

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 12th – October 18th, 2007**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- Anglers fishing Bonneville Dam produced good catches of chinook on Monday. Backrolled plugs took the majority of fish as fish counts took a small upswing that day. Peak weeks for this fishery are underway but the quality of fish will fade after mid-month.

Boat anglers in the Bonneville area averaged nearly a keeper per rod this week while bank casters tallied a keeper for every 7 rods. These are also peak weeks for sturgeon fishing giving anglers a great opportunity for a mixed bag.

The water temperature of the lower Willamette is down to the mid-50s which has coho moving over the falls in double digits daily. Few anglers are taking advantage of a developing coho fishery above the falls. Sturgeon fishing has improved with a fair number of keepers reported over the past week. Smallmouth are still on the bite in the lower river but will shut down as the temperature drops.

Pro guide Jim Nicol (503-550-3166) reports doing well for coho trolling spinners above Willamette Falls despite modest counts.

The Clackamas water level is up this week which in bringing more coho into the river although the bite has been slow recently. If the weather breaks as forecast, this weekend should provide opportunities for late steelhead and bright coho.

Sandy coho anglers have been hitting fish with fair to good regularity. Expect plenty of company on or below Cedar Creek where anglers have had some stellar days. Hopefully, the start of deer and duck hunting season will thin out the crowds.

For those who can entice coho into biting, anglers can keep three hatchery coho daily on Eagle Creek, the Sandy and Clackamas Rivers thanks to good returns this year.

North Santiam level and flow increased as expected. While the weather is predicted to be dry this week, rain will return and the river will rise further as the season winds down.

Detroit Reservoir, Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake are scheduled to be stocked with trout this week.

Northwest – Tillamook Bay anglers have been largely restricted to fishing inside the bay this week. Large seas have most anglers focused in the Ghost Hole and the middle bay. Follow the fish up the bay as the tide progresses. Trask and Tillamook fish dominate the catches but the later returning Wilson and Kilchis fish are due to show.

Water levels rose enough to stimulate some fish up the Trask River last week. Since then, levels are on the drop making driftboating hazardous once again.

The Nestucca is spotty although good numbers of chinook are present. Reports of anglers mis-identifying large coho as chinook will still land the violator a ticket. Proper identification is critical.

Crabbing has been poor in Tillamook and slow in Nehalem Bay but continues to be good on the lower Columbia River.

Chinook fishing was slow on the Siletz in the first week of October. Spinners on the troll have been out-fishing herring.

Crabbing has been fair to good at Yaquina Bay but is getting a lot of pressure. It is hoped the chinook fishing will pick up for the "U Da Man" salmon tournament at Yaquina Bay on Sunday, October 14th.

Alsea Bay is getting a lot of pressure but chinook fishing is only fair at best.

Trollers are hooking only the occasional chinook on the Siuslaw by dragging plug cut herring very near the bottom. Crabbing has been fair. **Pro guide Jeff Jackson (541-268-6944)** reports the Siuslaw in upper tidewater is starting to pick up.

Southwest – High wind and waves are forecast for the weekend so count on fishing inside the bars or on the tributaries. If the wind is tolerable, crabbing in coastal bays and estuaries should be good.

Steelheading remains very slow on the North Umpqua due to poor returns this year.

Chinook fishing has been slow to fair for trollers at Coos Bay.

Diamond Lake has been producing good catches of trout in the eight-to-10-inch range. Be prepared for cold weather as it has snowed here recently.

The Chetco Hog ocean fishery has produced a few when boaters have been able to get out. Fortunately, chinook are also being taken inside Brookings Harbor.

The Rogue River recently turned on and fish to 40 pounds are being seen almost daily. The chinook seem to be favoring blue label herring this season over the traditional anchovy rig. Most believe this is the start of a good season ahead. **Dave Pitts, Field Editor** for Salmon Trout and Steelhead wrote to say the Rogue was hot on Monday, October 8th.

Eastern – Most anglers, whether flinging hardware or casting flies, were hooking at least one or two steelhead per day on the lower Deschutes last week although action slowed into the weekend. October caddis are hatching and catches of redband trout on imitating patterns have been good.

Plug pullers are lading fair to good numbers of coho on the John Day River above the dam.

SW Washington – Effort for coho is light on most SW Washington streams mostly due to lower than anticipated returns of hatchery coho. Chinook season remains closed on most lower Columbia tributaries.

The previously scheduled tribal fishery on Drano Lake has been cancelled allowing for a 7-day week sport season. Steelhead and a salmon are the target although catches should begin to taper in the coming weeks.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Some of the best action of the season is taking place at Bonneville Dam. The chinook are running and the fishing is good! It's a surprise considering the

season most of us had downriver of this fishery. **Pro guide Joe Salvey (503-349-1411)** reported great action over the last 3 fishing days, landing about 17 fish with several other opportunities. Kwikfish, as in K-16's rule the roost in this fishery and "double trouble" (chartreuse head/butt) has been a good color. Joe is backtrolling these behind jumbo jet divers with a sardine wrap to draw all his strikes. He is spending most of his time at the deadline and the bulk of his fish are bucks which cut the nicest. It's also an indication that the hens are soon to follow. Effort has been light but that may change when the word gets out.

Dam counts are still fair but steadily dropping. What remains impressive is that jacks are making up 1/3 of the run! Good news for the future although this jack count is not a record by any means of the imagination.

Sturgeon fishing in the area is also good. An improving bite for both bank and boat anglers is a replay of years past when October is a peak month for production in the gorge. Smelt is the most popular bait but shrimp and salmon bellies can also be productive. The shaker action is awesome reports **pro guide Trevor Storlie (503-307-5601)**. Trevor produced nearly 90 shakers the other day in just a short period of time. Oversize are still present and are occasionally taking the backtrolled Kwikfish intended for salmon. Be careful in your release and be aware that your favorite Kwikfish are in jeopardy! A recent check by ODF&W showed better than 2 keepers per boat in the gorge area.

A few coho are being taken by trollers near the mouth of the Washougal and Sandy Rivers. The late run coho are scarce however compared to the "A" run of fish so don't hold your hopes too high.

More gillnet seasons are on the horizon however which is sure to have some bearing on the sport success this week:

Fall Commercial Fishery

- 1 Adopted non-Indian Chinook-directed commercial fishing periods as follows:

Season:	7 PM Wednesday October 10 to 7 AM (12 hrs)
	Thursday October 11, 2007
	7 PM Thursday October 11 to 7 AM (12 hrs)
	Friday October 12, 2007
	7 PM Sunday October 14 to 7 AM (12 hrs)
	Monday October 15, 2007
	7 PM Monday October 15 to 7 AM (12 hrs)
	Tuesday October 16, 2007
	7 PM Tuesday October 16 to 7 AM (12 hrs)
	Wednesday October 17, 2007
	Zones 1-5.
aries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy and Washougal River sanctuaries are in effect.
Gear:	8 inch minimum and 9¾ inch maximum mesh size restrictions in effect.

- 2 Adopted a non-Indian coho- directed commercial fishing period as follows:

Season:	7 AM to 7 PM Thursday October 11, 2007	(12 hrs)
	Zones 1-3.	
aries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A, sanctuaries are in effect.	
Gear:	9¾ inch maximum mesh size restriction in effect.	

Further upriver, the John Day Pool and Arm are beginning to produce some decent catches of steelhead. ODF&W checks indicated no catch reported for 11 bank rods and 22 adipose fin-clipped steelhead, one coho adult, and four Chinook jacks kept, plus 17 unclipped steelhead released for 43 boats.

The Guide's Forecast – There's really no reason (except a prolonged gillnet season) that backtrolling plugs in the Bonneville area will continue to be productive for salmon fishers. This is a pretty intense gillnet opener however but it really just depends on the pressure in the gorge area. Re-refresh your sardine fillets regularly and make sure your plugs are tuned after the sardine wrap and it should be some slam dunk fishing up there.

You can couple your salmon trip with sturgeon if you have a fair supply of smelt handy. Smelt will be a top bait but there may be some other creative baits for sturgeon this time of year. Beware there are oversized fish still being caught so be cautious on how you handle these fish.

Although still several weeks away from peak, the John Day Pool steelhead fishery is beginning to heat up. Most of the action is coming from boat anglers but this fishery should begin to see increasing steelhead catches into early December. Trolled plugs are taking the majority of fish.

Crabbing is the last alternative on the lower Columbia and day tides will be pretty strong to expect great results. Focus your efforts on the high slack and have enough pots out there to make it worth your picking time as the productive crabbing won't last all that long.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Sturgeon fishermen had a fairly decent weekend with several keepers reported from the lower river. As a bonus, shakers will entertain while in search of larger dish and retention will be allowed seven days a week for the remainder of 2007. Water temperature at Willamette Falls is currently 55 degrees which is usually a little cool for bass fishing, but recent reports indicate that smallmouth are still providing a fair to good fishery. Daily coho passage at the Falls has been unimpressive with the total as of October 9th fewer than 800. Daily passage of fall Chinook and steelhead is negligible.

North Santiam level and flows will remain stable through the weekend but the next round of rain will cause an increase as the water will go into the river and not absorbed by the ground. Sporadic steelhead catches occurred over the past weekend.

Salmon are spawning on the McKenzie and the river has had little to offer anglers recently.

The Guide's Forecast – It's about time the sturgeon fishing picked up, but to be expected as the catches of keeper-sized fish coincided with precipitation. It will only get better with continued fall rains. Sturgeon haven't been too particular about what they eat recently with smelt, herring and sand shrimp equally effective. Anglers will do well to explore Portland Harbor to the Freemont Bridge. Trollers are picking up a few coho from Meldrum Bar to the mouth of the Clackamas.

Here's a good one, readers! It's in the Forecast section as we're predicting some anglers are going to avail themselves of this fishery. **Pro guide Jim Nicol (503-550-3166)** reports, "Fishing on the Upper Willamette for Coho has been excellent even with small counts over the Falls. I fished Sunday landing 10 of 11 and again on Monday landing 10 for 12. All 20 of the fish cut as good as any Coho I caught in the Astoria area. The fishery is unbelievable and no one is fishing for them. It is a spinner trolling, hands on fishing experience. The "take" is like a freight

train in your hands and the fishing is only going to get better as the counts over the Falls will start to increase in the next week. It is definitely a fishery that should not be overlooked."

Look for steelhead on the North Santiam in the stretch below Packsaddle Park. While these fish can be challenging, they remain in very good shape and the foliage alone is almost worth the trip.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Coho in the Clackamas have been tough to tempt. Rain earlier this month increased the rate and flow and while the level has been up and down, the trend shows the water dropping since October 4th. That additional water brought in additional fresh coho so the odds have improved.

Spinners have taken a few coho from the bank at Dodge Park on the Sandy River. It has been a first light bite with another flurry of activity in the evening although anglers making a natural presentation of good quality, cured salmon eggs have been hooking up all day. The greatest challenge on the Sandy recently has been finding a place to park, especially for Cedar Creek anglers. A few anglers have managed three-fish limits on the Sandy, but they're in the elite minority. Fishing has been good this week with bait, gear and fly anglers all hooking up at times. Many anglers are catching a disproportionate number of natives. Only fin-clipped fish may be retained.

The Guide's Forecast – About 15,000 coho are expected to return to the Sandy and the Clackamas may get as many as 20,000 coho this year. For those who can entice coho into biting, anglers can keep three hatchery coho daily on Eagle Creek and the Sandy and Clackamas rivers thanks to those good returns this year. Note that Cedar Creek is not included in this special regulation, so the bag limit will remain two per day. Sandy anglers will undoubtedly hit some fish, but while it has been very good some days, the bite has been nonexistent the next. As far as the Clackamas coho are concerned, it's expected to be spotty. Try bait under a bobber and if casting spinners, keep casting.

North Coast Fishing Report – It's a bad week to be a chinook on Tillamook Bay. The action has been good and many a hog has sacrificed himself this week. Monday was excellent and the weather was "Chamber of Commerce" as upper bay fishing has taken off real good. Large fish continue to make up a part of the creel with a good handful of 40 pounders taken and scores in the high 30's. The spinner bite is good and Wednesday was another good day once the tide started coming in. Several boats did well what little outgoing tide we had in the upper bay too. Shifting sands has channels a bit confused up there but you will see other boats effectively fishing the proper slots. The standard green dot and blue dot/half orange/half brass have been good colors. Herring have also been working well in the upper bay although seaweed is frequently fouling the baits making for some challenging fishing at times.

Lower bay fishing has been tough however with seaweed a major impediment to success. The Ghost Hole, Bay City and along the jetty, people have been struggling for any amount of success. This is rather typical this time of year as most fish are destined for the Trask and Tillamook Rivers. Hence, the upper bay is producing well. On a standard tide, I'll start at Bay City and work my way into the upper bay as the tide progresses, landing at the mouth of the Wilson at high slack. This week, we have some strong incoming tides coupled with the fact the ocean is closed and biters are not getting culled in the ocean fishery. It's a good week to be fishing the upper reaches of Tillamook Bay!

A few coho are showing in the catches so be sure you positively identify your fish before you bring it on board! It's a problem on the Nestucca as well as **pro guide Jesse Zalonis (503-**

392-5808) can attest to. Jesse reports, "The Nestucca tidewater is slow at best. There are fish here, but there has been no consistent bite. The best area over the last several days has been around PC and spinners seem to be working well. It is hard to say what will happen. We have an odd weather pattern, and the fish are acting strange. Sorry we couldn't tell you more. On one other note, we have seen some people kill our wild coho. They are not legal on the system, so please make sure they are what they are before you put them in the boat. Have a great week."

Crabbing in the bay continues to be rather poor. I personally picked up a crab pot heading out to sea right down the channel the other day. I placed the lost pot in Lyster's corner hoping the owner would find it. It really pays to have your name on your buoys! Also, don't place your buoys in heavy current without lots of weight in them. Most people think they get their pots stolen but the majority of lost pots are due to inexperienced crabbers. Don't let this happen to you!

The Nehalem system continues to be poor. Catches are slow and effort is low. Hatchery coho are next to non-existent on the North Fork. To date, about 40 have returned to the river with not much hope in sight.

The tidewater of the Trask is producing some chinook with one reported over 50 pounds taken recently. Bobber tossers will be doing the best but some spinner trollers are also taking some in the lower reaches of tidewater. Although the river levels came up slightly, most of the fish present in the upper reaches of the Trask are dark in color and should be left alone. The Tillamook tidewater also has some chinook present and trollers are taking a few from the Netarts highway bridge upstream to Burton Bridge.

The Guide's Forecast – Some large tides will still be greeting anglers over the weekend making upper bay fishing the best option. The incoming tide will likely produce the best results are fresh fish are likely to wash in on the strong incoming. Morning outgoing tides will also produce nicely for spinner trollers in the upper bay. The morning outgoings aren't as intense which should tame the seaweed until the incoming anyway. Stick with bright, solid spinner colors in the morning and switch to metallic colors as the sun hits the water. Herring have also been a consistent producer in the upper bay. Be sure to be in the upper bay at high water- the mouth of the Wilson slot will likely produce nicely into the weekend.

Herring fishers may have some luck in the ocean as the bar may open for brief periods in the next few days. The mornings will produce the best but chinook are likely to make quick time into the upper bay as incoming tide hits. The lower bay likely won't produce great results and seaweed will likely continue to hamper anglers. The rougher the ocean is, the better results the upper bay will produce closer to high slack.

Bobber tossers in the Trask will have strong but productive tides this week but the most productive time will be low slack at mid-morning. Hopefully, the strong incoming tides will bring in lots of fresh fish and look for the water downstream of the 2-bit hole to produce the highest quality fish. The Hospital Hole should have some good fish present for the bank angler. No significant rises in river levels is forecasted for this week.

Crabbers.....save it for another time. Large tides and poor crabbing should have you taking up another hobby this weekend. That is, unless you are going to the lower Columbia River.

Central & South Coast Reports – It's low and slow on the Alsea. There's very little water in the system as the recent rain was absorbed by the dry ground. Boat traffic is fairly heavy and the occasional fish can be seen rolling, but hookups aren't happening. Crabbing is fair to good in Alsea Bay.

Pro guide Jeff Jackson (541-268-6944) reports from the Siuslaw, "Fishing in upper tidewater is starting to pick up. We picked up 2 really nice fish today after a tough weekend. Last Thu and Fri were great. Haven't heard anything about Siltcoos coho yet, but there has to be fish in there. I'm fishing mainly bobber/shrimp or cocktails and trolling spinners and wobblers for part of the day. Fishing should be peaking soon."

Anglers launching out of Reedsport to troll Umpqua tidewater or Winchester bay have had spotty results over the past week but Chinook and coho catches have been fair and improving in Winchester Bay. Sturgeon fishermen have picked up the occasional fish recently. Crabbing is fair to good and is improving. Rain has brought a few Chinook upstream into the mainstem. Steelheading in the North Umpqua remains slow due to the low run numbers this year.

Chinook fishing in Coos Bay was good over the weekend but slowed mid-week. Trolled, plug-cut herring has been most effective. Sea-run cutthroat trout are available to anglers with the season open through the end of the month.

Coquille trollers have reported spotty Chinook catches but the action has picked up a little recently. Fresh fish are entering and coho are starting to show as well.

Trollers in the Rogue River estuary were hitting fish before this week's weather front moved in. As the weather moderates into the weekend, Rogue Bay may just be a hotspot. The summer steelhead run in the low, cold water of the Rogue was so slow this year that recycling of fish downstream drew nearly to a halt. Conversely, reports of the past week indicate good catches of steelhead in the Grants Pass stretch over the past week with bait most effective.

Dave Pitts, Field Editor for Salmon Trout and Steelhead sent this on October 8th: "The Rogue is RED HOT, The bite just turned on literally 30 minutes ago, Larry at Lex's Landing says the bite is off the hook, anglers above the bridge are slamming fish from 12 to 41 pounds.

"Trolling Blue label herring and plug cut baits. The run is late and is just starting HUGH SEAS this week: Be careful !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

"The 14 day ocean king salmon season is well under way with several Chinook over the 40 pound mark. This is a big bait year, these fish all seem to be choosing large Blue label herring over the smaller anchovy baits. Brookings Chart House Outfitters Jim Bithell and Dave Leighton are connecting on kings everyday. Brookings anglers Wayne Barker, Duayne Mc Kinney and Monty Moncrief have also connected into some twenty and thirty plus pound kings while trolling herring. The larger fish usually come in the middle to last part of October so keep an eye open on the weather as these kings will begin to stage and enter the Chetco River. Anglers trolling the Bay out of Brookings should also stay shallow less than 30 feet, many fish have been taken while trolling 2 and 3 ounce banana weights in line staying within the first 20 feet of the water column. Pro Troll Rotary salmon killers in Greens are working very well. First light fish seem to be between salmon rock and the Chetco's mouth near the surface as light increases fish seem to move out between the two buoys. Some anglers are also plug cutting their baits and it is working very well. Everyday it seems that there is one report of a Chinook over the 40 lbs mark taken. Anglers should continue to troll the jaws area on the ocean side, remember single barbless hooks only in the ocean. The season is at the mid way part be sure to check sea conditions before heading out.

"Bottom fishing continues to produce large ling cod and rock fish, Jeopardize jigs and lead fish are the go to rigs here, Twin Rocks, Camel Rock North side of Bird Island all are producing big fish."

It's worth mentioning that Siltcoos is experiencing an extended toxic algae bloom. Tahkenitch is another option for the wild coho fishery but it's early yet for the better fishing.

The Chetco River ocean terminal area or, as it's called locally, 'Hawg Season' is underway offshore and within the estuary. Chetco anglers are taking Chinook trolling 20 to 25 foot depths while keeping an eye on depth finders for suspended fish. Some large fish have been taken as expected. Anglers may fish up to three nautical miles offshore but trollers are picking up Chinook inside when crossing the bar has not been an option. This fishery remains open through October 14th.

Central and Eastern Oregon – The Deschutes has been delivering steelies to gear and fly anglers alike. The dry weekend ahead should be worthwhile.

Northwest Trout – In the Willamette Valley, Detroit Reservoir will be planted with hatchery trout. Walling Pond and Walter Wirth Lake are scheduled to be stocked with a mix of catchable and larger trout this week.

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 Steve V. wrote to ask, "Do you have any info on the blue/green algae bloom that's been effecting Siltcoos Lake, near Florence, Oregon and possibly how much longer it will continue? I was down there on Sept. 17th and the bloom just started."

TGF co-editor Michael Teague replied, "The last report I received on October 5th indicated the toxic algae bloom was still a problem. I wouldn't know how to determine the time it will take to clear up, but it has been two to three weeks elsewhere."

UPDATE: The algae bloom is still in progress and has showing little sign of dissipating.

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21194502/>

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

Rigging herring with a flasher:

http://www.pugetsoundanglers.org/fishing/estuarysalmon_rigging.htm

Why Do Boats Sink?

http://www.oceanmarineservices.com/why_do_boats_sink.htm

Weekly Quote – "There is no future in not fishing. The future lies in the man who fishes." - Jimmy D Moore

GOOD LUCK!