

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 8th – August 14th 2008**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Look ahead to the Buoy 10 fishing in the lower Columbia River. Prepare yourself for this fishery by learning all you can about it. Log onto our technical report page at: <http://www.theguidesforecast.com/techrpt.shtml> and order the tech reports that will benefit your outing, today!

Willamette Valley/Metro- Although the excellent tides of last week play a minimal role in angler success in the Columbia River Gorge, catch rates below Bonneville were best for both boats and bank anglers fishing this area. In the most recent creel check, 47 bank anglers kept 19 hatchery steelhead.

Anglers are reminded that the retention of chinook is illegal until early September from Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam.

The water temperature at Willamette Falls had dipped below 70 degrees as of August 4th but weather this week is likely to push it back up. Sturgeon fishing has been poor.

McKenzie flow has continued to moderate although the water temperature has remained in the low 50s, creating a good environment for trout fishing. Early and late in the day have been most productive. Summer steelheading has been fair to good.

Water level, flow and clarity are good on the North Santiam now. Steelhead are scattered with best results coming early and late in the day on the upper river. The South Santiam water level is down and fishing is slow to fair for summers.

A mix of bright and dark spring chinook are being taken on the upper Sandy River. Fishing has been fair to good. Steelheading is spotty. Predicted warm weather this week could cloud the river with glacial melt which typically bolsters catches.

Steelheading is slow in the warm waters of the Clackamas. There have been rumors of a few early coho landed on the lower river already. An early showing is often an indication of a good return.

Breitenbush River, Leaburg Lake and the North Santiam River above Detroit are scheduled for trout planting.

Northwest – Excited anglers took advantage of friendly seas on Saturday, venturing 30 miles or more west of the Columbia River in search of albacore tuna. Good numbers of fish between 16 and 30 pounds were taken but by Sunday, the fish had sounded and catches turned poor. There are still great albacore opportunities in the next 8 weeks but tuna often become more receptive to live anchovies as the season progresses.

Salmon fishing off the Columbia River mouth has been hit-or-miss recently with the best catches coming well south of the Columbia River entrance, near Seaside.

The opener of the Buoy 10 season produced poorly for sportanglers. The gillnet opener however proved fish were present as fair numbers of tule and Young's Bay chinook made up the bulk of

the catch. Catch rates in the river are unlikely to improve until mid-month. Chinook retention is allowed from Buoy 10 to Tongue Point.

Catch and release sturgeon fishing was good above Tongue Point on Sunday but has dropped off significantly since the estuary gillnet opener that same evening.

Southwest – An estimated 58.4% of the ocean coho quota had been taken south of Cape Falcon as of the August 3rd update. Winchester Bay has been the top port all season for numbers of hatchery coho with nearly 4,000 of the roughly 14,000 taken thus far. Rough ocean conditions have kept catch rates low and allowed the season to extend into August.

Tides are conducive to crossing into the ocean this weekend with predictions of wind and wave action positive for the central and south coast.

Tuna were taken out of Charleston over the past weekend despite sloppy ocean conditions. A few were found less than 20 miles from port but better action was at 30 miles or so.

Water temperature has caused tough conditions for trollers on the lower Rogue. Those seeking deep water that is cooler have hooked up with some very large fish. Anchovies are most popular but sardines and herring have also produced hookups. Half-pounders are being taken in decent numbers on the upper Rogue with bait fishers, hardware anglers and fly anglers having success.

Tuna have been caught recently out of the Port of Brookings with some boats hitting albacore in water only 55 degrees, within 25 miles of the beach. Coho catches have been good out of Brookings with the salmon averaging four miles out. Limits of bottom fish along with a few lingcod are being taken daily.

Diamond Lake has continued to fish well with bait outfishing lures 2 to 1. Rainbows are running 14 to 16 inches with the occasional fish over 20 inches.

Section 5 of the Rogue River is scheduled to be planted with trout.

Eastern – For this early in the season, good numbers of steelhead have entered the lower Deschutes. Anglers are catching them in the stretch from Mack's Canyon to the mouth. Caddis continue to be the pattern of interest with trout, hitting well on the surface. Expect to also see periodic hatches of mayflies and midges.

Green Peter is producing fair to good catches of large kokanee to trollers. Fish at first light for best results.

Odell has been delivering kokanee limits to anglers fishing deep with jigs.

SW Washington – District anglers are still finding good success for steelhead on the Cowlitz and North Fork Lewis Rivers. These fisheries will offer the best opportunities this week as poor tides hamper Columbia River plunkers.

Drano Lake is producing good catches of steelhead for both boat and bank anglers. The Wind River has a fraction of the effort.

The Klickitat steelhead fishery is also underway although the warming trend may increase flows in the coming days.

Anglers on the White Salmon River averaged nearly a ½ steelhead per rod last week.

Columbia River Fishing Report – With all the poor news on salmon fishing this year and the history of success in recent years in the early stages of the Buoy 10 fishery, excitement wasn't really running high on the opening week on the lower Columbia River. And once people witnessed how poor the fishing was, people really won't have a lot to get excited about for several more days. WDF&W reports sampling 161 anglers for 3 of the first 4 days of the opener and tallying just one chinook. It has been a poor start to say the least. To add insult to injury, the gillnet fleet is running full steam ahead with openers last week on August 3rd, 5th and 7th. At the time of this writing, data was available from just the first opener with commercials with gillnetters reporting 792 chinook with an average weight of 22 pounds a piece. On the same opener, netters reported taking 827 white sturgeon with an average weight of 34.5 pounds. And speaking of sturgeon.....

The catch and release fishing for sturgeon was quite good above Tongue Point on Sunday afternoon. I just put together a short 3 hour tour with 5 rods on the boat and we landed approximately 12 or 13 sturgeon with nearly half of them in the keeper range. It was good fun with sand shrimp clearly outproducing anchovies in the shallow water. Needless to say, when fellow fishing guides took to the water on Tuesday, just a day after the first opener, the fishing had dropped off significantly. Only 2 more gillnet openers are scheduled and that's for August 10th and 12th with the netters exiting the river at 7:00 a.m. on the next morning. No doubt, chinook catches will ramp up in the coming week but sturgeon will be had as well. I heard one fellow report that this was the most productive opener for chinook since 2004. Water temperatures are certainly more salmon friendly for this time of year but that could change after this week. The water was 65 degrees when I fished sturgeon on Sunday.

Looking westward, ocean fishing is still no easy guarantee lately. Although some days are clearly better than others, action has been spread out in recent days. Earlier in the week, fishing was best all the way south near Seaside but more recently, it has picked up both north and south of the mouth of the Columbia River. Recent reports indicate good numbers of fish present but many anglers are complaining about having to cull through large numbers of wild fish to find hatchery keepers. One thing in common that anglers are witnessing is that the fish are exceptionally large right now. Lots of hatchery coho reported over 10 pounds and several tipping the scales at 12 to 14 pounds! The ones we do see this year should be exceptional in size. Without a doubt, plug cut herring are outproducing anchovies and you had better bring a bunch of them if the wild fish trend continues. One guide reported going through 4 dozen herring for 4 hatchery keepers and it took him until 2:00 p.m. to get all of 4 of those fish!

The other big talk now is tuna. Last Saturday, boats out of Astoria did really well for tuna in the 16 to 30 pound range. Most boats headed west, out to 30 or 35 miles and had no trouble finding biters. By Sunday, the weather was changing as so was the attitude of the fish. Action slowed significantly with top boats tallying less than 5 fish for a full day's effort. The fish have been down for a few days but will certainly get more motivated as the weather stabilizes.

Steelheaders are still faring well, particularly in the Columbia River Gorge. Both boat and bank anglers showed excellent results in last weekends creel check (see Fisheries Update section) while downstream anglers didn't do all that bad either. The tides were ripe last week for good catches from lower Columbia beach plunkers but the gorge anglers still fared much better. Small spinners take the lions share of the steelhead in the gorge while spin-n-glos are responsible for the success of most beach plunkers. It's important to note that with Bonneville Dam as an unnatural barrier and faster flows that often concentrate migrating fish in more defined slots, success is likely to always be higher. There are still excellent numbers of steelhead passing Bonneville Dam.

Further upriver, boat anglers are beginning to find consistent success for steelhead at the mouth of the Deschutes River. Trollers are taking fair numbers of fish and the action should only be getting better as we move into late August. As long as the dam counts remain high at The Dalles facility, the action should remain consistent.

The Guide's Forecast – First and foremost, if the Buoy 10 fishery were worth anything right now, I'd send you there but the fact of the matter is, it's a great week to pursue fish in the ocean! The ocean forecast is calling for good conditions into the weekend. Of course that can always change as it did last weekend but it all looks good for salmon and tuna in our westward waters.

Starting with salmon, action should be picking up as the run begins to stage at the mouth of the river. Chinook can be targeted to the north of the mouth some years with the lighthouse a consistent producer some years. The tule chinook are forecasted to make up the bulk of the return this year making the north shore out of Illwaco a strong option. Recently, good sized coho were found in 300 to 350 foot of water to the north as well. Willing anglers may also find success for chinook and coho south towards Tillamook Head. If you do venture that far south, keep the afternoon wind forecast in mind as it is a long way back to port bucking the NW wind. Don't get caught out there without enough bait either and it's taking a lot of bait to fill your punch card with all your hatchery fish. It'll be another week (when the gillnets get out of the mainstem) before we can get excited about fishing for salmon in the lower Columbia again.

When the tuna do go on the bite again, and that should be really soon, the news will spread fast. Be prepared to run out 25 to 30 miles to find favorable water but the action should be fast and furious as we rapidly approach peak tuna time! Live anchovies often become a favored bait this time of year although many sport anglers are finding other forage fish in the bellies of these fish. The albacore have already responded well to live bait this year however. Casting jigs will also be a strong option once schools of fish are located by trolling or spotting.

Action for steelhead will once again be best in the Columbia River Gorge where flows are consistent and fish will be migrating more uniformly. Spinners will work best from boats while spin-n-glos tipped with heavy scent or shrimp will produce fair results. Great numbers of fish should continue to pour over the hydropower projects in the coming weeks. Water temperatures are favorable for both biting and migrating steelhead.

Oversized sturgeon is still consistent and the sanctuary is now open to recreation. Additional catch and keep days were added to the fishery above Wauna but action for these fish likely won't pick up until mid-September. Floater shad for oversize bait should be a little easier to obtain right now.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report –Sturgeon fishing is very slow in the lower Willamette. Bass fishing has been fair. While steelhead are still getting some interest, the waning numbers are giving anglers little for their efforts.

North Santiam level and flow is fine for fishing. Steelhead are scattered and require some enticement to get them to bite. It has been slow on the South Santiam.

The McKenzie River, following a gradual drop in the water level and slight rise in temperature, is fairly stable now which should provide good prospects for trout and steelhead anglers.

The Guide's Forecast –Effort for sturgeon is low in the Willamette. Expect modest action for fish too small to keep and you won't be disappointed.

Try a bobber and jig tipped with a sand shrimp tail in the tailouts on the North Santiam. Be persistent – with over 14,000 summer steelhead across Willamette Falls, there are lots of fish in the river. Recreational boaters are now out in summer force. Fish early or late in the day to tip the odds in your favor.

Try the upper McKenzie at first light for best results with trout. They're not large, but they are plentiful and willing.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Try higher on the Clackamas for steelhead. There are still a few springers around but it's not really worthwhile targeting them. About 450 summers have returned to the hatchery and a few are being recycled down to Riverside Park. The first coho have been caught in the low, clear water of the lower Clack. Expect to see spinner flingers start lining the banks at the bowling alley. Better results will come in September, however.

Steelhead and Chinook fishing on the Sandy has been slow to fair. The popular stretch below Cedar Creek has kicked out a few fish.

North Coast Fishing Report – With most anglers focused on saltwater opportunities, it'll be a salmon and tuna focus out of Garibaldi as well. Garibaldi tuna chasers reported better action than further north when seas once again calmed on Wednesday. A few boats reported double digit numbers but many are still waiting for a better indication before going "all-in" for the run out west.

Anglers pursuing salmon out of Garibaldi are sometimes finding limits of coho but they do have to work hard for results. Most boats are heading north from the Tillamook Bay entrance and westward to the 230 – 250 foot lines. Trolled herring are producing the best and anglers are reporting the interception of some quality chinook in the catches. This fishery closes on August 31st or when the coho quota is met. Currently, the quota is 60% filled.

The ocean weather forecast as of Thursday morning is:

FRI

SW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. SW SWELL 3 FT.
PATCHY FOG IN THE MORNING. SLIGHT CHANCE OF RAIN IN THE AFTERNOON.

FRI NIGHT

W WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. SW SWELL 3 FT. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SAT

W WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 4 FT.
SLIGHT CHANCE OF SHOWERS IN THE MORNING.

SAT NIGHT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. GUSTS UP TO 15 KT IN THE EVENING. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. W SWELL 5 FT.

SUN

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

MON

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT.

Inland fisheries remain slow with catches of summer steelhead a rarity on the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. Most of the spring chinook are dark and pooled up waiting just a few more weeks before spawning.

The Nehalem fishery remains poor with only a few thousand fish predicted back to this river system. In recent years, the summer chinook fishery has suffered and trollers working the mouth and Wheeler are finding poor results.

Cutthroat trout fishing is good for anglers willing to catch and release. Fish are responding well to flies and lures, especially in the lower reaches of the larger coastal systems.

The Guide's Forecast – The ocean will be the best bet for north coast anglers this week. Tuna is the best prospect but you have to have the proper boat and a home equity line of credit to fill your gas tank. It will be an expensive run but it should be worth the trip.

Salmon fishing should remain steady if not improve in the Garibaldi area. Trolled herring will continue to take coho but you will have to cover a lot of ground to expect your limit. Early morning will always produce the best catches.

Central & South Coast Reports – The forecasts for winds, swells and tides are all favorable for boats crossing into the ocean this weekend.

Anglers will go into the weekend with about 40% of the ocean hatchery coho quota remaining. Catches have been best out of Winchester Bay and the Brookings Harbor.

In a last-minute decision on Thursday, August 7th, the ODFW opted to open the summer all-depth halibut fishery every Friday through Sunday starting August 8th through October 26th or a quota of 93,113 pounds.

This quota includes 'rollover' of extra poundage from the spring fishery. On other days, anglers may fish halibut inside the 40-fathom line, but few make the effort as the results are generally lackluster and the fish are smaller.

Ocean crabbing closes on August 15th and will reopen the 1st of December. Get 'em while you can.

Last week, warm water pushed toward the coast, bringing albacore within range of recreational boater coast-wide.

Herring jigging good in Yaquina Bay. Crabbing is slow to fair inside the bay, good outside in the ocean with about 50% too soft to keep.

Large crab are coning from the bay out of Waldport, but many of them are soft. Numbers are improving with some limits reported.

Smallmouth bass fishers are finding fast action all day long on the mainstem and South Umpqua. Steelheading has been fair to good on the North Umpqua with fish hitting spinners and plugs.

Boats launching out of Charleston did well for tuna over the past weekend and are hoping it

holds up as there's a tournament this coming weekend. Crabbing has been good in the ocean.

A few Chinook have been hooked in tidewater on the Coquille as the run just gets underway here.

Trollers in Rogue Bay are experiencing spotty results with periodic flurries of action. These fish are large, however, with most coming in at 30 pounds although 40 to 50 pounders have been taken, mostly on anchovies. Action has improved in the Grants Pass stretch for a mix of steelhead, springers and fall Chinook. Anglers on the upper Rogue are doing well for steelhead with 'half-pounders' abundant and willing. Bait and lures have been equally effective. Larger steelhead are in the upper river as well with catches fair to good.

Bottom fishing remains stellar out of the Port of Brookings with most anglers scoring multi-species limits.

While catches of ling cod have slowed, the ones coming in have been large. Some are opting for rockfish/coho combo trips, fishing the bottom first as once coho are on board, all rods must be rigged only with barbless hooks.

Warmer weather has slowed trout fishing at Diamond Lake but those targeting rainbows early or late in the day are still scoring limits. A additional 15,000 trout were planted here last week.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Steelheading has continued to improve on the lower Deschutes as fish enter in good number for this time of year and with excellent counts over the dams downstream on the Columbia, August and September should be quite rewarding. Later in the season, the ratio of hatchery to wild fish will also improve. Currently, only about 20% of the fish being landed are fin-clipped. A few summers have been reports as high as Maupin, but the section providing the best action will be below Mack's Canyon.

Kokanee action has held up this week at Green Peter but all of the action has been at first light and drops off after a few hours.

Paulina has been slow to fair for kokanee with jigging more productive than trolling.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report July 23rd - August 5th, 2008

North Puget Sound

Anglers fishing for **hatchery chinook salmon** in Admiralty Inlet have been racking up some of the highest catch rates of the season, but time is running out. With the 4,000-fish catch guideline fast approaching, Marine Area 9 is now scheduled to close for retention of all chinook salmon at the end of the day Sunday, Aug. 10.

At the same time, the portion of area 9 south of a line from Foul weather Bluff to Ollele Point that was closed during the chinook fishery to protect mid-Hood Canal Chinook, will also re-open for **hatchery coho, pink, and sockeye salmon**.

"The mark-selective fishery for chinook around Port Townsend has been hot since the first week of August," said Steve Thiesfeld, a WDFW fish biologist. "We've been encouraging anglers to get out while they can."

Thiesfeld noted that anglers at several boat ramps in the area have been averaging more than one hatchery chinook salmon for every two rods. Marine Area 9, which extends from Point Wilson/Patridge Point southeast to Apple Cove Point/Edwards Point will remain open for marked, hatchery coho after the closure of the retention fishery for chinook salmon.

Meanwhile, the mark-selective fishery for chinook salmon in Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) is scheduled to remain open through Aug. 15 or until the overall quota is reached, whichever comes first, Thiesfeld said. Fishing has been slower there, but anglers are still picking up some nice hatchery chinook - and hatchery coho, too, he said.

"Last Saturday (Aug. 2), anglers actually brought more hatchery coho to the ramp at Shilshole Bay than chinook," Thiesfeld said. "These resident coho provide a nice bonus and sometimes save the day."

Thiesfeld reminds anglers that regulations vary for inner Elliott Bay, Sinclair Inlet and public fishing piers in those marine areas. Check the Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for more information.

Since the season began, anglers fishing in marine areas 9 and 10 have been allowed to keep hatchery chinook - marked with a clipped adipose fin - as part of a two salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook. Those fishing Marine Area 9 also must release wild coho, chum salmon and - after Aug. 10 - any chinook salmon they intercept. Anglers fishing in Marine Area 10 must release chum as well as wild chinook.

When releasing salmon, anglers should keep the fish in the water and avoid using a net, Thiesfeld said. If a net is needed, use a rubber net or a soft knotless nylon or cotton net.

Meanwhile, the **crab** fishery is going strong in marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), 9, 10, and the eastern and southern portion of 7. Fisheries in those areas are open on a Wednesday-through-Saturday schedule, plus the entire Labor Day weekend. See WDFW's sport-crabbing website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/>) for more information.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

As the salmon season approaches mid-point, the coming weeks are prime time to try for salmon along the south coast and Puget Sound. While crab fishing is still going strong, salmon anglers can also try their luck on several area rivers.

Salmon anglers on the south coast (marine areas 1 and 2) are having fair success this season, although fishing effort remains low, said Wendy Beeghley, WDFW fish biologist. "Some folks are getting their limits, but the average has been about one fish per person at both Ilwaco and Westport," Beeghley said.

On the bright side, Beeghley noted that **chinook** continue to make up a good portion of the catch, while the area is also producing some good-sized **coho**. "Coho are averaging eight to ten pounds, and we've seen some that were pushing the 14-pound mark," she said. "Chinook have been averaging up to 15 pounds, and we've checked some fish going up to 40 pounds. They're not common, but we're seeing a few of them."

In Ilwaco, anglers have recently been catching about one chinook for every four coho, Beeghley said. "Traditionally, chinook catches in that area pick up in August," she said.

In Westport, the catch has been evenly split between chinook and coho, with no sign that chinook fishing is slowing down, Beeghley said.

Along the north coast (marine areas 3 and 4) angler effort continues to be light. Those who did venture out at La Push over the Aug. 2 weekend immediately returned to shore because of bad weather, said Scott Barbour. Around the corner in Neah Bay, calmer weather allowed more anglers to get out, he said.

However, overall turnout was still low and few who went out got their two-fish limit, Barbour said. "People should be starting to catch more coho, but the numbers aren't there," Barbour said. "Anglers are averaging about one fish for every two rods in both areas, with the catch almost evenly divided between coho and chinook," he said.

Ilwaco and Westport are open for salmon fishing Sundays through Thursdays; La Push and Neah Bay are open Tuesdays through Saturdays.

Anglers fishing those areas may keep two chinook, two coho or a combination of each as part of their two-fish daily limit. The minimum size for chinook is 24 inches and 16 inches for coho. All wild coho must be released. Anglers fishing east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line in Marine Area 4B (Neah Bay) may retain hatchery coho only. All chinook, all wild coho and chum must be released.

Anglers planning to launch their boats in South Bend are advised of an error in the Willapa River listing in the *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet. The boat launch referenced as the downstream boundary for the Willapa River fishery is operated by Pacific County, not WDFW. For that reason, anglers using that facility should be prepared to pay a launch fee.

Along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, **chinook retention** ends Aug. 10 in marine areas 5 and 6 (Sekiu/Port Angeles), but both areas remain open for retention of **hatchery coho** and **sockeye salmon**. Anglers are reminded that handling rules are in effect and all chum, chinook and wild coho must be released. The salmon fisheries in marine areas 5 and 6 are open daily with a two-fish daily limit.

While fishing remains fair to good in northern Puget Sound, anglers continue to come up short in Marine Area 11 (Point Defiance/Vashon Island), said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. "Fishing this summer is slower than last year, but right now we don't know if the run is just late or the fish are coming in below forecast."

Thiesfeld recommended that anglers try new areas such as southern Puget Sound (Marine Area 13) or Hood Canal (Marine Area 12), where the fishing has picked up recently. No matter the choice, anglers should head out soon, he said.

"The next two weeks are traditionally prime time for catching chinook in Puget Sound, and people shouldn't miss the opportunity," Thiesfeld said.

Anglers considering Hood Canal are reminded that fishing is restricted to south of Ayock Point until Sept. 1, although Dabob Bay opens for coho salmon fishing Aug. 16.

Area rivers may also be an option for salmon anglers. The Skokomish River in southern Hood Canal is now open and anglers can fish from the mouth of the river to the U.S. Highway 101 bridge. The daily limit is one salmon; all chum must be released.

In northern Hood Canal, the Quilcene River opens Aug. 16 from Rodgers Street to the U. S. Highway 101 Bridge. Thiesfeld said fishing is generally slow at the start, but picks up towards

September when rainfall raises the river level and stimulates the fish to begin moving upstream. "Labor Day is generally the peak of the fishery," he said.

The fishery is open seven days a week through Oct. 31. The daily limit is four coho only, with a minimum size of 12 inches. Only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

The Puyallup River, which empties into Commencement Bay, also opens Aug. 16.

Anglers are advised to check the 2008-09 *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>) for more information on regulations and handling rules in each marine area.

For those interested in winning a boat, some cash or just getting out, two derbies in the 14-event Northwest Salmon Derby Series are coming up in Puget Sound. On Aug. 9, participants in the Gig Harbor Salmon Derby can try for the \$1,000 first prize for catching the largest chinook or coho salmon. For more information, contact psa-gh07derby@earthlink.net.

The eighth annual **Hood Canal Salmon Derby** will be held on Aug. 16 and 17. Tickets are \$25 a piece and participants can try for a first prize of \$1,000. The kids' derby is free. Weigh-ins will be at the Sunrise Motel near Hoodspport. Contact Brian Johnson at 360-790-6589 or briantoni@comcast.com.

All participants in both derbies will be entered in a raffle for a 23-foot welded aluminum fishing boat and trailer, while kids will be entered into a raffle for a 14-foot boat, motor and trailer. For more information, visit <http://www.discovernorthwestfishing.com>.

In other derby news, The Westport/Grayland Chamber of Commerce is hosting a **Summer Beach Perch Fishing Derby** Aug. 9 along the beaches off Westport. The event starts at sunrise with weigh-in scheduled for 4 p.m. at Angler Charters at 2401 Westhaven Drive - across from Float 8 at the Westport Marina. The entry fee is \$20 and all participants must have a valid state fishing license. The top four anglers will share a percentage of total ticket sales; other prizes are also available. Participants can register for the derby at www.anglercharters.net. Call 1-800-345-6223 for more information.

Recreational **crab** fishing is open Wednesdays through Saturdays in marine areas 6,7-South/East, 8-1, 8-2, 9, 11, and 12 through Sept. 1. Crabbing is open seven days a week in marine areas 4 (Neah Bay east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 (Sekiu) and 13 (south of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge) through Jan. 2.

Marine Area 7 North (Lummi Island/Blaine) will open Aug. 13, Wednesdays through Saturdays, plus Labor Day weekend.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five male Dungeness crab with a shell width measuring at least 6¼ inches, plus six red rock crab of either sex with a shell width of at least 5 inches. All undersized crab, female Dungeness crab and all softshell crab of either sex must be returned to the water.

Puget Sound crab fishers are required to record their Dungeness crab catch on two separate catch record cards - one for the summer season and one for the fall/winter season. They also have the option of mailing in their catch cards or reporting on the Internet. Additional information is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crabreg/crabindex>.

The only recreational halibut fishery remaining open on an ongoing basis is the nearshore fishery in Marine Area 2 (Westport), which is open Fridays and Saturdays.

Southwest Washington:

The **Buoy 10 salmon fishery** near the mouth of the Columbia River got off to a characteristically slow start Aug. 1, but is expected to pick up in the days ahead. Meanwhile, anglers continue to reel in hatchery steelhead from waters both above and below Bonneville Dam.

Salmon were scarce during the first few days of fishing at Buoy 10, but that's not uncommon for that fishery, said Joe Hymer, WDFW fish biologist. "Buoy 10 often starts slow, then ramps up quickly and peaks around late August," he said. "I expect we'll see a similar pattern this year."

To track the fishery's progress, anglers can check daily catch-sampling summaries posted on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regions/reg5/buoy10.htm>. The site also includes links to area web cameras, along with marine forecasts and information on water temperatures and salinity.

Under this year's rules, anglers will have the entire month of August - plus Labor Day (Sept. 1) - to catch and retain chinook salmon 16 miles downriver from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to the mouth of the Columbia. There's a limit of two salmon per day, of which only one may be a chinook. Wild coho, chum and sockeye must be released.

With 32 days to catch and keep chinook at Buoy 10, anglers should do considerably better there this year than last, when the retention season was limited to just 12 days, Hymer said. On the other hand, anglers will be required to release all chinook salmon intercepted from Rocky Point/Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam, except during a retention fishery set for September 1-16.

Fishing seasons for both areas were designed to conserve ESA-listed chinook salmon bound for the Lewis and Snake rivers, while focusing fishing effort on abundant upriver brights returning to hatcheries above Bonneville and wild fish headed for the Hanford Reach, said Cindy LeFleur, WDFW Columbia River policy coordinator.

"The goal is to target those healthy upriver hatchery stocks, which tend to bite well when they first enter the river," LeFleur said. "We're also expecting a strong return of chinook reared in net pens in select areas throughout the lower river."

In all, 376,800 adult fall chinook are expected to return to the Columbia River this year, compared to 219,600 last year.

Then again, chinook salmon aren't the only fish in anglers' sights right now. During the first three days of August, 416 anglers checked below Bonneville Dam had 56 **hatchery steelhead**. Catch rates were higher in the Bonneville Pool, where anglers averaged two hatchery steelies for every three rods. But the best steelhead fishing was found on the Cowlitz River and at Drano Lake, where boat anglers averaged three-quarters of a fish per rod. On the Cowlitz, the fish were sampled at the trout hatchery and Mission Bar boat ramps.

As in the mainstem Columbia, new fishing rules were adopted this year during the North of Falcon season-setting process to conserve chinook salmon in several area tributaries. The following rules took effect Aug. 1:

- **Lewis River and fall chinook sanctuary:** Anglers are required to release all chinook salmon intercepted on the Lewis River, where wild chinook returns are expected to reach

only about half of the 5,700-fish escapement goal. The requirement to release chinook is in effect in the Lewis River, the North Fork Lewis River and in an eight-mile area of the Columbia River near the mouth of the river that is defined in the fishing rule pamphlet. Fishing for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead remains open, but fishing from boats is prohibited on the North Fork Lewis from Johnson Creek upstream to Merwin Dam to minimize chinook handling.

- **Cowlitz and Toutle Rivers:** Anglers must continue to release all chinook - except marked, hatchery-reared jacks - because hatchery returns are not expected to meet management goals. Anglers may still retain hatchery steelhead and hatchery coho caught in both rivers.
- **Kalama, Washougal, Wind and White Salmon rivers, plus Drano Lake:** Anglers may retain any adult chinook salmon, but must release any wild, unmarked chinook jacks they encounter.

"All of the new rules are included in the 2008-09 *Fishing in Washington* rules pamphlet," said Pat Frazier, regional WDFW fish manager. "Anglers should make a point to check them out before they hit the water."

Frazier noted that the new mark-selective fisheries for chinook jacks reflect the fact that - for the first time - all chinook jacks returning to hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin are marked with a clipped adipose fin.

"The immediate benefit is that anglers will have an opportunity to catch and retain marked chinook jacks on a number of rivers," he said. "In doing so, they'll actually benefit wild chinook by getting hatchery fish off the spawning grounds."

Meanwhile, anglers recently caught a few legal-size **white sturgeon** between the Wauna powerlines and Bonneville Dam - the only area of the lower Columbia River still open for retention fishing. Sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through the end of the year.

Also, boat anglers fishing in the Camas/Washougal area have been catching **walleye** and **smallmouth bass**. There have also been reports of anglers catching good-sized **kokanee** on Yale Reservoir.

Eastern Washington:

Lake Roosevelt **rainbow trout** fishing is good, reported Perry Harvester, WDFW habitat biologist, who recently spent time on the big reservoir off Grand Coulee Dam. Rainbows are running between 12 and 22 inches, with good numbers of 19 to 22-inch fish that weigh between three and four pounds.

"Use large, worm-tipped flies such as muddler minnows behind flashers, dodgers, or pop gear," Harvester advised. "Troll 35-40 feet down in water between 75 and 110 feet deep and vary your speed. Bring a cooler and ice to keep your fish fresh in the hot weather."

Harvester said the best thing about Lake Roosevelt fishing at this time of year is that there's virtually no competition, at least between Grand Coulee Dam and Hawk Creek near Seven Bays, in Lincoln County north of Davenport.

Fishing during early morning hours or at night at almost any **trout** water in the region is good now, especially smaller lakes up north and around Spokane, said Chris Donley, WDFW fish biologist. "The lower Spokane River has nice rainbows and browns, but river anglers need to be aware of catch limits, gear restrictions, and other rules listed in the fishing pamphlet," Donley said.

Yellow perch, largemouth and **smallmouth bass, crappie**, and other warmwater fish species are also a good bet now at many mixed fisheries including Coffeepot Lake in Lincoln County, Downs Lake in southwest Spokane County, Eloika Lake in north Spokane County, and the Spokane River reservoir of Long Lake and Deer and Waitts lakes in Stevens County.

Kokanee fishing in southern Stevens County's Loon Lake remains steady, said Jason McLellan, WDFW fish biologist, who recently caught his ten-fish limit in a couple of hours of trolling. Most of the kokanee are "cookie cutter" 12-inchers, he said, but there are a few bigger fish to catch, too. Jigging for Loon Lake's kokanee at night also remains good.

Juli Anderson, WDFW's Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area manager, reported that both the West and East lakes on the property in Lincoln County have dried up completely and fish aren't even biting at Z Lake.

North Central Washington:

Lake Wenatchee **sockeye salmon** fishing finally opened August 6. The long-anticipated special season is the first one in four years, thanks to an abundant run of the big, bright fish, said Jeff Korth, WDFW north central region fish program manager.

"The fishery will continue on a daily basis until a harvestable quota has been taken, but it could close on short notice." Korth said. By Aug. 5, more than 24,000 sockeye were counted at Tumwater Dam on the Wenatchee River, above the spawning escapement goal of 23,000 fish.

The daily limit per angler is two sockeye with a minimum size of 12 inches. Sockeye with a colored plastic tag near the dorsal fin, and all bull trout, steelhead and chinook salmon must be released without removing fish from the water. Selective gear rules are in effect for Lake Wenatchee, although fishing from a boat equipped with a motor is allowed. These rules include no more than three barbless hooks, no bait nor scent, and a requirement for the use of knotless nets for landing fish. A night closure is also in effect for the sockeye fishery, with legal angling hours one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.

Korth noted there is very limited access on Lake Wenatchee. A small, primitive boat launch on U.S. Forest Service property and a boat launch at Lake Wenatchee State Park are available but parking is limited.

Art Viola, WDFW fish biologist, also noted **summer chinook salmon** fishing opened on the Entiat River in Chelan County Aug. 1 and will run through the end of the month. Fishing is allowed from the Alternate U.S. Highway 97 Bridge near the mouth of the Entiat River, upstream to the posted sign marking the Entiat City limits. The daily limit is six summer chinook salmon, minimum size 12 inches. Only two adults may be retained. Bull trout, coho and steelhead must be released unharmed. A non-buoyant lure restriction and night closure are in effect.

Bob Jateff, WDFW fish biologist, reported that **salmon** fishing on the mainstem Columbia River above Wells Dam has been slow. "Those chinook being caught, however, are in the 15 to 20 pound range, along with sockeye up to four pounds," Jateff said. "Most anglers use a trolled herring or super bait packed with tuna fish. Just remember that once the daily limit of two adult salmon is retained, you can not continue to fish for salmon."

Jateff also noted the Okanogan and Similkameen rivers opened Aug. 2 for salmon fishing. Open areas include the Okanogan River from the U.S. Highway 97 Bridge just upstream from the mouth to the U.S. Highway 97 Bridge in Oroville, and the Similkameen River from the mouth to the Highway 7 Bridge in Oroville. There is a non-buoyant rule restriction and night closure in

effect for all species on these rivers during the salmon season. Daily limit is six salmon, only two of which can be adult salmon. Sockeye can be retained but count as part of the two adult daily limit.

Jateff reported the Methow River continues to have pretty good fishing as the river has dropped into shape for anglers wishing to wade. "Fly fishermen are doing well on hopper patterns and stimulators," he said. "This is a catch and release fishery only under selective gear rules."

The Twisp River, from the mouth to War Creek, the Chewuch River, from the mouth to Eight Mile Creek, and the Methow River, from Foghorn Dam to Weeman Bridge will close to all fishing on Aug. 16. The remaining portions of the Methow River will stay open until Sept 30.

South Central Washington:

Paul Hoffarth, WDFW fish biologist, reported that **walleye** fishing is in full swing in the Columbia River near the Tri-Cities. "Walleye are being caught in Lake Umatilla from Plymouth to Boardman," he said. "The Hanford Reach has produced some excellent catches this year, as has the Columbia and Snake rivers around the Tri-Cities area."

Hoffarth also said summer **steelhead** are already returning in good numbers and a few anglers are reporting some catches. The Columbia River is currently open for steelhead up to the U.S. Highway 395 bridge (Blue Bridge) in Pasco/Kennewick. The Snake River and the Columbia River boundary waters at the confluence of the Snake are closed but will open Sept. 1.

The summer/fall chinook sport fishery is open above the U.S. Highway 395 bridge in Pasco/Kennewick upstream to Priest Rapids Dam and will remain open through Oct. 22. Catch has been slow for chinook in the Tri-Cities but should pick up by mid-September. The Columbia River from Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam opened Aug. 1 for fall chinook. Anglers should check the fishing rules pamphlet for information on bag limits and restrictions.

Jim Cummins, WDFW fish biologist, recommended heading for the mountains to fish for **cutthroat, rainbow** and **eastern brook trout** in the high lakes.

"Be prepared for bugs, especially mosquitoes, and for more than usual amounts of snow at the highest elevation lakes," he said. "I encourage anglers to limit harvest and practice catch-and-release, except at those lakes that are over-populated with eastern brook trout, or where they want to eat a couple of fish in camp.

"For catch-and-release fishing, I like to use a fly and bubble. Place a plastic float (bubble) above a swivel, attach about five feet of two-pound test leader, and tie on a small size 12-14 fly. Flies that imitate mayflies and caddisflies, including a variety of bead head nymphs, can be very effective. I discourage people from releasing bait-caught trout because survival of released fish is poor, compared to those caught on flies and lures." Cummins said the WDFW Primer for High Lakes is a good starting point for choosing a lake to fish and is available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regions/reg3/highlakes.pdf>.

Rivers, streams and small creeks are another good bet for anglers, Cummins said. Many streams have special regulations, such as selective gear rules (no bait, single barbless hook) and the general catch limit is two fish over eight inches in length. There are a number of exceptions, such as the 12-inch minimum length on the Naches River, and catch-and-release on the upper Yakima, part of the Naches, and Rattlesnake Creek. Cutthroat trout are the dominant species at higher elevations and rainbow are most often encountered at lower elevations rivers and streams. Several rivers are closed to protect bull trout and salmon. Anglers should check regulations before fishing.

"**Kokanee** are being caught in Yakima Basin Reservoirs, particularly at Rimrock Reservoir," Cummins said. "**Mackinaw** or lake trout are present in Cle Elum Reservoir. Although reservoir water levels are higher than normal this late in the season, they will be dropping rapidly the rest of this summer."

Cummins reminded anglers to carefully release any bull trout, steelhead and salmon that are caught incidental to trout fishing. Bull trout, steelhead, and salmon cannot be harvested in the Yakima River Basin at this time. Salmon seasons are closed in the Yakima until fall chinook and coho salmon season opens on part of the lower river on Sept. 1. Part of the American River is closed to protect spawning spring chinook salmon and bull trout.

Reader Email -

This week, readers had questions about the commercial efforts.

Subscriber Wayne L, wrote to **pro guide Bob Rees** to ask, "When will the gillnetters be fishing at B 10 this year?"

"I really enjoy your report and have been a subscriber for several yrs."

Bob replied:

<i>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Salmon Fishery</i>		
Season:	7 PM Sunday August 3 to 7 AM Monday August 4	(12 hours)
	7 PM Tuesday August 5 to 7 AM Wednesday August 6	(12 hours)
	7 PM Thursday August 7 to 7 AM Friday August 8	(12 hours)
	7 PM Sunday August 10 to 7 AM Monday August 11	(12 hours)
	7 PM Tuesday August 12 to 7 AM Wednesday August 13	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1- 5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokommin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-B , Washougal, and Sandy Rivers	
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction.	
Allowable	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 10 white sturgeon may be possessed or	
Sales:	sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only.	
Miscellaneous		
Rules:	<p>24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.</p> <p>Multiple Net Rule: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel <u>if properly stored</u>.</p> <p>A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.</p>	

"Wayne, these are the seasons. Zone 1 is Buoy 10 to Tongue Point. God help us all!"

"Thanks for being a subscriber!"

Reader Melvin P. wrote via the Contact Form at the TGF website: "can you give me the current web address for the commercially caught fish in the Columbia river?"

Bob again replies to this one, "Hey Mel, you should be able to find what you looking for here:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/comm_fishery_updates.asp

"Good luck!"

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

Police asking for help solving eel and steelhead slaughter:

http://www.oregonlive.com/news/index.ssf/2008/08/police_asking_for_help_solving.html

The River Why movie shooting in Oregon ... of course:

<http://jasonborger.com/ffwblog/?p=442>

Filet a Tuna for Sashimi:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeiI1T7uu0o&feature=user>

Weekly Quote – "I spent the evening before I left sorting through my tackle. I wanted to get rid of the worthless stuff, but I couldn't bring myself to throw out anything. Nostalgia seems to infuse every aspect of fishing, including the gear." - Bill Barich

GOOD LUCK!