

The Guide's Forecast - volume 13 issue number 23

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 10<sup>th</sup> – June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** Saturday and Sunday, June 11-12 is Free Fishing Weekend. No licenses or harvest cards are required which creates an excellent opportunity to show a friend, neighbor or youngster the outdoor opportunities existing in Oregon.

Anglers below Bonneville Dam continue to struggle finding willing salmon or steelhead to take gear. Bank angling holds some of the best opportunities but with persistent high water, fish are hard to target. The river is forecast to remain high through mid-month. Jack counts are on track to break the historical record meaning a productive 2012 is likely.

Lower Willamette flow is moderating slightly. About 20,000 springers and 9,000 summer steelhead have crossed the falls. Spring chinook fishing is slow in the Oregon City area but persistence will provide one or two chances per day. The Multnomah Channel and the lower Portland Harbor are booting out great catches of late run chinook however. Trolled spinners and herring are working well. Shad are in at Oregon City but catches should improve when water temperatures climb.

Following fluctuations in flow this week, the McKenzie should settle down and fish well in the coming weekend.

Santiam water levels remain high although spring chinook are being caught below Waterloo.

With water flow moderating slightly this week, steelheading is fair on the Clackamas with spring prospects improving.

Results are slow to fair on the Sandy although persistent anglers are taking a few. Try drifting eggs and yarn for springers.

**Northwest –** Tillamook spring chinook are in full blossom with good catches coming from the upper bay on the current strong tide series. Boaters are taking good numbers of salmon averaging 16 to 22 pounds on herring and spinners from Memaloose Boat Ramp to the corral in the middle of the bay. Herring trollers working the lower bay were taking some fish but the upper bay has been the most productive.

Participants in the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Bounty on the Bay tallied 18 spring chinook on Saturday. The largest fish weighed in was 25 pounds. Some anglers sought salmon in the bubble with limited results. Sharon Harmon of Portland tallied a sand dab for several hours of effort offshore in calm seas.

Local rivers remain low with weather forecasts unlikely to help matters. Driftboaters working the lower stretches should find an occasional fish but early mornings are likely to produce the best results as these fish will be spooked. Tidewater anglers should fare well in the coming weeks using bobbers and a shrimp/egg combination.

Another minus tide series will hit beginning Sunday. Razor clam digging in the ocean surf and bay clamming in Tillamook and Netarts should be excellent through the weekend.

Offshore fishing for bottomfish and halibut should be good if the forecast rings true.

**Southwest** – Offshore salmon fishing has been only fair but catches are expected to improve as the summer months near. Ocean conditions are predicted to be friendly this week.

South coast beaches are providing limits of pinkfin and striped surf perch with a variety of baits appealing to these fish.

Only 28% of the spring quota has been harvested following all-depth efforts through May 26-28 with results from the past weekend not yet available. Sufficient poundage remains in the quota to allow the next scheduled opening will be the 9th, 10th and 11th of June. Catches should be good with calming seas in the forecast.

Crabbing has been spotty in Winchester Bay but will improve with moderating precipitation. Umpqua water levels are dropping this week which should create excellent opportunity for the prolific shad which are in the mainstem now. North Umpqua anglers are making fair to good catches of spring chinook.

Prospects on the lower Rogue are looking up as the water level is forecast to be dropping over the coming week and non-hatchery chinook may now be retained. A 49-pound native springer was recently taken near Gold Beach. Wrapped Kwikfish are taking a few springers on the middle river. Upper Rogue fishers have continued to enjoy decent results for chinook.

Bottom fishing out of the Port of Brookings has been excellent with limits of rockfish and, when ocean conditions allow access to the reef, limits of large lingcod. Last weekend's all-depth halibut effort yielded good catches. Chinook fishing is fair within five miles of shore. Sea-run cutthroat fishing is good on the Chetco.

Free of ice and with weather moderating, Diamond Lake, where a lucky angler recently bagged an eight pound rainbow, is an appealing destination this coming weekend.

**Eastern** – Redsides are dining on big bugs with the Salmonflies hatching in force on the entire length of the lower Deschutes. The river is still a little high but is in great color and fishing well, particularly at the edges where insects drop off brush.

The Umatilla River may provide some spring chinook action in the coming weeks. Flows are forecast to drop well past the weekend.

**SW Washington** – Washington tributaries are experiencing low returns although the Cowlitz is putting out some fair catches of chinook. The Lewis and Kalama remain closed due to low returns.

Wind and Drano Lake are slowing down with much of the effort taking place higher in the watershed. Summer steelhead should begin to show in higher numbers in the coming weeks.

In The Dalles Pool, Washington anglers are scoring good results for walleye and bass despite high flows.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Despite high flows, rumors of guides having great success fishing for salmon downstream of Portland are unconfirmed. Given the bump in passage at Bonneville again however, it seems possible that good catches could be hitting the deck for those able to unlock the key to high water fishing. Over 2,500 fish per day have passed Bonneville Dam in recent days and jack counts keep climbing to what could be the highest on record. Anglers

finding success in recent days are keeping the information under wraps. Significant enough numbers of fish are clearly around, anglers just have to figure out how to intercept them. No matter where you go, folks are talking about how high the water is right now. It's not peak season but the late arriving fish should bolster catches in the days before the June summer hogs begin to show.

Some of the best catches were coming from boats fishing in the estuary, boats that likely fished close or from a beach, using the boat for transit only. Here is the most recent ODF&W creel check from last weekend:

**Gorge Boats:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adults kept for one boat (three anglers).

**Troutdale Boats:**

No report.

**Portland to Longview Bank:**

Weekend checking showed 12 adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adults, nine adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jacks, and six adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus three unclipped spring chinook adults, three unclipped spring chinook jacks, and three unclipped steelhead released for 204 bank anglers.

**Portland to Longview Boats:**

Weekend checking showed six adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adults, and eight adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jacks kept, plus three unclipped spring chinook adults released for 24 boats (58 anglers).

**Estuary Bank (Jones Beach to Tongue Point):**

Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adults, five adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jacks, 10 adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and one sockeye kept, plus two unclipped spring chinook adults, and one unclipped steelhead released for 81 bank anglers.

**Estuary Boats (Puget Island to Tongue Point):**

Weekend checking showed six adipose fin-clipped spring chinook adults, eight adipose fin-clipped spring chinook jacks, and two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped spring chinook adult released for 14 boats (33 anglers).

Bonneville actually enjoyed one of the best catch rates based on "units of effort" but one boat simply can not represent how the fishing is. Under these river conditions however, fish may be congregating in this section before passing the facility. Boaters need to use extreme caution when anchoring in these waters as they are very dangerous under these circumstances. The water remains relatively cool as well, further justifying near edge fishing. Chinook can be caught in 3 to 5 feet of water in these conditions and steelhead will certainly travel shallow under this flow regime. Steelhead counts are beginning to climb as well but will likely peak later than usual, just like the chinook are doing.

Sturgeon fishing remains slow upstream of the Wauna Powerlines but catches downstream are starting to ramp up. Although clearly not the peak, keepers are falling at a rate of nearly a keeper every other boat with fair shaker action going on. An occasional oversize fish is being landed.

The action got a bit better downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge with a few boats reporting some action at the mouth of Young's Bay (Stink House Flats). High flows is creating a weed issue with most boats anxiously waiting for incoming tide to catch fish. There is certainly a degree of luck involved with finding willing keepers. Some keepers are beginning to be taken in the shallower water. Sand shrimp dominates as the bait of choice in the shallows.

More consistent fishing is being found in the deep water upstream of Tongue Point. Anglers fishing along Woody Island and near Aldridge Point are coming up with some fair sized keepers but heavy lead and heavy rods are necessary to effectively fish this type of water. It hasn't been easy for guides trying to find a boatload of keepers for their clientele.

With halibut season closed north of Cape Falcon, interest has shifted to bottomfish although the weather hasn't been all that conducive to pleasure fishing. That should change by the weekend however (see forecast below).

Although tides are improving for estuary crabbing, given all the fresh water coming down the pipe, keeper action in the lower river is likely to be fair at best. River crab are in good shape while ocean crab are mostly in a soft shell kind of state.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Although we should be nearing the end of the spring chinook run on the Columbia River, action should remain fair to good for the late returning run this year. Numbers have taken a noticeable up-tick and should keep going if fish bio's are accurate in their prediction. Summer chinook numbers should bleed into spring chinook so look for counts over 1,000+ fish per day to remain consistent through the month.

How to catch these fish under these conditions will remain a mystery to many however. As we've repeatedly stated in this newsletter, higher flows dictate fishing closer to the bank. This week will be no exception as plunkers working spin-n-glos or flatfish/Kwikfish in 3 to 7 feet of water should produce fair results. There are still a pile of Willamette fish to come as well but catches are indicating mostly upper Columbia River bound fish in the catch. Use green to target salmon and flame colors (red, orange or pink) to target steelhead. Did I mention to fish shallow?

Low gradient beaches will produce the best with sand as a substrate. Bank anglers don't get to take advantage of this type of conditions all that often, they will have an advantage here. Scent your gear generously as plunking/anchoring is the only technique where these fish have to come to you.

Bonneville area anglers should be able to intercept fish using plugs to entice but use great caution when anchoring. Flows are extremely high, making for very dangerous anchoring conditions.

Bonneville anglers are finding some oversize sturgeon to play with. Shad numbers are increasing, allowing for some fresh bait to be caught in pursuit of the leviathans. Shad numbers are typically peaking by now but just over 20,000 fish total have crossed Bonneville at this writing. The shad fishery is a kid favorite but biologists are not sure what to expect with the recent downturn in returning numbers. None-the-less, there should be some good action for anglers when school lets out and maybe into July this year.

Sturgeon anglers fishing downstream of Wauna Powerlines should really focus on the upper estuary if seeking keepers. The stretch from Aldridge Point to Tongue Point will likely produce the best results but this water can be tricky to learn. Islands dominate the area and a deadhead not far upstream of Tongue Point took a life a few years ago. Use caution when navigating but keep in mind that the deeper water is producing the better catches so bring heavy lead and rods if you

plan on effectively pursuing keepers. Sand shrimp is the preferred bait, even in the deep water. Anchovies are available, they just aren't producing all that well.

If you are choosing to explore offshore opportunities, bottomfishing off of the south jetty at the mouth of the Columbia looks pretty promising over the weekend. A weakening tide series and a calm ocean are in the forecast and fish should be willing under these conditions. Here is the offshore forecast:

**Fri...**NW wind 15 kt with gusts to 20 kt. Wind waves 3 ft. W swell 4 ft. Slight chance of morning showers.

**Fri Night...**NW wind 15 kt with evening gusts to 25 kt. Wind waves 4 ft...subsiding to 2 ft after midnight. SW swell 4 ft. Slight chance of showers.

**Sat...**NW wind to 10 kt. Wind waves 1 foot. SW swell 4 ft. Slight chance of showers.

**Sat Night...**NW wind 10 to 15 kt. Wind waves 2 ft. SW swell 3 ft. Slight chance of evening showers.

**Sun...**SW wind 5 to 10 kt. Wind waves 1 foot. SW swell 5 ft.

**Mon...**W wind 10 to 15 kt. Wind waves 2 ft. W swell 7 ft.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Free Fishing Weekend is Saturday and Sunday, June 11th and 12th. There was some confusion in an early ODFW press release regarding the use of tags. Here is the correct information right from the source: "During Free Fishing Weekend, fishing licenses and tags are not required, although all other regulations apply including bag limit and size restrictions. People who already have a combined tag for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and halibut are encouraged but not required to use it." Take someone who hasn't had a chance to go previously. Get 'em hooked, so to speak.

Lower Willamette water levels are high but forecast to be dropping over the coming week. This is confirmed by real-time readings along with a gradual rise in water temperature and reduction of turbidity. The lower Willamette will remain lake-like with little flow thanks to the Columbia backup. Pressure for springers is light with many having given up due to less than optimum conditions. Reports of a drop in counts at the Falls have been premature with about 3,000 springers crossing on June 5th and 6th putting the total for the season somewhere north of 22,000. Summer steelhead counts have topped the 10,000 mark which is not terrible but still shy of last year at this time.

**Kudos** to the Oregon House for approving Bill 3255 unanimously, allowing hazing of sea lions below Willamette Falls, including driving boats through groups or using fireworks to scare them away. Let's hope it is effective or at least serves to ameliorate the situation.

Despite snowmelt causing high water on many Oregon streams, the McKenzie is forecast to be dropping over the coming week. While water temperatures are increasing, it won't reach above the mid-40s which is conducive for trout and steelhead fishing.

With Detroit Reservoir full early in the season this year, the North Fork Santiam has been high and will continue to be higher than seasonally normal. A similar situation will mean more water than optimal for fishing on the South Santiam.

Benson Lake, Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Harriet Lake, Hartman Pond, Henry Hagg Lake, Huddelston Pond, North Fork Reservoir, Sheridan Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Timothy Meadows, Yamhill River, Alton Baker Canal, Big Cliff Reservoir, Blue River above Reservoir, Blue River Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Carmen Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, Fall Creek, Junction City Pond, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake, Roaring River Park Pond, Salmon Creek, North Fork Santiam River above Detroit Lake, Sunnyside Park Pond, Walter Wirth Lake and the Middle Fork Willamette above Hills Creek Reservoir are to be planted this week in anticipation of Free Fishing Weekend.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Springers are still being caught daily from Oregon City to Sellwood and in Multnomah Channel although the greatest effort now is for shad as millions of these fish head for but never cross Willamette Falls. Shad may also be taken by bank anglers below the mouth of the Clackamas. That's good news for those who want to catch springers in the lower Willamette with less competition. While it's not white hot <g>, it is worthwhile and fish are being caught daily. Bank anglers are also seeing some action on the stretch below the Blacktop to Meldrum stretch. Upper Willamette hardware fishers and plunkers still have the opportunity to hook-up with summer steelhead and spring Chinook as snowmelt has kept Willamette water temperatures low enough to stall algae growth. The green stuff usually shuts down upper river fishing as the weather warms.

McKenzie anglers should have a good weekend with hatches occurring and summer steelhead numbers building.

According to the NOAA river forecasts, the Santiams will be dropping in the coming week. The majority of fish counted at Willamette Falls will end up here and with conditions improving, it looks better every day. Waterloo should put out a few this weekend but this is not a secret spot by any stretch. Caution is still required by boaters as some stretches remain hazardous.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Clackamas levels remain high but are dropping. Finally, with water temperatures above 50 degrees, there is reason for optimism that the spring Chinook bite will improve. Water color has not been effected by higher flows and remains good this week.

Sandy River levels are high from snowmelt as are most valley streams and rivers, but other than silt washing downstream, has not yet shown any glacial coloration. High air temperatures will trigger glacial runoff but only mild weather is in the forecast for the coming week which means the water should remain good for fishing.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Dropping water levels and improving water temperatures put a positive outlook on fishing the Clackamas this coming weekend. The upside of late-season runoff from snowmelt is good water conditions at Eagle Creek. Spring Chinook have started entering and while pressure has been light so far this season, a few have been taken.

Chinook have continued to enter the Sandy and have been taken near the mouth. Upstream, the greatest pressure has been near Cedar Creek where a few summer steelhead are being caught.

**North Coast Fishing Report – Thanks to all those anglers and volunteers that participated in the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Bounty on the Bay. Check here for info on the event: [www.tbnep.org](http://www.tbnep.org)**

After several days of very good fishing, Tillamook spring chinook action had dramatically slowed by Wednesday. Monday and Tuesday were both very productive for anglers working the upper bay with several boats reporting 3 and 4 fish days. An epic bite at the corral (or Ray's Place Piling as we sometimes call it) took place on Tuesday with 10 boats tallying 11 springers (maybe two were wild) in just under an hour. We were witnesses to the carnage before we actually took part in it, taking 2 fish in under 10 minutes using a size 7 Fatal Flash blade colored green/chartreuse/white and green tip from top to bottom. This spinner had red beads to compliment it. We had 3 other bites on the chartreuse green dot spinner as well.

Plug fisherman working the grassy knoll near the blue roofed houseboat also fared well on the strong outgoing tide series. One boat took a springer over 30 pounds to compliment at least another keeper and one lost. Although this is a convenient way to harvest salmon (I do it myself sometimes) it does impede trollers from working the area so please use your judgment when employing this technique. You can catch good numbers of fish just outside the trolling lane and of course, chartreuse, chrome bodied plugs produced the best results. We've been having fair luck on the white with pink stripes on the side, K15 Xtreme in 5 to 7 foot of water.

High tide also produced some great catches in the upper bay near the blue roofed house. As it often works in the fall, just prior to high slack through the first part of outgoing, did produce some quality fish for the few people targeting fish in the late afternoon, early evening. We took another 2 afternoon fish on Tuesday just prior to high slack at about 6:00 p.m.

The lower bay hasn't been producing outstanding fishing in the latest extreme tide exchange. Fishing at low slack and the last trickle of outgoing tide did produce some fish however. The ocean laid down for last Saturday's Bounty on the Bay although results weren't impressive out there. It was a nice ocean to fish on however, we haven't seen much of that this season.

There has been some action for bobber tossers in the lower Trask. Boaters are targeting suspended fish mostly around the piling hole with results varying. One boat reported taking 6 fish on Saturday in the area. There have been rumors that the Hospital Hole has been booting out fish but like most tidewater areas, success must vary day to day.

The hatchery hole on the Trask is laden with fish, and fishermen. It's crowded for a reason so prepare yourself for that. With the downturn of action on Wednesday in the bay and the fact we didn't find much action in the lower Trask and neither did the bobber tossers (at least at low slack), we have to theorize that the fish just shot upstream, into the fast water of the Trask, headed for the hatchery. It's clearly peak season for Tillamook Bay springers and hopefully there are more to come.

In the low flows, there likely aren't many boaters working the water. You'd have to bring your hip boots to get through some of the tailouts. Fish should be well concentrated in the deeper holes. The Wilson, Trask and Nestucca should all have fair concentrations of fish that will fall to backbounced eggs or plugs wrapped with sardine fillets.

Anglers crossing the bar in search of saltwater species have mostly been targeting halibut in the all-depth fishery. The fishing has been good but most anglers are reporting the fish have been running small. Some near-shore spots out of Pacific City are producing but most anglers are targeting the all-depth fishery, going about 24 miles west of Garibaldi. The nearshore should produce good bottomfish catches when seas calm.

Scheduled for trout planting are Big Creek Reservoir 1 7 2, Cape Mears Lake, Cleawox Lake, Coffenbury Lake, Hebo Lake, Olalla Creek Reservoir, Thissel Pond and Town Lake.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Although we've likely passed the peak period for salmon in Tillamook Bay, there should still be some good fishing ahead. Tides are waning but that's what seemed to produce the best catches this year. The soft tide series we're coming on beginning Friday through mid-month should focus the salmon effort along the jetty on the outgoing tide. Action should be good but on the last weak tide series, fishing remained uncharacteristically good in the upper bay too. In other words, I think the fishing will be best in the lower bay but it's really a crap shoot given how the season has gone thus far.

Herring trolled on the bottom starting at high slack mid-morning along the jetty and then fish the entire outgoing tide in the same area. These tide series have been producing best just after peak ebb, which on the weekend, will likely be between 1:00 p.m. through low slack. Low slack however will likely be disappointing as fish are willing to cross the bar with some amount of flow in their faces, as long as it's not the full bore of the outgoing current. The Ghost Hole or Bay City may also produce some results. Also, don't overlook the upper end of the south channel around high slack as there have been some fish in that area this season too.

If you're going to stick to the upper bay, target high tide using herring (spinners a distant second) and the last part of outgoing tide too. Spinners have been working well as long as they have a lot of green in them. I've been using flame red beads with my greens and doing ok on that combination. Plugs won't be quite so effective in the softer outgoing and even if you get bit, the bites often times won't be aggressive enough to stick. The stronger the flow, the better the strike to hook ratio is. Moss coming from the Tillamook River has hampered success all week and will likely continue to do so. What's up with that?

These may be good tides for tidewater fishing however. Trollers may have a hard time finding room to work spinners in the most productive spots but bobber tossers may see good results although it seems many of the fish have scooted upstream seeking steady flow.

Driftboaters will actually be "drag-boaters" in the lower flows but if you find the deepest holes, chinook should be present. You may also find them in faster flows with a broken surface and willing to take plugs or small back-bounced baits. Early morning will definitely produce the best results. The Trask, Wilson and Nestucca should all produce results, in that order. The hatchery hole on the Trask will be holding a lot of fish this week with biters most likely in the early a.m. It remains open for the remainder of the week as long as anglers don't abuse the privilege.

Some summer steelhead may be available on the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers as well as Three Rivers. Small baits will produce the best or spinners at first light.

Offshore conditions should be excellent this weekend for bottomfishing and halibut fishing. Calm seas are in the forecast. Here's a repeat as printed in the Columbia River forecast section this week:

**Fri...**NW wind 15 kt with gusts to 20 kt. Wind waves 3 ft. W swell 4 ft. Slight chance of morning showers.

**Fri Night...**NW wind 15 kt with evening gusts to 25 kt. Wind waves 4 ft...subsiding to 2 ft after midnight. SW swell 4 ft. Slight chance of showers.

**Sat...**NW wind to 10 kt. Wind waves 1 foot. SW swell 4 ft. Slight chance of showers.

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**Sun...**SW wind 5 to 10 kt. Wind waves 1 foot. SW swell 5 ft.

**Mon...**W wind 10 to 15 kt. Wind waves 2 ft. W swell 7 ft.

Sturgeon are exiting the Tillamook estuary and likely destined for the lower Columbia River. The fishery up the Tillamook isn't what it used to be several years ago. It's a different year however. Who knows what's going to play out.

There are a lot of large cutthroat around. You know if you're catching them on trolled herring, and to nearly 20 inches, there are some opportunities around for those willing to do the research. Check local regulations for consumptive opportunities on your favorite waterway.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Oregon coast fall Chinook seasons were set this week. The Siletz, Yaquina Elk and Sixes rivers will allow a 10-fish limit for the season with a daily limit of two adult Chinook. For the most part, the remaining rivers from the Alsea south to the California border the daily and seasonal bag limits return to permanent bag limits of two adult wild Chinook per day and 20 for the season. The Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, Siuslaw, Umpqua, Coos and Coquille rivers and Tenmile Lakes should all have wild coho seasons this year.

Ocean swells are forecast to be 1.5 to two feet with light winds off the central coast throughout the coming weekend. Offshore launches should be problem-free. Breezes are expected to be stronger at port further south.

The bottom fish bite was spotty out of central Oregon ports mid-week but picked up in the afternoon. During the bite, most caught rockfish and a few lings were landed. It pays to stay persistent.

While 72% of the spring quota remained following all-depth efforts on May 26-28 with results from the past weekend not yet available. It is likely that sufficient poundage remains in the quota to allow the next scheduled opening the 9th, 10th and 11th of June with additional tentative dates in late June and into July. All-depth halibut fishers will have the summer opener starting on August 5th and 6th with two day, Friday and Saturday opportunities to follow.

Surf perch fishing has been good and improving at most beaches on the incoming tide.

When ocean conditions have allowed bar crossings out of Winchester Bay, ocean salmon trolling has been fair to good for Chinook. Catches are coming over 100 to 150 feet of water. Ocean crabbing has been fair to good while crabbing in the bay has been poor this week with the muddy Umpqua roiling the water. Perch fishing has been fair in the bay. With warm weather triggering snowmelt, the Umpqua mainstem, which is forecast to be on the drop over the coming week, may stay off color but has been productive at times for Chinook and the cool water has prevented weed growth which often hampers fishing. Shad results have yet to me great but a few good catches have been made. Springers are well into the North Umpqua now where good catches have been made at time. Bobber and bait has been most effective. Smallmouth bass fishing has yet to take off due to snowmelt keeping the water temperature too low for the bite to turn on.

Crabbing is producing some limits of Dungeness in Coos Bay where results, while slow for some, are much better than elsewhere on the south coast.

The Coquille River producing decent sea-run cutthroat catches.

With water conditions improving, catches of Spring Chinook on the lower river picked up a little over the past week. Results remain better on the middle Rogue where wrapped plugs and back-bounced eggs are taking fish despite higher-than-normal flows. Spring Chinook catches have continued to be steady on the upper Rogue from the hatchery to Casey Park.

It should be a productive weekend at Diamond Lake as it is poised to deliver eight-fish limits of fat trout. Expect plenty of company with Free Fishing Weekend in force. The trout derby is June 25th this year.

Howard Prairie Reservoir, Lost Creek Reservoir, Medco Pond, Lake Selmac, Expo Pond, Rogue above Lost Creek, Lower and Middle Empire Lake, Powers Pond, North and South Tenmile Lake, Cooper Creek Reservoir, and Marie Lake are scheduled for trout stocking.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – With the Salmonfly and Golden Stone hatches taking place on the Deschutes, the river is jammed with bank and boat fishers. Anglers in the know have been taking large brown trout at the Deschutes.

Water levels are high at the Wallowa River and are likely to remain so well into summer thanks to snowpack. The river is open to spring Chinook and will remain so until the ODFW says stop in a month or two. Wallowa Lake is fishing well for trout, fair for kokanee with many hoping for the next Big One.

Lava Lake is easily accessible now but spotty for most although a few bait fishers have taken limits.

Crane prairie has been running hot or cold. Some anglers are taking limits along with a couple of those rainbows for which the waterbody is famous while others can't get a sniff.

The Grande Ronde is high and muddy. Try elsewhere.

Detroit Reservoir has been providing slow but steady results for kokanee with the occasional Chinook surprise in the batch. A derby is scheduled here on Saturday, June 11th, when the water is expected to get pounded.

Wickiup is producing fair to good catches of kokanee with the better opportunity early in the day as wind can be troublesome later in the day.

Fishing is slow to fair at Paulina for trout and kokanee. Jig fishers have taken some limits recently.

### **Washington fishing reports:**

***From the WDF&W Weekender Report for June 2011***

#### **North Puget Sound**

Anglers have their pick of several fishing opportunities in June. On Puget Sound, the Tulalip Bay bubble fishery gets under way June 3, while the lingcod fishery remains open through mid-month. In freshwater, numerous rivers open for trout June 4 and – in a few waters – salmon fishing opens at the beginning of the month.

Portions of the Skagit and Cascade rivers opened for hatchery **chinook salmon** fishing June 1. The Skagit is open to hatchery chinook retention from the Highway 530 Bridge at Rockport to the Cascade River Road. On the Cascade, anglers can fish for salmon 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).

Fishing for salmon, as well as **trout** and other **game fish**, also opened June 1 on portions of the Skykomish River.

Elsewhere, **trout** fishing will open at several of the region's other rivers and streams beginning June 4. Under the statewide rule for trout, there is a two-fish daily limit and a minimum size of eight inches in rivers and streams. However, some of the region's rivers and streams have a rule requiring trout to be at least 14 inches in length to keep. For details on river fishing opportunities, check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

Meanwhile, lake fishing for **bass, bluegill, perch** and **crappie** is steadily improving as water temperatures increase and fish become more active, said Danny Garrett, fisheries biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). When fishing for these species, focus on areas where there are bridge pilings, boat docks, rock, submerged trees and bushes, grass beds, lily pads, and flooded vegetation along the shoreline, he said.

"Smallmouth bass use many of the same habitats as largemouth bass, but smallmouth are often more abundant around rocky points, riprap, and offshore rock piles," Garrett said. "Both species are highly adaptive to specific lake conditions, and habitat use will vary from lake to lake." For smallmouth and largemouth bass, Garrett recommends using spinnerbaits, jerkbaits, crankbaits, jigs, and plastic baits that include worms, tubes, and creature baits.

Perch and bluegill can also be caught with an assortment of artificial jigs, spinners, and flies, although many people prefer to use live worms under a bobber, he said. Anglers fishing for perch and bluegill should try fishing around several different pieces of cover in the lake until a group of fish is found. "Generally, a single, small area will produce many individuals, since both species tend to congregate in large groups," he said.

Lakes where anglers can find quality bass and panfish fishing include Lakes Whatcom and Terrell in Whatcom County; Lake Goodwin in Snohomish County; Big Lake in Skagit County; Lakes Washington, Union and Sammamish in King County.

On Puget Sound, the northern portion of Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) opened June 1 to catch-and-release fishing for salmon. Fishing is allowed north of a line from Point Monroe to Meadow Point.

Farther north, the **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery** begins June 3. The fishery is open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 5. The exception is June 12, when the bubble is closed for the Tulalip Tribes salmon ceremony, said Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound salmon manager for WDFW. "They recently rescheduled their salmon ceremony, so the one-day closure was moved to June 12," Thiesfeld said. "That means the bubble will be open June 19 this year." For details, check the [emergency fishing rule change](#). Anglers fishing the bubble will have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon.

The **halibut** fishery in the region is closed, but fishing for **lingcod** is still an option. The lingcod fishery runs through June 15 in the region. During the hook-and-line season (May 1-June 15), there's a one-fish daily limit for lings, with a minimum size of 26 inches and a maximum size of 36 inches.

Before heading out, anglers should check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for all regulations. Washingtonians who are interested in fishing but haven't actually given it a try have a perfect chance to do so during **Free Fishing Weekend**, scheduled June 11-12. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. Also, no vehicle use permit will be required during Free Fishing Weekend to park at any of the water-access sites maintained by WDFW.

While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as size limits, bag limits and season closures will still be in effect. Anglers will also be required to complete a catch record card for any salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or halibut they catch. Catch record cards and WDFW's Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet are available free at hundreds of sporting goods stores and other license dealers throughout the state.

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

Some fisheries are winding down in the region, but anglers have other options as numerous rivers and streams open for trout June 4 and salmon fishing gets under way mid-month off the coast.

The popular **ocean salmon season** opens June 18 with a mark-selective fishery for hatchery chinook in all ocean areas. The selective fishery will run seven days a week, with a daily limit of two salmon, through June 25 or until 4,800 hatchery chinook are retained. Anglers will be required to release wild chinook and all coho during the selective fishery, said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"It looks like there are a lot of chinook out there," said Milward. "And from what we are seeing in the troll fishery, I expect fishing to be much like last year, which was pretty darn good."

Ocean salmon fisheries for chinook and hatchery coho will open June 26 in marine areas 1, 2, 3 and 4, where anglers will be allowed to retain one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit. Anglers also are allowed one additional pink salmon each day in marine areas 3 and 4. Salmon fishing will be open seven days a week, except in Marine Area 2 where anglers can only fish for salmon Sundays through Thursdays. Before heading out, anglers should check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for all regulations.

In Puget Sound, marine areas 11 and 13 are open for salmon. Anglers fishing those areas have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook.

**Halibut** fishing is closed in most of Puget Sound. The exception is Marine Area 5 (Sekiu), where anglers can fish for halibut three days a week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday through June 18. On the coast, Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) will close to halibut fishing June 5, and then re-open Aug. 5 and continue three days a week (Friday through Sunday). Marine Area 2 (Westport/Ocean Shores) is already closed except in the northern nearshore area.

Farther north, La Push and Neah Bay (marine areas 3 and 4) will open for two more days of fishing June 2 and 4. "We will evaluate the quota after these dates to determine if there's enough quota for additional openings in those two areas," Reed said.

All areas open to halibut fishing have a one-fish daily catch limit, with no minimum size, a possession limit of one fish while on the vessel, and a possession limit of two fish in any form once the angler is on the shore. For more information on the halibut fishery, check [WDFW's website](#).

Anglers have through mid-month to fish for **lingcod** in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca, where the fishery closes June 15 in both areas. However, the lingcod season on the coast remains open through mid-October.

Anglers are reminded that work will limit parking facilities for boaters through June at **Twanoh State Park**, a popular access site on Hood Canal. The State Parks and Recreation Commission encourages fishers to use an alternate launch site.

Meanwhile, a couple of rivers are open for **salmon** fishing, including the Hoh, Quillayute and a portion of the Sol Duc. For details on those and other fishing opportunities, check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

Elsewhere, **trout** fishing will open at several rivers and streams beginning June 4. Under the statewide rule for trout, there is a two-fish daily limit and a minimum size of eight inches in rivers and streams. However, some rivers and streams have a rule requiring trout to be at least 14 inches in length to keep.

Washingtonians who are interested in fishing but haven't actually given it a try have a perfect chance to do so during **Free Fishing Weekend**, scheduled June 11-12. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. Also, no vehicle use permit will be required during Free Fishing Weekend to park at any of the water-access sites maintained by WDFW.

While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as size limits, bag limits and season closures will still be in effect. Anglers will also be required to complete a catch record card for any salmon, steelhead, sturgeon or halibut they catch. Catch record cards and WDFW's Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet are available free at hundreds of sporting goods stores and other license dealers throughout the state.

### **Southwest Washington**

The spring chinook fishery runs through June 15, followed the next day by a promising six-week summer chinook season. Meanwhile, increasing numbers of sockeye salmon and hatchery summer steelhead are moving into the lower Columbia River Basin, where anglers can also catch and keep white sturgeon in most areas.

But high water will present an ongoing challenge for anglers engaged in all of these fisheries, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "The river has been up in the trees for several days, and the snow pack hasn't even started to melt," said Hymer during the last week of May. "These high-water conditions could be with us for a while."

Anglers can check area river conditions on websites maintained by the [Fish Passage Center](#) and the [Northwest River Forecast Center](#).

Apart from their effect on fishing conditions, high flows and floating debris present a safety risk to anglers – particularly boat anglers – fishing the mainstem Columbia River. So long as the river is high, Hymer suggests that anglers leave their boats at home and take up a position on the bank.

"Success rates for bank anglers were higher than those for boat anglers fishing for **spring chinook** during the last week of May," he said. "There's a lesson in that."

Through June 15, fishing is open to both boat and bank anglers from Rocky Point/Tongue Point upriver to Bonneville Dam. Fishery managers opened the four-mile area from Beacon Rock to the dam to boat angling in late May to give anglers more access to upriver spring chinook still available for harvest.

The fishery above Bonneville Dam has also been extended through June 15 for boat and bank anglers from the Tower Island power lines upriver to the Washington/Oregon state line, 17 miles upriver from McNary Dam. Bank fishing was also reopened through June 15 from Bonneville Dam upriver to the power lines, located six miles below The Dalles Dam.

During the spring chinook season, anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam may retain one adult spring chinook salmon marked with a clipped adipose fin as part of their daily catch limit. Above Bonneville, the daily limit can include two marked hatchery adult chinook salmon. **Sockeye salmon** and hatchery-reared **steelhead** also count toward anglers' adult daily limit.

In both areas, all unmarked chinook and steelhead must be released unharmed.

That is also the case in the **summer chinook salmon** fishery, which gets under way June 16 from the Megler Astoria Bridge up to Priest Rapids Dam. One difference is anglers fishing below Bonneville Dam can retain two adult hatchery-reared chinook after June 16, rather than one. Like last year, the six-week mark selective summer chinook season is made possible by the additional revenue produced by the new Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement fee. "In the past, the cost of adequately monitoring and sampling a six-week fishery was prohibitive," Hymer said. "The extended summer chinook fishery was one of the first uses the department made of those revenues."

Based on the pre-season forecast, this year's summer chinook season looks promising, Hymer said. Approximately 92,000 upriver fish – the highest number since 1980 – are expected to return, including a high percentage of five-year-olds running 20-40 pounds. Anglers can also top off their daily limits with sockeye salmon and summer-run hatchery steelhead, which are also expected to return in high numbers this year.

Many of the early returning **steelhead** are headed for the Elochoman, Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, Toutle, Washougal, and Klickitat rivers, where they should provide good fishing through the summer. Fishing for hatchery spring chinook is also open on a number of area tributaries, including Drano Lake and the Wind River, where anglers can now retain four adult hatchery spring chinook as part of their six-fish daily limit.

Those fishing Drano Lake should be aware that Wednesday closures have been extended through June. In addition, the Kalama and Lewis rivers were recently closed to fishing for spring chinook due to low returns.

On the Klickitat River, salmon fishing is now open seven days a week downstream from the Fisher Hill Bridge, where anglers may retain two adult hatchery spring chinook plus two hatchery steelhead. Anglers fishing 400 feet upstream from the #5 fishway to the boundary markers below the Klickitat Salmon Hatchery may retain hatchery chinook jacks and hatchery steelhead. New rules will also take effect June 4 on the following rivers:

- **Elochoman River:** Opens for retention of hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead from the mouth to the West Fork.
- **Grays River:** Opens for retention of hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead on the mainstem from the mouth to the South Fork, and the West Fork from the mouth to the hatchery intake/footbridge.

- **South Fork Toutle River and the Green River:** Opens for hatchery steelhead on the entire South Fork Toutle, plus the Green River from the mouth to the 2800 Road Bridge. Bait may be used. All tributaries to the South Fork Toutle and Green rivers will remain closed to all fishing.
- **East Fork Lewis River:** Opens for hatchery steelhead from the mouth to 400 feet below Horseshoe Falls (except closures around various falls). Bait may be used.
- **Washougal River:** Opens for hatchery steelhead from the mouth to Salmon Falls Bridge. Bait may be used.

For more information about these and other fishing rule updates, check for [Emergency Rule Changes](#) on WDFW's website.

Rather catch a **sturgeon**? Boat anglers have been catching some legal-size fish around Camas, Longview and Cathlamet on the Columbia River. The retention fishery below the Wauna powerlines runs seven days a week through June 26, then resumes July 1-4. The daily limit is one white sturgeon with a fork-length requirement of 41 to 54 inches. Above the powerlines, sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through July 31 up to Navigation Marker 82, nine miles below Bonneville Dam. The daily limit is one fish with a fork-length requirement of 38 to 54 inches.

And don't forget **shad**. While not as highly prized as sturgeon or salmon, they can put up a good fight and make for good eating, said WDFW biologist Joe Hymer. Even though their numbers may be down this year, more than a million of them will likely mount a charge up the Columbia this month. There are no daily limits or size limits for shad, the largest member of the herring family.

Fishing for **walleye** and **bass** should also pick up this month as water temperatures rise. During the last week of May, boat anglers averaged eight bass and eight walleye per rod fishing in The Dalles Pool. More than a dozen lakes, rivers and reservoirs – from Mayfield Reservoir in Lewis County to the Little White Salmon River in Skamania County – will be stocked with trout this month. See the [WDFW website](#) for a complete listing.

Those interested in fishing but don't have a fishing license will be able to get in on the action during **Free Fishing Weekend**, scheduled June 11-12. During those two days, no license will be required to fish or gather shellfish in any waters open to fishing in Washington state. While no licenses are required on Free Fishing Weekend, other rules such as season closures, size limits and bag limits will still be in effect.

### **Eastern Washington**

June is usually one of the best months of the year for a variety of fishing opportunities throughout the region, with river and stream seasons opening and warmwater fish species beginning to bite.

But this year, with extended cooler temperatures and greater than usual spring rain and runoff flooding some areas and putting many waterways out of shape, anglers are advised to use caution and plan ahead by checking access conditions with local sources.

Many northeast district rivers, including the Colville, Kettle, Little Pend Oreille, and Lake Roosevelt tributaries, opened to fishing May 28. Most other rivers and streams in the region will open June 4, the first Saturday of June. However, portions of the Spokane River open June 1, and some waterways are open year-round. Anglers should check the fishing rules pamphlet for details.

Two areas of the Snake River – near Little Goose Dam and Clarkston – are open to **spring chinook salmon** fishing through June 2. For details see the [emergency rule change](#).

Lakes that have been open since late April continue to produce good catches of **rainbow, cutthroat** and other **trout**. In the central district, good bets are Fishtrap Lake in Lincoln County; and Amber, Badger, Chapman, Clear, Fish, West Medical and Williams lakes in southwest Spokane County. Many mixed-species waters that are open year-round or opened earlier this spring are starting to produce catches of **bass, bluegill, crappie, perch** or **catfish**, along with trout. These include Spokane County's Eloika, Liberty, Long, Newman, and Silver lakes.

In the northeast district, many **trout** fishing lakes are on U.S. Forest Service or other public lands with campgrounds – perfect for family weekend outings. In Ferry County, that includes Davis, Ellen, Ferry and Swan lakes; in Stevens County, Gillette, Pierre, and Thomas lakes; in Pend Oreille County, Bead, Cook's, Mystic, No-Name, Skookum, Sullivan and Yocum lakes. Anglers need to keep in mind that seven lakes where loons breed and nest in the northeast district have new rules prohibiting the use of lead weights and jigs that measure 1 ½ inches or less along the longest axis – these are Ferry, Long and Swan in Ferry County; Pierre in Stevens County; and Meadow, South Skookum and Yocum in Pend Oreille County.

Stevens County's Cedar, Rocky and Starvation lakes continue to be among the best trout producers in the region, but anglers need to keep in mind that Rocky and Starvation shift to catch-and-release only on June 1.

**Free Fishing Weekend**, June 11-12, is the best time to invite your non-fishing family or friends to join you on the water because that's when no fishing licenses are required of anyone. With Washington State Tourism's "[Share Your Washington](#)" campaign, you can even be eligible for air travel prizes when you invite others to fish with you in Washington. The contest runs through June 15.

WDFW is piloting a **free adult fishing class** on June 11 with help from Inland Northwest Wildlife Council volunteer instructors and Bunkers Resort on Williams Lake in southwest Spokane County. The class will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., mostly with time on the water to learn how to catch fish, but also with instruction on cleaning and cooking fish. Limited class space is filling fast with a registration deadline of June 6; call WDFW Eastern Region office at 509-892-1001 or e-mail [teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:teamspokane@dfw.wa.gov).

### **Northcentral Washington**

River and stream **trout** fishing is scheduled to start the first Saturday in June, but WDFW Okanogan District Fish Biologist Bob Jateff says higher than normal flows will make fishing difficult at best – at least for the first few weeks of the month. "Anglers should focus on some of the smaller tributaries which have a tendency to clear up much quicker than larger rivers," Jateff said.

**Spring chinook salmon** fishing on the Icicle River in Chelan County should improve considerably in June as more fish move up into the river. "There should be a number of fish available as the pre-season forecast for the Icicle calls for a run of approximately 9,000 fish," Jateff said. Daily limit is three salmon, minimum size 12 inches. Standard gear rules are in effect and there is a night closure. Anglers must release all fish with one of more round holes punched in the tail (caudal) fin.

"Lake fishing should improve during the month as a later than normal spring has kept lake waters cooler than normal," Jateff said. **Rainbow trout** waters to check out are Pearrygin near Winthrop, Alta near Pateros, Conconully Reservoir and Lake near Conconully, Spectacle near Loomis, and Wannacut near Oroville. Anglers can expect to catch rainbows in the 10-13 inch range with larger carryover fish in the 15-16 inch range in all of these lakes, Jateff said.

Fly-fishing only waters in Okanogan County worth visiting in June are Aeneas Lake near Tonasket and Chopaka Lake near Loomis. Jateff reports Aeneas Lake has rainbow and **brown trout** 12-18 inches, and Chopaka has rainbows in the 12-17 inch range. Electric motors are not allowed on fly-fishing only waters, unless a special use permit has been issued. Selective gear waters to try would be Big Twin Lake near Winthrop, Blue Lake on the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area, Buzzard Lake near Okanogan, and Rat Lake near Brewster. All of these lakes are planted with rainbow trout fingerlings and/or catchables and should provide good fishing for 12-16 inch fish. Both Rat and Blue also have brown trout available.

For spiny ray anglers, Patterson Lake near Winthrop has **yellow perch** as well as **smallmouth** and **largemouth bass**. Expect perch in the 6-9 inch range in Patterson with an occasional fish up to 11 inches. Leader Lake, near Okanogan, has a mix of **black crappie** and **bluegill**, as well as largemouth bass. You can expect bluegill in the 6-7 inch range and crappie in the 6-9 inch range. Both Patterson and Leader Lakes are also planted with rainbow trout catchables up to 13 inches.

Wapato Lake in Chelan County continues to provide good fishing for rainbows in the 12-13 inch range, with a few larger fish up to 17 inches. Jameson Lake in Douglas County has been fishing well for rainbows in the 10-11 inch range along with a number of spring planted triploid rainbows in the 16-17 inch range.

On June 1, Grimes Lake near Mansfield will open for trout fishing under selective gear rules and a one fish daily limit. Anglers can expect good fishing for Lahontan cutthroat in the 12-18 inch range, with some fish in the 20-inch category. Float tubes, pontoon boats, and small row boats can be launched at the south end of the lake under an access agreement with the local land owner. The fishing season at Grimes Lake continues through Aug. 31.

In the Columbia Basin district of the region, fish biologist Chad Jackson said **trout** fishing has been very good during this cool, wet spring and warmwater fish species should begin biting more later this month. "Pretty much all of the catch-and-release or fly-fishing or selective gear waters in the basin are fishing quite well with these conditions," Jackson said. "Lenice and Dry Falls lakes are the most popular and some anglers are catching and releasing 12 to 20 or more trout per day, and the fish are running up to 20 inches."

Jackson reported that Quail, Dusty, Lenore, and Nunnally lakes are also fishing well. So are the "production waters," like Warden, Blue, and Park lakes in Grant County. "These fisheries appear to be holding up well since the late April opener, but that's based on just a few reports," he said. "The weather, especially wind, plays a big factor in successful fishing at those lakes."

Jackson also noted that **bass** and **walleye** fishing should be heating up this month in the usual big three waters in the basin – Banks Lake, Potholes Reservoir and Moses Lake. "I'm already hearing some good reports, especially for smallmouth and largemouth bass," he said. **Free Fishing Weekend**, June 11-12, is the best time to invite your non-fishing family or friends to join you on the water because that's when no fishing licenses are required of anyone. With Washington State Tourism's "[Share Your Washington](#)" campaign, you can even be eligible for air

travel prizes when you invite others to fish with you in Washington. The contest runs through June 15.

### **Southcentral Washington**

Area anglers have been reeling in **channel catfish** from the lower reaches of the Yakima and Walla Walla rivers, while fishing in the Columbia and Snake rivers has been choked by high water. Fishing has been good for "channel cats," which typically run 8-10 pounds but can easily weigh twice that amount, said Paul Hoffarth, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"Put some cut bait on your hook and leave it on the bottom," Hoffarth advises. "That's about all there is to it."

**Trout** fishing in area lakes is another alternative for anglers waiting for heavy flows to subside in the Columbia River. Powerline Lake and Marmes Pond, two walk-in lakes in Franklin County, were planted with trout in early spring and cooler temperatures should "keep the bite going" for several weeks, Hoffarth said.

In addition, more than a dozen waters – ranging from Bear Lake in Yakima County to Easton Ponds in Kittitas County – are scheduled to receive fresh plants in June. Many of those waters will receive an assortment of catchable and jumbo-size fish, the latter weighing up to 1½ pounds apiece. See the [WDFW website](#) for the full lake-stocking schedule in June.

Out on the Columbia River, fishing prospects look good for salmon, sturgeon and shad – after the river drops to fishable levels. Meanwhile, anglers should exercise caution in venturing out into the big river.

"Flows on the mainstem Columbia have been nearly twice the seasonal average, and there's a lot of debris in the water," he said. "It's not just a matter of fishing conditions, it's a safety issue." Anglers can keep tabs on water conditions on the Fish Passage Center's [website](#). Once they flows subside, they'll have several good options for catching fish:

- **Chinook salmon:** June 16 marks the start of the fishery for hatchery-reared summer chinook salmon upriver to Priest Rapids Dam. The daily limit is six hatchery fish, up to two may be adult hatchery chinook. Anglers must stop fishing when their adult portion of the daily limit is retained. Anglers fishing the Columbia River downstream from the Highway 395 bridge at Pasco/Kennewick can retain **sockeye salmon** or **hatchery steelhead** as part of their daily bag limit.
- **White sturgeon:** Fishing remains open in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids/Ice Harbor Dams) through July of this year. Fish must measure 43 inches to 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. Anglers should be aware that sturgeon fishing is prohibited in sturgeon sanctuaries in the Snake River from Goose Island upstream to Ice Harbor Dam and in the Columbia River upstream of the Priest Rapids Hatchery outlet to Priest Rapids Dam.
- **Shad:** By mid-June, **shad** should reach McNary and Ice Harbor dams in numbers that make for great fishing. While not as prized as salmon or sturgeon, they can put up a good fight and make for good eating, Hoffarth said.
- **Smallmouth bass** and **walleye:** Fishing for both species should improve in the Columbia and Snake rivers as those waters warm. One veteran angler from Richland recently pulled a 18 pound, 4 ounce walleye out of the McNary Pool.

Steelhead fishing will remain closed until fall in the Columbia River upstream of the Highway 395 Bridge, and in the Snake River.

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#### **Random Links**

Free Fishing Weekend Events:

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/odfw\\_outdoors/free\\_fishing.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/odfw_outdoors/free_fishing.asp)

**GOOD LUCK!**