	0	4
October 16, 2005	8	18	0	0
October 22, 2005	6	16	0	4

Cosmopolis Boat Launch - Grays Harbor

Date	Boats	Anglers	Chinook	Coho
October 21, 2005	12	21	0	12
October 22, 2005	21	41	0	13
October 23, 2005	11	24	0	17

Southwest Washington:

Eli Rico of Hotshot Guide Service (425.417.0394) tells TGF that fishing has been good on the Lewis and Skykomish with lots of silvers & some chums on the sky, and some chrome kings on the Lewis.

SW Washington - Pro Guide Bob Barthlow (509-697-7125) writes, " ... we're winding up our Klickitat Coho trips in the CR gorge this week. This years Coho run is smaller than the last few years, but the fish are holding up great and are running 6#-15#. Most of our action is coming on trolled 1/4oz. and 1/2oz. Fatfish plugs and small prawn spinners. Action should remain fair to good the next 2 weeks. As for me, I'll be starting Chehalis river Coho trips this weekend. Below picture is Mark Dissmore from Pullman Wa. and Denney Rutherford from Port Townsend Wa. with Klickitat Coho from Friday Oct. 21st."



The Cowlitz River still has good numbers of coho present. Fishable numbers are present but many of the late run coho are beginning to turn color and aren't making good table fare. Only small numbers of coho, Chinook and steelhead are being recycled in the system.

The Kalama and Lewis Rivers also have coho present but not in any great numbers. These systems along with the Washougal will remain quiet for the next several weeks.

Salmon/Steelhead -

Columbia River coho run size update: Preseason expectations total 206,400 coho returning to the Columbia River mouth, including 178,200 early coho and 28,200 late coho. Based on Bonneville Dam counts, hatchery escapement and fish-in-hand, in season run size estimates for early coho include about 220,000 fish and about 60,000 fish for late coho.

Cowlitz River - Little to report on angling success. During the past week, Tacoma Power and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife employees recovered 3,931 coho salmon adults, 816 coho jacks, 585 fall chinook adults, 6 chinook jacks, 73 summer-run steelhead and 51 cutthroat trout during seven days of separator operations at Tacoma Power's Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery.

Tacoma Power employees released 1,606 coho salmon adults and 369 jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at the Lake Scanewa Day Use site above Cowlitz Falls Dam during the week. They also released 405 coho adults and 68 jacks at the Franklin Bridge in Packwood.

During the week Tacoma Power employees recycled 28 summer steelhead adults and 14 cutthroat trout downstream to the Massey Bar boat launch. They also recycled nine coho adults, 73 chinook adults, and two chinook jacks downstream to the Barrier Dam boat launch.

During the week 220 fall chinook adults, two jacks, 1,395 coho adults, 183 jacks and three cutthroat trout were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are currently at 3,540 cubic feet per second (cfs) on Monday, October 24. Water visibility at Mayfield Dam is 10.5 feet.

Through October 19, a total of 13,000 late stock coho had returned to the salmon hatchery. Pre-season projections were a return of 7,000 fish; in-season updates project 23,000. The hatchery escapement goal is 4,200.

Kalama River - Light effort and catch. Hatchery coho may be retained effective October 21. As of Oct. 19, a total of 100 late stock coho had returned. Pre-season projections were 430 fish would return: in-season updates project 650. The hatchery escapement goal is 670.

Lewis River - Bank anglers near the hatchery are catching some coho and releasing a few fall chinook. As of Oct. 19, a total of 750 late stock coho had returned. Pre-season projections were 4,300 fish would return: in-season updates project 4,700. The hatchery escapement goal is 3,260.

Washougal River - No report on angling success. Hatchery coho may be retained effective October 21. As of Oct. 19, a total of 100 late stock coho had returned. Pre-season projections were 780 fish would return: in-season updates project 1,100. The hatchery escapement goal is 750.

Wind River - No report on angling success. October 31 is the last day to fish for salmon.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - A few dark fall chinook were caught by boat anglers in the gorge. From Beacon Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, October 31 is the last day to fish for salmon.

Hanford Reach - High water continues to hamper anglers. At Ringold, boat anglers averaged an adult chinook per every 3 rods and a steelhead per every 8 rods. Including fish released, bank anglers averaged a steelhead per every 5 rods. They were also catching some adult fall chinook. Beginning Nov. 1, any hatchery steelhead may be retained from the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco upstream to the Old Hanford townsite wooden powerline towers.

Mainstem Columbia from the Old Hanford townsite wooden powerline towers upstream to Priest Rapids Dam is now closed to fishing for salmon.

Sturgeon -

Lower Columbia from the Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam - Near Bonneville Dam, bank anglers averaged a legal kept per every 8 rods based on mainly incomplete trips. Effort remains fairly heavy there with 108 bank anglers counted on the Washington side and 177 in Oregon during the Friday October 21 flight.

Boat anglers in the Kalama area were catching some legals.

Trout -

Coldwater Lake - "Coldwater Lake, near Toutle, is a good bet", said John Weinheimer, WDFW district biologist. "Fifteen-inch rainbows are the norm," he said. Weinheimer reminded anglers to check out the sport-fishing rules before they go fishing there.

Klineline Pond near Hazel Dell - Bank anglers are catching a mixture of cutthroats, rainbows, and browns. The recently planted 800 cutthroats were over 1.5 pounds each. A 19 inch holdover brown trout was also sampled.

Goose Lake - Weinheimer strongly recommends Goose Lake north of Carson. "The fishing there has been terrific," said Weinheimer, touting coastal cutthroat up to 1.5 pounds each, along with good-sized brown, rainbow and eastern brook trout.

Montesano Boat Launch - Chehalis River

Date	Boats	Anglers	Chinook	Coho
October 19, 2005	9	17	0	7
October 20, 2005	22	36	0	20
October 22, 2005	67	155	0	45

Friends Landing Boat Launch - Chehalis River

Date	Boats	Anglers	Chinook	Coho
October 16, 2005	9	22	0	4
October 23, 2005	10	21	0	6

Fuller Bridge Boat Launch - Chehalis River

Date	Boats	Anglers	Chinook	Coho
October 16, 2005	30	56	1	23
October 18, 2005	24	40	0	13

Eastern Washington:

Pat Long of Snake River Guide Service (509-751-0410) reports that the Clearwater has been producing some very nice fish since the opener on the 15th. The numbers are not great (4 to 6 fish days seem to be the norm) but they are making up for it in size. We weighed a 35 inch fish last week that was right at 17 lbs., most of the fish seem to have this character-it looks like they fared very well in the ocean the past couple of years. A word of caution on the Clearwater-it is very low and there are quite a few inexperienced individuals hitting and grounding 5 that I know of in the last week), if you are not familiar with driving shallow water you had best stay off the Clearwater until we get some rain.

Reports from the Snake are about the same, fair fishing but the numbers are not what we normally see this time of year.

South Central Washington:

The Yakima salmon fishery ended on October 22. Roughly 727 adult chinook, 16 jacks, and 7 coho were harvested during the 2005 fishery. An estimated 117 steelhead were caught and released this season. Effort and catch declined compared to the 2004 fishery.

Northwest Bass & Panfish - Bass fishing continues to improve on the Willamette with many of the smallmouth being landed of decent size now. The Fall feeding binge expected by most knowledgeable bassers is in full swing. Largemouth are cooperating with anglers in temperate coastal lakes.

Northwest Trout - The high lakes in the Cascades are kicking out trout and displaying seasonal splendor. Make the trip before doing so will freeze off your backcast. Diamond Lake is closed to trout fishing as of November 1st along with several other lakes in the Southwest Zone. Check your regs.

With stocking schedules winding down this time of year, no planting occurred in the Willamette Zones this week. Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake will be planted with a mix on Halloween day, including some "trophy-sized" trout. In the last scheduled planting of the year in the Deschutes watershed, the Ana River will be planted next week.

Reader Email

Subscriber and regular contributor Ken J. Reports in his inimitable style, "There are a few ruthless souls casting rigs at and above the 99E bridge, hoping for a early Winter Steelhead or whatever to hit their offering. Bank casters are few and far between at the mouth of the Clackamas. I was down there, just passing through, and spied one fisherman at the Blacktop, but he said nothing had happened, and to tell you the truth, his worms just weren't what the doctor ordered for a Chromer of any kind to strike his offering in this fisherman's opinion. That being said, my nephew has a favorite rock near the McLoughlin 99E bridge over the Clack that he passes "Gob's o'worms" through and comes home with Steelies almost every time. Woo'dahthunk??? Rain will make a definite difference as the water is still low in the Willamette and feeder creeks and rivers along its length."

Here's Grant Lansing, the Fish'n Magician, from a fishing trip on the Willamette on Thursday last week. He caught several more and included pictures, but this one amused me. - Michael



Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

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Michael Teague: SailCat@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

It'd be great to hear what PETA says about this Squirrel fishing video:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=2866726172373558547&q=fishing>

Sometimes the fish gets the upper hand ...er, fin ... or something. Funny video:
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-2199756780847815340&q=fishing>

Weekly Quote – "Fishing friends are long friends because the doing of it is an intense perceptive preoccupation and one that is charged with unexpected humor." - Edward Weeks

GOOD LUCK!