

The Guide's Forecast - volume 14 issue number 31

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 27<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** The lower Willamette is mostly a smallmouth bass show but walleye fishing can be fantastic in the Multnomah Channel this time of year according to **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)**.

Summer steelhead fishing is peaking with good catches reported from Bonneville Dam downstream to Westport, Oregon. Small spin-n-glos tipped with coon shrimp remain the best bet with explosive numbers of steelhead likely within the next week. Flows at Bonneville are likely to continue to drop, making this fishery a strong option for the next two weeks.

The Clackamas has a few summer runs in the stretch from Rivermill Dam to Carver and it wouldn't be much of a surprise to hook into a late springer.

There has been little fishing pressure on the Sandy River, but a few summer run steelhead have been reportedly taken between Cedar Creek and the mouth of the Salmon River.

Fly fishers have done best on the McKenzie on overcast days when redsides have been anxious to take flies, emergers and nymphs. Hatches are slower this year due to cold water.

Steelhead numbers are good on the Santiams although catches have been spotty. Try drifting a corky & yarn or small bait to tempt them. River conditions are good and forecast to remain stable.

**Northwest –** With offshore coho still illusive, anglers are turning their effort elsewhere in pursuit of silver-sided fish. Only 1 week remains in the ocean fishery for coho south of Cape Falcon. Only a paltry 14% of the quota has been retained through July 22<sup>nd</sup>. Anglers are releasing about 4 times the number of wild coho than they are keeping hatchery coho.

Action is slightly better out of the mouth of the Columbia where some coho are being taken but chinook catches are still good to the north of the river mouth. Undersize chinook are becoming a nuisance but a simple dowel with coffee mug hook affixed to the bottom provides an efficient tool for easy release without doing harm to the fish.

Albacore tuna has become a focus for many offshore anglers recently. Action seems to be ample as we enter peak season now through mid-September.

Offshore crabbing seems to be improving and with improved weather offshore, anglers will be out in force in pursuit of most saltwater species. Bay crabbing should improve as well with a weaker tide series slated for the weekend.

Tidewater trout trolling should be improving with sea-run cutthroat available in most tidally influenced systems on the north coast. Check regulations for catch and keep opportunities.

The Siletz River remains one of the better options for summer steelhead although all north coast streams remain low and clear so stealthy tactics are necessary.

**Southwest –** Offshore forecasts indicate moderating ocean conditions in the coming weekend for those hoping to chase ocean fishes. Launches out of Central Coast Oregon ports have been

yielding good catches of tuna. Coho fishing showed improvement over the past week although rockfish and lingcod catches were spotty. Ocean crabbing has been excellent. Chinook fishing has also been good.

The nearshore halibut fishery closed for the year on July 22nd. The next opportunity for these fish will be with the summer all-depth opener August 3rd.

Southern Oregon beaches remain productive for surf perch with larger fish showing in catches over the past week. Several specimens' to four pounds or better have been caught.

Chinook fishing out of Reedsport has been fair to good. Steelheading is fair on the North Umpqua. South Umpqua smallmouth catches, while decent, are expected to improve through July.

Boats targeting albacore out of Charleston have been doing very well with many "plugging" the boat which means running out of room for even one more fish.

Ocean conditions were friendly off the south coast over the past week, allowing daily trips for charters out of Gold Beach. Bottom fishing has been excellent with limits by mid-morning and offshore salmon fishing has been good. Trolling in the Rogue estuary is showing some improvement. Warm water temperatures in the lower Rogue will keep chinook kegged in the bay. With spring chinook winding down on the upper river, it's becoming a summer steelhead fishery, and a good one.

Chinook fishing out of Brookings Harbor has been fairly fast and furious lately with most boats scoring fish two to four miles out. Salmon have been caught at 10 to 30 foot depths where they're feeding on shallow schools of baitfish.

**Eastern** – Trout fishing has been fair to good on the lower Deschutes for experienced drift boaters and most bank fishers. Caddis are hatching well in warm weather with best results early and late in the day. Steelheaders are taking a few.

Crooked River fly fishers are doing very well for trout. Caddis are hatching all day with PMDs appearing in the afternoon. Nymphs have been effective anytime.

East Lake is producing limits of kokanee and the fish are running a little larger than last season at this time.

**SW Washington** – The Cowlitz remains one of the best bets for steelhead with both bank and boat anglers doing well near the hatchery. This fishery should hold up for a few more weeks.

The bulk of the steelhead effort remains off of lower Columbia River beaches where numerous steelhead were taken last week by plunkers.

The Drano Lake fishery remains best outside of the lake itself. Mainstem anglers in the Bonneville Pool reported good steelhead results last week. The majority of the steelhead must be released however as they are of wild origin.

### **Soapbox Update:**

It's time to register in the Buoy 10 Challenge. YOU COULD WIN \$1000.00 cold, hard CASH (once you cash the check that is....) Go to the NSIA homepage to enter NOW!  
<http://www.nsiafishing.org/>

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – With the exception of steelhead fishing, the mighty Columbia is not rolling on. Anglers can't overlook the steelhead action however as large numbers of the cookie cutter steelies are entering the system and the action is pretty good. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "Steelhead continue to steal the show on the lower Columbia River. Bank and boat anglers alike have been scoring fair to excellent catches along the popular beaches from Tongue Pt. upstream to Beacon rock. Most fish are being caught along 12-20 ft line with small flatfish and winged bobber/coon shrimp combos, but reports are also coming in of catches from deeper water up to 40 ft. when using lighted plugs. Chinook are also in the mix but must be released unharmed until the river opens Aug 1st.

Bonneville remains the hot spot, as is often the case as fish slow down and concentrate in lanes before negotiating the fish ladder. The ODF&W Bonneville area check is as follows:

**Gorge Bank:**

Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus four unclipped steelhead released for 29 bank anglers.

**Gorge Boats:**

Weekly checking showed seven adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 23 unclipped steelhead, three summer chinook adults and one sockeye released for nine boats (32 anglers).

Flows dictate action here and flows continue to drop after a hard run of spill in recent weeks. This fishery typically peaks last week and this but it looks as if it should continue on as there are many more steelhead to come if the prediction ends up accurate.

Also common, is the incredible discrepancy of wild to hatchery ratio in the gorge fishery. While nearly 50/50 in downriver fisheries, it's 3 to 1 this week in the gorge fishery. Although challenging to explain, it certainly appears, as often as this happens that wild fish are about 3 X more aggressive than hatchery fish in this stretch of the river. Go figure...

Downriver, action remains stable but the catch per boat isn't as good as it is in the gorge. Anglers don't have to worry about the wind as often however as it can be bad in the gorge this time of year. Downriver checks are as follows:

**Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped steelhead released for 12 boats (26 anglers).

**Portland to Longview Bank:**

Weekend checking showed 12 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 15 unclipped steelhead, one summer chinook adult and one summer chinook jack released for 104 bank anglers.

**Portland to Longview Boats:**

Weekend checking showed 31 adipose fin-clipped steelhead and one adipose fin-clipped summer chinook jack kept, plus 27 unclipped steelhead and three summer chinook adults released for 92 boats (226 anglers).

And the estuary remains productive and should for at least another week. Unfortunately, anglers don't have a minus tide to work with, which often puts fish right on the bank where bank anglers have easy access to them. Here is last weekend's estuary creel check:

**Estuary Bank (Wauna Power Lines to Tongue Point):**

Weekend checking showed nine adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus eight unclipped steelhead released for 33 bank anglers.

**Estuary Boats (Wauna Power Lines to Tongue Point):**

Weekend checking showed seven adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus six unclipped steelhead released for 13 boats (31 anglers).

With most anglers focused on consumptive opportunities, catch and release sturgeon fishing is grossly underutilized. Action remains excellent from Tongue Point to the Astoria/Megler Bridge with anchovies a top bait for deep water anglers. The softer tides we're currently on make deeper water fishing a much better option. Warmer temperatures in the estuary also put fish into the deeper channels.

Offshore, salmon fishing remains sub-par, another indication that hatchery coho will certainly be a bit sparse this year. Chinook seem to still be abundant however with catches near the beach still impressive. Most anglers fishing out of the mouth of the Columbia are not coming back with their limits of fish but anglers targeting chinook along the Long Beach Peninsula are doing fair to good for larger chinook in 35 feet of water or less. Trolled anchovies remain the best bait but you'll find fish responsive to herring as well. If you want to target chinook, stay shallow and head north along the lighthouse and Long Beach Peninsula. If you are looking for coho, head NW or SW of the Columbia River entrance to 180 to 200 foot of water and plan on weeding through some wild coho before you get some hatchery fish. Small chinook are still a nuisance too. Please handle them with care.

Ocean crabbing is good but many of the shellfish remain in the softshell state. Razor clam digging remains closed. Bottomfishing off of the jetty may prove productive on the current soft tide series.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Steelhead fishing should remain good but Bonneville anglers will remain the high-liners, especially since lower river anglers won't have a strong tide to work with this week. Spin-n-glos will still be the top choice, as long as they are tipped with coon shrimp but spinners may come on a bit stronger too as the water temperatures begin to warm. River levels are still expected to drop, which should make Bonneville a bloody place this week.

Offshore anglers should have favorable conditions, including bar crossings to work with. Action isn't likely to change much however with anglers still challenged to find hatchery coho offshore. That will hopefully change as we draw closer to August. Chinook should still be readily available however, if not grow in opportunity with the beach fishery off of Washington still the likely place for interception. Do bring anchovies out with you with herring a secondary choice. Don't fish as deep as you think you should as willing biters seem to be closer to the surface in search of baitfish. You may find that once you get outside of 35 feet, action slows but that too can change on a daily basis. You may consider dropping your crab pots outside as well but you will have to weed through the softshells to find some quality ones.

With the ocean forecasted to be like this:

**FRI**

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT...BACKING TO W IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND

WAVES 2 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT...SHIFTING TO THE SW 3 FT IN THE AFTERNOON.

**FRI NIGHT**

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. SW SWELL 3 FT.

**SAT**

N WIND 5 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. SW SWELL 2 FT.

**SAT NIGHT**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 1 FT.

**SUN**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 1 FT.

**MON**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 1 FT.

Anglers could have a fun time on big blue. Now, only if some fish would show. A forecast such as this however could bode well for bottomfishers along the south jetty at the mouth of the Columbia River. If the ocean currents remain stable, action should be good but you should use bait for the best results.

It will be an albacore tuna ocean through the weekend and the Columbia River mouth to the SW and west should produce some good results.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Counts at Willamette Falls have dropped in to the double-digit doldrums for both Chinook and steelhead, not unusual as we near August and the traditional dog days. Most of the action now will be in the upriver tributaries along with the vast majority of these anadromous fish. Predictably, the water temperature at the Falls is in the low 70s. **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "Mostly a smallmouth bass show on the Willamette, but walleye fishing can be fantastic in the Multnomah channel this time of year. A few anglers have figured out this fishery but try their best to keep it under the radar. And if the loneliness wouldn't bother you, there should be a few straggler Chinook available at the head of the channel for the taking. On Friday July 20th, a confirmed report of one boat with 3 hatchery fish and releasing one native."

While overcast days have been best on the McKenzie, caddis will hatch in good number on warm days. For best summer fishing, mornings and evenings will yield best results. Water flows have been a little variable over the past week but is forecast to be stable over the weekend to come. Water temperatures, currently in the mid-50s, are expected to remain unchanged so expect only moderate insect activity. The water is getting thin in places to expect to touch bottom in a few places when drift-boating the Mac.

A five-year study of population on the McKenzie River from Hayden Bridge to Bellinger landing is in its final three weeks. Check out fish you caught for a blue tag attached just below the dorsal fin with ODFW and a four-digit number. Prior to releasing the fish, just write down the number then Email it along with the approximate location of the catch to [davethomas1939@gmail.com](mailto:davethomas1939@gmail.com). Thanks in advance for your help in this effort.

The level and flow at the Santiams is excellent and many of those fish which were counted at Willamette Falls are now in this system. While daily counts are starting to taper off, over 5,000 spring Chinook and 6,000 summer steelhead had entered the trap at Foster Dam on the South Santiam as of July 23rd. While a portion of these fish have been trucked to various locations downstream, those numbers verify a healthy population for anglers to target.

Alton Baker Canal, Breitenbush River, Leaburg Lake, Quartzville Creek and the North Fork Santiam River above Detroit Lake are scheduled for trout planting.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Regarding the lower Willamette, **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Warm water fish are available, period."

Steelheaders have had moderate success on the McKenzie by drifting bobber and bait at first light. Tossing spoons and spinners has also generated bites. Bank anglers should be prepared to hit the river well before it's legal to make a cast as popular spots are seeing some traffic. There are still spring Chinook available in good conditions but this fishery is winding down.

With the Santiams in great shape and good numbers of fish every river mile, it's a good bet for some summer fishing. Rafting or boating is also a good way to access steelhead or springers but pick the run carefully or go with someone who has experience and knowledge as the whitewater sections are tricky at this time of year. Jigs, spinners and drifted bait will all work at times.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "The Clackamas has a few summer runs in the stretch from Rivermill dam to Carver and it wouldn't be much of a surprise to hook into a late springer if an angler could get his offering in front of one. The light angling pressure has made for a sparse report.

"There has been little fishing pressure on the Sandy river, but a few summer run steelhead have been reportedly taken between Cedar creek and mouth of the Salmon River. The mild weather has kept the river running at fishable color most days."

The return from a plant of 240,000 Chinook smolt in 2010 has resulted in springers showing at the hatchery on Eagle Creek.

A construction project on Cedar Creek has likely contributed to roily conditions on the Sandy lately, but when completed, will allow the release of wild fish directly upriver from the hatchery facility. Previously, confining them to a truck for transport upriver was required. A chute release will streamline this process and stress wild fish to a much lesser degree on their way to prime spawning habitat above the hatchery.

**The Guide's Forecast** – For the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers, **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "A few summer steelhead will be available for anglers willing to put some time in. Bobber and dark colored jigs small spinners would be wise choices."

With over 1,000 springers having already returned to the hatchery trap so far this season, anglers are reminded that Eagle Creek may offer opportunities to take a fish or two here before this window of opportunity closes.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – There isn't much to report for salmon anglers out of most northern ports. Effort remains low for coho seekers and with a looming offshore closure at the end of the month, nobody seems to care, given the success rates of recent weeks. There have

been some fair flurries of activity as early as last weekend and the seas are calming down enough to have another viable look over the weekend. It's hard enough to limit out of the mouth of the Columbia however, Garibaldi and the surrounding areas will be even more challenging. An anglers best bet may be fishing near the estuary mouths in search of chinook salmon. You will have to watch your regulations however as it's still a selective fishery inside the Tillamook Bay Bubble until August 1<sup>st</sup>.

The mouth of Nehalem Bay may provide some sport opportunity however as the summer run should start to ramp up in the coming weeks. A soft tide series and a calm ocean could prove productive in the coming week. Anglers are outside of the control zone for Tillamook so any chinook, fin-clipped or not, may be retained. Coho should be scarce in close to shore but it appears that chinook are more plentiful anyway.

Action inside the bay isn't attracting much attention. It is a soft tide series however and that tends to concentrate effort closer to the mouth. Moss and seaweed has anglers down on this drainage but is certainly worse during stronger tide exchanges.

Anglers are beginning to turn to tuna to feed their recreational habits. Albacore is certainly worth the effort right now and with the offshore forecast like it is, will be well worth pursuing this week.

Crabbing is a little better out of Garibaldi and Nehalem than the mouth of the Columbia although there still exists a softshell issue. Fresh tuna carcasses are available and make for the best crab bait around. Bay crabbing is good too.

Effort is waning for shallow water steelheading on the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. It's just getting too challenging to expect any results but fish are present for persistent anglers. There are still some spring chinook but they are starting to turn dark. The Hatchery Hole on the Trask remains one of the better bets to intercept a fresh fish.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Only a few days remain for an offshore coho before the closure at the end of this month. Fish in 180 to 200 feet of water and cover a lot of water. You should find some action offshore but you'd be very lucky to limit. It is getting to be time for higher concentrations of fish to gather out of Garibaldi as they migrate back to the mouth of the Columbia.

Chinook will be the better option but stay close to the shoreline for that. Keep in mind the Tillamook Bay Control Zone prior to August 1<sup>st</sup>. Regulations apply. The mouth of Nehalem Bay may produce good results this week and will only get better into August.

Crabbing both inside and outside should produce nicely. Use high quality bait such as tuna carcasses because everyone else will.

More challenging conditions for freshwater spring chinook and summer steelhead. The Siletz may be the best option for steelhead, the Trask for spring chinook.

Sea-run cutthroat trout should really be streaming into the lower reaches of most north coast streams. Lake troll gear often works best in tidewater. Check regulations by waterway for catch and keep options.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Charters out of Depoe Bay have been landing limits of rockfish this week although the ling cod bite has been a bit off. Coho catches have been good for boats targeting them with most taking limits. Ocean crabbing remains great.

Despite a recent improvement in the coho bite and subsequent catches of hatchery fish, it appears the coho fishery will go the distance, closing at the end of day July 31st, without fulfillment of the 8,000-fish quota. Would that the Powers That Be extend the season a few weeks, our bet is that excess coho are rolled into the non-selective quota starting in September.

Albacore catches are good off the Oregon coast with nearly every boat taking at least a few and many running out of space and/or ice to bring any more back to port. Boats launching out of Depoe Bay are taking tuna at 20 miles or so this week with Charleston boaters scoring even closer to the beach.

For recreational boaters planning an offshore foray, forecasts have rarely looked friendlier. One-foot swells at 15 to 17-second intervals should provide some nice launch windows. Expect onshore winds out of the southeast up to 10 mph mid-day.

With the quota filled, nearshore halibut fishing closed for the year on July 22nd. The next opportunity for 'buts will be every other Friday and Saturday starting August 3rd when the summer all-depth fishery begins.

Coos Bay has been slow to fair for Chinook although several were taken by trollers using herring at the bar over the past weekend. Crabbing has been worthwhile inside the bay. Tagged red rock crab should be reported to the ODFW Charleston office at 541-888-5515. Jetty fishers are taking fair to good numbers of rockfish and greenling.

Boats are also trolling for Chinook in the lower Coquille but as of yet, to no avail.

As of mid-July, while only 15% of the coho quota has been caught, nearly half of those were taken by boats launching out of Reedsport. A few coho were caught inside that bay over the past weekend, creating optimism about the upcoming run. Coho will be running up the Umpqua starting early in September. Trollers in Winchester Bay are picking up a few fresh Chinook on plug-cut herring. This bodes well for the upcoming fall fishery here. Sturgeon fishing is very slow with only an occasional fish being landed. The shad fishery is all but over on the Umpqua, even though it never really got started. North Umpqua steelheaders are catching summers. The run forecast this year is for a fair return. Smallmouth bass fishing is decent on the South Umpqua but has yet to kick into high gear as water temperatures have been low this year.

Trolling the Rogue estuary is receiving the most attention now although it's still early for best results. As water temperatures climb in the lower Rogue, early fall Chinook will be confined to the bay where trollers target them. Some of these salmon have been reported as having nearly matured egg skeins, making them late springers rather than early fall fish. While numbers have been good for this time of year, the bite has not. August is typically when this fishery starts to produce well. Steelheaders are taking a few fish on the middle Rogue and the occasional late springer is being taken. With summer steelhead returning to the hatchery on the upper Rogue in numbers not seen since 1984, fishing has been good and improving above the old Gold Ray Dam site. Mornings have been good but the evening bite has been even better.

Boats launching out of the Port of Brookings are catching Chinook at the jaws and doing fairly well outside in the ocean. Rock fishing has been very good while ling cod fishing has been fair.

The Rogue River above Lost Creek will be stocked with trout again this week.

**Central and Eastern Oregon – Rattlesnakes** have been particularly problematic this year on

the east side with several reports of bites which have resulted in either people or pets suffering. Be alert and in the worst case scenario, get prompt medical attention.

The lower eight miles of the Deschutes River is producing summer steelhead now. Fishing for reddsides has been good on the lower river with trout responding to a variety of caddis patterns.

Trout fishing remains good on the Crooked River for good numbers of fish averaging 10 inches or better. Hatches are occurring daily with caddis imitations a constant producer.

Big Lava lake has been producing decent numbers of jumbo trout and is a worthwhile alternative for escaping summer heat.

Fly anglers are having a good time catching rainbows on nymphs at East Lake. Kokanee fishing is slow to fair at Paulina with jigging most effective recently. It's often windy here when it's not foggy.

Odell is producing modest numbers of kokanee but they've been running a decent size. A few large lake trout have been taken by deep trollers.

Crescent Lake is putting out good kokanee catches to trollers who start very early in the day.

Kokanee fishers are taking the occasional fish over 12 inches amidst kokanee limits at East Lake.

Green Peter is producing fair numbers of smallish kokes (relative to the generous 25-fish limit here). anything 12 inches or better would be a big fish at GP.

### **Washington fishing reports:**

#### ***From the WDF&W Weekender Report for July 2012***

#### **North Puget Sound**

The summer fishing season revs up in July, when numerous fishing opportunities are available. Freshwater anglers can fish for trout and salmon at some of the region's rivers. On Puget Sound, additional salmon openers are just around the corner, while the popular crab season gets under way July 1 in most areas.

All but one marine area in Puget Sound opens for crab fishing July 1. The exception is Marine Area 7, where the crab fishery opens July 15 in the area's southern portion (San Juan Islands/Bellingham) and Aug. 16 in the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia).

The crab fishery in all marine areas of Puget Sound will be open Thursday through Monday of each week. Crabbers should note, however, that the season gets under way with a two-day opening (July 1-2), and will be closed July 3-4 before re-opening on its regular weekly schedule Thursday, July 5.

Rich Childers, shellfish policy lead for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), said state and tribal test fisheries indicate the crab population in Puget Sound remains abundant. "The test boats have done very well," Childers said. "I expect this summer's fishery to be similar to last year's, when crabbing was good throughout the entire season in most areas of Puget Sound."

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. Most marine areas will close the evening of Sept. 3 for a catch assessment. However, Marine Area 7 will remain open through Sept. 30.

Additional information on the crab fishery is available on [WDFW's crab fishing webpage](#).

July also brings opportunities to hook salmon in the marine areas of Puget Sound. Those saltwater opportunities include:

- **Marine Area 7** (San Juan Islands), which opens July 1. Anglers can keep one chinook as part of their two-salmon daily limit.
- **Marine Area 10** (Seattle-Bremerton), where anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon beginning July 1. However, anglers must release all chinook through July 15. Beginning July 16, anglers can retain hatchery chinook – marked with a clipped adipose fin – but wild chinook must be released.
- **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery** remains open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 3. Salmon anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit, and are allowed to use two fishing poles with the purchase of a two-pole endorsement.
- **Marine Area 9** (Admiralty Inlet) will be open July 1-15 with a daily limit of two salmon, but anglers must release chinook and chum. Hatchery chinook retention will begin July 16, when anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon but must release wild chinook and chum.

Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound salmon manager for WDFW, said he expects anglers will do well in some areas opening July 1. "The San Juan Islands have been a steady producer of hatchery chinook the last few years," he said. "And Marine Area 9 is a fair bet for resident coho." Before heading out, anglers can check [creel reports](#) for information on catch and effort in Puget Sound. WDFW fishery samplers collect the information each week at fishing access sites throughout Puget Sound.

In freshwater, portions of the Skagit and Cascade rivers are open for hatchery **chinook salmon** fishing through July 15. The Skagit is open to hatchery chinook retention from the Highway 530 Bridge at Rockport to Cascade River Road. On the Cascade, anglers can fish for salmon from the mouth of the river to the Rockport-Cascade Road Bridge.

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).

The Skagit also is open to fishing for **sockeye** salmon. Anglers can fish for sockeye, from Highway 536 (Memorial Highway Bridge) at Mount Vernon to the mouth of Gilligan Creek through July 15. Anglers have a daily limit of three sockeye, with a minimum size of 12 inches. Despite high flows and dirty water, anglers on the Skagit continued to catch fish as June came to a close, said Brett Barkdull, another WDFW fish biologist. "Anglers, especially bank anglers, are doing very well given the river conditions," he said. "With the high water, the sockeye are hugging the shore where bank anglers can get to them."

Anglers should note that gear restrictions take effect on portions of the Skagit River beginning July 5. For more information, check the [emergency fishing rule change](#).

Meanwhile, the **Baker Lake sockeye fishery** gets under way July 1. The daily limit at Baker is three sockeye salmon. Barkdull said the fishery will likely start slow, but should pick up later in the month. "I wouldn't really expect there to be significant numbers of fish in the lake until mid-to-late July," he said.

Anglers can check the number of sockeye released into the lake on [WDFW's website](#).

**Trout** fishing also is open at several of the region's rivers and streams. 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](#).

Lake fishing for **bass, bluegill, perch, and crappie** is steadily improving as water temperatures increase and fish become more active. "Early summer can be a tricky time for anglers, given the abundance of natural food and unstable weather patterns," said Danny Garrett, WDFW fisheries biologist. "As we move into summer and temperatures rise, fish tend to feed in shallow water – about 2 to 5 feet – early in the morning and late in the evening." When fishing for lunker bass, Garrett recommends topwater baits, such as buzzbaits, frogs, and poppers, and soft plastic twitch baits, including stick baits and flukes.

During the heat of the day, bass often move to deeper water near structures or other cover, Garrett said. In clear, deep lakes, such as Lake Washington and Lake Sammamish, anglers should focus on the outside edge of boat docks and along the weed line in 15 to 20 feet of water, he said, noting that a drop-shot technique with plastic bait is a good approach.

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

Summer salmon fishing is in full swing along the coast, where anglers have been reeling in bright chinook since mid-June.

"The chinook selective fishery got off to a quick start and anglers have continued to do well since," said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "I expect that will continue in July, when anglers should start finding more hatchery coho salmon as well."

Anglers fishing marine areas 1 and 2 can retain one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit. They must, however, release wild coho salmon.

On the north coast, the chinook selective fishery continues through June 30 in marine areas 3 and 4, where anglers have a daily limit of two salmon. Anglers are required to release wild chinook and all coho during the selective fishery.

Beginning July 1, the traditional recreational fishery for chinook and hatchery coho will get under way in marine areas 3 and 4. Anglers fishing marine areas 3 and 4 will have a daily limit of two salmon, but must release wild coho salmon.

Salmon fishing is open seven days a week, except in Marine Area 2 where fishing is open Sundays through Thursdays.

**Halibut** is still an option out on the coast. Marine Area 1 is open for halibut fishing Thursday through Saturday each week through July 14 or when the quota is reached, whichever occurs first. The fishery will reopen on Aug. 3 and continue three days a week (Friday-Sunday), until the remaining quota is taken, or Sept. 30, whichever occurs first.

In **Puget Sound**, salmon fishing seasons open July 1 in marine areas 5 (Sekiu), 6 (eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca) and 12 (Hood Canal – south of Ayock Point), while salmon fisheries in marine areas 11 (Tacoma/Vashon) and 13 (South Puget Sound) are already under way.

Steve Thiesfeld, Puget Sound salmon manager, said salmon anglers fishing the inside portion of Marine Area 4 have done well, suggesting that fishing will get off to a good start in the Strait of Juan de Fuca. "Early indications look good," he said. "Anglers have done really well for chinook during the ocean selective fishery, and that could stretch into the Strait."

Farther south, fishing for hatchery chinook in Marine Area 11 has been good, Thiesfeld said. "Westport is getting all the attention, but the folks fishing the Tacoma area are doing pretty well," he said. "There are definitely some fish to be caught in Marine Area 11."

Thiesfeld reminds anglers fishing Hood Canal that chum and wild chinook must be released. Because salmon fishing rules vary depending on the marine area, anglers should check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for all regulations.

Before heading out, anglers also can check [creel reports](#) for information on catch and effort in Puget Sound. Recreational fishery samplers with WDFW collect the information each week at fishing access sites throughout Puget Sound.

Meanwhile, the **crab fishery** gets under way July 1 in all but one marine area in Puget Sound. The exception is Marine Area 7, where the crab fishery opens July 15 in the area's southern portion (San Juan Islands/Bellingham) and Aug. 16 in the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia). The crab fishery in all marine areas of Puget Sound will be open Thursday through Monday of each week. Crabbers should note, however, that the season gets under way with a two-day opening (July 1-2), and will be closed July 3-4 before re-opening on its regular weekly schedule Thursday, July 5.

Rich Childers, shellfish policy lead for WDFW, said state and tribal test fisheries indicate the crab population in Puget Sound remains abundant. "The test boats have done very well," Childers said. "I expect this summer's fishery to be similar to last year's, when crabbing was good throughout the entire season in most areas of Puget Sound."

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. Most marine areas will close the evening of Sept. 3 for a catch assessment. However, Marine Area 7 will remain open through Sept. 30.

Additional information on the crab fishery is available on [WDFW's crab fishing webpage](#). In freshwater, a few rivers are open for **salmon** fishing, including the Hoh, Quillayute and the Sol Duc. Beginning July 1, a few other rivers open for salmon fishing, including the Bogachiel, Calawah and Nisqually.

**Trout** fishing also is open at several of the region's rivers and streams. 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](#).

### **Southwest Washington**

Anglers who fish the lower Columbia River are gearing up for hatchery steelhead now that most salmon-fishing opportunities are moving upstream. Steelhead fishing is expected to heat up in the weeks ahead after the summer salmon fishery below Bonneville Dam closes at the end of the day July 1.

Approximately 364,000 upriver steelhead are expected to enter the Columbia this year, along with thousands more bound for lower-river tributaries, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Those fish, bound for the upper Columbia and Snake rivers, tend to run four to eight pounds apiece.

"This year's return is expected to be about the same as last year's," Hymer said. "Steelhead tend to run close to shore, so bank anglers will likely have the advantage in the weeks ahead, especially with the river running high and cold."

Anglers fishing downriver from Bonneville can take up to two hatchery steelhead per day as part of their six-fish catch limit, which can also include hatchery jack chinook salmon. All wild fish with an intact adipose fin must be released.

Hymer said fishery managers had hoped to extend the salmon fishery beyond July 1, but bumped into two obstacles. On one hand, only about 54,000 summer chinook returned this year, compared to the pre-season projection of 91,200. That reduced the allowable catch, although anglers fishing the lower river are still expected to take home 2,850 adult hatchery summer chinook by the end of the season.

On the other hand, anglers caught 4,000 sockeye this year, shattering last year's record of 1,300 fish and pushing up against the impact guideline for the lower river. "Those fish were a welcome addition to this year's fishery," Hymer said.

Anglers gearing up for hatchery steelhead should consider fishing area tributaries as well as the mainstem Columbia River, he said. As Hymer sees it, the best bet is probably the Cowlitz River, where fish start arriving in larger numbers early in the month.

Other options include the Lewis (North and East forks), Kalama, Washougal, South Fork Toutle, Green, and Elochoman rivers. Anglers should check the [Fishing in Washington](#) rule pamphlet for regulations specific to those rivers.

Above Bonneville Dam, fishing seasons remain open for adult hatchery chinook and sockeye salmon, as well as hatchery steelhead. For adult fish, the daily limit remains two salmon, two steelhead, or one of each.

Anglers might also want to try fishing Drano Lake, the lower Wind River or the White Salmon River, where salmon and steelhead have historically dipped in to beat the heat. Just how many enter the White Salmon remains a question, however, since the process of removing Condit Dam filled the mouth of the river with sediment.

"All three of those waters are open for fishing, and we encourage anglers to give them a try," Hymer said. "We planted the White Salmon with hatchery steelhead, and we're very interested to see how anglers do in those waters."

Rather catch a **sturgeon**? Fishing remains open in The Dalles Pool seven days a week, with a daily limit of one fish measuring 43-54 inches (fork length). From Marker 82 approximately 9 miles below Bonneville Dam down to the Wauna powerlines, anglers can retain sturgeon measuring 38- 54 inches (fork length) Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through July. After a strong finish, the sturgeon fishery in the estuary below Wauna is set to close at the end of the day July 4, four days earlier than previously scheduled. That area will remain open to catch-and-release fishing.

"Catch rates improved significantly in recent weeks, which cut the fishery short by a few days, said Cindy Le Fleur, WDFW's Columbia River policy manager. "Our goal was to keep the estuary fishery open to anglers through the Fourth of July, and we hit that mark."

As the snow recedes, trout fishing is gearing up in the region's many high lakes. Access to these lakes will improve quickly as the weather continues to heat up, said John Weinheimer, another WDFW fish biologist.

Goose Lake, a forest lake in Skamania County, was recently planted with thousands of good-sized brown and cutthroat trout, Weinheimer said. Meanwhile, kokanee fishing is still going strong at Merwin Reservoir and fishing for rainbows has been good at Swift Reservoir. Riffe Reservoir on the Cowlitz River has also been good for landlocked coho.

Bass, walleye, and tiger musky fishing are in full swing, too, Weinheimer said. For bass and walleye, head to the Columbia River. Tiger musky are biting in the Merwin and Mayfield reservoirs.

### **Eastern Washington**

As water temperatures warm, fishing success shifts from coldwater trout to warmwater or "spiny ray" species like bass and bluegill.

"These fish are just more active in warmer water and are easier to catch," said Marc Divens, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) warmwater fish biologist in Spokane. "There are some waters in the region that are specifically managed for warmwater species and others that are mixed waters, where trout fishing slows at this time and warmwater fishing picks up."

With a "slot limit" on largemouth bass, Divens encourages anglers to keep and use the smaller fish caught. As explained under the statewide freshwater rules on page 17 of the fishing rules pamphlet, only largemouth bass less than 12 inches may be retained, except that one over 17 inches may be kept. Up to five largemouth bass may be kept each day.

Smallmouth bass also have a size restriction – only one over 14 inches may be retained – with a daily limit of 10 fish. As with largemouth, anglers are encouraged to keep smaller bass. Overpopulation of these species can reduce the quality of fisheries.

Eloika Lake, seven miles north of Chattaroy off Highway 2 in north Spokane County, has **largemouth bass, yellow perch** and **black crappie**. Eloika is open to fishing year-round and has a resort and a recently refurbished WDFW access site

Downs Lake, seven miles east of Sprague in southwest Spokane County, also has largemouth bass, yellow perch and black crappie. Downs Lake is managed under a nine-inch minimum size and 10-fish limit on crappie. Downs is open March through September and has a resort with a small boat launch.

Silver Lake, one mile east of the town of Medical Lake in Spokane County, has largemouth bass, black crappie, **bluegill**, and **pumpkinseed sunfish**. There's a nine-inch minimum size and 10-fish limit on crappie there as well. Silver is open year-round and has both a resort and WDFW access.

Newman Lake, 12 miles northeast of Spokane in eastern Spokane County, has a variety of species, including largemouth and **smallmouth bass**, bluegill, black crappie, yellow perch, and **bullhead catfish**. Newman Lake also offers the opportunity to fish for tiger musky (a sterile hybrid northern pike/muskellunge cross). Newman is open year-round and has two resorts, plus

WDFW access.

Liberty Lake, about a mile from the Idaho border in eastern Spokane County, is a mixed species fishery where **rainbow** and **brown trout** rule at the outset of the season, from March through May, but the spiny rays come on through the summer. Liberty has virtually all of the warmwater species, including **walleye**, but both species of bass and yellow perch dominate. There's a WDFW boat launch available.

Sprague Lake, on the Lincoln-Adams county line, is a mixed-species water, where Divens says surveys show an abundant population of small largemouth bass. "There are a few up to five pounds but most are 10 to 12 inches," he said. "There's also a developing panfish population – bluegill and crappie – but in general they're still small and growing in size." Sprague is open year round and has two resorts and WDFW access.

Coffeepot Lake, 12 miles northeast of Odessa in Lincoln County, can be excellent for yellow perch, black crappie and largemouth bass, but it's under selective gear rules. That means only unscented artificial flies or lures with one single-point, barbless hook are allowed.

The Twin lakes, in the Lake Creek drainage upstream of Coffeepot, have largemouth bass, perch, crappie, and other panfish. Upper Twin can be particularly good for bass. Both are open year-round and have Bureau of Land Management access.

Deer and Loon lakes in Stevens County generally shift at this time of year from trout to largemouth and smallmouth bass and other warmwater fish, especially at Deer Lake, 14 miles southeast of Chewelah. (Loon is a few miles further south, on the west side of Hwy. 395.) Early summer kokanee fishing at Loon Lake, primarily in the evenings, can also be very good. Both of these lakes are open through October and have WDFW access and resorts.

Lake Roosevelt **walleye** fishing in the upper portion of the reservoir (upriver from Kettle Falls) can be very productive during early July. There's a good population of smallmouth bass in the big Columbia River reservoir, too.

The Snake River in the south end of the region is also a good bet for smallmouth bass plus nice **channel catfish**.

Good **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** fishing can still be had these days, said John Whalen, WDFW regional fish program manager. Lowland trout lakes are better in very early morning or late evening hours. Trout lakes at higher elevation, mostly in the northeast district of the region, remain productive longer in the summer.

The Tucannon River impoundments in the south end of the region are still providing good fishing for rainbow trout, said Kari Dingman, WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area manager. The cool, rainy weather this spring has probably extended the life of those hatchery-stocked fisheries, although Dingman notes "it's finally starting to warm up and feel like summer."

From July through September, anglers making weekend outings of their fishing trips in forested areas of the region need to keep in mind that campfires are only allowed in approved fire pits within designated state, county, municipal or other campgrounds. That's under orders of the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the state's wildfire fighters who protect lands, including WDFW's. The use of gas and propane self-contained stoves and barbeques is allowed under the ban. For more information, see [DNR fire safety news](#).

## Northcentral Washington

Based on the record numbers of **sockeye salmon** coming over Bonneville Dam and heading this way, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fish biologists are expecting excellent fishing during the season that opens July 1 within the mainstem Columbia River and selected tributaries above Priest Rapids Dam.

In late June few summer Chinook and sockeye had made their way above Priest Rapids, but by mid-July biologists expect the fisheries to really kick in and provide good action. Check the status of incoming adult fish through the interagency inter-agency [Columbia River Data Access in Real Time \(DART\) website](#).

The daily limit is six chinook salmon, minimum size 12 inches. Up to three adult chinook may be retained, of which only one may be a wild adult. Anglers are also allowed to keep six sockeye salmon, minimum size 12 inches. All salmon with a colored floy (anchor) tag and/or tail (caudal) punch must be released as these fish are part of ongoing studies being conducted by the Yakama Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes and WDFW. Anglers may fish with two poles in areas open to salmon fishing, as long as they have purchased the Two-Pole Endorsement. All salmon fishing on the Columbia requires the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement.

In addition, from Hwy 173 Bridge in Brewster to 400 feet below Chief Joseph Dam, anglers can fish for and retain **trout** through August 15. Daily limit is 10 fish with a minimum size of 12 inches.

"The Methow River is currently running high," said Bob Jateff, WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist in Twisp. "Serious trout fishing is probably delayed until the first or second week of July."

Jateff reminds anglers the Methow and selected tributaries are only open for catch-and-release fishing under selective gear rules. Anglers will need to consult current regulations, since a number of tributaries are closed to all fishing. Any **bull trout** caught must be released unharmed and can't be taken out of the water.

Jateff suggests trying some smaller tributaries in the Methow area, such as Beaver Creek (Methow River tributary) and Boulder Creek (Chewuch River tributary). **Eastern brook trout** are the main species in both of these small streams and liberal catch limits are provided. In Beaver Creek, it's five brook trout per day, no minimum size, and in Boulder Creek, it's 10 brook trout per day, no minimum size.

"Trout production lakes to try are Alta, Wannacut, Pearrygin, Spectacle, and both Conconully reservoir and lake," Jateff said. "**Rainbow trout** are the main species in these waters and anglers can expect to catch fish in the 11- to 13-inch range, with larger carryover fish up to 15 inches. There are private resorts and/or state parks on most of these lakes, with boat launching facilities available."

Jateff says **yellow perch** anglers should try Patterson, Palmer, or Spectacle lakes for fish in the six- to 10-inch range. Palmer Lake also has a good population of **kokanee** in the 11- to 13-inch range; Patterson Lakes has kokanee in the 10- to 11-inch range.

Travis Maitland, WDFW Chelan District fish biologist, reports the Icicle River **spring chinook salmon** fishery, that opened June 2 and continues through July 31, has been consistently producing a few fish each day.

"We've seen the occasional 'hot day' when most everyone is getting them to bite," Maitland said. "As groups of salmon move out of the Wenatchee River into the Icicle, that action will

continue. It seems to occur with water temperature and river discharge fluctuations, so it's a timing game, and not exact science."

Maitland also notes that although the Lake Chelan **kokanee** fishery has slowed down a bit from earlier in June, "anglers still continue to catch some of the nicest kokanee that Lake Chelan has offered in recent memory." Many of the fish have been in the 14- to 16-inch range and occasionally larger.

Chad Jackson, WDFW Columbia Basin district fish biologist, said warmwater fishing is finally heating up after a slow start to traditional summer weather. "The Basin's big three for good **walleye** and **largemouth** and **smallmouth bass** fishing are Moses Lake, Banks Lake, and Potholes Reservoir," Jackson said.

All three year-round-open waters also have varying populations of **bluegill**, **crappie** and **yellow perch** that can produce good catches through the summer. With late run-off this year, these big waterways are still at or near high pool, which has slowed normal shoreline or dockside action at some, like Potholes.

Evergreen Reservoir on the Quincy Wildlife Area in Grant County is another good July fishery in the Basin, with walleye, largemouth bass, bluegill and other species.

Lower Goose Lake, one of the Seep lakes south of Potholes Reservoir, has a good crappie and bluegill fishery. Lower Goose has a minimum size of nine inches and a daily catch limit of 10 for crappie. It also has a restriction that only five bluegill over six inches can be kept, although there is no daily limit.

Hutchinson and Shiner lakes, on the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge, which is seven miles north of Othello in Adams County, should be heating up this month for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and perch.

From July through September, anglers making weekend outings of their fishing trips in forested areas of the region need to keep in mind that campfires are only allowed in approved fire pits within designated state, county, municipal or other campgrounds.

That's under orders of the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the state's wildfire fighters who protect lands, including WDFW's. The use of gas and propane self-contained stoves and barbeques is allowed under the ban. For more information, see [DNR fire safety news](#).

### **Southcentral Washington**

Area anglers have several good fishing opportunities in July, ranging from an extended spring chinook season on a portion of the Yakima River to newly stocked jumbo trout in three popular high-mountain lakes. On the Columbia River, the catch is running to walleye, shad and the occasional summer chinook salmon.

Citing the late arrival of this year's run, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) extended **spring chinook** fishing through July 31 on the 20-mile stretch of the Yakima River between the Interstate 82 Bridge in Union Gap to the Burlington Northern Railroad bridge 500 feet downstream from Roza Dam. The daily limit remains two hatchery chinook, with clipped adipose fins.

"Fishing has been very good for springers, especially in that stretch of the Yakima River," said Eric Anderson, a WDFW fish biologist in Yakima. "We expect to have hatchery fish available for harvest well into July."

Anderson noted that fishing is closed for steelhead, and that terminal gear in the spring chinook fishery is restricted to one single-point, barbless hook with a hook gap (from point to shank) of three-quarters of an inch or less. Bait and knotted nets are allowed in the section of the river open to salmon fishing.

For more information, see the [fishing rule](#) on the WDFW website.

On the Columbia River, most anglers fishing below McNary Dam have been focusing on **walleye** and **shad**. Anglers have also been picking up a few **summer chinook** below McNary Dam, but the action has been slow. Summer chinook and **sockeye** can be harvested in the Columbia River upstream to Priest Rapids Dam but only those chinook with a clipped adipose may be retained. For additional rules on the salmon fishery, see the 2012-13 [Fishing in Washington](#) pamphlet. A Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead endorsement is required to participate in salmon fisheries on both the Yakima and Columbia Rivers. A two-pole endorsement is also available for anglers fishing the open section of the Yakima River and for salmon fisheries opening in July above Priest Rapids Dam on the Columbia River.

Rather catch **sturgeon**? Anglers can catch and keep sturgeon measuring 43 to 54 inches (fork length) through July 31 in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids and Ice Harbor dams). Be aware, however, that sturgeon spawning sanctuary areas below each of those dams are closed to all sturgeon fishing. The sanctuary areas are described on Pages 75 and 81 of the fishing rule pamphlet.

Fishery managers are asking sturgeon anglers fishing in the Columbia and Snake river reservoirs above McNary Dam to watch for and return **special tags** found in some of the fish. The yellow plastic markers are shaped like a piece of spaghetti, and are attached to the base of the fish's dorsal fin.

"The tag program helps inform us of the abundance and distribution of white sturgeon above McNary Dam," said Olaf Langness, WDFW fish biologist. "We appreciate anglers' cooperation in this effort."

Fishery managers ask that anyone who encounters a tagged sturgeon remove and return the tag, along with information on the date and location of the catch and whether the fish was kept or released. Anglers who keep a tagged fish are asked to report the sturgeon's fork length, measured from the tip of its snout to the fork in its tail.

The tags and information should be mailed to the Sturgeon Tag Reward Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), 17330 SE. Evelyn St., Clackamas, OR 97015. Respondents who include their name, mailing address and telephone number will be sent a complimentary "Columbia Basin Sturgeon Conservationist" baseball cap.

Meanwhile, fishing for stocked **rainbow trout** is still going strong on lowland lakes near Yakima, Ellensburg and Cle Elum, said Anderson, the WDFW fish biologist based in Yakima. He especially likes the prospects at Clear and Dog Lakes in Yakima County and Easton Ponds and Cooper Lake in Kittitas County.

Anderson notes that WDFW is planting hundreds of 1.5-pound **jumbo** trout in three popular "drive to" high-mountain lakes the last week of June. Those lakes include Leech and Dog Lakes near White Pass, and Lost Lake near Snoqualmie Pass. Cooper Lake, in the upper Cle Elum River basin, also received a planting of 765 jumbos along with 8,160 catchable rainbows (11-13 inches) planted in mid-to-late June. All four "drive-to" mountain lakes should provide excellent trout fishing through the summer months and into the early fall.

"These lakes will provide some outstanding fishing opportunities for the Fourth of July weekend," Anderson said.

Mountain streams were still running high in late June, but fishing conditions should improve there and in high lakes through July, Anderson said. For **kokanee**, he recommends Bumping Lake, Rimrock Lake and Keechelus and Kachess reservoirs.

### **TGF Inbox - Reader E-mail**

#### **Write to the TGF staff:**

Bob Rees: [brees@pacifier.com](mailto:brees@pacifier.com)  
Michael Teague: [Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:Michael@TheGuidesForecast.com)  
Chris Vertopoulos: [chrisv@pacifier.com](mailto:chrisv@pacifier.com)  
Doug Rees: [doug@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:doug@TheGuidesForecast.com)

#### **Random Links**

River data - flow, height, water temp:

Deschutes near Madras:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14092500&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=14092500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

Deschutes near Moody:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14103000&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=14103000&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

Deschutes near Cuver:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14076500&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=14076500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

Crooked River below Opal Springs:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14087400&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=14087400&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

Metolius near Grandview:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14091500&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=14091500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

Columbia at The Dalles:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14105700&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=14105700&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

Brown bear fishing salmon in Alaska - Live Cam:

<http://explore.org/#!/live-cams/player/brown-bear-salmon-cam-brooks-falls>

**GOOD LUCK!**