

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 5th – October 11th, 2007**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Good news! Bob still has some openings in the peak month of October for the giant fall chinook of Tillamook Bay. Bob's first trip of the year on 9/18 yielded 5 nice chinook and 2 coho. A great way to start the season! Take advantage of our fall special:

Full day fishing trip AND accommodations for the night before the trip for 4 anglers for \$189.00 each! Call 503.377.9696 or send an e-mail to brees@pacifier.com now.

Willamette Valley/Metro- Even with the additional opportunity mainstream Columbia anglers have with the recent re-opener, chinook fishing has been only fair from Woodland to Bonneville Dam. Traditionally, action picks up in the Bonneville area this time of year as cooler temperatures and a slowing migration stimulates a good salmon bite.

Sturgeon anglers are also taking advantage of the liberalized 7 day/week season and catch rates are on the increase. Boat anglers averaged a keeper for every 2 rods while bank anglers took home a keeper for every 8 rods.

Plug pullers are taking a few coho and an occasional steelhead in the stretch of the Willamette from the mouth of the Clackamas to Meldrum Bar. Sturgeon fishing has yet to heat up in the lower river but will improve into the fall and winter months.

Rain has brought coho into the Clackamas River and plenty of anglers can be found at Eagle Creek. Jigs have been outfishing spinners. On the Sandy, prior to the rain, trolling for coho and a few chinook was good at the mouth reports **pro guide Brandon Glass (503-260-8285)**. The rise in river level has triggered the in-river migration and anglers are pursuing coho to Cedar Creek.

South Santiam steelheaders are hooking up with bobber and jig while McKenzie River fishing has been slow lately.

Mt Hood Pond, Detroit Reservoir and Dexter Reservoir are scheduled to be planted with trout.

Northwest – Heavy concentrations of seaweed hampered fishing success for Tillamook Bay anglers this week but peak season is here for this favored October fishery. Large fish continue to hit the docks in Garibaldi with numerous high 30 and low 40 pound fish already weighed this season. Weaker tides this week should tame seaweed problems but the ocean will likely remain too rough to recreate in.

River levels were on the rise at mid-week on most coastal systems. Chinook should be accessible to driftboaters on the Trask, Nehalem and Nestucca Rivers. This will also be a bank anglers best chance at a bright fish this season. The lower stretches will produce the best catches as river rises are predicted to only be moderate.

Crabbing has been excellent in the lower Columbia and only a rare coho is being caught near the Astoria/Megler Bridge.

Pro Guide Bill Kremers (541 754 6411) reports that Chinook fishing is still slow on Yaquina Bay but crabbing is fair for big, hard-shelled keepers.

The Alsea Bar has produced nicely this season although the action has been sporadic on a day to day basis.

Siletz anglers have seen an increase in catch rates with the recent precipitation but fishing is still only fair.

Register by Saturday, October 6th at local Newport merchants for the U Da Man salmon tournament at Yaquina Bay on the 14th.

Chinook catches picked up in the Siuslaw recently with the stretch from Florence to Swisshome the most productive. **Pro Guide Jeff Jackson (541-268-6944)** confirms that fishing is still good here.

Southwest – Siltcoos and Tahkenitch lakes opened for wild coho on October 1st. Most anglers troll spinners and plugs for these fish.

Trollers in Winchester Bay picked up fair to good numbers of chinook over the weekend. Rain this week have cooled water on the Umpqua and it's expected to have a positive effect on the chinook and steelhead bite.

Coos Bay delighted trollers over the weekend, producing limits of bright Chinook for some although the wind was fierce at times. Flashers and plug-cut herring have been effective as long as the bait or lure is kept very near bottom. Keep droppers 18 inches with leaders at five feet in 15 to 20 feet of water.

Rain has roiled the Coquille to the point that it was unfishable on Monday this week.

Chinook and half-pounder fishing has been slow on the lower Rogue. The Grants Pass stretch (Hog Creek boat ramp to Gold Ray Dam) closed to Chinook fishing on October 1st. It remains open to hatchery steelhead and coho.

The ocean re-opened to chinook fishing on October 1st from Twin Rocks to the California border. Known as the Chetco Hog season, this fishery extends three nautical miles offshore and historically generates the largest fish of the season. Anglers may keep one fish per day and four per year through October 14th.

Boaters launching out of Brookings have been experiencing excellent bottom fishing.

Lost Creek Reservoir (Klamath watershed) is scheduled to be stocked with hatchery trout.

Eastern – Fly anglers are hitting good numbers of trout during afternoons with Blue-Winged Olive patterns.

With over 200,000 steelhead having crossed The Dalles Dam, fishing has been good and improving in the lower Deschutes. The upper Deschutes closed for the year on October 1st.

Lost Creek Reservoir (Deschutes watershed) and Taylor Lake are scheduled to be planted.

SW Washington – With chinook fishing closed on most SW Washington streams, effort has switched to coho. Success has been fair on the Cowlitz near the mouth of the Toutle and at the hatchery on the Lewis River. Catch and release fishing for chinook has been good on the Lewis as well.

Drano Lake will close to sportfishing from 6 pm Tuesdays to 6 pm Wednesdays during tribal fisheries in October.

The Klickitat is producing small catches of chinook in the lower reaches.

Columbia River Fishing Report – A more liberalized season hasn't motivated the masses but anglers are still catching a few salmon from the mouth of the Sandy upstream to Bonneville Dam. **Pro guide Brandon Glass (503-260-8285)** reports, "Fishing at the mouth of the Sandy has been very productive on the most part with a few slow days thrown in. The Coho bite was very good last week, but since the rain, it has slowed down. The way of fishing has been trolling wiggle warts at a quick speed about 2.5 mph for these hard biting Coho. The spin casters have been picking up fish also throwing blue foxes with additional lead attached above the spinner. The bite has been very spotty with the bites being the best around the low and high tides." Brandon added this on the chinook fishing, "Kings have been good out around the mouth as well I have been producing multiply fish trolling forward sardine wrapped Kwikfish. The fish on the most part have been keep-able, but there have been a few darker ones around. The catching should be good for the remainder of the month."

Additional reports from the Bonneville area are not particularly productive. This is the time of year when backrolled Kwikfish can produce good catches of both bright and dark fish. Momentum for this fishery has not yet built but this fishery begins to peak now. Better reports will come in the following week but you'll see this as a top pick in the forecast section for this segment of the river.

Upstream of Bonneville, WDF&W is reporting good catches of chinook. Between all the species present (including jacks) the average per boat catch for salmon and steelhead is over a fish per boat!

The sturgeon fishery may be more intriguing and would make for a nice combo day in the Bonneville area. The bite is picking up as is traditionally the case. The bank fishery typically experiences some of the best fishing of the year and last weeks check showed 63 keepers for 276 bank rods. Boaters meanwhile tallied just 2 keepers for 8 boats. With a more stable, 7-day/week fishery, we won't witness the big "opening day" catches that we would for the last few years. It will be more consistent and success more spread out which should make for more tolerable fishing conditions.

The lower Columbia is starting to produce some great catches of crab although one charter boat captain stated you have to work for them if you are expecting limits. The crabbing should get better as the fall progresses but this crab fishery can easily be one of the most productive in the state. You may have to ward off seals however as they will be fierce competitors for your crab bait.

The Guide's Forecast – The Bonneville area will be a place to target as water temperatures drop and salmon migration slows. Anglers shouldn't be fooled by a dropping fish passage rate as more localized stocks will be present. I guess we'll have to pay attention to the following gillnet openings however as they will certainly effect the bite in the Bonneville area. Openings for Zones 4 & 5 take place throughout the gorge to Bonneville Dam. The openings are as follows:

Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery		
Target Coho	7 AM through 7 PM Monday October 1, 2007	(12 hours)
	7 AM through 7 PM Wednesday October 3, 2007	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-3	
Gear:	6-inch maximum mesh size unslackened floater gillnet	
Target Chinook		(12 hours)
	7 PM Wednesday October 3 to - 7AM Thursday October 4	(12 hours)
	7 PM Thursday October 4 to - 7AM Friday October 5	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5	
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	
Target Sturgeon	7 AM through 7 PM Thursday October 4, 2007	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	9-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	

It'll likely be after the weekend before fish settle down enough to go on the bite again. When they do, Kwikfish will rule the roost and action should be good until the next gillnet opener. Fishery managers will be meeting again on Friday to discuss the possibility for additional time in the following week.

If it's coho you want to target, the weekend should afford some opportunity although tides won't be all that conducive to productive fishing in the estuary. There are some good evening tides however but that won't benefit the sport fleet. Trollers working the mouths of the Sandy and Washougal as well as some areas in the gorge may find a few willing participants but overall action should be a bit slim this week. Trolled plugs are most likely to take any willing biters.

Crabbing may be the best bet for anglers working the estuary. Buoys 20 and 22 have been producing the best catches but some areas on lower Desdemona Sands can produce nice catches as well. Watch the weather as you'll want to pick your days. The lower Columbia is a big body of water and safety plays a much bigger role this time of year.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Flows at Willamette Falls are fluctuating with rainfall but the visibility has improved to 6.6 feet. The water temperature is in the high 50s, encouraging coho movement. A total of 582 coho had crossed as of October 2nd. Recreational anglers have been speculating about the quality of this year's run.

Steelheaders had a good week on the North Santiam with fish taken at many locations from Stayton Island up to Packsaddle Park. Recycling of fish from the Minto and Foster traps has been discontinued for the year.

The Guide's Forecast – Trollers will pick up a few silvers on plugs in the stretch from Meldrum

Bar to the Clackamas River mouth. Wiggle warts have been the lure of choice. While sturgeon fishing has shown slight improvement, it will turn on in the coming weeks and deliver a better number of keeper-sized fish. Sturgeon retention will be allowed seven days a week through the remainder of the year.

Steelheading should heat up on the McKenzie below Leaburg Dam starting around mid-October.

With Detroit Reservoir 30 feet below summer levels, water must be released to ensure that the reservoir will properly serve as flood control in the winter months. Additional water is also being released from Big Cliff Dam to ensure spawning habitat for Chinook. Combined with rain in the forecast, it's likely the river level will rise over the coming weeks. Steelheading should hold up, however, and with light traffic, the Santiam will be a pleasant alternative to crowded salmon fisheries. Use bait to tempt steelhead as the water cools.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Coho have been challenging on the Clackamas recently. It seems those fishing cured eggs are taking the most fish. Only a handful are being landed daily at the popular bowling alley hole. Colorful summer steelhead are also available on the Clack. The Clack is running muddy below Carver.

Anglers targeting coho have done much better on the Sandy since the rain started. Keepers have come from the Dodge Park area, Oxbow and amidst the crowds at Cedar Creek. Several anglers limited out over the weekend. Rain started to muddy the water Monday afternoon but some coho fishers like it that way and actually do better in low visibility.

The Guide's Forecast – Steelheading is expected to be more productive on the Clackamas than coho angling this weekend. If targeting coho, however, try drifting cured eggs or fish them under a float as that has been more effective than hardware recently. Rain should improve the numbers of fish available.

Persistence should pay off on the Sandy as numbers of coho present are good and catches have reflected it. Coho are scattered but will congregate below Cedar Creek.

North Coast Fishing Report – Tillamook Bay remains top dog on the north coast but foul weather recently has dulled the excitement. Although recently, the bite has been mediocre, it has picked up with decent results on Tuesday and Wednesday noticeably better than the weekend. Weakening tides have higher concentrations of people fishing along the jetty (the ocean is simply NOT an option) but action in the middle and upper bay has been fair. On Wednesday, the best bite took place on the second half of outgoing tide along the jetty using herring for bait. The ocean has been so rough and frankly, the wind too, that it has made fishing in the jaws somewhat sketchy. On outgoing tide- coincidentally, the best time to fish, the force of the water exacerbates the westerly swell making the bar worsen than as if it was incoming tide. None-the-less, the ocean is huge with no sign of reprieve. The upper bay fishery has been mostly a spinner show with seaweed becoming more of a non-factor in the weaker tide exchanges.

Tidewater fishing has been hit or miss but there was some great fishing reported in the Trask tidewater on Monday (October 1st). Bobber and bait produced some good catches in the near-bay holes on the lower tidewater section. Tillamook River tidewater and the ditch between the 2 rivers just upstream of the Netarts Highway Bridge is holding some fish as well.

Although the bump in water levels was only about a foot with the recent rainfall, it was likely enough to get fish moving on the lower reaches of the Trask, Tillamook, Nestucca and maybe

even the Wilson River. I checked out the Trask on the evening of the 3rd at the Highway 101 Ramp and it looked "fishy". I didn't see any trailers in the parking lot so didn't get the feeling it was being fished this day.

The Nestucca River was getting good reports **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-392-5808)**. Jesse had been getting many opportunities each day in the tidewater section of the Nestucca but action slowed down with the storm systems moved in. Most of the action had been taking place on bait and bobbers but Jesse stated the spinner bite picked up considerably in recent days. It's likely a good bunch of fish have moved upstream with the recent rain freshet but since the rain was not a real "gully washer", there should still be fish present in the tidewater sections and hopefully some fresh ones moving in.

Further south on the Salmon River, action is picking up but effort is running high right now. Chinook are on the move as one angler reported from Otis. Bank anglers are catching both wild coho and chinook in the lower sections and this action won't last much longer. The Salmon peaks a bit earlier than many north coast streams and we're on the tail-end of this fishery. Bank access is pretty good however so check this fishery out if you are bank-bound.

The Nehalem remains poor, period! If the fish are going to show, they had better do it sometime in the very near future. It'll likely happen but some watersheds are showing signs of stress and it could very well be one of those years for Nehalem fish. Crabbing remains fair at best in most of the coastal estuaries north of Nestucca.

The Guide's Forecast – Beginning with the bay, with river levels only slightly on the rise this week, action should remain good- especially in the jaws on the north jetty- inside the bay. The ocean will very likely remain closed but weak tides should allow chinook to enter the bay on most of the outgoing tide. Be sure to have all your gear fishing however the second half of outgoing tide, especially near low slack. Bites in this area can be epic at times and you want to be sure to take full advantage of it. Herring fished on the bottom will produce the best action and it will be best to make sure your gear is fishing weed-free. The closer we get to low slack, the more tolerable the seaweed should be. It'll be a week of low tide exchanges to don't expect great fishing in the upper bay or tidewater sections of most north coast streams however if river levels rise enough to motivate fish to move, these sections of the bay and lower river can produce some good results. It's all dependent on the precipitation.

And how about that driftboat season? Can it really be underway? Although it may remain difficult to get driftboats down most sections of north coast streams, anglers versed in low water tactics can take advantage of some good numbers of salmon likely to move into these watersheds. Top on the list will be the Trask, Nestucca, Tillamook and Nehalem Rivers in that order. Don't overlook the Salmon River if you have access to some productive water. These should all produce catches of both bright and dark salmon over the weekend. The lower in the river you fish, the more likely you are to find fresh fish. The higher the flows go, the higher in the watershed these fresh fish will travel. It just doesn't look like river levels are going to rise too high.

Don't even give the ocean a thought, it isn't going to happen. Crabbing should pick up slightly and the weaker tides should make for some better opportunity. The seaweed isn't likely to foul your pots as bad either. Netarts will likely top the list but Tillamook and Nestucca Bays should also produce fair results. Don't have high expectations however.

Central & South Coast Reports – Offshore bottom fishing re-opened outside the 40-fathom line on October 1st but it looks like no one will be able to get out this weekend.

Following an improvement in catches once rain started falling and fair fishing over the past weekend, action on the Siletz slowed to a crawl this week.

Yaquina Bay has yet to produce any large catches of Chinook but crabbing for big, hard-shelled keepers is picking up. Register by Saturday, October 6th at local merchants for the U Da Man salmon tournament at Yaquina Bay on the 14th. Competitors registering by the deadline will get a free tee shirt. Anglers may register after that date, but there's no shirt schwag.

Pro Guide Bill Kremers (541 754 6411) reports, "Chinook fishing is still slow on Yaquina Bay. It seems that there are more native coho around than chinook. Hoping that will change this week. Crabbing is only fair, but the crabs are big and hard so it is worth putting out a few pots while you go fishing. "

Pro Guide Jeff Jackson (541-268-6944) reports, "Fishing is still good here on the Siuslaw. Fish are being picked up from Florence to Swisshome and beyond. Pick your favorite method and get out there!"

The Siuslaw Chinook action did slow somewhat Monday and Tuesday this week.

Anglers trolling Winchester Bay and Umpqua tidewater have experienced sporadic catches of Chinook and coho. Spinner flingers targeting smallies in the Elkton area have occasionally encountered steelhead and sea-run cutthroat. Smallmouth bass fishing has held up well but the action will cool as rain reduces water temperatures. Steelhead fishing, slow all season on the North Umpqua, hasn't improved with precipitation. The South Umpqua remains closed to all angling until December 1.

Coos Bay Chinook fishing has continued to hold up well, delivering chores of salmon. Flashers and plug-cut herring have been effective as long as the bait or lure is kept very near bottom. Keep droppers 18 inches with leaders at five feet in 15 to 20 feet of water. Sea run cutthroat trout are also available and will take a variety of lures aggressively.

Rain has roiled the Coquille to the point that it was unfishable on Monday this week. Prior to this situation, chinook fishing was spotty.

Chinook, coho and half-pounder fishing has been slow to fair on the lower Rogue. The Grants Pass stretch (Hog Creek boat ramp to Gold Ray Dam) closed to Chinook fishing on October 1st and closed above the dam earlier this year. The river remains open to hatchery steelhead and coho.

The 2007 Chetco River Ocean Terminal Area Fall Chinook Salmon Fishery is underway off the Chetco River and will provide an opportunity to boat the largest salmon of the season. The biggest baits of the year are trolled in anticipation of hooking up with one of these big Chinook. Usually, one need travel no further than the tips of the jetties to find fish. The ocean is open for three nautical miles offshore from Twin Rocks to the California border through October 14th.

Dave Pitts, Field Editor for Salmon Trout and Steelhead adds this: "The Chetco River started producing a bite last week in the estuary area, since then rain has hit the area and will continue for the next week. This should trigger a push of fresh fish into the system. Trollers should take into consideration that water temps will drop with these rains; fish will not seek deeper slots but instead suspend themselves to find that tolerable water column.

"Trollers can either use drop sinkers or a banana inline sinker. Since the 14 day ocean season began the 1st of October trollers need to remember that treble hooks are okay in the river but

single barbless must be used in the ocean. Trollers should troll from the estuary along the North Jetty and out through the Chetco's mouth towards salmon rock turning and trolling past the mouth and in front of the Best Western Beach. Be careful to stay well away from the rollers and swells. Salmon will stage just outside the mouth and along the Southern Jetty. These fish at this time of year will more times than not be large and in charge.

"Forty Pound Maxima is not uncommon to use here. Fishing in the low to mid fifties are taken each year. If troll plug cut baits be sure to remove the entrails and vent the bait so water does not collect balloon and blow out your baits. Rogue rigs and Pro Troll Roto Chips are also used.

"Even though this fishery is more times than not shallow down riggers are used for a more consistent depth. Anglers should also note that more big fish over 50 pounds have been taken on the wire at less than 30 feet. Rule of thumb if using two downriggers set one at 20 and the other at 30. Troll speeds should be within 2.2 to 2.7 mph. Depending on boat traffic if light make corners and watch the inside rod as this offering will drop out on speed and fall slightly, kings like this natural look and will pick it up.

"The Smith River just across the border is also beginning to produce a good bite to those who cast spoons."

Central and Eastern Oregon – Steelheading has been good on the lower Grande Ronde River. The last two or three mile stretch and around the mouth produced multiple fish for anglers over the weekend.

Wickiup has been good for browns and will only get better in the next few weeks.

Pro Guide Rick Arnold (541-480-1570) reports, "After much of Sept. off, I finally got back out for the fall bull trout drill. Most of the spawners are upriver but we caught a lot of smaller bulls with the biggest going around 5 Lb. We caught them on A/C kokanee plugs and Bomber B-16's off of downriggers. On three days we fished last week, we caught and released 17, 20 and 7 bulls per day. The Metolius Arm closes on Oct.31.

"I have a trip planned to Lake Kootenay, BC, Canada for the giant gerrard rainbows the last half of Oct. Look for an article on our website on our return. Should be back to chasing the bulls and browns in Nov. when I am back."

Northwest Trout – From an ODFW Bulletin dated October 2, 2007:

"Albany, Ore. — The water is cooling down and the angling at Junction City Pond is about to heat up. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will stock Junction City Pond with 3,000 winter steelhead weighing approximately one pound each the week of Oct. 1.

"These are really nice looking fish and they're really fun to catch," says Timothy Wright, Leaburg Hatchery Manager. "It's something different than the normal rainbow trout. Families are going to have a blast catching these."

"ODFW is taking advantage of this year's successful winter steelhead production, giving anglers an opportunity to harvest some of these special trout. Recently, several amenities have been installed at Junction City pond including a gravel trail for persons with disabilities and a wooden boardwalk. These improvements were made possible by an ODFW Restoration and Enhancement program and is just one of the many projects that the program supports throughout the state.

"For other angling opportunities, visit the Easy Angling section of ODFW's web site at http://www.dfw.state.or.us/easy_angling/index.asp"

Please see **Random Links**, below, for additional information on access for differently-abled anglers.

Detroit Reservoir and Dexter Reservoir in the Willamette Zone will be planted with 5,000 eight to 10- inch hatchery trout at each location. Mt Hood Pond will receive 450 rainbows, 50 of which will be 12 inches in length.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report **October 3rd – October 16th, 2007**

North Puget Sound

Fishing: The **coho salmon** catch has improved this year in Puget Sound, and saltwater anglers fishing for silvers should continue to do well over the next couple weeks as the run pushes into the region's rivers and streams.

"We normally start to transition in the marine areas from coho to **blackmouth** and **chum salmon** about mid-October," said Steve Thiesfeld, a fish biologist with WDFW. "So saltwater anglers should still have a shot at catching some nice silvers in the next couple of weeks."

Anglers who took part in the recent Everett Coho Derby benefited from a better bite this fall. A record catch of 1,166 coho was weighed in during the two-day event. That's well above last year's total of 410 silvers. Adam Dierck turned out to be the derby's big winner. Dierck hauled in a 17.11-pound coho, taking home the \$2,500 first prize in the adult division. Larry Munson, who weighed in a 15.98-pound coho, finished second and pocketed \$1,500, while Marcella Rockenbach's 15.79-pound silver was good enough for third place and \$1,000. In the kids' division, Jason Nemnich took first with a 13.07-pound coho.

Anglers looking to get an early start on the region's blackmouth season can head to Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), where they can keep one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit. Blackmouth fishing opportunities will expand Oct. 16, when anglers in Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) also will be allowed to keep one chinook as part of that area's daily limit of two salmon.

In the freshwater, several rivers are open for salmon, including portions of the Stillaguamish and Skagit. Anglers fishing the Stillaguamish have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chinook. Anglers on the Skagit River are allowed two salmon daily, but must release chinook and pink salmon.

Elsewhere, anglers fishing on Lake Sammamish have a daily limit of two salmon measuring at least 12 inches. All sockeye must be released, and salmon fishing is closed within 100 yards of the mouth of Issaquah Creek. Lake Washington also is open for salmon. Anglers have a daily limit of two coho per day (minimum size 12 inches) from waters north of the Highway 520 Bridge and east of the Montlake Bridge. Chinook salmon must be released.

Before heading out, anglers should check the rules and regulations for all freshwater and saltwater fisheries in WDFW's Fishing in Washington pamphlet

(<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>).

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

Fishing: With **salmon** moving from the coast to area bays and rivers, anglers have a number of new fishing areas to consider, ranging from the Strait of Juan de Fuca to southern Puget Sound. On the other hand, those still hoping to catch some ocean salmon can do so off La Push, where the late-season fishery continues through Oct. 7.

Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist, is encouraging anglers to take advantage of a new fishery that opened Oct. 1 in Marine Area 6 (Port Angeles). "The entire area's open for fishing and people can keep wild or hatchery **coho** and **blackmouth**," he said. "We've had a great season this year and folks should get out there before it closes in November." The daily combined limit is two and anglers can keep one chinook.

A non-selective **blackmouth** fishery also opened Oct. 1 in Marine Area 11 (Vashon Island to the Tacoma Narrows Bridge), where anglers will be allowed to retain wild chinook. Anglers in Marine Area 13 may also retain wild chinook, but must release all wild coho through Oct. 31. Other fishing opportunities coming up in Puget Sound include **chum** and **blackmouth** retention in all of Hood Canal beginning Oct. 16.

More area rivers also open for fall fishing Oct. 16. A portion of the Dungeness River in Clallam County opens for **trout** and **coho** only. A section of the Hoh River from Willoughby Creek to Morgan's Crossing boat launch also opens for salmon fishing Oct. 16. In Pacific County, anglers can start fishing for salmon in the Willapa River from the Highway 6 Bridge to Fork Creek. Anglers are advised to check WDFW's *2006/2007 Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for details before fishing these waters.

Meanwhile, many anglers showed up Oct. 1 for river openings in Grays Harbor County but left empty-handed, said Scott Barbour, WDFW fish biologist. "It could be the weather," he said. "We've had some heavy rains and the rivers were blown out. When that happens the fish have a tendency to move and don't bite much."

Even though anglers were posted all along the Chehalis and at least 100 boats dotted John's River, only about 20 chinook were taken on opening day, said Barbour. Anglers didn't fair any better in Grays Harbor either where the effort was high, but the catch was low. "It can only get better," he said.

Farther north, the recent rain along the north coast is bringing salmon into the Quillayute system, said Mike Gross, WDFW fish biologist. But it's a mixed blessing. "The area finally got some much-needed rain, but too much makes the water murky and fishing becomes difficult," Gross said. Still, the fish are showing up, especially in the Sol Duc where anglers are mainly finding coho. Gross reminds those fishing the Quillayute system that new selective gear rules are in effect through Oct. 31 and that all wild coho must be released. Before heading out, check WDFW's *2006/2007 Fishing in Washington* pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for details.

Southwest Washington:

Fishing: Anglers can again retain **chinook salmon** they catch in the mainstem Columbia River, although they should also be aware that late-run hatchery **coho** are moving into the Cowlitz River and other tributaries in increasing numbers. **Sturgeon** fishing, meanwhile, continues to be productive from the Wauna power lines upstream to Bonneville Dam, where the fishery is now scheduled to remain open seven days per week through the end of the year.

After closing for several days late last month, the retention fishery for **chinook** was reopened to Columbia River anglers from Buoy 10 at the river mouth up to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco. A late surge of upper river brights past Bonneville Dam immediately following the closure boosted the projected run size, allowing fishery managers to reopen the catch-and-keep sport fishery for chinook, said Cindy LeFleur, Columbia River policy advisor for WDFW.

"At the lower run size, the commercial fishery still had some chinook salmon available under its allocation, but the recreational fishery had already taken its share," LeFleur said. "But with more fish coming in, both sectors will be able to keep fishing for chinook."

While catch rates for chinook have been fairly low in the lower river, the fishery is still going strong in the Bonneville Pool. During the sampling period ending Sept. 30, a total of 41 boat anglers were interviewed with 24 adult chinook, 16 jacks, six hatchery coho and six hatchery steelhead. Anglers have also been catching some chinook and coho on the Klickitat River, which remains open to chinook under permanent rules.

Unlike the Klickitat River, nine tributaries to the lower Columbia River have been closed to chinook retention in an effort to protect wild "tule" stocks, listed for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act. Those rivers include the Cowlitz, Lewis, North Fork Lewis, Elochoman, Toutle, North Fork Toutle, Green (in Cowlitz County), Kalama and Washougal, including Camas Slough.

But fishing for **hatchery coho** is far from over on several of those rivers, said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist. Returns of late-run coho are on the rise, and are expected to peak in mid-to-late October in the Cowlitz, Lewis, Elochoman, Kalama and Washougal rivers, as well as the Klickitat River, he said. In addition, recent rains now have early-run coho on the move in the Grays, Elochoman, Kalama, and Toutle rivers.

"The fishery for the early-run stocks won't last long, but could be good if anglers hit it right," Hymer said. "Meanwhile, fishing for the late-run fish should keep getting better over the next few weeks. Last week, nearly a thousand late-run coho returned to the Cowlitz Hatchery, indicating that we're moving into prime time for late coho fishing."

Fishery managers are expecting returns of about 20,000 late-run coho to the Cowlitz River, 8,000 to the Lewis, 2,000 to the Kalama and 1,000 to the Elochoman - all somewhat lower than last year, Hymer said. But "bonus bags" will be in effect, allowing anglers to keep up to four adult hatchery coho per day on most tributaries to the lower Columbia - and six on the Cowlitz River, he said.

"We want to give anglers every opportunity to catch those fish," Hymer said. "This year's returns could easily be higher than expected and it could turn into quite a fishery."

Meanwhile, **sturgeon** anglers continue to fish seven days per week between Bonneville Dam and the Wauna power lines under a new rule approved by fishery managers from Washington and Oregon late last month. At the time, only 8,400 of the 14,500 white sturgeon available for harvest in that area had been taken, allowing the two states to forgo a previously scheduled shift to a four-day-per-week fishery Oct. 1.

During the weeklong sampling period ending Sept. 30, anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam added 42 legal-size sturgeon to the running catch total and those fishing near Longview added five more. "This is usually the time of year we see the catch start to pick up," said Brad James, another WDFW fish biologist.

Walleye anyone? Four boat anglers fishing off Washougal had 11 on their stringer during a creel check late last month. **Trout** anglers, on the other hand, might want to try dropping a line in Goose Lake. It was planted with nearly 1,600 one-pound cutthroats Sept. 26.

Eastern Washington:

Fishing: October can be one of the best times to fish for **trout** in the region's many lakes that remain open through the month. "Water temperatures have dropped with air temperatures and recent rain, and fish are more actively biting than they were last month," said Curt Vail, WDFW northeast district fish biologist of Colville. "Our cutthroat waters are especially good now."

Good bets for cutthroat right now are Browns, Frater, Halfmoon, Marshall, Muskegon, Mystic, No-Name, Petit and Yocum lakes in Pend Oreille County; Deep Lake in Stevens County; and Davis and Long lakes in Ferry County. Some have special rules - Brown Lake is restricted to fly fishing and no motor boats. Muskegon Lake has selective gear rules and two-trout catch limit. So Vail advised reading the regulations pamphlet carefully before fishing.

"McDowell Lake should also be good for rainbows now, since we rehabilitated it last year to get rid of tench," Vail said. "And Starvation Lake's triploid rainbow fry plants should be of good size now." McDowell is on the Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge just east of Colville and Starvation is near the refuge, southeast of Colville. McDowell is fly-fishing-only and catch-and-release with no motorized boats. Starvation has been catch-and-release since June and also has selective gear rules.

The best **steelhead** catch rates recently measured on the Snake River drainage in the southeast district are in the stretches of the mainstem river from Lower Granite Dam to above the Interstate bridge at Clarkston. There, anglers were spending from a little over six to almost nine hours per steelhead caught. The stretches between Lower Monumental to Little Goose dams and from the Oregon state line to the mouth of the Walla Walla River were averaging between 17 and 18 hours of angling effort per steelhead caught. The complete creel summary through Sept. 30 is available on the Eastern Region webpage at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/creel/snake/index.htm>.

North Central Washington:

Fishing: Hatchery **steelhead** fisheries will open this month on portions of the upper Columbia River and several tributaries, including the first steelhead fishery on the Wenatchee River in 10 years. Starting Oct. 6, anglers will be allowed to fish for hatchery steelhead on the upper Columbia River mainstem - from Wells Dam upstream to 400 feet below Chief Joseph Dam - and on portions of the Methow and Okanogan rivers.

Several other hatchery steelhead fisheries also will open Oct. 22 on the upper Columbia River mainstem, from Rock Island Dam upstream to Wells Dam, as well as a 20-mile stretch of the Wenatchee River. In all fisheries anglers will have a daily limit of two adipose-fin-clipped hatchery steelhead. Steelhead with an intact adipose fin, and those bearing an anchor tag, must be immediately released unharmed without being removed from the water.

For the fisheries in the Columbia River mainstem, statewide freshwater rules apply. In the Okanogan, Methow and Wenatchee rivers, selective gear rules apply. A night closure is in effect for all these open areas.

Approved by NOAA Fisheries, the hatchery steelhead fisheries target an abundant return of hatchery fish that exceeds the number needed to meet spawning goals. Wild steelhead returns to the region are also up this year. The fisheries will not impede recovery of wild steelhead listed for protection under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), said WDFW Director Jeff Koenings. "Anglers need to do their part and follow the rules if these selective fishing opportunities are

going to continue into the future," Koenings said.

Areas that will open to fishing for hatchery steelhead Oct. 6 include:

Mainstem Columbia River: From Wells Dam upstream to 400 feet below Chief Joseph Dam.

Methow River: From the Highway 97 Bridge in Pateros upstream to the second powerline crossing, and from the first Highway 153 Bridge north of Pateros to the confluence with the Chewuch River in Winthrop. The second powerline crossing upstream to the first Highway 153 Bridge is closed to fishing.

Okanogan River: From the mouth upstream except closed waters from the Lake Osoyoos Control Dam (Zosel Dam) downstream to a quarter mile below the railroad trestle. The area from 500 feet below the Highway 155 Bridge (Central Street) at Omak to a line across the river 500 feet above the mouth of Omak Creek will close March 1, 2008.

Areas opening to fishing for hatchery steelhead Oct. 22 include:

Mainstem Columbia River: From Rock Island Dam upstream to Wells Dam.

Wenatchee River: From the mouth upstream to the Icicle Road Bridge at the west end of Leavenworth.

In addition, the Similkameen River also will open to hatchery steelhead retention later this year. Beginning Nov. 15, anglers can fish for hatchery steelhead from the mouth to the Railroad Trestle Bridge. Additional regulations for the fisheries are available on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

WDFW district fish biologist Bob Jateff of Omak reports anglers are still catching **summer chinook salmon** on the Columbia River near the state park in Bridgeport. Chinook fishing within the area above Wells Dam on the Columbia will continue until Oct.15.

Jameson Lake in Douglas County, which has been closed since July 4, just re-opened Oct.1 for a month of **rainbow trout** fishing. Jateff says prospects are good for rainbows in two age classes - this year's plants up to 11 inches and winter carryovers to 15 inches.

WDFW enforcement officers recently cited some anglers for not playing by the rules at Rat Lake near Brewster in Okanogan County. The 63-acre **rainbow** and **brown trout** lake is currently under a catch-and-release season with selective gear rules. WDFW sergeant Jim Brown says anglers were warned during a routine patrol not to use bait or retain fish, but a second check of the lake just two hours later revealed 25 dead rainbows and the use of barbed hooks with bait and multiple lines. Rat Lake shifts to a catch-and-keep season with standard gear on Dec. 1.

South Central Washington:

Fishing: WDFW fish biologist Paul Hoffarth reports **salmon** angling effort on the Yakima River is picking up. WDFW fish creel staff recently interviewed 118 anglers with an estimated 39 adult salmon and 36 jacks. Anglers interviewed, who represented 22 percent of all those on the water, averaged 18.5 hours per fish caught.

"Yakima River anglers are catching a high percentage of jacks," Hoffarth said. "As of Sept. 30, a total of 49 adult salmon and 51 jacks were harvested."

Salmon fishing on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River near the Tri-Cities recently jumped,

likely due in part to a fishing derby. The last creel check (through Sept. 30) week counted 265 adult chinook and 97 jacks caught compared to 204 adult and 21 jacks at this time last year. Anglers averaged one fish for every two rods, or one fish for every 13.4 pole hours of effort. Hoffarth said cooler weather and stable water flows may also have contributed to the higher catch rates on the Hanford Reach. Fish condition, with the cooler water temperatures in the low 60s, has been great, he said.

Reader Email -

Subscriber Dave H. wrote to ask, "I'm trying to get some info as to the latest regulation changes with salmon & steelhead. Is it true that we can no longer fish for them upriver from the Sandy & Salmon junction??"

Pro guide Bob Rees replied, "It's actually more extensive than that. No angling for salmon or steelhead above Marmot Dam. They ceased the summer steelhead stocking program here several years ago to come into compliance with what was then the wild fish management policy. All fish above Marmot are wild and not to be harassed but trout fishing is open and there is no limit on Brook Trout!"

Got a question, story to tell or information to share? Shoot us an Email!

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Michael Teague: Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

Oregon's Davis Lake featured in NY Times article:

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/22/sports/othersports/22outdoors.html?_r=1&ref=sports&oref=slogin

Updated Oregon Accessible Fishing Locations for the Disabled Angler:

<http://www.handiangler.com/Oregon-zones.html>

Testing of braided line for actual breaking point:

<http://www.sportfishingmag.com/article.jsp?ID=43558>

Weekly Quote – "The passion. Sometimes it's not about catching fish, but rather about a continuing natural order in the cosmos- something I can peg my world onto, something I can count on." - Ailm Travler

GOOD LUCK!