

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 3<sup>rd</sup> – July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** Summer chinook numbers crossing Bonneville Dam are relatively low and success rates for anglers in the gorge reflect that. Boat anglers tallied only 1 salmon for every 5 boats over the weekend with bank catches 1 chinook for every 11 rods. The summer chinook season downstream of Bonneville Dam is slated to close after July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Bank anglers in the Portland to Longview stretch landed more sockeye salmon than summer steelhead in the weekend creel check. Sockeye passage is peaking at Bonneville right now. It's a great week for fish viewing at the Bonneville fish viewing window.

Oversize sturgeon anglers have to buy fresh shad from the tribal fishery as bait is becoming increasingly harder to catch. When the prime bait is available, anglers are catching just an occasional fish.

With counts at Willamette Falls updated only to June 19th, over 20,000 springers and 10,000 summer steelhead have crossed at Oregon City. Shad fishing is slow, sturgeon catches are fair at best. Some walleye are being taken in Multnomah Channel.

Trout fishing has been fair to good on the McKenzie. Steelheading has been fair.

The large tree which hampered navigation on the lower North Santiam has been removed. Good numbers of summer steelhead are entering the trap at Foster Dam with about 20% being recycled.

On the Clackamas as well as the Sandy, a select few are doing well while others are blanking. The key to these metro tributaries is learn a small stretch of river thoroughly and put in a consistent effort.

Scheduled for trout stocking are Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Trillium Lake, Alton Baker Canal, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake, Quartzville Creek, Salt Creek, North Santiam River and Trail Bridge Reservoir.

**Northwest –** Catch and keep sturgeon angling opens up again briefly from July 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> and prospects are good in the Astoria area. Although catch rates were less than a fish per boat, action was fair on the incoming tide the last few days of the early season with anchovies producing good in the deep water.

Although rough weather has hampered recent effort, anglers fishing the June 28<sup>th</sup> salmon season out of the mouth of the Columbia found ample fish available south of the rivers entrance. The coho were not large but should put on substantial weight well into August.

Good tides will grace bank anglers on lower Columbia beaches over the weekend. As we near peak season for plunkers, hot colored spin-n-glos fished close to the rivers edge should take fair numbers of steelhead through the month.

The long range ocean forecast is calling for seas to finally subside by Friday, giving ocean salmon anglers good opportunity for 3-fish limits south of Cape Falcon. A morning minus tide however

warrants extreme caution when crossing into the ocean in the morning hours.

Spring chinook anglers are focusing on rivers right now with early morning opportunity available on the Trask, Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers. A few summer steelhead are also available.

Clatsop County Beaches close to razor clam digging beginning July 15<sup>th</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> making the minus tide series beginning Saturday the last option for a while.

Bay crabbing is improving slightly with fewer softshells in the mix than in weeks past. The ocean should be fair for crabbers when the seas subside.

**Southwest** – With the quota for the spring all-depth halibut season yet to fill off the central and southern Oregon coast, anglers will have another chance at them on July 2nd, 3rd and 4th. About 28,000 pounds remain in the quota.

Bottom fishing has been good but anglers are reminded that rockfish may not be on board with halibut during all-depth fisheries.

Ocean crabbing remains fair although culling of softshells is required. Evidence of the Dungeness molt can be found on beaches now as hundreds of shells are washing up.

Pink fin surf perch are being caught in good number inside Winchester Bay. A couple of coho have been taken inside the jaws. Smallmouth fishing is good on the South Fork of the Umpqua.

Coho fishing out of Charleston and Bandon has been good for larger boats able to handle rough seas.

Sturgeon fishing is slow to fair in the Coos River. Shad fishing has been slow with low numbers available on the Coos and Coquille rivers.

Stick to the upper Rogue for springers & steelhead. There's not much happening elsewhere on the river.

Rough seas have hampered efforts out of Brookings recently, but the 4th of July weekend predictions look promising for an offshore launch. Coho and bottom fishing has been good. Rock and jetty anglers are catching rockfish and ling cod.

The Rogue above Lost Creek is scheduled to be planted with trout.

**Eastern** – Fishing for reddsides has been good at Trout Creek on the Deschutes. Golden Stone and Salmonfly hatches are done at Maupin, replaced primarily by caddis along with an assortment of other insects, creating decent dry fly prospects.

Bass fishing continues to improve on the John Day River for smallmouth.

**SW Washington** – The Cowlitz and Lewis Rivers remain the best options for summer steelhead in the district. Peak steelhead weeks will run through the month of July.

Most anglers in the region will switch focus to the mainstem Columbia where beaches should produce fair numbers of steelhead to plunkers working downstream of the Kalama River using spin-n-glos for lures.

The Klickitat River should produce fair steelhead results this month when warm temperatures don't cloudy the river with melting glacial ice.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Most eyes are focused on the summer chinook fishery near Bonneville. Much to everyone's chagrin, the action is less than stellar. Salmon counts at Bonneville continue to be disappointing with numbers hovering less than 1,500 fish per day recently. If late run timing is consistent this year however, the bulk of the fish may also pass later in the month. Regardless, the states have the closure date set for July 5<sup>th</sup>, which is closing fast.

There are a few boats taking 2 fish per day on average but that is the exception, certainly not the rule. The fish are running a quality size as is often the case for these "June Hogs". Spinners take the bulk of the fish but plugs can produce consistent opportunities as well. You'll have to watch out for oversize sturgeon grabbing them as well however as this population of fish are foraging for shad in the same area.

Steelhead action is slow in the gorge and just fair downriver along lower Columbia River beaches. Over 1,000 steelhead (both wild and hatchery) are crossing Bonneville Dam every day now. Sockeye numbers are pretty impressive with over 140,000 fish now past Bonneville Dam. As a matter of fact, anglers in some fisheries are catching more sockeye than summer steelhead right now. Sockeye are typically much smaller than steelhead, averaging between 3 and 5 pounds with a bullet blue back and no spots to speak of on their backs or tails. What beautiful flesh they have!

The estuary sturgeon season closed somewhat subdued. Fishing was pretty tough for most people the last few days of the last catch and keep season. Some of the better action remained above Tongue Point but it was hard to get fish on the outgoing tide. Some guides still found fair action in the deep water in front of Astoria but you definitely had to "powerbait" them to get through the trash fish to find your keepers. Pressure was notably down as the season wined down and people got discouraged with the lack of success. The fish were certainly present, they just weren't biting very well at all.

Anglers pioneering out into the ocean on the opening day for ocean coho were successful fishing south of the river entrance. Although you still had to travel a bit south to find fish, success rates were excellent with fish averaging 5 to 6 pounds and well schooled up (once you found the school). Fresh anchovies and herring scored easy limits for many anglers venturing out before the NW winds took most anglers out of the game. Fishing should resume again when the winds calm down into this weekend.

**The Guide's Forecast** – With numbers still low for summer chinook crossing Bonneville Dam, don't look for action to pick up significantly this weekend for the June Hogs. Anglers anchored with spinners should fare the best with an occasional steelhead in the mix. If the summer run follows suit with the spring run, the fish may just be late although additional opportunity is not all that likely.

Summer steelhead catches should ramp up in the coming weeks with a good tide series starting this weekend for beach plunkers. Bank anglers seem to do well for steelhead this time of year, especially in the minus tide series when fast velocities concentrate calorie-counting steelhead close to shore. Anglers can find fish in just a few feet of water and willing to take spin-n-glos in red, orange and pink colors. Scent is highly recommended for beach anglers and this is a great fishery to introduce kids to.

Offshore coho salmon fishing will be just like the "hey-days" with ample opportunity for herring trollers when the bar is safe and the ocean is fun. It looks like this weekend will offer up some opportunity as the ocean forecast looks friendly for offshore boaters. Here is the National Weather Service ocean forecast:

**FRI**

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 1 FOOT. NW SWELL 5 FT.  
PATCHY FOG IN THE MORNING.

**FRI NIGHT**

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. GUSTS UP TO 20 KT IN THE  
EVENING. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 5 FT.

**SAT**

NW WIND 10 KT...EASING TO 5 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND  
WAVES 1 FOOT. NW SWELL 5 FT.

**SAT NIGHT**

N WIND 10 KT WITH GUSTS TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT.  
SW SWELL 5 FT.

**SUN**

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT WITH GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT.  
SW SWELL 6 FT.

**MON**

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

Just fish south of the river mouth but be cautious on the bar crossing as we have a minus tide in the morning over the weekend. According to this forecast, Friday and Saturday will be the best days to venture out with Sunday and Monday flat out sucking with the wind wave prediction the way it is. This is a no-brainer fishery. Just keep your bait spinning fast and near the surface early in the morning and down a bit deeper if you don't have your limit by 9:00 a.m. Ocean crabbing should be picking up for hard-shelled keepers south of the south jetty.

Sturgeon fishers should also fare well with effort likely lighter than anticipated for the 4-day opener. Inadvertently, we made a mistake in last weeks report, the next catch and keep period is July 2<sup>nd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup>; that's 4 additional days with more likely if catch rates remain as slow as they have been. Through the June 28<sup>th</sup> closure date, it was estimated that sturgeon anglers harvested only 10,225 keepers leaving about 5,300 left on the quota.

The best area to target fish will be upstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge although I will likely fish above Tongue Point to avoid the trash fish. I don't anticipate the action to be much better than how we left the fishery last Sunday. Use anchovies in the deep water and sand shrimp in the shallows. Where have you heard that before?

Clam diggers should take advantage of the good tides over the weekend as the beaches north of Tillamook Head are slated to close on July 15<sup>th</sup>. The digging should be great with low tides and a mild surf.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – With the fish counts at Willamette Falls nearly two weeks behind, nobody, including the fish counters, one could assume, knows how many springers and steelhead have crossed. Anglers have been disappointed by the apparently low returns of the normally prolific shad.

The clown who drove his pickup into the Willamette only to have it come to rest in 10 feet of water **and** on top of a water line that supplies water to more than 30,000 Santa Clara homes and

businesses will be at cause for very low water levels. You'll still be able to boat it but it remains to be seen how negative an effect it will have on fishing. Full story here:

\*<http://www.registerguard.com/csp/cms/sites/web/news/cityregion/16310179-41/story.csp>

McKenzie water temperatures remaining the 50s with the flow about 2,700 cfs at Vida. It follows that it's fishing well in these conditions.

Flows on the North Santiam are able and expected to stay that way for the next week or so. A few summer steelhead are being caught.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Sturgeon fishing is slow to fair with the better catches being made in the Gladstone/Oregon City stretch. Shad fishing is winding down as we near the end of a run that disappointed many.

Fish Yellow Sally imitations on the lower McKenzie for success with reddsides. Try late in the day for best results. Steelhead are being caught below Dexter Dam on the upper river.

The North Santiam is fishing best on the upper stretches; think Packsaddle to Mehama. Drift boats may expect to hit rocks here and there.

Trollers are taking limits of trout on Detroit Reservoir.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Fish small spinners high on the Clackamas for the best chance at a summer steelhead. Fishing early or late in the day will vastly improve the odds of a hookup in bright, sunny weather. Catch rates are better here than at the Sandy. Spring Chinook fishing is very slow despite over 400 springers entering the hatchery trap over the last few weeks.

Good quality cured salmon eggs are catching summer steelhead on the Sandy River. Keep baits small and either drift them or fish under a float. One fish can be considered a good day here. Checking ahead for conditions would be a good idea as the river can turn glacial gray in hot weather. Call Rob at Jack's Snack & Tackles in Troutdale (503-665-2257) for honest answers.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – With spring chinook fishing on the way out, most anglers will now focus on the liberal coho season available to anglers that have sea-worthy boats. The fishing has been excellent for anglers seeking to get their 3-fish limit in the south of Cape Falcon fishery. Although that hasn't been all that easy to attain, action has been good with Depoe Bay and Garibaldi great ports to fish out of. The fish have been running a decent size for this time of year and they will grow substantially in the coming weeks. For Garibaldi fishers, just head out to about 170 feet and troll west until you hit consistent action. Early morning fishing will draw the most strikes and the most aggressive ones too. There are lots of wild fish in the mix so be prepared to release lots of fish as well.

Most of the fleet will be concentrating on salmon this week but bottomfishing and nearshore halibut are also options. You'll just want to pick your days when seas are flat to get the most out of your experience. Ocean crabbing should be picking up as well with more crab in a hard-shell state in the coming weeks.

Springer fishermen are folding it up for the season although some are still targeting the quality fish in the north coast tributaries. The Trask, Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers are all still good options for bobber and egg tossers working the deeper holes. The bite has slowed in the past week however but adults and a fair number of jacks have been reported from the above mentioned streams. Some of

the earlier returning fish should begin to show color but the flesh of these prime specimens should remain in great condition for another 2 weeks.

Summer steelheaders only have the Wilson and Nestucca to choose from. Steelhead will be pocketed up in the deeper water and in less concentrations in the shallow, broken surfaced riffles. The fish in the faster water are more likely to bite so I recommend targeting those fish if you're willing to work for them.

Crabbing in Tillamook Bay is improving but the ocean will usually be the better option when weather permits. Bay clamming should be good this weekend.

Devils Lake is fishing well for rainbows 12 to 14 inches with the occasional large holdover trout showing in catches. Only fin-clipped fish may be retained here.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Watch the ocean weather as that will be your best option for salmon in the coming weeks. Action should be good and a 3 fish limit is attainable, especially as we near late July and early August. We should be in for a great ride if the weather cooperates. Just troll herring in 170 to 220 feet of water, it's that simple. Watch the tides however as it really isn't all that fun getting caught out in the ocean when the bar is rough. An afternoon strong outgoing tide is not your friend but we'll just have to watch the morning bar crossing during this weeks minus tide series.

River fishers will have to use stealth tactics to target salmon, steelhead or trout in these low water conditions. Small clusters of eggs or small shrimp should take the more aggressive fish in the faster flows. Early morning will produce the best results. Spinners may also prove effective but don't let the fish see you casting.

Crabbers will want to work the incoming tide in Tillamook, Netarts, Nehalem and Nestucca estuaries. The ocean will prove to be the best however when the weather permits safe bar crossings and a fun ocean to recreate in.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – High winds and rough seas prevented anglers from filling the spring all-depth halibut quota. Good offshore conditions are predicted for the 4th of July weekend so the remaining 28,000 pounds will likely be caught.

This comes up every year but is worth mentioning to keep our subscribers from inadvertently running into trouble with the law. Barbed hooks are preferred for halibut fishing but all hooks used must be barbless whenever coho are on board. It is logical, therefore, to get your halibut before trying for coho.

Coho results out of Newport and Depoe Bay have been fair to good with hookups starting about 12 nautical miles offshore. As warmer water moves closer to shore, the runs will get shorter. Results out of these ports indicate about half the fish have been finclipped but that's just a chance to catch twice as many fish!

Herring are in at Yaquina Bay (a situation which can change from one day to the next). Jigging this week has been fair to good. Crabbing has been fair but be sure to check for softshells (give the foremost leg a squeeze next to the body) as not all are hard at this time of year.

Mussel harvesting south of Neptune State Park near Yachats remains open although it's closed north of that point. There are no closures coast-wide on clamming. Mild minus tides this weekend should create opportunities for either or both.

Sturgeon fishing has been fair at Reedsport on the outgoing tide below the bridge. Steelheading has been picking up on the Umpqua with bait most effective on the stretches where it's allowed. Smallmouth bass anglers in the Elkton are and on the South Umpqua are making very good catches now.

Shad fishing has picked up a little on the South Fork of the Coos River while it's still very slow on the Coquille where striped bass fishing is picking up in the evenings.

Crabbing is improving out of Bandon but expect to sort many that are too small, females and, as with most locations in the summer, softshells.

Top ports for coho catches have been out of Coos and Winchester Bay. Early morning launches should go well in mold conditions this weekend. Coho fishing will pick up as the season progresses. Bottom fishing has been worthwhile despite the 40-fathom restriction. This might be the weekend when the first albacore of the season is landed.

Although daily counts of spring Chinook are dropping off at Gold Ray Dam and an historically low YTD total shy of 10,000, the upper Rogue remains the place to target. Most anglers are using bait over plugs. A few are being caught downriver around Agness while the Grants Pass stretch is a piscatorial ghost town. Natives may no longer be retained due to low run numbers and to protect breeding stock. Sufficient numbers of summer steelhead have entered the upper Rogue to consider targeting them soon. Trout fishing has been good on the upper river above Lost Creek thanks to plantings every week for a month.

A decision has been made regarding navigability of the Rogue River from Lost Creek to Grave Creek to the effect that users may not be accused of trespassing if they remain anywhere below the ordinary high water mark.

Boats launching out of the Port of Brookings should have no problems this weekend if the offshore forecasts hold true. Low swells at 15 seconds or more and light winds will make for easy going.

Fishing for sea run cutthroat trout has been fair to good in tidewater and in upstream where bait is not allowed. Surf perch fishing remains good off area beaches. Good enough. In fact, that one of the local guide services put together a trip on Wednesday this week to catch 90 in a three-hour span. Another opportunity for bank-bound anglers is to throw jigs off the jetty for black rockfish and ling cod. Results have been good at times.

Anglers may have to put in their time to take a limit of trout at Diamond Lake but all agree the quality and size of the fish is worth it. Follow the hatches for best results ... that's what the trout are doing.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – The John Day River is kicking out fine numbers of smallies.

Kokanee fishing is fair on jigs while bass fishing is good at Lake Billy Chinook.

Paulina is fair for kokanee running 15 inches or better with jigging and trolling equally effective.

Deep trolling is effective at Green Peter for kokanee running 10 to 14 inches.

Crappie fishing has been very good in Brownlee Reservoir on the Oregon/Idaho border. Fishing for channel cats running three to six pounds has been decent as well.

## Washington fishing reports:

**From the WDF&W Weekender Report June 24 – July 7, 2009**

### North Puget Sound

Fishing has been slow for anglers on the saltwater, but catch numbers could rise as more marine areas open for salmon in July. On the rivers, anglers continue to cast for spring chinook, and some have recently hooked a few nice-size fish.

Meanwhile, the **crab** fishery opens July 1 in marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay), 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton). Fisheries in those areas will be open on a Wednesday-through-Saturday schedule, plus the entire Labor Day weekend.

The daily catch limit in Puget Sound is five Dungeness crab, males only, in hard-shell condition with a minimum carapace width of 6¼ inches. Fishers may catch six red rock crab of either sex per day, provided those crab measure at least 5 inches across. See WDFW's sport-crabbing website (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/>) for more information.

In Marine Area 8-2, the **Tulalip Bay "bubble" salmon fishery** is currently under way. The fishery got off to a slow start and the bite has yet to pick up, said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. "It's been quiet out there," he said. "But fishing tends to improve as we head into July."

The bubble is currently open each week from Friday through noon Monday. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. Chinook must measure 22 inches in length to retain.

The catch-and-release salmon fishery in the northern portion of Marine Area 10 continues through June 30. However, beginning July 1, anglers fishing in the marine area will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, with no minimum size limit. Anglers must release chinook salmon.

"Marine Area 10 has been great for resident coho the last several years," Thiesfeld said. "Hopefully, anglers will find more of the same this year."

Another option is Marine Area 7 (San Juan Islands), which also opens July 1 for salmon. Anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but can only keep one chinook.

In the freshwater, portions of the Skykomish, Skagit and Cascade rivers are open for hatchery **chinook salmon** fishing. On the Skykomish River, which is open from the Lewis Street Bridge in Monroe to the Wallace River through July 31, there have been recent reports of anglers hooking some nice-size hatchery chinook. Anglers fishing there have a daily limit of two hatchery chinook salmon.

The Skagit is open to hatchery chinook retention from the Highway 530 bridge at Rockport to the Cascade River. On the Cascade, anglers can fish from the mouth of the river to the Rockport-Cascade Road Bridge. Both stretches are open through July 15.

The daily limit on the Skagit and Cascade rivers is four hatchery chinook, two of which may be adults (chinook salmon at least 24 inches in length). Statewide rules require anglers to stop fishing for salmon once they have kept two adults.

Anglers are reminded that gamefish regulations have changed on the Cascade River from the mouth to the Rockport-Cascade Road Bridge. From June 1 to July 15, anglers can retain up to two trout, including hatchery steelhead and bull trout. For details, anglers should check the rules and regulations pamphlet on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

Meanwhile, Skagit anglers are gearing up for an upcoming **summer chinook salmon** fishery. Beginning July 9, anglers will have the opportunity to hook a summer chinook on a portion of the lower Skagit for the first time in 16 years. The Skagit will be open from the mouth of the river to the mouth of Gilligan Creek from noon Thursday through Sunday each week. Anglers will have a daily limit of two chinook, only one of which may be an adult.

Before heading out to the rivers, lakes or Sound, anglers should check the rules and regulations for all fisheries on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm>.

### **South Sound/Olympic Peninsula**

The much-anticipated coastal salmon fishery will open in late June with record returns of coho expected. Meanwhile, most areas of central Puget Sound will open for crab fishing July 1, and sport fishers will get one more day - June 28 - to catch halibut on the south coast.

Anglers looking forward to the ocean salmon fishery have reason to be optimistic, especially if they're targeting **coho salmon**, said Wendy Beeghley, WDFW fish biologist. "People are already encountering coho in other fisheries, so catch rates should be good right from the start," Beeghley said.

A projected 1.2 million hatchery coho are forecast to return to the Columbia River, which could make this year's ocean season the best since 2001. Most coastal **chinook** runs are expected to be similar to last year, with little change in the quota, Beeghley said. This year, anglers will be allowed to catch 176,400 hatchery coho and 20,500 chinook compared to 20,000 hatchery coho and 20,000 chinook last year.

The north coast (marine areas 3 and 4) will be open Tuesdays through Saturdays only beginning June 27, and daily starting July 18. Ilwaco (Marine Area 1) will be open daily for salmon fishing starting June 28. The salmon season in Westport (Marine Area 2) also starts June 28, but will be open Sundays through Thursdays only through July 23, and daily thereafter.

The daily limit in all marine areas is two salmon, but only one may be a chinook. All wild coho must be released. Westport anglers may add one pink salmon to their limit, while those fishing the north coast may add two.

Salmon fisheries off Sekiu/Pillar Point and the eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca and Hood Canal (marine areas 5 and 6) open July 1 on a daily basis for hatchery chinook and coho. All wild chinook, coho and chum must be released. Anglers may keep two pink salmon as part of their daily limit. Marine Area 12 (Hood Canal south of Ayock Point) also opens July 1 with a four-fish daily limit. Because rules vary in each area, anglers are advised to check the *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> before heading out.

Halibut fishing is now closed in most areas, but anglers have a unique chance to catch both halibut and salmon in Marine Area 5 (Sekiu) July 2 and 3 (the last day for halibut fishing), said Steve Thiesfeld, WDFW fish biologist. "The two-day overlap in fishing seasons is a sweet deal for anglers who can potentially come home with a fish in each hand," Thiesfeld said. The same is true for the coast where opening day of salmon season in Marine Area 2 (Westport) coincides with a one-day re-opening of the halibut fishery June 28.

Thiesfeld also advises salmon anglers in south Puget Sound to take advantage of the nice weather and long days. "Even though it's not the peak of the run, there's some nice fish around," Thiesfeld said. "People should get out and enjoy these bonus days on the water." The hatchery chinook fishery runs seven days a week, with a two-fish daily limit. The minimum size for chinook is 22 inches with no minimum limit for other species. All wild chinook must be released. The pink salmon bonus in Marine Area 11 takes effect July 1, when anglers may add two pink salmon to their daily limit. Commencement Bay is closed to salmon fishing until Aug. 1.

Salmon fishing also opens July 1 on several Olympic Peninsula rivers, including the Bogachiel, Calawah, Quinault and Nisqually.

Six areas of Puget Sound will open for crab fishing July 1, including marine areas 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca), 8-1 (Deception Pass to East Point), 8-2 (East Point to Possession Point), 9 (Admiralty Inlet), 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) and 11 (Tacoma/Vashon). Those areas will be open Wednesdays through Saturdays only, plus Labor Day weekend, closing the evening of Sept. 7.

Crabbing is already underway in marine areas 4 (Neah Bay east of the Bonilla-Tatoosh line), 5 (Sekiu) and 13 (south Puget Sound), where the fishery is open seven days a week through Jan. 2, 2010.

Rich Childers, WDFW shellfish policy lead, reminds anglers that crabbing in Hood Canal (Marine Area 12) begins July 29 this year to help prevent the harvesting of mating female crabs. "Crab abundance in Hood Canal has dropped considerably since 2001 and we need as many crabs as possible for reproduction," Childers said. "Although it is already unlawful to harvest female crabs, WDFW and tribal co-managers are taking extra precautions to help stabilize and protect the crab population."

Additional information is available on the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/shelfish/crab/> or <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/fishregs.htm> .

## **Southwest Washington**

The fishery for adult **summer chinook salmon** got off to a good start June 22 on the lower Columbia River, where boat anglers fishing around Kalama are averaging one fish for every two boats. Bank anglers were also doing well below Bonneville Dam, according to opening-day creel surveys.

The chance to catch summer chinook - known as "June hogs" due to their size, is expected to draw a strong turnout in the days ahead, said Joe Hymer, a WDFW fish biologist.

"We just got a report of an angler catching a 45-pounder," Hymer said. "These are big, chrome-bright fish, so it's hardly surprising that this is such a popular fishery."

Anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam may retain any adult summer chinook - not just those with a clipped adipose fin - as part of their daily catch limit through July 5. Above Bonneville Dam, summer

chinook may be retained upriver to the Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco from July 1-31. In both areas, the salmonid daily limit is six fish, no more than two of which may be adult salmon or **hatchery steelhead**, or one of each. **Sockeye salmon** also count as part of the adult limit.

Fishery managers anticipate a run of 70,700 summer chinook to the Columbia River this year, up from 55,500 a year ago. While those fish are the big draw, anglers continue to reel in sockeye salmon and hatchery steelhead moving up the river. "One of the great things about this fishery is that if you don't catch a summer chinook, you can always target sockeye salmon or hatchery steelhead," Hymer said.

In the week prior to the summer chinook opening, 1,200 anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam reported catching 85 steelhead, 41 sockeye and 27 chinook jacks, while releasing 40 adults.. Hymer said some of the best catch rates for hatchery steelhead and sockeye were posted around the sandbars between Cathlamet and Longview.

Hymer noted that catching a spring hog requires a somewhat different approach than the one used for the other species. "While sockeye and steelhead generally stay close to the bank, summer chinook run in fairly deep water - at least 20 feet," he said. "Plunking works best for sockeye and steelhead, but you need to let out some line to find summer chinook," he said.

The summer steelhead run is still building and sockeye returns are peaking, but shad may be on the downhill side, Hymer said. Anglers looking for shad would do well to head upriver, where catch rates for boat anglers in the John Day Pool averaged nearly eight fish per rod during the week ending June 21. By comparison, catch rates ranged from 0.5 to 2.0 fish per rod that week among anglers fishing from Bonneville Dam downriver to Camas/Washougal.

Meanwhile, the **white sturgeon** fishery below the Wauna power lines is scheduled to close June 28 at the end of the day and reopen July 2-5. Staff will continue to monitor the fishery and will provide another catch update this week.

Catches improved during the week ending June 21, when charter boat anglers averaged one legal-size sturgeon for every two rods and private boaters averaged one for every 3.5 rods. Bank anglers were also catching some legals.

Fishing on Columbia River tributaries has been mixed. Cowlitz River bank anglers fishing at the barrier dam are still catching some **spring chinook**, while boat anglers near Blue Creek are mostly catching hatchery steelhead. Some hatchery steelhead are also being caught on other tributaries to the Columbia River including the Kalama, Lewis, Washougal and Klickitat rivers.

**Trout** anglers should know that WDFW planted Goose Lake with 4,500 good-sized brown trout and 869 even-larger cutthroat in mid-June. The browns averaged two-thirds of a pound apiece and the cutthroat averaged 1.5 pounds. Skate Creek and the Tilton River are also in line for trout plants in the coming days as is Mayfield Lake. Anglers fishing Riffe Lake have been catching a mixture of landlocked coho and landlocked steelhead.

## **Eastern Washington**

Now is the time to fish the Spokane River arm of Lake Roosevelt for some of the tastiest freshwater fish - **walleye**. The daily catch limit is eight and there's no minimum size, although only one over 22 inches may be retained. The Seven Bays area and many other spots on the big reservoir are also good for **kokanee** and **rainbow trout** fishing now. There is a two-fish daily catch limit for kokanee. The limit on trout is five, but only two over 20 inches may be retained.

Anglers can combine fishing with holiday weekend camping at the Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area's campgrounds at Evans, Fort Spokane, Gifford, Hunters, Keller Ferry, Kettle Falls and Spring Canyon; most are on a first-come, first-served basis, but groups need to reserve camp sites - for details see <http://www.nps.gov/laro/>.

Sprague Lake, on the Lincoln-Adams county line off I-90, continues to be the rainbow trout factory. Spokane County's Williams and Badger Lake, also continue to provide good catches of rainbow and **cutthroat trout**. Although there are no specific creel checks, rivers and streams throughout the region should be providing trout action, too.

Liberty and Newman lakes in eastern Spokane County and Eloika Lake in north Spokane County all have a mixed bag for anglers - trout, bass, crappie, perch - and all species are biting now. Coffeepot Lake in Lincoln County is also good for perch and bass, but remember that a no-bait rule is in effect. Also in Lincoln County, Twin and Deer Springs lakes are producing largemouth bass

Downs Lake, in the southwest corner of Spokane County, and Eloika Lake in north Spokane County, are good for **yellow perch, crappie**, and **largemouth bass**.

The Snake River in the southeast part of the region continues to be productive for **smallmouth bass** and **channel catfish**.

The fourth annual **Fish and Wildlife Night at Spokane Indians Baseball** is set for July 6, when any fishing or hunting license holder can receive a discount on tickets. The stadium vendor area will include fish and wildlife displays that night, with fish casting and elk bugling contests scheduled between innings. Call or stop by the ticket office (509-343-6886, Avista Stadium near the Spokane County Expo Center) for details and to reserve seats.

### **Northcentral Washington**

Bob Jateff, WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist, said that as the weather warms in July, rivers and streams in Okanogan County will provide good trout fishing.

"The Methow River and selected tributaries opened for catch-and-release, selective-gear-only trout fishing in June and should provide good opportunities through September," Jateff said. "Anglers should check the regulation pamphlet closely because the Methow, Twisp, and Chewuch rivers are only open for fishing in certain areas. Some smaller Methow Basin tributaries open for standard gear angling are Boulder and Eight Mile creeks where liberal **brook trout** limits exist."

Jateff said fishing in Okanogan County lakes tends to slow down as water temperatures increase, but anglers willing to fish slow and deep can continue to have success catching trout. Spectacle, Alta, Pearrygin, Wannacut, and Conconully lakes, plus Conconully Reservoir, all should provide rainbow trout ranging in size from 11 to 13 inches, however there are some 15-inch fish as well.

"Jameson Lake in Douglas County has been fishing pretty well and the fish are larger than last year at this time," Jateff said. "Reports of rainbow 10-12 inches with larger fish in the 15-inch range are coming in. Just remember that Jameson closes to fishing on July 5 and reopens on Oct 1."

Spiny-ray anglers can fish Leader Lake for **crappie** and **bluegill**, and Patterson Lake for **yellow perch**, Jateff noted. "These two lakes will provide good fishing throughout the summer for all three species," he said. "And even though they might be smaller in size than trout, they are very good eating."

In Grant County, Moses Lake recently received 500 nearly half-pound **rainbow trout** from WDFW's Columbia Basin Fish Hatchery. Just to the south in Potholes Reservoir, **walleye** fishing is reportedly good in the Crab Creek area of the sand dunes, the Goose Island area, and the Lind Coulee arm of the reservoir.

In the interest of wild fire prevention, WDFW officials remind Fourth of July holiday celebrants that fireworks are not allowed on any of WDFW's 900,000-some acres of water access sites and wildlife areas across the state. Campfires are restricted in many areas, too. For details by area, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/>.

## Southcentral Washington

The middle reach of the Yakima River closes to **hatchery spring chinook salmon** fishing on June 30. The fishery, which opened in mid-May, is under a daily limit of two hatchery chinook, minimum size 12 inches. Hatchery salmon are identified by a missing adipose fin and a healed scar in the location of the missing fin. Wild salmon (adipose fin intact) must be immediately released unharmed and cannot be removed from the water prior to release. (Rules for this fishery are available at <https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=755>.) WDFW fish biologist Jim Cummins reports poor fishing success during the last creel check (week ending June 21), when 108 salmon anglers caught and kept just two hatchery adult and seven hatchery jack chinook, and released three wild salmon.

"River flows are much better early in the season," Cummins said. "Fishing effort is heavy downstream of the Railroad Trestle at Roza Dam. Many fish have passed upstream of the fishery, but there should be fish available until the end of the season."

Rivers and streams continue dropping into condition and Cummins says they should provide increasingly productive opportunity for **cutthroat** and **rainbow trout**. "Good bets might be the Naches, Yakima, Little Naches and Teanway rivers, and Taneum, Naneum and Rattlesnake Creeks," he said.

Selective gear rules, closed reaches, and catch-and-release areas are in place at a number of rivers, so anglers should check the current Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet. With the exception of the middle reach of the Yakima, all rivers and streams are closed to salmon fishing and **bull trout** may not be harvested.

WDFW fish biologist Eric Anderson reports **Mackinaw** or **lake trout** are being caught at Cle Elum Reservoir. "This is also the time of year when **kokanee** really start biting at Rimrock, Bumping, Keechelus, and Kachess reservoirs," he said.

Anderson also noted snow is finally off the access areas for Dog and Leech lakes off Highway 12 in the White Pass area and at Lost Lake in the Snoqualmie Pass area. One-and-a-half pound **triploid rainbow trout** were recently stocked in all three lakes - 1,014 at Lost, 725 at Leech, and 427 at Dog Lake. Anderson reminds anglers that Leech is fly-fishing-only and all three lakes have a trout daily limit of five with no more than one over 14 inches.

"More hiking trails are opening up in the mountains so anglers can start planning high lake fishing trips," Anderson said, "but check trail conditions first. Not all trails are snow-free or accessible at the very remote, high elevation lakes. Check with the Forest Service District Ranger Station for the area you plan to visit."

Anglers can also find information about catchable-size trout plants in high lakes and all fishing waters in the region at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/weekly/>. For high lake fish plants in the Yakima Basin see [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg3/r3\\_highlakes.htm](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/plants/regions/reg3/r3_highlakes.htm).

### **Reader E-mail -**

Reader 'Heather' wrote to ask, "We are fishing for Salmon tomorrow on the lower Columbia. I was planning to put out 2 herring with flashers and 2 spinners without flashers based on what we have read the past few weeks in the newspaper. This is our first time fishing Salmon on our own without a guide. Can you tell me what they have been catching salmon with this past week? We are fishing between Rt 205 bridge and Chinook Landing."

TGF co-editor Bob Rees responded, "Although it should be possible to catch salmon in the stretch you are fishing, without the bulk numbers that we typically see in the spring months, consistent success is not likely using this method in the area you wish to target these fish. Most anglers find success near Bonneville Dam more consistent, using spinners or plugs for offerings. It's primarily an anchor show but backtrollers can get them too. 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](mailto:brees@pacifier.com)

Doug Rees: [doug@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:doug@TheGuidesForecast.com)

Michael Teague: [Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com)

### **Random Links**

Barton Bridge on Clackamas to close for two months:

<http://www.co.clackamas.or.us/roads/barton.htm>

Oregon Fly Fishing Film Festival call for entries:

<http://oregonflyfishingblog.com/2009/06/29/oregon-fly-fishing-film-festival-call-for-entries/>

Holiday weekend coastal activities:

<http://www.oregoncoasttoday.com/coastcalendar.html>

Gold Ray Dam's days could be numbered. Good riddance:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090630/NEWS07/906300329>

**GOOD LUCK!**