

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 28<sup>th</sup> – July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro-** The Willamette River continues to kick out a few shad, sturgeon and late spring salmon, despite being past peak time for all the species mentioned. Definitely on the back side of the shad run, a few stragglers will still be caught through July 4th. Mid July's sturgeon opener (July 11 - 13) will give up a few fish, but don't expect a barn burner, as most fish have left the Willamette for the Columbia's greener pastures. A salmon or two a day are taken below Willamette falls at Oregon City by a few dedicated local fishermen. Bass fishing is always decent, if not good through the summer months and walleye are also available in the Multnomah Channel.

Summer chinook fishing below Bonneville Dam remains slower than expected, though fish are present for the taking. Catch and release sturgeon fishing remains a strong option and the shad run is still in full swing. A handful of summer steelhead are showing up in the lower river catch.

There are spring chinook in the Clackamas, but most anglers are struggling to scratch out a fish. For any success, low water tactics are a must, as well as knowing where the springers prefer to hide out in the low, clear water. Best success is found from Carver upstream. The occasional summer steelhead is also available but it's apparent that 2013 is a low return year for the Clack.

On the Sandy River, anglers are having a tough time as well. Spring chinook and a few summer steelhead are present, but you have to work hard for a bite or two. Low water tactics and a stealthy approach are necessary for success and getting there early makes the difference. Most anglers doing any good are spending their time in the upper river.

McKenzie fly fishers will find the river in excellent condition this week. The McKenzie Green Caddis show is on the wane and fishing is likely to slow with nice weather but will certainly be worthwhile. Use nymphs in the absence of bugs hatching.

The Santiam system will be dropping slightly through the coming weekend. There are fair numbers of summer steelhead in the river which will yield similar fishing results. Boaters should exercise caution with water levels getting lower.

**Northwest –** A large number of anglers took advantage of calm ocean conditions on the salmon opener Saturday. Anglers were rewarded with easy chinook limits (1 per person, wild or hatchery) north of the Columbia River mouth in 30 to 50 foot of water. Chinook were readily taking trolled anchovies. Coho were present as well but limits were harder to come by. The chinook were ranging 10 to 17 pounds in size. The current low pressure system may scatter them for a while but ocean conditions won't allow anglers to verify that until at least Thursday.

Interest in sturgeon has disappeared with the recent closure to retention. Action remains good however with good catches reported from Jim Crow Sands to Hammond. Use fresh anchovies the lower you go in the estuary. Call bait shops in advance to secure bait as inconsistent demand limits availability.

Lower Columbia salmon and steelhead anglers are reporting mixed results. Chinook catches seem to be better than steelhead counts but that should change soon. Summer steelhead counts are less than half of the 10-year average.

Tillamook anglers are fishing over a pool of finicky spring chinook at the Hatchery Hole on the Trask. Although bites are sporadic, there are plenty of fish available. Light leaders with small clusters of eggs and shrimp remain effective both early morning and before sunset. Three Rivers and the Wilson River are also options.

Ocean coho south of Cape Falcon (Manzanita) opens up on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Fishing should be fair and the ocean forecast looks favorable.

**Southwest**- Fishing for surf perch on ocean beaches has been reported as spotty recently but with low swells in the forecast this week, catches are expected to improve along with the weather.

Halibut fishing was good over the three-day, all-depth opener last Thursday through Saturday. A meeting on June 28th will determine whether sufficient quota remains for another summer opportunity. If not, halibut anglers will have to fish nearshore or wait for another all-depth season in August.

Expect to find summer level low water anywhere on the Umpqua system this weekend. While this isn't good news for springer hopefuls, shad anglers will be taking fish and smallmouth bass fishing will be very good on the mainstem and South Umpqua.

Boats launching out of Gold Beach for bottomfish have been taking mostly limits. Trolling for summer chinook in Rogue Bay is expected to be excellent this year with low water and high river temperatures keeping salmon in the estuary. The lower Rogue rose this week but will drop back to low water conditions by the coming weekend. Chinook fishing has been slow in the lower and middle rivers. The upper Rogue continues to fish well for springers with summer steelhead numbers improving daily. Springers are favoring backbouncers over plug-pullers. A toxic algae advisory has been issued for Lost Creek Reservoir and the public is advised to avoid contact with the water.

Ocean salmon fishing has been very good out of Brookings with results expected to continue on an upward trend. Lingcod catches have been excellent as well as rockfish providing similar results. Lings in the 15 to 20-pound class are being landed regularly. Nearshore halibut are being taken with a 50-pounder reported recently.

Fishing was good at Diamond Lake over the past weekend when the annual Blackbird Derby was held. The \$1,000 top prize went to Terry Konz for a trout which weighed in at 5 pounds, 2 oz.

**Eastern** – Fishing is fair to good on the lower Deschutes. Caddis patterns are effective but keep an eye out for Yellow Sallies hatching as well.

Trout fishing is good on the Wallowa River although wading has been out of the question with the river too high to do so.

Fishing has been excellent for both trout and bass on the Grande Ronde above Bogan's. It's much slower between Minam and Troy.

**SW Washington**- Effort for this district is shifting to the mainstem of the Columbia. The Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis Rivers should continue to have steelhead available but like other regional systems, returning adults are clearly down.

Strong tides this week could make for some fair beach plunking for steelhead and an occasional summer chinook downstream of Vancouver.

Walleye and bass are readily available upstream of Bonneville Dam.

And, late breaking halibut season info:

**Central Coast Spring All-Depth Season is closed, the quota has been caught**

Halibut Update through week 25 (June 22)

**Columbia River Subarea**—

There has been 4,540 pounds landed. This leaves approximately 4,976 pounds (52%) of the spring quota remaining. Average weight so far this season is 15 pounds. This fishery is open every Friday-Sunday.

**Central Oregon Coast Subarea**

**Spring All-Depth season**—Through the June 20-22 opener, the spring all-depth quota has been caught. Therefore, there will be no further back-up dates open; the Spring All-Depth season is closed. The average weight for the spring fishery was 16.9 pounds per fish.

**Summer All-Depth Season**—the summer all-depth season will open August 2. That fishery is scheduled to be open every other Friday and Saturday until the quota is attained.

**Nearshore Season**— landings from the nearshore through June 16 are 9,248 lbs., leaving 13,790 lbs. or 60% of the nearshore quota remaining. The average weight from the nearshore fishery, so far this season has been 15 lbs. The nearshore will is open Thursday through Saturday until the quota has been attained.

**South of Humbug Mountain subarea**-- this fishery opened May 1, seven days per week

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – With the closure of consumptive sturgeon season, anglers have been left high and dry as to what to pursue with all their spare time. Well, word got out quick that chinook action in shallow water just north of the mouth of the Columbia has been fantastic. On both Saturday and Sunday, it didn't take but an hour to get our chinook limit (7 on Saturday, 6 on Sunday). It was like coho fishing in the good old days, except that we were catching chinook! Granted, the chinook were not all that large, averaging just 10 to 15 pounds but they are chinook. It was pretty simple fishing, as ocean fishing commonly is. Troll herring or anchovies (I used anchovies) anywhere from 10 to 28 strips down and if you don't get bit in 5 to 10 minutes, you better check your bait because it must not be spinning. Yes, your bait HAS to be spinning to get bites. I targeted fish in 30 to 45 foot of water north of the light house on Cape Disappointment and south of the condo's off of Long Beach. Yes, it's that simple and hopefully more action on the upcoming predicted soft ocean.

Coho were present too, it seemed most were fin-clipped but we caught 4 chinook for every coho. It's likely that the coho were farther offshore but we were content and headed back into the river to pursue catch and release sturgeon opportunities. Boats that stuck it out, did find all their salmon, including coho. Beginning last Saturday, anglers can keep any chinook over 24 inches, fin-clipped or not. Prior to last Saturday, chinook had to be fin-clipped. We did catch some chinook on spoons too, including the largest one but anchovies clearly out-produced hardware.

There were rumors of good action to the south in shallow water as well but why risk it when we have slam dunk fishing to the north? The coho are running large for this early in the season. I think we're in for a fun summer!

For river fishers, salmon action above Tongue Point has been fair for what is expected to be a mediocre run at best. One boat reported going 3 for 9 on Wednesday on the lower end of Rice Island using plugs. Yes, those barbless plugs continue to plague anglers with frustration. Some guides recommend switching those treble hooks to single siwash. The strike to hook ratios have about driven anglers to drink. Action is expected to be best on the current minus tide series but will likely wane as the tides do. Summer steelhead seem pretty sparse for what should be peak season. Bonneville counts are just now hitting 200 adult steelhead per day which is the benchmark most lower river anglers look for before getting serious about their steelhead fishing. It's shaping up to be a sub-par fishery that has historically been quite reliable.

And how about sturgeon? Well, we can't keep them but that's not keeping them from biting. Action has been good on most days but like the consumptive period, it's not consistent day to day. One day we'll catch 20 to 30 fish, the next, maybe 7 or 8. The fish continue to be of a good grade however as we only landed 7 or 8 fish on Wednesday with not a shaker in the bunch (not such a good thing). 2 oversize sturgeon and 5 or 6 keepers. Not bad if you're not going to catch a boat load. Larger fish seem to be available downstream of the bridge, more numerous fish but of a smaller grade, upstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. Sand shrimp continues to work best in water shallower than 6 feet while anchovies are taking fish in water deeper than 6 feet. The water has hit 64 degrees and although these estuary sturgeon fight great, they seemed to be better fighters in water just a few degrees cooler. They are certainly eating well.

Not many people are crabbing on the lower Columbia but maybe they should be. The crab are certainly present while sturgeon fishing; I'm not sure how many of them are keepers however.

Upriver, **pro guide Chris Vertopoulos reports**, "Summer Chinook fishing below Bonneville Dam remains slower than expected, though fish are present for the taking. Back trolling and anchor fishing in relatively shallow water is getting the most attention from the fish. Focus on 8-15 feet of water. Bank anglers are also having decent success with the salmon running close to shore. This fishery will be left open till July 1st.

Catch and release sturgeon fishing remains a strong option and the shad run is just now showing signs of tapering off. A handful of summer steelhead are showing up in the lower river catch and will soon make their presence known in the upper stretches."

**The Guide's Forecast** – Anglers shouldn't overlook the chinook opportunity that exists out of the Columbia right now. That coupled with large coho that should become ever-more abundant, should draw interest in the near future, especially with this upcoming ocean forecast:

**FRI**

NE WIND TO 5 KT...BACKING TO W IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 1 FT. W SWELL 5 FT AT 11 SECONDS... SHIFTING TO THE SW AT 15 SECONDS IN THE AFTERNOON. PATCHY FOG.

**FRI NIGHT**

W WIND 5 TO 10 KT...BECOMING S AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 1 FT. S SWELL 5 FT AT 15 SECONDS.

**SAT**

N WIND TO 5 KT...BECOMING NW IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 1 FT. S SWELL 5 FT AT 14 SECONDS.

**SAT NIGHT**

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...BECOMING N TO 5 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. S SWELL 4 FT.

### **SUN**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. SW SWELL 5 FT.

### **MON**

N WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 4 FT.

Friday and Saturday look heavenly out there. Bring your crab pots.

Start your day as early as possible, targeting chinook north of the mouth of the Columbia, trolling anchovies in 30 to 40 feet of water fishing just 12 to 18 strips down. If you're not limited in quick order, troll another 8 to 12 strips deeper, especially if the sun is out. You may have to cull through several chinook before finding your coho or you can travel west, into deeper water (180 to 200 feet) if you wish to take it more seriously. There is ample bait out there, you may wish to choose to jig your own baits to save on bait expenses.

Bottomfishing may even be an option, off the south jetty during the tide changes. Tides are beginning to soften.

River fishing for salmon and steelhead has been challenging enough, the softer tide series we'll see over the weekend won't make things any easier. If you have to fish, plunk spin-n-glos for steelhead, in hot colors only or plugs for chinook. You might be better off targeting salmon this weekend although the summer run should begin to peter out in early July so time is running out. Try tipping your spin-n-glos with coon shrimp, you should see a measureable difference.

Sturgeon anglers should find ample opportunity for quality sized sturgeon through the month of July. Fish are well distributed throughout the estuary, from Hammond to well above Tongue Point. Fish sand shrimp in shallow water and anchovies in water deeper than 12 feet. On the softer tide series this weekend, it's quite feasible to target sturgeon in the deeper water, especially near the tide changes.

Crabbing in the lower river off of Fort Stevens State Park (Social Security Beach) could be productive, there aren't many people doing it.

Upriver, **pro guide Chris Vertopoulos reports**, "Expect just average fishing through this week's salmon closure (July 1) on the lower Columbia River. The run, although present isn't sacrificing many soldiers and the catch rate isn't very impressive.

Although still strong, the shad run is on the backside of peak and will slowly decrease over the next two weeks.

Sturgeon fishing will likely take center stage as the most viable option in the stretch from Camas to Bonneville.

Expect the summer steelhead catch to increase, though a strong showing isn't likely for 2013."

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, The Willamette River continues to kick out a few shad, sturgeon and late spring salmon, despite being past peak time for all the species mentioned. Definitely on the back side of the shad run, a few stragglers will still be caught through July 4th. The cool, wet

weather has even further limited the catchability, as shad fishing almost always exceeds during stable, high pressure systems. The tiny Dick Nite will get the most bites and sometimes even attract a late Chinook. Brass with a chartreuse tip is the A#1 best color, though other colors are also responsible for mass shad death. This weekend through the holiday should be shad's the last hurrah.

Mid July's sturgeon opener (July 11-13) will give up a few fish, but don't expect a barn burner, as most fish have left the Willamette for the Columbia's greener pastures. The usual, favorite deeper holes will yield some action and the standard baits of smelt, squid, sand shrimp and roll-mop herring will all get bites. Tipping your bait with a night crawler can be a deadly trick.

A salmon or two a day are taken below Willamette falls at Oregon City by a few dedicated local fishermen. One day, two to four will get caught and the next day will not give up a fish. Some anglers cast spinners from the catwalk, a few bobber fish the eddy with cured roe and shrimp, while most anglers anchor up with small spinners and wobblers. Either approach will take the occasional late springer as long as patience is your middle name.

Bass fishing is always decent, if not good through the summer months. The entire river has good holding water where sloping, rocky shorelines or other structure is present. The Multnomah Channel and the Milwaukie/Lake Oswego areas are favorites of the fish and the bass pro's.

Walleye are also available in the Multnomah Channel and assertive anglers can have rather good success if time is put in learning this fishery. The unfortunate thing is that the fishermen who have this fishery figured out, are keeping their mouths closed tight. One tip is to put far more time in with worm harnesses and bottom walkers rather than using crankbaits. The Multnomah Channel is known for being ferociously snaggy and fishermen would have a hard time justifying losing 2-4 expensive diving crankbaits.

TGF contributor Michael Teague reports, "Expect McKenzie water levels to have dropped and flows to remain stable through the coming weekend. The McKenzie River above Leaburg Lake will be boat-stocked this week from Finn Rock to Goodpasture Landing with a total of 9,200 legal- and larger-sized rainbow trout.

About 25,000 spring Chinook have been counted at Willamette Falls with daily numbers of 200 to 300 or more common. Summer steelhead totals are approaching 11,000 with fewer than 200 a day crossing at the Falls. Checking these numbers will give an idea of how many fish are upriver tributaries. Trout fishers and optimistic summer steelheaders should expect to find the North Santiam River fairly low and dropping through the weekend. South Santiam levels were not dramatically effected (or improved) by recent rainfall. It will be low and stable.

Alton Baker Canal, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Quartzville Creek, Salt Creek, North Fork Santiam River above Detroit Lake, Smith Reservoir, Trail Bridge Reservoir and the Middle Fork Willamette River above Hills Creek Reservoir are scheduled to trout stocking.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Marginal fishing is expected for all anadromous species on the Willamette River. We are in the fringes of the run timing for shad, sturgeon, spring salmon and any success will be less than ordinary. Willamette bass and walleye are in the prime months and proper success for warm water anglers is to be expected through early fall."

With rain showers passing and the sun shining for the weekend, hatches will be sporadic on the McKenzie but watch for these events to occur periodically. Be prepared for a flurry of bugs and action during the magic moments as the sun rises but mostly as it sets in the day. In the absence

of bugs on the wing, swinging nymphs or wets should interest trout periodically for fair but steady hookups. The McKenzie Green Caddis is actually a Great Gray Spotted Sedge but regardless of the correct terminology, fly fishers will do well to have the appropriate imitation in a size 10.

Small spoons have hooked a few summers on the North Santiam recently but if you're not on the water at first light, it can be an excessive in futility. Try the upper North Santiam for a mix of native and hatchery trout, It should be good fishing this weekend.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, there are spring Chinook in the Clackamas, but most anglers are struggling to scratch out a fish. For any success, low water tactics are a must, as well as knowing where the springers prefer to hide out in the low clear water. Best success is found from Carver upstream. Runs where the head of the hole has a steep drop-off into deep, oxygenated water are favorite haunts of late season springers. Depth (cover) and dissolved oxygen are the key to finding these fish. The occasional summer steelhead is also available but it's apparent that 2013 is a low return year for the Clack. Small spinners fished in boulder stretches and riffles are a great approach while bobber/jig set-ups will also produce.....as long as you fish a nightmare jig.

On the Sandy River, anglers are having a tough time as well. Spring Chinook and a few summer steelhead are present, but you have to work hard for a bite or two. Low water tactics and a stealthy approach are necessary for success and getting there early makes the difference. Most anglers doing any good are spending their time in the upper river. Holes and runs where the shade sticks around longer into the morning and hits the water earlier in the afternoon will hold more fish. Anything else is just a travel lane connecting the deepest holding water. This week's rains added a bit of flow and cooled the water a smidge, but the rise is short lived and the water should be back to summer level by the weekend.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, expect more of the same. A few late springers and summer steelhead will be caught by mostly local anglers who know the rivers intimately. Nothing red hot or even "hot" just a constant "one here and one there". Worth the effort for the fisherman who knows his low water stuff and is looking for light pressure. If you are going, get there early.

**North Coast Fishing Report –** Tillamook district anglers are all but gone from Tillamook Bay. The spring chinook run has clearly gone through with a clear absence of mid-June chinook on a weak tide series that produced very nicely in years past. The bay is vacant of vessels with the exception of a few crabbers.

With springers abundant in a few north coast river systems, effort has solely switched to the freshwater areas. The Trask, of course, continues to produce the best results, with ample numbers of anglers pursuing "holed up" salmon at the hatchery hole. The hole is absolutely stuffed with springers. This is a bobber and bait show, as per new regulation, but anglers are finding consistent success in the very early mornings as well as toward dusk. Anglers utilizing small combination baits of shrimp and eggs are doing best. Light leaders are encouraged. The recent stretch of overcast days did prolong the bite but noticeably, early mornings remain best. There are fish available above the hatchery hole so don't overlook your options upstream of the hordes of people and salmon.

The Wilson is also an option, although far fewer adults return to this system. Chinook here are also holed up in the deep water where bobbers and bait become the most effective technique.

Anglers may find biting fish at the head of the hole in the early morning, utilizing drift gear to catch them. Summer steelhead are also available on this system but anglers are not reporting stellar results. It appears as if the summer steelhead run is down region-wide.

The Nestucca and Three Rivers systems are the final spring chinook options on the north coast. Three Rivers will have the highest concentration of springers, particularly close to the hatchery. Bobber and bait restrictions are in play in this system as well so check regulations meant to stifle snaggers that have worked these reaches in years past. The Three Rivers fishery has recently been extended and will likely go to permanent rule next year along with the Trask. Like the Wilson, summer steelhead seem to be a rare catch here. Hopefully, this is not the new norm. Here is the press release on Three Rivers:

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Jessica Sall (503) 947-6023

June 21, 2013

### **ODFW extends Three Rivers fishing season**

**TILLAMOOK, Ore.** – With good numbers of hatchery spring chinook returning to the Nestucca basin, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has decided to extend the fishing season in Three Rivers through July 15.

Three Rivers is a tributary of the Nestucca River near Hebo and the location of Cedar Creek Hatchery where the returning fish were raised. Biologists recommended the season extension because it appears there will be more hatchery spring chinook returning to the hatchery than will be needed for brood stock needs. Biologists also credit the extended season to new gear restrictions and a coordinated enforcement program with the Oregon State Police, Fish and Wildlife Division.

“We implemented a new gear regulation this year that has reduced illegal snagging and flossing of fish in Three Rivers,” says Chris Knutsen, ODFW District Biologist in Tillamook. “In addition, the Oregon State Police have done a great job of keeping the snaggers off of the river through increased patrols and other law enforcement efforts.”

Three Rivers downstream from the Cedar Creek Hatchery weir was previously scheduled to close July 1. With the extension, the season for adipose fin-clipped spring chinook, adipose fin-clipped summer steelhead and cutthroat trout will now be open through July 15.

“This will give anglers two additional weekends, including the Fourth of July holiday, to take advantage of this opportunity.” says Knutsen.

All regulations listed in the 2013 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations will remain in place through the end the season. This includes the recent anti-snagging gear restrictions that prohibit leaders longer than 36 inches, and limit anglers to a single point hook with a gap 3/8-inch or less.

Ocean coho opens July 1<sup>st</sup> but we'll cover that in the Forecast section.

Halibut anglers offshore continue to pursue flatties, mostly in the nearshore where action has been consistent for anglers that closely guard their halibut hotspots. Slow-trolled herring or jigged baits and artificials under no power will continue to produce fair results.

Bottomfishing remains good for boats willing to travel. Much of the fleet heads north this time of year, targeting ample numbers of sea bass and lingcod off of Arch Cape. This fishery tends to peter out a bit by mid-July so anglers should have another few weeks of good fishing.

Crabbing is picking up in the nearshore (ocean) but anglers still have to cull through plenty of undersized and female crab. The ocean will continue to produce the best results and the keepers that are available are good and hard. We are due for the summer molt so watch for soft-shells in the near future. Bay crabbing has been challenging on the big tide series but that will change too in the near future.

Razor clam digging was excellent over the weekend and on Monday but turned south by Tuesday and Wednesday. There are only a few more weeks of digging before the summer closure.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Recreational boaters will no longer be pursuing springers in the bay but the offshore coho opener on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July should provide decent opportunity. Some anglers have been reporting an occasional coho salmon while bottomfishing but this fishery has been volatile in recent years. Anglers typically head to the north out of Garibaldi into 180 to 240 foot of water. By starting north, anglers can ride a NW wind back home as this scenario commonly plays out during a typical summer coastal fishing excursion. This fishery is as simple as it gets. Troll herring or anchovies anywhere from 7 to 15 strips with hungry fish responsive in the early morning hours. As the day progresses, the baitfish and thus the salmon, tend to run deeper so target them anywhere from 12 to 30 strips. There will likely be some chinook in the catch although they are typically widely scattered this time of year south of Cape Falcon. Anglers are reminded only fin-clipped chinook may be retained while fishing in the control zone which reaches from pyramid rock near Cape Meares to Twin Rocks just south of Rockaway Beach. The westward boundary of this control zone is 15 fathoms. Ocean conditions are forecast to be friendly this weekend:

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It would be wise to drop crab pots in the nearshore as well.

Other saltwater opportunities include nearshore halibut (Thursdays through Saturdays) with an announcement on Friday for any possible extension from the spring all depth season into early July. Bottomfish are also a strong option. The bottomfish are likely to remain a strong option for a few more weeks.

Freshwater anglers will remain focused on ample numbers of springers near their points of liberation. The Hatchery Hole on the Trask and the reach closest to Three Rivers Hatchery will produce the best results early in the morning. Stick to small baits with shrimp and egg combinations producing the best results. Anglers can afford to mix it up after the morning bite as fish become particularly finicky when the sun hits the water. A bobber and jig for example might produce surprising results when no one else is catching anything.

Although the Wilson certainly offers a fair chance at spring chinook and summer steelhead, numbers seem sparse so plan on working hard for them. Both species can be found in pocket water but the chinook will gravitate to the deep, dark holes where bobber and bait produces the best.

Estuary crabbing should pick up this weekend on the softer tide series. There will certainly be a lot of competition as summer vacationers take advantage of summer opportunities so you have to bring your "A" game with quality bait if you plan on producing measureable results.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Offshore forecasts indicate a friendly ocean will greet boaters for the upcoming weekend. These conditions are predicted to be accompanied by manageable ocean breezes.

Rockfishing is good out of Newport and Depoe Bay although the lingcod bite has been spotty. While it's still too early for consistent ocean Chinook fishing this far north, a charter boat out of Depoe took a nice one during a bottomfishing trip.

Offshore anglers may include one cabezon 16 inches or larger in their seven-fish daily bag limit starting July 1. These fish have been getting caught and released by ocean fishers for several weeks with some big ones commonly reported.

Speaking of limits, with surf perch fishing good off many beaches, particularly those near river or bay entrances, the limit for these fish is 15 per day. Flatfish other than halibut (which would include sand dabs and flounder) is now a most generous 25 per day. Be sure to take only what you can use.

Coho salmon fishing will open offshore July 1st, 7 days a week for a total of 10,500 fin-clipped fish. Many boaters are ready for this fishery as they've been hooking more coho than Chinook recently. The non-select (hatchery or not) coho season will open in September.

Boats launching out of Windy Bay for ocean Chinook have been doing pretty well. Crabbing is poor inside Winchester Bay. Water levels will be rapidly dropping on the Umpqua mainstem Friday and Saturday this week to those usually seen in mid-summer with temperatures rising. This is not good news for salmon fishing but will turn on the smallmouth bass. Anglers targeting these warmwater fishes can catch 100 or more in a day although most will be small. In an effort

to control populations and improve the overall quality of resident smallies, the bag limit has been increased to 15 per day and extends into the South Umpqua. Since no Chinook may be taken from the South at any time of year, it's a bass and trout fishery. Summer steelhead numbers will be improving on the North Umpqua in coming weeks.

Ocean Chinook fishers launching out of Charleston have been taking limits for the most part and fishing is expected to get even better. A few Chinook have been taken in the Jaws at Coos Bay but there aren't sufficient numbers yet to really label this a fishery. Crabbing has been slow in the bay. Clamming has been excellent around Charleston and Clam Island with minus tides this week.

Spring Chinook catches improved a little this week as rainfall caused river temperatures to drop slightly. Water levels will drop and undoubtedly warm up again with clear weather over the coming weekend and springer fishing will slow. Summer steelhead and spring Chinook passing through the middle Rogue are providing fair fishing. Springer fishing is fair to good on the upper Rogue with summer steelhead starting to show in catches as more of these fish enter the higher reaches of the river. Upper Rogue water temperatures will be in the low to mid 50s with stable flows close to 2,350 cfs.

Of note for 2013 and for the first time in over 10 years, Lost Creek Reservoir did not completely fill. The Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees and controls outflow to the upper Rogue, released the following schedule for summer, which will be one-third to one-half those of recent years:

July 1st - August 10th: 1500 CFS  
August 11 - September 10: 1800 CFS  
September 11 - September 20th: 1050 CFS  
September 21 - September 30: 1000 CFS

An extreme low water situation as this will effect a number of fisheries and fish species. Chinook will be migrating upriver only in brief high water events triggered by storms and are likely to be spawning in the lower river this year. Low, warm water will keep many salmon keged in the estuary so trolling the bay is expected to be very good this season. In addition, it should be a banner late summer and early fall for fly fishers targeting summer steelhead and half-pounders which respond well in low water conditions.

Diamond Lake is fishing well for trout with trollers drawing strikes on small Flatfish, spoons or wedding rings, the latter of which is often tipped with bait. Bank fishers using Power Bait are catching fish but have had to move around to find feeding trout. Be sure to take an effective insect repellent if you go as the pesky mosquitoes have made their annual appearance here.

The Rogue River above Lost Creek is scheduled for trout planting.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Redsidies are cooperating on the lower Deschutes with caddis the primary insect of interest now. Temperatures are forecast to reach into the 90s in Bend over the coming weekend so it'll be warm on the upper and middle Deschutes.

The Green Drake hatch was rewarding this week on the Metolius River but fishing will slow when the sun comes out.

Wickiup Reservoir is producing some dandy rainbow trout which seem to favor spinners.

Green Peter has been producing decent numbers of kokanee. The ODFW released about four hundred rainbows weighing two to three pounds at the Thistle Creek Boat Ramp on Wednesday this week.

Good numbers of fair-sized kokanee are being taken by trollers at Crescent Lake. Early and late-day results have been best.

Trollers are taking fair to good numbers of kokanee at Odell.

The introduction of 25,000 tiger muskies by the ODFW into Phillips Reservoir near Baker City in an effort to control exploding populations of illegally planted yellow perch and restore the rainbow trout fishery is one of the stories of interest to be found this week in **Random Links**, below.

### **Washington fishing reports:**

***From the WDF&W Weekender Report for June 2013***

#### **North Puget Sound**

(Island, King, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties)

Anglers have their pick of several fishing opportunities in June. On Puget Sound, the Tulalip Bay bubble fishery is under way for salmon, while the lingcod fishery remains open through mid-month. Many area rivers open for trout June 1, when a few salmon seasons also begin.

Portions of the Skagit and Cascade rivers will open for hatchery **chinook salmon** fishing June 1-July 15. 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. 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 also opens June 1 on portions of the Skykomish River.

Meanwhile, **trout** fishing will open at several rivers and streams beginning June 1. 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 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, 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 such as worms, tubes, and creature baits.

Perch and bluegill can also be caught with an assortment of artificial jigs, spinners, and flies, although many anglers prefer to use live worms under a bobber, he said. Those 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.

Anglers interested in lake fishing opportunities are encouraged to check WDFW's new [Fish Washington](#) webpage. This online resource for anglers is designed to make it easier to find lake fishing opportunities throughout the state and includes interactive maps, detailed species information and basic "how-to" fishing videos.

On Puget Sound, the northern portion of Marine Area 10 (Seattle/Bremerton) opens 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** is under way. The fishery is open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 2. The exception is June 15, when the bubble is closed for the Tulalip Tribes salmon ceremony. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon, and can use two fishing poles with the purchase of a WDFW two-pole endorsement.

The **halibut** fishery in the region closes May 31, 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.

Prefer **shrimp**? Check [WDFW's recreational shrimp fishing webpage](#) for shrimp fishing opportunities available in June.

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 8-9. 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 access pass or Discover Pass 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.

June also offers a special opportunity to hook large trout. WDFW fish hatchery crews will be stocking 10,000 triploid rainbow trout in 20 lakes just before **Father's Day weekend**, June 15-16.

"This is the second straight year we've stocked trout before Father's Day, and this year we've doubled the number of fish and added six more lakes to the list," said Chris Donley, WDFW Inland Fish Program manager. "A fishing license is a great Father's Day gift and catching these big fish will make for some wonderful memories."

Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#); by telephone at 1-866-246-9453; or at hundreds of [license dealers](#) across the state.

Lakes that will be stocked in the region, and the number of triploids that will be planted are:

- King County: Green Lake, 1,500
- Snohomish County: Blackmans Lake, 250; Gissburg Ponds (aka Twin Lakes), 250
- Skagit County: Campbell Lake, 250
- Whatcom County: Padden Lake, 250

Before heading out, anglers should check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for all regulations.

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

(Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, Thurston and Pacific counties)

Summer fisheries get under way in June, when numerous rivers and streams open for trout and the salmon season starts up off the coast.

The popular **ocean salmon season** opens with a hatchery chinook selective fishery June 8 in Marine Areas 1 and 2 and June 22 in Marine Areas 3 and 4. The selective fishery runs through June 21 in Marine Area 1, June 22 in Marine Area 2 and June 28 in Marine Areas 3 and 4, or until a coastwide quota of 8,000 hatchery chinook are retained.

For these initial seasons, anglers must release all chinook not marked as hatchery fish by a clipped adipose fin and healed scar.

"We are seeing chinook in areas 3 and 4, and they were just starting to show up in area 2 at the end of May," said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

In all marine areas, the selective fishery will be open seven days a week with a daily limit of two salmon. Anglers will be required to release wild chinook and all coho during the selective fishery.

Those rules will change when then the traditional ocean salmon fishery gets under way June 22 in Marine Area 1, June 23 in Marine Area 2, and June 29 in Marine Areas 3 and 4.

Anglers fishing Marine Areas 1 and 2 will be allowed to retain one chinook – marked or unmarked – as part of a two-salmon daily limit. Anglers fishing Marine Areas 3 and 4 will have a daily limit of two marked or unmarked salmon. Fishing will be open seven days a week, except in Marine Area 2 where fishing will be open Sundays through Thursdays.

Before heading out, anglers should check the [Fish Washington pamphlet](#) and the Fishing Regulation Hotline (360) 902-2500 for additional regulations.

In Puget Sound, salmon fishing continues in Marine Area 13 and opens June 1 in Marine Area 11. Anglers fishing those areas have a two-salmon daily limit, but must release wild chinook. There are also catch-and-release salmon fishing opportunities available in Marine Area 10, where fishing is open north of a line from Point Monroe to Meadow Point.

**Halibut** fishing is closed in most areas of Puget Sound, although the fishery will be open in Marine Area 5 (Sekiu) June 1 and June 8. On the coast, Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) is open three days a week (Friday through Sunday). The rest of the coast including Westport, La Push and Neah Bay is closed after reaching their quotas, said Heather Reed, a WDFW fish biologist.

In all marine areas open to fishing, there is a one-fish daily catch limit and no minimum size restriction. Anglers may possess a maximum of two fish in any form, and must record their catch on a WDFW catch record card. For more information on the halibut fishery, check [WDFW's website](#).

Anglers have through June 15 to fish for **lingcod** in Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca. The lingcod season on the coast remains open through mid-October.

Prefer **shrimp**? Check [WDFW's recreational shrimp fishing webpage](#) for shrimp fishing opportunities available in June.

Meanwhile, freshwater anglers might want to head out to the **Chehalis River**, where a spring chinook fishery is open through June 30. Anglers fishing the Chehalis, from the mouth to the Highway 101 Bridge in Aberdeen to Skookumchuck River, have a daily limit of one salmon. Other rivers open for **salmon** fishing include the Hoh, Quillayute and Sol Duc.

Elsewhere, **trout** fishing will open at several rivers and streams beginning June 1. Anglers should check the pamphlet for specific rivers and streams that are open. Gear restrictions for each area can also be found in the [Fish Washington sport fishing pamphlet](#).

Anglers should be aware that **Lake Sylvia** in Grays Harbor County, Montesano will be closed for a kids-only fishing event, effective 6 p.m. June 7 through 6 a.m. June 8. For more information on the event, see this [Washington State Parks web page](#).

**Free Fishing Weekend** is June 8-9 when licenses are not required, although all other rules apply. Newcomers to the sport who want to try it out at this time can check out how to get started and where to go in the "Fishing 101" information at [Fish Washington](#).

For the second year, WDFW fish hatchery crews are stocking extra triploid rainbow trout in fishing lakes across the state just before Father's Day weekend, June 15-16. This time twice as many fish – 10,000 – will be stocked in 20 lakes, six more lakes than last year.

Lakes stocked in the Coastal/Olympic region and the number of triploids that will be stocked, include:

- Grays Harbor County: Vance Creek (Elma) Pond #2, 100
- Jefferson County: Sandy Shore Lake, 150
- Mason County: Mason Lake, 500
- Pierce County: American Lake, 1,500
- Thurston County: Clear Lake, 250; Hicks Lake, 160

### **Southwest Washington**

(Clark, Cowlitz, Klickitat, Lewis, Skamania and Wahkiakum counties)

Anglers can fish for salmon, steelhead and shad every day in June on the lower Columbia River, with new fishing opportunities for salmon starting at mid-month. A number of area tributaries are also open for salmon, steelhead or both, and retention fisheries for white sturgeon will be open on various days above and below Bonneville Dam.

"There's plenty to keep anglers busy in June, and the fishing opportunities expand throughout the month as we move into the summer season," said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Through June 15, **hatchery spring chinook salmon** and hatchery steelhead are the main attraction for anglers fishing the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam. The extended fishing season is open from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line near the mouth of the big river to the deadline below the dam. For boat anglers, the upriver boundary is Beacon Rock.

The daily limit is six fish, no more than two of which may be adults and only one of which can be an adult chinook salmon. Anglers those waters are required to use barbless hooks and release all chinook salmon and steelhead not marked with a clipped adipose fin.

Starting June 16, daily limits and fishing areas change on the Columbia River when the **summer chinook fishery** gets under way from the Megler Astoria Bridge upstream to Priest Rapids Dam. Barbless hooks are required. The six-fish daily limit can include two adult hatchery salmon, or two adult hatchery steelhead, or one of each. Anglers fishing below the 395 Bridge in Pasco may also retain **sockeye salmon**, which count as part of the adult daily limit.

The selective fishery for adult summer chinook and sockeye salmon is open June 16-30 in lower Columbia River, but extends through July 31 above Bonneville Dam. The pre-season forecast anticipates an above-average run of 73,500 summer chinook, some weighing up to 40 pounds apiece.

"There's a reason why these fish are known as 'June hogs,' Hymer said. "Reeling in one of these fish can really brighten up your day."

Anglers can also catch **shad**, which have been available for harvest without size or catch limits since mid-May. Bank anglers have been catching shad in good numbers just below Bonneville Dam and at the public dock in Washougal. Boat anglers can do well in shallower water from Longview upstream.

Meanwhile, the Lewis River – including the North Fork – opens June 7 through July 31 for hatchery spring chinook salmon. The daily limit is six hatchery chinook, no more than two of which may be adults. Barbless hooks are required, and all salmon others than hatchery chinook must be released. For more details, see WDFW's [emergency fishing rule website](#).

Anglers can also catch and keep salmon and steelhead on the Cowlitz, Wind and Klickitat rivers, plus Drano Lake.

On the Wind River, for example, the daily limit has been increased to two chinook or two hatchery steelhead, or one of each through June 30. The river upstream from Shipherd Falls is now open for salmon and hatchery steelhead, but anglers must release all wild chinook downstream from the falls.

Starting June 1, the Klickitat River from the mouth to the Fisher Hill Bridge is open to fishing seven days per week with a six-salmon daily limit, of which no more than two may be adults. Wild chinook must be released. Fishing for hatchery steelhead and hatchery chinook jacks also opens June 1 from 400 feet above fishway #5 to the boundary markers below the salmon hatchery.

Anglers must release all spring chinook salmon on the Kalama and Lewis rivers, although fishing remains open for hatchery steelhead on both systems. Starting June 1, the North Fork Lewis River from Johnson Creek upstream opens to fishing for hatchery steelhead as does Blue Creek – a tributary of the Cowlitz River – where anglers can also catch sea run cutthroats.

Also starting June 1, anglers may use bait on the lower sections of the South Fork Toutle, Green, Washougal, and East Fork Lewis rivers.

As noted in the [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet, anglers with a two-pole endorsement can use two rods to fish for spring chinook salmon and other species on sections of the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers and at Drano Lake.

Rather catch **sturgeon**? Anglers can catch and keep **white sturgeon** on the lower Columbia River, and in Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools during the times specified below. The limit is one legal-size white sturgeon per day, with a two-fish annual limit.

Current fishing opportunities for sturgeon are as follows:

- **Buoy 10 to the Wauna powerlines:** Retention of white sturgeon is allowed daily through June 30. During that period, sturgeon must measure between 41 inches to 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. Catch-and-release fishing is allowed on days when retention is prohibited.
- **Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam** (except closed through August in the spawning sanctuary from the dam downstream 9 miles): Retention of white sturgeon is allowed three days per week (Thursday through Saturday) through June 15 and from Oct. 19 through Dec. 31. Sturgeon must measure between 38 inches and 54 inches (fork length) to be retained. Catch-and-release fishing is allowed on days when retention is prohibited.

- **Bonneville Pool:** Catch-and-release fishing is open daily, and retention fisheries are scheduled June 14-15 and June 21-22. Sturgeon must measure between 38 inches and 54 inches (fork length) to be retained.
- **The Dalles and John Day pools:** The two reservoirs are open until catch guidelines are met. Sturgeon must measure between 43 inches and 54 inches (fork length) to be retained.

For **walleye** and **bass**, fishery managers suggest casting a line between Bonneville and McNary dams. For tiger **muskie**, try Mayfield or Merwin reservoirs.

Anglers looking to catch **trout** should check the region's [trout stocking schedule](#) for good spots to go in June. Kline Pond, Rowland Lake and Spearfish Lake are some of the waters scheduled to receive fish this month.

Starting June 1, anglers also have the option of catching trout in a number of rivers and streams throughout the region. Many of those waters – ranging from Rainey Creek to the Little White Salmon River – are being stocked with fish from area hatcheries. Information about fish plants is available on [WDFW's website](#).

In addition, access to the high lakes is starting to open up with the gradual snow melt. Goose Lake in Skamania County is now accessible through Willard and Trout Lake. Excellent fishing should be available for cutthroat, eastern brook, and brown trout for both shore and boat anglers.

Those who don't have a fishing license but would like to try fishing will get their chance June 8-9 during **Free Fishing Weekend**. During those two days, no license will be required to fish any waters open to fishing in Washington state. No vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required to park at WDFW wildlife areas or water-access sites those days.

### **Eastern Washington**

(Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla and Whitman counties)

June is the start of river and stream fishing in many waterways throughout the region, from Asotin Creek and the Walla Walla River in the southeast to the upper section of the Spokane River in the northeast.

Anglers should check the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet for special regulations that apply to rivers that open in June, as well as those rivers that opened earlier.

Anglers should note that the **spring chinook season on the Snake River** near Clarkston was closed by [emergency rule](#) on May 31. Fishery managers closed the fishery after determining the catch quota for spring chinook in the Snake River had been reached, said John Whalen, WDFW regional fish program manager.

"The closure effectively marks the end of the season for spring chinook fishing on the Snake River," said Whalen. Two other areas of the Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam and Little Goose Dam closed for spring chinook fishing May 15.

Many of the region's best **trout lakes** that opened in late April continue to produce good catches through June, including Spokane County's Amber, Clear, Fish, Williams, and West Medical lakes and Lincoln County's Fishtrap Lake.

Farther north in the region, fishing is improving as snowpack melts at waters that opened in late

April. In Stevens County, the Little Pend Oreille chain of lakes – Gillette, Heritage, Sherry, and Thomas – are providing catches, as are Pend Oreille County’s Skookum and Yocum lakes and many others at higher elevation. Northeast lakes that produced well on the late April opener continue to see action, including Cedar, Mudgett, Rocky, Starvation, and Waitts lakes in Stevens County; Diamond Lake in Pend Oreille County; and Ellen Lake in Ferry County.

Year-round-open waters are good bets through June not only for trout, but also for warmwater fish species that begin to bite as air and water temperatures rise. Lake Roosevelt, the Columbia River reservoir off Grand Coulee Dam that extends along the Stevens, Ferry and Lincoln county lines, has big **rainbow trout, kokanee, walleye, and smallmouth bass**. Sprague Lake, on the Lincoln-Adams county line, is producing catches of **rainbow trout, largemouth bass, and catfish**. Rock Lake in Whitman County has rainbow and **brown trout, largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie**.

In the south end of the region, the Tucannon River impoundments -- Big Four, Blue, Curl, Deer, Rainbow, Spring and Watson lakes – continue to be stocked with hatchery rainbow trout and are still providing lots of catches, said WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area Manager Kari Dingman.

June 8-9 is [Free Fishing Weekend](#) statewide when no fishing licenses are required, although all other rules apply. Newcomers to the sport who want to try it out during the Free Fishing Weekend can check out how to get started and where to go in the “Fishing 101” section online at [Fish Washington](#).

Meanwhile, WDFW fish hatchery crews will be stocking 10,000 triploid rainbow trout in 20 lakes just before Father’s Day weekend, June 15-16. “This is the second straight year we’ve stocked trout before Father’s Day, and this year we’ve doubled the number of fish and added six more lakes to the list,” said Chris Donley, WDFW Inland Fish Program manager. “A fishing license is a great Father’s Day gift and catching these big fish will make for some wonderful memories.”

Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#); by telephone at 1-866-246-9453; or at hundreds of [license dealers](#) across the state.

In the Eastern Region, Spokane County’s West Medical Lake will receive 1,250 triploids and Williams Lake will receive 400, and Pend Oreille County’s Diamond Lake will receive 600. More details are available at [Fish Washington](#).

## **Northcentral Washington**

(Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant and Okanogan counties)

June should be the best month to catch a hatchery spring chinook salmon from the Icicle River in Chelan County, said Travis Maitland, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) district fish biologist in Wenatchee.

“As expected, during the early part of the season on the Icicle the fishing was slow,” Maitland said. “But as the run progresses, fishing should improve.”

Maitland reminds anglers that bank fishing on the Icicle is very limited. “There is a public boat launch right at the upper end of the fishery boundary and boat anglers can pull out at the public launch on the Wenatchee River located off East Leavenworth Road,” he said. “Most bank anglers use herring and egg clusters, while boat anglers use a variety of plugs and spin-n-glo setups in conjunction with bait.”

June is also the start of river and stream fishing in many waterways throughout the region. Check the [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet carefully to make sure of all special regulations on rivers and streams.

Okanogan County lakes usually produce well in June for both boat and shore anglers. Trout-producing waters such as Spectacle, Wannacut, Pearygin, and Conconully lakes, plus Conconully

Reservoir, all provide good fishing for **rainbow trout**. Selective-gear waters, such as Big Twin, Blue (Sinlahekin) and Big Green lakes are predominately rainbow fisheries. Anglers should check the current [Sport Fishing Rules](#) pamphlet, since some of the selective-gear lakes have varying bag limit restrictions. **Kokanee** anglers should try Palmer, Bonaparte, and Patterson lakes.

Warmwater fish species start providing catches in June as water temperatures warm. Okanogan County's Patterson and Palmer lakes can be good for **yellow perch** and Leader Lake can be good for **bluegill** and **crappie**.

Columbia Basin year-round waters, such as Banks Lake, Moses Lake and Potholes Reservoir, provide good fishing through June for **smallmouth** and **largemouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, crappie** and other species.

June 8-9 is [Free Fishing Weekend](#) statewide when no fishing licenses are required, although all other rules apply. Newcomers to the sport who want to try it out during the Free Fishing Weekend can check out how to get started and where to go in the "Fishing 101" section online at [Fish Washington](#).

Meanwhile, WDFW fish hatchery crews will be stocking 10,000 triploid rainbow trout in 20 lakes just before Father's Day weekend, June 15-16. "This is the second straight year we've stocked trout before Father's Day, and this year we've doubled the number of fish and added six more lakes to the list," said Chris Donley, WDFW Inland Fish Program manager. "A fishing license is a great Father's Day gift and catching these big fish will make for some wonderful memories."

Fishing licenses can be purchased [online](#); by telephone at 1-866-246-9453; or at hundreds of [license dealers](#) across the state.

In the Northcentral Region, Grant County's Park Lake will receive 400 triploids, and Okanogan County's Alta Lake will receive 350 and Conconully Reservoir, will receive 750. More details are available at [Fish Washington](#).

### **Southcentral Washington**

(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

Anglers have a variety of options available in June, starting with hatchery spring chinook salmon on sections of the Yakima River, followed by summer chinook on the Columbia River. Meanwhile, hatchery crews are still stocking trout in area lakes, and many rivers also open for trout fishing Saturday, June 1.

Smallmouth bass and walleye are also warming up to anglers' lures, and sturgeon fishing is still an option.

Prospective anglers who don't have a fishing license but would like to try fishing will get their chance June 8-9 during **Free Fishing Weekend**. During those two days, no license will be required to fish any waters open to fishing in Washington state. No vehicle access pass or Discover Pass will be required to park at WDFW wildlife areas or water-access sites those days.

"This is the time of year when you see boats on trailers heading in every direction," said Eric Anderson, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) based in Yakima. "June is a good time to catch fish in this part of the state."

**Spring chinook** fishing is currently open on two sections of the Yakima River, where cooler weather has moderated flows and improved fishing prospects, Anderson said. "That should continue as long as we don't experience hot weather that brings on rapid snow melt," he said.

In the lower Yakima River, the fishery will likely remain open through June 30 from the Interstate 182 Bridge in Richland to the Grant Avenue Bridge in Prosser, Anderson said. The upper river – from the Interstate 82 Bridge at Union Gap to the railroad bridge below Roza Dam – is expected to remain open through July 15.

Anglers may keep two adipose-fin-clipped hatchery chinook per day. All wild salmon, identifiable by an intact adipose fin, must be released unharmed and must not be removed from the water prior to release.

As explained in the [fishing rule](#), anglers are required to use single-point, barbless hooks with a hook gap from point to shank of 3/4 inch or less when fishing for salmon. Use of bait is allowed, and anglers have the option of purchasing a two-pole fishing endorsement.

Fishery managers are predicting a return of approximately 3,000 adult hatchery chinook to the Yakima River this year.

John Easterbrooks, regional WDFW fish manager, noted that the department is seeking anglers' cooperation in two aspects of the fishery – a hooking-mortality study and an effort to ensure continued access across Roza Dam to the popular fishing area downstream from the railroad bridge boundary. Both are described in a [news release](#) on the WDFW website.

To participate in the fishery, anglers must possess a Columbia River Salmon/Steelhead Endorsement (CRSSE), which supports maintaining and expanding fisheries in the Columbia River Basin.

That is also the case with the **summer chinook** fishery, which gets under way June 16 upriver to Priest Rapids Dam. The daily limit is six hatchery fish, of which up to two may be adult hatchery chinook. Anglers must stop fishing for chinook when the adult limit is retained.

Fishery managers are anticipating a return of 73,500 summer chinook and a return of 180,500 sockeye to the Columbia River this summer. The Columbia River above the Highway 395 bridge in Kennewick will not be open for sockeye this year due to a relatively low run-size forecast. If the return comes in above expectations the sockeye fishery may be opened by emergency regulation later this summer.

"Anglers often have a tough time landing summer chinook in the Columbia River between McNary and Priest Rapids Dam but it has been improving the last couple of years," said Paul Hoffarth, a WDFW fish biologist based in the Tri-Cities.

Meanwhile, anglers have been reeling in **channel catfish** from the lower reaches of the Yakima and Walla Walla rivers. Flows are a bit lower and the water is a bit clearer this year compared to the past couple of years which is good for spring chinook and bass fishing but not as good for catching catfish. "Fishing for channel cats has been OK, but not great as recent years," said Hoffarth, noting that catfish typically run 2-8 pounds but can easily weigh twice that amount.

**Steelhead** fishing will remain closed until fall in the Columbia River upstream of the Highway 395 Bridge and in the Snake River, but Hoffarth recommends several other fisheries now under way on those river systems:

- **White sturgeon:** Fishing remains open in Lake Umatilla (John Day Dam to McNary Dam) until the quota is reached and is open in Lake Wallula (McNary Dam to Priest Rapids/Ice Harbor Dams) through July 31 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, and from the I-82 bridge at Umatilla upstream to McNary 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.

Rather catch some **trout**? WDFW will continue to stock lakes and ponds through June in the region, including Cooper, Easton, FioRito, Kiwanas, Lavendar, Lost, Naneum and Quartz in Kittitas County; and Clear, Dog, Leech and Indian Flat in Yakima County. Anglers can get more detailed information on lake fishing from the new "[Fish Washington](#)" link.

Starting June 1, a number of **rivers will also open** for fishing around the region. Anderson reminds anglers that most streams have reduced catch and size limits for **trout**, and there are catch-and-release zones on the Yakima River above Roza Dam, in sections of the Naches River and in Rattlesnake Creek where all trout must be released unharmed. Also, in most large main stem rivers and streams in the Yakima basin, anglers must use single-point barbless hooks and no bait.

Always check the fishing rules pamphlet for details on a specific river or stream. The *Fishing in Washington Sportfishing* Rules guide is available free at stores that sell fishing licenses. It also can be downloaded from [WDFW's website](#).

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

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### **Random Links**

ODFW introduces Oregon's first tiger muskie into Phillips Reservoir:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2013/june/062613.asp>

Rogue River Holy Water article:

<http://www.mailtribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090625/LIFE/306259941/-1/OREGONOUTDOORS01>

Thinking Albacore? Welcome to the Charleston Tuna Challenge 2013 Friday and Saturday, July 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th: <http://www.charlestantunachallenge.org/>

1st annual Puget Sound speed-crabbing derby: <http://speedcrabbing.com/>

**GOOD LUCK!**