

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 19th – October 25th, 2007**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- The Bonneville chinook bite was excellent last week but short lived. Dam passage has dropped and the gillnets will fish Thursday, Sunday and Tuesday nights in all 5 zones below Bonneville Dam.

Sturgeon fishing in the gorge remains consistently good and should stay that way with a 7-day per week season.

Daily coho counts have remained in the double digits at Willamette Falls with the YTD total about 900. Sturgeon fishing in the lower river is fair and improving.

The Sandy River has continued to produce coho but rain this week will likely roil the water here. Bobber and eggs have been effective but there have been no reports of three-fish limits over the past week.

Few anglers have been able to take advantage of the three coho per day bag limit on the Clackamas and Eagle Creek where fishing has been slow to fair.

The water is up, as is the temperature of the North Santiam. It is improving the bite in challenging conditions. Summer steelheading is about wrapped up on the South Santiam.

Fly anglers are finding fair to good trout fishing on the upper McKenzie. A few steelhead are being taken below Leaburg Dam.

Mt Hood Pond is scheduled to be planted with trout.

Northwest – The west channel of Tillamook Bay was laden with chinook last week but has since dried up. Some quality fish are still being taken at first light but action should again switch to the east side of the bay when the later arriving Kilchis and Wilson chinook begin to show in coming weeks. Numerous chinook in the high 30-pound class hit the decks and 5-year fish continue to make a strong showing this year.

The ocean will not be an option this weekend even though a soft tide series would make for ideal bar crossings. The lower bay will likely produce the best catches and seaweed is likely to be less of a problem in the smaller exchanges. Crabbing on Tillamook remains fair at best.

Another rise in river levels may put small numbers of chinook into the river systems with the Trask having the highest potential. The Nestucca may also fish good but tidewater may prove to be the overall best option.

Crabbing continues to pick up in the lower Columbia and this weekends small tides will give crabbers a strong advantage. Razor clamming closed on October 12th from the mouth of Siletz Bay to the mouth of the Columbia due to elevated levels of PSP toxins.

Nehalem Bay showed brief signs of recovery mid-week where a few trollers working Wheeler scored some quality chinook. Effort remains too light for consistent reports.

The Siletz remains slow but fair numbers of fish are beginning to show for Alsea bobber casters. Egg and shrimp combinations will take the lion's share of the biters.

Siuslaw chinook fishers have had some slow days this week but the few fish taken have been large, running to 30 pounds.

Coho have started striking spinners at Siltcoos Lake where rain is helping to alleviate the algae problem. The wild coho fisheries at Siltcoos and Tahkenitch will improve in late October and into November.

Southwest – If the offshore forecast holds true, wind and waves will not allow boaters to cross into the ocean this week.

The North Umpqua has disappointed anglers for summer steelhead with a poor return. Some fish remain available in the flies-only section but will soon enter the tributaries which are closed to fishing. Chinook and coho catches picked up over the past week in the lower Umpqua, estuary and in Winchester Bay. Charters were able to cross into the ocean on Sunday, October 14th to find ling cod on the bite. Many party fishing operations will be shutting down soon to re-open early next season.

Chinook fishing has been spotty in Coos Bay and Coquille tidewater, but fish are being taken daily.

Trollers in the Rogue River estuary have made some good catches of Chinook to 40 pounds or better recently. Weather conditions this week may prevent fishing on some days.

The ocean fishery off the Chetco River closed October 14th, but fish that have entered the Chetco estuary and Brookings Harbor should provide decent chinook fishing to trollers running plug-cut herring right on the bottom.

Pressure is light for late-season trout fishing on Diamond Lake, but those fishing it are reporting good catches of trout to 20 inches.

No trout stocking is scheduled for the remainder of the 2007 season in the Southwest Zone.

Eastern – Traffic has been picking up on the Deschutes, particularly around Maupin. Over the weekend under moderate pressure, fishing was slow to fair despite good numbers of fish present from the mouth to Warm Springs. Caddis patterns have been taking redsides.

Steelheading should start up at the end of the month on the Grande Ronde with the better fishing in November and December. The weather is frigid however.

In the last scheduled planting of waters in the Deschutes watershed, Bandon will receive hatchery trout.

SW Washington – Effort remains light on most area streams as coho returns continue to disappoint most anglers. Streams remain closed to chinook retention although catch and release fishing is actually fairly productive.

Effort will shift to coastal watersheds for returning chinook and late run coho.

Columbia River Fishing Report – The great action came to a screaming halt last week in the Bonneville area. I don't think it was coincidence that the gillnets went in for a targeted chinook fishery just before the downturn. **Pro guide Joe Salvey (503-349-1411)** reported having as many as 25 chances the previous week. Then, after the gillnet opener, his chances dwindled to 3 or 4 per day. There were a few coho and oversized sturgeon in the mix but the bulk of the fish were chinook with about half of them of high enough quality to take for the home pack. Backtrolled Kwikfish took the majority of the fish and has become a staple for anglers fishing that area. Dam passage continues to drop and the quality of fish rapidly diminishes this time of year.

Sturgeon fishing continues to improve in the gorge where both boat and bank anglers are enjoying a good season. Boat anglers averaged better than a keeper for every 2 boats while bankers landed almost a keeper for every 3 rods. This is typical action for this time of year in this section and is one of the most consistent fisheries for the year- especially for bank anglers. Smelt is a key bait here but with so much competition, you may want to tip your baits with shrimp or extra scent to try and get an edge. Although this fishery will likely begin to peter out later in the month, participants should enjoy another couple of weeks of great fishing. An occasional oversized fish is also being hooked. Portland to Longview boats are also showing some results but far from the good action now available in the gorge. The bonus for fishing here however is the effort is not nearly as intense.

Crabbing has become popular in the lower Columbia River. There was a good crowd present out of Hammond last weekend and crabbing was reported as good. With high numbers of people participating, crabbers will have to get creative in their pursuit of the species. You may want to find other places to put your pots and fresh bait will always produce better results.

Boat anglers trolling plugs in the John Day Pool are beginning to pick up fair catches of summer steelhead. Dam passage at John Day is still respectable and this fishery is just now getting underway. Anglers working the John Day River itself are using jigs under bobbers and shrimp is producing good catches as well.

The Guide's Forecast – With another gillnet season scheduled for 3 days into early next week, I wouldn't have high expectations for the mainstem chinook fishery in any section of the lower Columbia this week. The Bonneville area is the best bet using Kwikfish wrapped with sardines but action should continue to slow and the grade of fish will continue downhill. The coast has the best prospects now.

Sturgeon fishing however should continue to produce good results for both bank and boat anglers in the gorge. Smelt will continue to produce the best results but salmon bellies may have a place in this fishery this time of year (check regulations for legality however as this tip was just a rumor (and I swear I'll tell the judge that too)). Swifter flows will often be some of the better places to target larger keepers and the lower you go into the gorge and below Troutdale, the more apt you are to find more shakers. This fishery is peaking now but action should stay good for another few weeks.

Soft tides mean great crabbing opportunity this weekend for Hammond area crustacean seekers. Use your top baits but even marginal baits should produce if presented right. In other words, prepare for pinniped (seal) interaction by caging your baits so they can't get to them!

It's an easy fishery and the John Day area will only get better as November rolls around. Learn this fishery now while there are some quality sized steelhead moving through. Trolled wiggle warts are working best in the mainstem while bobbers and bait or jigs in the John Day Arm are producing fair catches.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Coho counts at Willamette Falls are chugging along at around 25 per day with 933 having crossed thus far. It is, as we say, slow but steady. Water temperatures are in the mid to high 50s. A few trollers have been working the stretch from the Clackamas mouth downstream to Meldrum Bar, connecting occasionally. Sturgeon have been biting very lightly on the lower river making it difficult to detect the telltale tapping particularly if the wind is blowing. Anglers can keep fish here and in Multnomah Channel seven days a week.

While steelheading has been fair on the North Santiam, it was running high prior to the rains. It is likely to be unfishable for several days.

The Guide's Forecast – The lower Willamette won't see much in the way of angling activity with storms this week. The next window of opportunity may be this coming Sunday when there's a possibility of a break between fronts. Lower river conditions are expected to reflect the storm's passage with high, muddy water when the break occurs, which means sturgeon fishing should be good in the St. Johns area. Sand shrimp, sardines and herring should be effective.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Clackamas coho action has been spotty fish hooked occasionally from the mouth up to Bonnie Lure. Numbers of coho available has improved, but the river is rising and is predicted to come up about three and a half feet by Saturday, then begin to drop. Eagle Creek has coho present, but at last observation they were holding rather than on the move. This will change as the water level and flow increase. The creek is likely to blow out in the next two days but will quickly recover. The better fishing on the Clackamas system has been out of Eagle Creek or just below the mouth. Lower river anglers are hitting fish at times down toward the mouth and at the popular bowling alley hole. It will get more challenging daily to find a bright fish. Getting them to bite or strike is a whole 'nother challenge.

Sandy levels are expected to rise about two and a half feet at Estacada with rain this week. It will also take on some color, a situation many anglers prefer for coho fishing. Catches here have been fair and even good at times.

Three hatchery coho limits are allowed on the Clackamas, Sandy and Eagle Creek. The Clackamas and Sandy rivers close to coho fishing at the end of October while Eagle Creek will remain open to the retention of finclipped fish until November 30th.

North Coast Fishing Report – It was an epic week on Tillamook Bay late last week. I had a fishing trip of a life time when I managed to talk my wife into going out there along with another friend of mine to the west channel where we had been taking fish for the previous 4 days (and by myself for the most part too!) We started before the sun crested the coast range and in a short hour and a half, we had our 6 fish limit with 3 of the fish over 30 pounds! I likely won't see fishing like that again in my career and I can't wait to send the photos to the group that cancelled that day! Saturday in the west channel again produced some good catches but by then, the word had gotten out and quite a crowd of boats were over there. The west channel can be challenging to fish if you don't have it marked out on your GPS but it is a simple slot and consistent in depth too. The fish were right on the bottom and taking herring quite regularly. Most of the biters got culled out by Sunday as we only had a single fish on for the quick morning show that day. Since those "epic" days of last week, a consistent morning bite has taken place over there but less than a half a dozen fish are taken for 15 to 25 boats present.

More recently, with the softer tides, the crowds and the fish are showing in better numbers along

the jetty. The ocean has been way rough lately and the forecast is for a continued rough trend. It isn't going to be a pretty ocean for quite some time it appears. The Ghost Hole, Bay City and the upper bay are not producing well and most of the biters are getting culled in the lower reaches. This will likely be the trend into the weekend.

River levels have been low so fish have not been moving into the river systems in any big numbers. Rumors of fish in the Kilchis however have some hopefuls thinking a good run is in the making. This may change by the weekend however as a nice rise in river levels may get the Trask, Nestucca, Wilson and Kilchis River fisheries underway. Tidewater action has been fair as fish are stacking in good numbers from the previous weeks good tide series. The softer tides however have curtailed the bite.

The Nestucca remains challenging even though fish seem to be present. The Woods Bridge to Riverside Lodge is producing fair results for bobber fishers. The Boat Ramp and Guard Rail holes are frustrating many.

The Nehalem was rumored to have fish at Wheeler just prior to last weekend. Effort has been low but trollers in the Nehalem area reported good numbers of jumping coho and chinook were surely in the mix. It's hard to get a grip on this fishery with so few people participating. The run is overdue and fall run chinook are likely to still show in good numbers.

Crabbing remains slow in most estuaries with no signs of improvement. Netarts Bay holds the most promise but won't stand for much pressure.

The Guide's Forecast – It'll be a lower bay show for chinook anglers on Tillamook Bay. Expect high numbers of people this weekend, especially if the weather improves. The soft tides will draw much of the effort along the jetties where trolled herring on the bottom should produce fair numbers of fish. The entire outgoing in the morning should produce catches but just after peak ebb seems to be the best as of late. Blue label herring is producing the bulk of the catch.

Upper bay fishing will likely be slow as biters will get culled from the fishery near the mouth. The Ghost Hole, Bay City and the west channel will likely produce only small catches this weekend but the good news is, the seaweed shouldn't be so bad for a change! Herring over spinners this week.

Driftboaters may not get all the water they want for the north coast river fisheries. The Trask, Nestucca and maybe even the Nehalem may produce nicely depending on how much water we get on this system. The higher the flow, the further upstream bright fish will go. This system is not looking like it will yield large amounts of precipitation making upper tidewater/lower river systems the most favored option. Watch that hydrograph! Go to: www.TheGuidesForecast.com and click on river levels!

The tidewater sections of the river would not normally produce good results on such a weak tide series but if significant rainfall hits the north coast, these sections of river could become quite productive. It's a fine line however as too much rain will send these fish right into the rivers themselves bypassing all the waiting anglers in tidewater. It's a wait and see game.

Crabbing isn't really worth your time unless you have nothing better to do. Crab as close to the bay entrance as possible but watch where you put your traps as boat traffic will be quite heavy in Tillamook. Big seas should have anglers especially cautious this weekend.

Central & South Coast Reports – Rain falling this week will have an impact on rivers, unlike

the last round of precipitation which fell was absorbed the dry ground, raising water levels only marginally. Now that the ground is saturated, rainfall will go into the rivers.

As coastal rivers rise, Chinook which have been holding in tidewater will enter the tributaries. The first of these will be darker fish, followed by fresh chromers. With sufficient rainfall, the salmon fishery will focus on the rivers rather than tidewater. This is a probable scenario. Wind and waves will not allow boaters to cross into the ocean this week.

Siletz anglers are taking very few Chinook daily. No technique seems more effective than another with wrapped Kwikfish, trolled spinners and bobber 'n' bait all marginally effective at times. High seas will prevent Chinook from crossing the bar and this seems to be the case recently. Crabbing has been good in Siletz Bay.

Yaquina Bay has been getting boat pressure from trollers but is not producing many fish. About a half dozen one day, one or two the next has been the norm.

Bobber fishermen have seen an improvement in catch rates this week at Alsea Bay with a combination of sand shrimp and cured salmon eggs getting the most bites.

Pro guide Jeff Jackson (541-268-6944) reports, "Upper tidewater on the Siuslaw is doing very well. Bobber fishing above C&D Dock is producing the best catches. If you're on foot, try any of the holes above Farnham's Landing for chinook using bobber/eggs."

Trolled herring is producing Chinook to anglers in Umpqua tidewater but fishing is spotty. Trollers have been taking suspended Chinook recently so keep an eye on depth finders. Catch rates are only fair, causing optimistic anglers to hold out hope the run is late this year. A good number of keeper jacks are being taken below Reedsport. It remains to be seen how many salmon will be in the lower river after the rain. As great as offshore fishing has been out of Winchester Bay, storms will prevent boats from crossing the bar this week. Ocean Chinook fishing will remain open off the central coast through the end of the month. North Umpqua water clarity will suffer from a combination of heavy rain and construction work at Soda Springs powerhouse. The work is being done to improve fish migration around the power facility.

Incidentally, dying herring is becoming more common and may be the attention-getter that will make all the difference. Try blue, chartreuse or pink.

Chinook catch rates slowed over the past weekend on the Coos system with coho numbers picking up. Fishing is winding down on the Coquille River although some nice Chinook have been landed recently.

The hot bite in the Rogue estuary has cooled somewhat. Heavy rain Thursday and Friday this week will take Chinook and Coho into the river system. Recent reports confirm an improvement in steelhead catches in the Grants Pass stretch with larger fish showing. Half-pounder catches have been good above Quosatana this week. Steelheading is slow on the upper Rogue.

Chinook may be seen spawning now in downtown Medford.

Rain has been bringing Chinook into freshwater on the lower Chetco and anglers are following in droves.

Central and Eastern Oregon – There was still quite a bit of driftboat activity on the Deschutes below Warm Springs on Wednesday this week. Steelheading was fair with the rain

starting late in the day. Steelheaders are taking B-runs below Macks Canyon.

Northwest Trout – Trout fishing has been fair to good at Hagg Lake, but the water level has been drawn 'way down in anticipation of fall and winter rains.

Mt. Hood Pond received 400 'catchable-sized' hatchery trout along with 50 12-inchers this week.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report - October 17 - 30, 2007

North Puget Sound

Anglers fishing several of the region's rivers and streams have had success catching **coho salmon** the past couple weeks. Meanwhile, in the marine areas - where the coho catch has tapered off - anglers are starting to find some **chum salmon** and will soon have more opportunities to hook **blackmouth**.

But until those saltwater fisheries start to pick up, anglers might want to focus on the freshwater. One hot spot has been the Cascade River, where anglers are finding some nice **silvers**, said Brett Barkdull, WDFW fish biologist. "Recent rains have increased the flow and added color to the river, and that usually makes for good fishing on the Cascade," he said.

But recent rains have made for spotty fishing on the Skagit River, said Barkdull. "The Skagit is usually at its best when flows are low and the water is clear, but some anglers who know the river have been doing really well," he said. "It's certainly not a slam dunk, though."

Anglers fishing the Skagit River have a daily limit of two salmon, but must release chinook and pink. Those fishing the Cascade, have a daily limit of four coho only.

Anglers also have reported hooking some nice-size silvers on the Snohomish River, as well as portions of the Skykomish and Stillaguamish rivers.

In the marine areas, anglers are turning their attention to **blackmouth** and chum salmon, said Steve Thiesfeld, another fish biologist with WDFW. Blackmouth fishing just got under way in Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton), where anglers are allowed to keep one chinook as part of two-salmon daily limit. And, beginning Nov. 1, anglers will have an opportunity to catch chinook in Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and hook hatchery chinook - chinook with a clipped adipose fin - in marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner).

Thiesfeld reminds anglers that only a couple weeks remain to fish for salmon in Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands). Salmon retention will close in that area Nov. 1.

Meanwhile, **chum salmon** are starting to show up in catches throughout the region. "There have been some scattered reports of chum being caught in Puget Sound," said Thiesfeld, who recommends trolling slow and using a flasher with a green coyote spoon, or a green, purple or pink mini hoochie. "The chum fishery should start to pick up in the next week or so."

Elsewhere, Lake Sammamish remains open for salmon through November. Anglers on the lake 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. Only a couple of

weeks remain in the Lake Washington salmon fishery, which wraps up at the end of October. Before the fishery closes, anglers are allowed two coho per day (minimum size 12 inches) from waters north of the Highway 520 Bridge and east of the Montlake Bridge.

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

Salmon anglers are making the transition from **coho** to **blackmouth**, as more waters open to chum fishing around the region. Meanwhile, the first scheduled **razor-clam** dig of the fall season is drawing near. Digging will get under way Thursday, Oct. 25 if marine toxin tests show the clams are safe to eat.

Four evening **razor-clam** digs are tentatively scheduled at Twin Harbors Oct. 25-28, while two evening digs are scheduled Oct. 26 and 27 at Long Beach, Copalis and Mocrocks. Kalaloch Beach in Olympic National Park will be closed for the season due to a low abundance of razor clams. Scheduling extra days for Twin Harbors was based on results of the annual razor clam stock assessment, said Dan Ayres, coastal shellfish manager for WDFW. "Razor clam populations declined at Long Beach, Mocrocks and Kalaloch, but increased on the middle coast," Ayres said. "That means we can offer more digging opportunities at Twin Harbors and Copalis during the 2007-08 season."

The best time to start digging is an hour or two before low tide, said Ayres, adding that no digging will be allowed before noon. He also recommends taking a lantern for evening digs at all beaches.

Harvesters are allowed to take no more than 15 razor clams and must keep the first 15 they dig, regardless of size or condition. Each digger's clams must be kept in a separate container. A license is required for anyone age 15 or older. Any 2007 annual shellfish/seaweed license or combination license is still valid. Another option is a razor-clam only license available in annual or three-day only versions. Descriptions of the various licensing options are available on the WDFW website at <https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov>. Clam diggers are no longer required to display their licenses on outer clothing.

Tentative opening dates and evening low tides are:

- Thursday, Oct. 25 (6:38 p.m. -1.1) Twin Harbors only
- Friday, Oct. 26 (7:26 p.m. -1.7) all beaches (except Kalaloch)
- Saturday, Oct. 27 (8:14 p.m. -1.9) all beaches (except Kalaloch)
- Sunday, Oct. 28 (9:03 p.m. -1.8) Twin Harbors only

More digs are tentatively scheduled Nov. 23-26 and Dec. 21-23.

Anglers looking for salmon opportunities should get their rods ready for **chum** and **blackmouth**, as the coho season tails off in most marine areas, said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. "Anglers have some choices during this transition period," he said. "The fishing's been pretty good out of Port Angeles where folks still have some time to catch **coho**." When the salmon season ends Oct. 31 in Marine Area 6, a new **blackmouth** fishery starts Nov. 1 in Marine Area 5 (Sekiu).

In South Puget Sound, anglers have had some success catching blackmouth, Thiesfeld said. On the Oct. 13-14 weekend, anglers fishing near the Point Defiance Boathouse and the Narrows

Ramp in Marine Area 11 averaged about one fish per rod.

As for **chum**, Thiesfeld recommends Kennedy Creek in Thurston County and the waters around Hoodsport in Hood Canal, which opened for chum and blackmouth retention Oct. 16. In addition, the Skokomish River just south of Hoodsport has been kicking out chum and coho, he said. On Nov. 1 the Dosewallips and Duckabush Rivers in Jefferson County, and Minter Creek in Pierce/Kitsap counties will also open for chum retention.

More area rivers also opened for fall fishing Oct. 16. A portion of the Dungeness River in Clallam County is open for **trout** and **coho** only. A section of the Hoh River from Willoughby Creek to Morgan's Crossing boat launch is also open for salmon fishing and, in Pacific County, anglers can fish 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.

For those heading to the coast, Westport is hosting its annual **Boat Basin Salmon Derby**, which runs seven days a week until Oct. 31. For a \$5 derby ticket, anglers can fish for chinook and coho from marina docks anywhere in the Westport boat basin. Successful anglers can win \$300 for the largest chinook and \$500 for coho, plus other prizes. All fish must be caught during daylight hours and validated with a derby ticket at the official weigh station at the marina between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. For more information, visit <http://www.anglercharters.net/>. In a few weeks, trout anglers looking for some late-season action should head to Black Lake in Thurston County where 3,500 one-pound rainbows will be stocked before the first weekend in November, said Larry Phillips, WDFW fish biologist. "Last year was the first time we offered this opportunity," Phillips said. "The goal is to provide some early-winter trout fishing in Thurston County after other lowland lakes close for the season." Other year-round lakes with good fishing in Thurston County include Offut, St. Clair and Lawrence, Phillips said.

Southwest Washington:

One in three boat anglers fishing right below Bonneville Dam has been taking home legal-size **white sturgeon** in recent days and bank anglers are also catching their share of keepers. Meanwhile, late-run **hatchery coho** salmon are moving up the Columbia River and several tributaries in increasing numbers as the run nears its peak.

"Late-run coho are moving in right on schedule," said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist stationed in Vancouver. "These are nice, bright fish, promising good fishing in the days ahead." One good sign is that coho counts at Bonneville Dam had jumped to more than 1,000 fish per day by mid-October, he said. Another is that nearly 4,400 adult coho returned to the Cowlitz River Salmon Hatchery the previous week.

Bank anglers fishing the Cowlitz River near the Barrier Dam averaged nearly a coho per rod (counting fish released) during the week ending Oct. 14. Under the "bonus" bag limit now in effect on the Cowlitz, anglers may retain up to six hatchery adult coho a day but must release any chinook salmon, wild coho or any other salmon they encounter.

Anglers have also been catching hatchery coho in the Lewis and Kalama rivers, where the daily limit is four adult coho. The Elochoman and Washougal rivers are two other options with a daily limit of two hatchery adult coho per day.

Of the fish returning to the Cowlitz Hatchery, 853 adult coho and 253 coho jacks were released into Riffe Lake at the Taidnapam North boat launch. Tacoma Power employees released another 381 adult coho into Lake Scanewa at the Day Use Site, and 74 adult coho - plus 56 fall chinook jacks - into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

On the mainstem Columbia, 60 anglers surveyed below Bonneville Dam had caught seven adult chinook and seven hatchery coho during the week ending Oct. 14. By permanent rule, waters from Beacon Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam will close to all salmon fishing beginning Nov. 1. Above the dam, 83 anglers fishing the Bonneville Pool had six **chinook** and 11 coho - most caught near the mouth of the Klickitat River. Bank anglers have been pulling a few fall chinook out of the Klickitat, itself, although all chinook must be released 400 feet upstream from the No. 5 fishway to the boundary markers below the salmon hatchery starting Nov. 1. Anglers have also been catching some coho on the White Salmon River, although effort there and at Drano Lake has been light.

But for **sturgeon**, the area just below Bonneville Dam is still the place to be. During creel surveys in mid-October, 436 bank anglers reported catching 70 legal-size fish and releasing three others. The 29 boat anglers fishing the same area had caught 11 keepers, measuring 42-60 inches. Boat anglers have also been catching some legal-size sturgeon between Kalama and Camas/Washougal - the latter also yielding an average of one **walleye** per rod.

Angling for some **trout**? Battle Ground Lake was planted with 792 rainbow averaging 1.5 pounds apiece - plus 528 others weighing 2.5 pounds each - on Oct. 5. Hymer also suggests fishing for sea-run cutthroat trout on the Cowlitz River near the trout hatchery. "They're aggressive, and they bite on flies, lures or bait," he said. Most average 12-14 inches, with a limit of five hatchery fish per day.

Eastern Washington:

Snake River **steelheading** in southeast Washington continues to be good, with the best catch rates above the Interstate bridge near Clarkston. That's where anglers are catching steelhead with every six hours or so of effort, and keeping a hatchery fish about every eight hours. Anglers on the Wallula section, from the Oregon state line to the mouth of the Walla Walla River, have been averaging between 17 and 18 hours per steelhead caught. The most recent complete creel surveys are available on the Eastern region webpage at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/creel/snake/index.htm>.

Glen Mendel, WDFW southeast district fish biologist, said two of the Tucannon River impoundments recently received surplus hatchery **rainbow trout**. Blue Lake and Spring Lake in Columbia County received 190 catchable-sized rainbows. "These fish were about eight inches and we hope anglers will target them before these lakes close to fishing on Oct. 31," Mendel said. Many other **trout**-stocked fishing lakes in the region also close Oct. 31, including Ferry County's Davis, Ellen, and Swan; Stevens County's Bayley, Black, Cedar, Deep, Deer, Jump-Off-Joe, Little Pend Oreille chain of lakes, Loon, McDowell, Mudget, Rocky, and Starvation; Pend Oreille County's Browns, Crescent, Davis, Diamond, Frater, Halfmoon, Horseshoe, Leo, Marshall, Mystic, Nile, No-Name, Petit, Sacheen, Skookum and Yokum; and Spokane County's Chapman and Clear lakes. Curt Vail, WDFW northeast district fish biologist, said some of the best fishing can be found at this time of year in these waters.

North Central Washington:

Bob Jateff, WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist, said **steelhead** fishing on the mainstem Columbia River above Wells Dam, including the Okanogan and Methow rivers, has been good. "Anglers are averaging a steelhead every eight to 10 hours of effort," he said. "Dark patterns seem to be working the best for both fly anglers and jig and bobber fishers."

Jateff reminds anglers that selective gear rules are in effect for both the Okanogan and Methow rivers, and some areas are closed to all fishing. Steelheaders are encouraged to retain adipose fin-clipped steelhead in order to allow a higher percentage of natural-origin steelhead on the

spawning grounds. Steelhead with adipose fins must not be removed from the water when released.

Selective gear lowland **trout** lakes in Okanogan County, such as Big Twin near Winthrop and Blue on the Sinlahekin, will close to fishing at the end of October.

"Now is a good time to fish these lakes because the angling pressure is usually light and the fishing can be very good," Jateff said. "Blue Lake has both browns and rainbows from 12 to 20 inches and Big Twin has rainbows from 10 to 18 inches."

Jameson Lake in Douglas County continues to provide good fishing for nine- to 10-inch rainbows, with carryover fish up to 14 inches. Jameson also will close to all fishing on Oct. 31.

South Central Washington:

Paul Hoffarth, WDFW fish biologist, said that despite relatively low numbers of **fall chinook salmon** returning to the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River this year, fishing has been good. "Effort has been down from last year, but harvest is currently 10 percent above last year at this time," Hoffarth said.

The fall chinook fishery in the Hanford Reach (wooden powerline towers to Priest Rapids Dam) closes Oct. 22. It remains open from McNary Dam upstream to the wooden powerline towers through Dec. 31, but Hoffarth said few chinook are caught after Oct. 31.

Yakima River fall chinook salmon angler activity recently picked up. Hoffarth said that creel crews interviewed 218 anglers the week of Oct. 8-14, which represents about 22 percent of the angling effort. An estimated 82 adult chinook, 87 jacks, and eight coho were harvested. As of Oct. 14, a total of 186 adult chinook, 161 jacks, and eight coho had been harvested. Anglers averaged 11 hours per fish caught.

The fall chinook fishery in the lower Yakima River will remain open through Oct. 22. Hoffarth said the majority of the fall chinook return to the Yakima River in mid-October as water temperatures begin to cool.

The Ringold area of the Columbia River is open for **hatchery steelhead**. The area open is from the Highway 395 bridge at Pasco/Kennewick upstream to the wooden powerline towers at the old Hanford town site. Steelhead must have both the adipose and ventral fin clipped to be retained during the month of October. Beginning Nov.1 and through March 31, 2008, any hatchery steelhead can be retained.

"Steelhead fishing has been improving in the mid-Columbia and Snake rivers," Hoffarth said. "Most anglers are using a bobber and shrimp combination or trolling wiggle warts. Fall fishing for **walleye** can be terrific. The Columbia River below McNary Dam regularly produces good catches of walleye in October."

Eric Anderson, WDFW fish biologist, reminds trout anglers that many catchable-size **trout** are planted in Yakima and Kittitas county year-round lakes in the fall.

"Although these fish are smaller than our spring planted trout, they still provide good angling opportunity in our year-round lakes," Anderson said.

Reader Email -

Subscriber Bill N. wrote to ask, "I am a day sleeper due to work. I am interested in fishing on the

Oregon north coast during the up coming full moon. I was looking to try our luck catching surf perch. Most articles seem to lean toward daytime fishing for salmon. What can you tell me about night fishing for surf perch on the north coast ?"

TGF co-editor Michael Teague replied, "Night fishing can be excellent - far better than by day, actually. While I've not heard of anyone surf fishing at night, however, it may be worth a try.

"The most common rig is with a weight at the end of your line and pyramid sinkers are most commonly used as these help to hold in the sand. Often, two hooks are tied on the mainline although some perch fishers will buy pre-tied crappie rigs which are well suited to the purpose once the hooks are replaced. Those inexpensive, smelted hooks which come six to a package will be fine. Your target quarry, striped or pinkfin surf perch, have a large mouth so a #1 or #2 hook will work well.

"Sand shrimp are probably the best bait, but easy to cast off and the fish, which hit lightning fast, can steal baits. Alternates which will also catch fish include mussels, clams, bloodworms and even nightcrawlers.

"It's best to investigate a beach during low tide to find a deeper depression or steeper beach where perch will most likely be found. Remember, too, that the highest tides will be during the full moon so plan accordingly.

"Most commonly, night fishing is done off rocks and jetties for rockfish. It's possible to catch a limit and the fish will generally run larger than those taken during the day. The bait rig, above can be used (with a bank singer rather than a pyramid) but rockfish will also readily hit lures.

"Get some 1/4 to 1 ounces jig heads (depending on depth and current) and curly-tail grubs three to five inches in length. Fish-body soft plastics are also used effectively. The goal is to keep the jig setup working just above but very near the rocks. Be sure to take a lantern and watch your step. Felt-soled wading shoes will help with traction.

"Whichever type of fishing you choose, the incoming tide will be most productive.

"I hope this helps to get you started. If you have any other questions, let me know and be sure to share how you do out there!"

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

Watch the storm:

<http://www.jettyview.com/barcam2.html>

Fishing Columbia River Sturgeon:

http://sturgeonsite.coastangler.com/columbia_angling_1.htm

Weekly Quote – "There is no use in your driving 200 miles to fish when you can be just as unsuccessful near home." - Mark Twain

GOOD LUCK!