

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 5th – July 11th, 2013**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro- A recent resurgence in shad fishing below Willamette Falls is likely due to the high pressure. Even though we are on the backside of the run, a decent handful of fish have been caught in the last few days by a few participating anglers. Traditionally the shad run is over by the Fourth of July. There has been little effort for sturgeon and salmon leaving little to report. Smallmouth bass fishing had been decent, but the hot weather slows the bite and keeps most fishermen off the water.

Spring chinook numbers were tapering off at Willamette Falls toward the end of June with over 25,000 upstream along with roughly 12,000 summer steelhead. Some of these will have entered the Santiams. The North Santiam is low but fishable and a few fish have been taken recently.

McKenzie River water levels are dropping this week but should still provide opportunities for fly anglers using Caddis patterns. Try early or late in the day for best results. There are steelhead in the system which are most likely to respond at first light.

Both the Sandy and Clackamas Rivers are best left to the splash and giggle crowd during the hot weather. Prior to the high pressure system, a few summer steelhead and spring chinook had been present. The fishing and catching has been difficult with the high pressure system coupled with the never ending onslaught of rafters, tubers and swimmers.

Northwest – With freshwater options waning, anglers are taking a hard look at the ocean for what is shaping up to be a great summer season. Out of Astoria, salmon anglers continue to produce good catches of chinook and coho, fishing just to the north of the mouth of the Columbia using fresh anchovies for bait. Unfortunately, the northwest winds have been blowing all morning and afternoon and are forecast to intensify by the weekend. Action is likely to remain good however, when seas are safe to ply.

Ocean crabbing has been best on the Washington side of the Columbia River but be mindful of Washington regulations if you drop pots here. The Oregon side has plenty of female crabs and octopus have been laying egg sacks in some of the pots, rendering them unfit for crab.

Catch and release sturgeon fishing in the estuary remains excellent with the upcoming weaker tide series likely to produce better in the deeper water. They have readily been taking anchovies with keeper-sized fish and oversize making up the bulk of the catch.

Farther south, anglers reported slow coho fishing out of Garibaldi however some did well targeting bait balls although birds often seemed more interested in bait than the salmon did. Another round of nearshore halibut opportunity is coming up Thursday through Saturday but a stiff northwest wind will keep most small boats at bay.

Spring chinook fishing remains best near the hatchery hole on the Trask River and Three Rivers is producing an occasional good bite too. Only another week and a half of opportunity exists on these systems.

Estuary crabbing remains challenging. The last good minus tide series begins tomorrow, before the summer razor clam closure lasting into September.

Southwest- July 1 marked the opening of the offshore selective coho salmon season with initial catches promising out of Newport and Depoe Bay. Hatchery coho may be taken seven days a week for a quota of 10,500 fish. Ocean chinook numbers have also been decent.

Limits of rockfish have been taken off the central coast but the lingcod bite has been off. Many bottom fishers report hooking chinook inadvertently over the past week.

Rockfish catches have been decent out of Winchester Bay although crabbing inside is poor. The Umpqua mainstem is dropping and will be extremely low over the coming weekend. Smallmouth bass fishing will be worthwhile in the warm water.

Offshore boats out of Rogue Bay have been taking limits of rockfish and lingcod with several chinook hitting soft plastics intended for bottomfish. Record low river flows are predicted along with an outstanding troll fishery in the estuary during the month of July. The lower Rogue is forecast to drop this week, hitting and holding 2,000 cfs at Agness, less at Grants Pass. Chinook anglers have taken a few springers every day on the lower Rogue over the past week but it is still scratch fishing. Springers are tough to hook, even in the upper Rogue where it has been best. With summer steelhead numbers improving, catches will start to pick up.

Ocean fishing out of Brookings has been spectacular over the past week with happy anglers bringing limits to the cleaning station. Mostly averaging 20 pounds, a few scaling 30 or better are coming in. Most trollers are scoring with anchovies behind a dodger. Big lingcod are being taken by bottom fishers.

A free Family Fishing Event on Sunday, July 7 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lhuuke Illahee hatchery on Little Rock Creek near Logsdan. Those 17 and younger are invited to fish.

Eastern – The lower Deschutes is producing on Caddis patterns early mornings with daytime air temperatures soaring.

Crooked River flows are low and gradually dropping. It should continue to fish well in these conditions.

Green Peter is producing good numbers of kokanee averaging 11 inches with several 25-fish limits reported. Most are trolling with flashers and hoochies.

SW Washington- Effort is still running good on the Cowlitz but the summer steelhead take is fair at best. Anglers remain focused on lower Columbia beaches but with a sub-par summer run, success rates are poor. The Lewis River is slow as well.

Anglers working the reservoirs above the John Day Dam are finding fair to good success for walleye and smallmouth bass. Action is likely to remain good into mid-July.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Action on the lower Columbia came to a crawl by mid-week as strong NW winds kept offshore anglers at bay. Even Tuesday was a challenge but boats that were willing to pound their way to the north off of Long Beach did find ample numbers of salmon. Much to our dismay, the weather forecasters actually got one right for a change. The NW wind has progressively got more intense in recent days with no reprieve in sight; but we'll talk about that later. As for the fishing, it was quite right. Although catches weren't consistent on the last feasible day to pursue salmon to the north, chinook seemed to fall pretty easy for us over the weekend and into Tuesday. Although our weekend catches were mostly coho, by Monday and Tuesday, chinook seemed to be more prevalent. On the last day we fished up there,

we experienced a 3 foot wind chop with very little swell to exacerbate a bad ocean (thank God). I could only bring myself to punish my guests with one ride to the condo's up north and just as we were about to make another run up there, we found another flurry of activity to finish up our 6 chinook limit with another 2 hatchery coho and multiple other bites for the long troll south. Actually, I don't think you can call it trolling if the wind and current is doing all the work. I had the engine off for most of the time.

Those chinook sure bite differently up there; their bites are more aggressive, take longer to get hooked but don't fall off of the hooks as readily. I call the coho "slash and burners" as they often take a much faster swipe at the bait and seem to shake the hook more readily. There were a lot of smaller fish present as well so we burned up a lot of bait and did come in shy of our coho on Monday and Tuesday. The coho are only averaging 5 to 6 pounds most days although some days we see a slightly better grade of fish (both coho and chinook) than others. Our chinook, although not always that large, do consistently come in at 10 to 16 pounds with an occasional fish topping 20#. I've heard of some 30+ pound chinook but I'd have to see it to believe it, knowing how folks in my industry fail to bring a scale with them most days. It's hard for me to tether my customers excitement when they call a 14 pound fish a 22 pounder.....

Although some guides seem to proclaim doing better for chinook using herring for bait, I've strictly just gone to anchovies and they are working quite well for both chinook and coho. The bait is certainly plentiful and motivated anglers could easily jig their own bait if they choose. One thing seems off however, the temperature seems to be running a consistent 64.5 degrees. I can't imagine that will last with the constant NW wind blowing but it seems to so far. Our best fishing has been from the 2nd set of condo's off of Long Beach south to the beginning of the cape where the lighthouse is. It seems boats that ventured further to the north did get more biters but we lost a nice chinook just at Peacock Spit on Tuesday so there are biters all the way to the river deadline.

Bottomfishing has been good recently. It's always better when we get a weak tide series, like the one we're currently on. Only a few guide boats braved the strong wind on Wednesday to venture out but found protection right along the south side of the south jetty where they were able to take advantage of good numbers of sea bass, a rare lingcod and now cabezon is open. Anchovies seemed to work best here too but jigs produce good results as well. It's impossible to fish the best ling spot at the end of the sunken jetty when the wind is blowing as hard as it has been.

And for those that took my advice to go crabbing while recreating on the ocean.....sorry about that, crabbing is lousy out there as we soaked 4 pots with quality bait to not even come up with a dozen keepers for an overnight soak. We did however bring up one pot each day dripping with octopus eggs. Crab are not big fans of octopus so we didn't have any keepers on those pots. They were pretty cool to look at however. The crabbing was better on the Washington side of the Columbia River but be aware that even though we enjoy a reciprocal agreement with Washington, we have to abide by their regulations, meaning only crab larger than 6" may be retained and we can only take 6 keepers versus a dozen on the Oregon side.

Inland, catch and release sturgeon fishing remains great. With a hard wind blowing on Wednesday, I didn't have to convince my customers too hard to stay in the river to pursue sturgeon just out of Hammond. Using anchovies for bait, we went through 2 pounds of bait on a 1/2 day trip, easily landing around 20 fish, of which half were keeper or better. We ended the day on the last part of incoming tide on a triple hook-up of keepers. We targeted our quarry near the single piling just north of the entrance of Hammond in about 14 feet of water. We purposely centered our effort around the peak incoming tide in the early morning to take advantage of more fish moving and more aggressive biters biting. Another boat fishing the area came up

empty, a 1/2 day trip without a bite, emphasizing the need to be in the right place at the right time. He too, was using fresh anchovies for bait.

No one is crabbing the river so I don't know how productive it is. Based on the effort, I would guess it's really not all that good.

Further upriver, salmon and steelhead fishing on lower Columbia beaches continues to disappoint. Even into the gorge, fishing is challenging as it is clear now that many of the summer run fish, chinook, steelhead and sockeye are coming in under predictions. Let's hope that prediction failure doesn't translate into the fall run next month. Anticipation is still running high. Boaters and plunkers did score a few fish over the weekend but it's not what anglers have come across in years past. Here are the weekend checks from the lower Columbia:

Gorge Bank:

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and one sockeye kept for 35 salmonid anglers; and 10 shad kept for nine anglers.

Gorge Boats:

Weekend checking showed five adipose fin-clipped adult chinook kept, plus two unclipped adult chinook released for 23 boats (76 anglers).

Troutdale Boats:

Weekend checking showed five adipose fin-clipped adult chinook and two adipose fin-clipped jack chinook kept, plus three unclipped adult chinook and one unclipped jack chinook released for 62 boats (137 anglers).

Portland to Westport Bank:

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept for 64 bank anglers.

Portland to Westport Boats:

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult chinook kept, plus six unclipped adult chinook and two unclipped jack chinook released for 29 boats (62 anglers).

Estuary Bank (Tongue Point to Westport):

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped jack chinook and one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two unclipped steelhead released for 18 bank anglers.

Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Westport):

Weekend checking showed nine adipose fin-clipped steelhead and one sockeye kept, plus two unclipped adult chinook and six unclipped steelhead released for 14 boats (44 anglers).

Although most anglers would agree that the Bonneville fishery started off fairly decent, it certainly didn't end with a bang. The chinook fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam is now closed.

The Guide's Forecast – All eyes will remain westward as anglers hope to take advantage of the ocean bounty; unfortunately, the ocean will not allow for anglers to reap its rewards. Weather will be a factor if predictions come true. Here is what we're faced with into early next week:

FRI

NW WIND 15 TO 20 KT WITH GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES
4 FT. W SWELL 7 FT AT 12 SECONDS.

FRI NIGHT

NW WIND 20 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT. WIND WAVES 5 FT. NW SWELL 8 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

SAT

N WIND 20 TO 25 KT...BECOMING NW 10 TO 15 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 10 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT

NW WIND 20 TO 25 KT...BECOMING N 15 TO 20 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. NW SWELL 8 FT AT 9 SECONDS.

SUN

NW WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 8 FT.

MON

NW WIND 15 TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 7 FT.

It's one thing if the swell isn't 7 feet, like what we've experienced over the weekend but to combine a 7 to 10-foot swell with a 3 foot wind chop? You'd be crazy to think you could enjoy yourself in that offshore weather. Couple that with a minus tide to greet you on your way across the bar and you won't be a happy camper, if you survive the bar crossing. Looks like another weekend of catch and release sturgeon fishing!

I know, it's pretty tough to take a rough ocean when the bounty is so plentiful out there but we do have to look out for future generations of salmon too. This consistent NW wind will hopefully bring about the critical upwelling our salmon and other species need to survive out there in the ocean. Ocean temperature remains high at 64 and with upwelling, temperatures cool and deep water nutrients come up off of the Continental Shelf to feed the fish that feed us. Try and keep a positive attitude about it, it will change back to friendly seas soon. Read more about critical upwelling here: <http://www.newsdata.com/fishletter/319/5story.html>

If anglers to get out to the ocean, assuming the weather forecast changes back to friendly seas, do fish to the north from the condo complexes on Long Beach to the Lighthouse near the Columbia River entrance. It's both beautiful and productive there. Target chinook and coho in water between 35 to 70 feet, trolling anchovies just 8 to 18 strips below the surface. We have come across some mackerel recently and there are a lot of small fish out there so plan on bringing lots of bait to catch your quarry. Ocean crabbing is best on the Washington side in 30 to 35 feet of water. The swell just to the north of the river entrance (Peacock Spit) will likely be deadly this weekend so you should avoid this area altogether. Did I mention you should just fish freshwater this weekend? It's that time of year when I say no salmon is worth your life, even more-so, no crab certainly is!

Catch and release sturgeon fishing is excellent right now. I just got off the phone a minute ago with a guide fishing on Taylor Sands near the Astoria/Megler Bridge; "It's doubles and triples, and I don't think we've landed a shaker yet! They are either legal-sized or oversized and they're taking anchovies like mad!" Although it won't be slam dunk wherever you land, if you know your go-to spots, you'll likely do quite well for the ample numbers of sturgeon that will likely remain available for sportfishing enthusiasts. Shrimp should be equally effective, especially in shallow water. Target these fish from Tongue Point downstream and be prepared for a work-out if you land on them the right way.

Upriver, anglers can still target hatchery steelhead and the tides this weekend are pretty promising for plunkers. It's definitely peak season for summer steelhead right now, there just aren't as many of them as we've seen in years past. Dam counts have finally hit that magical 200+ adults per day needed to motivate success rates and the minus tide series we're now coming into should produce results. I recommend using bright colored spin-n-glos for steelhead and tip them with coon shrimp for best results. If you don't have coon shrimp, use ample amounts of scent for best results.

Crabbing may be good on the afternoon flood just downstream of Hammond. Although not many people are trying it, the low water year we've had and the soft afternoon tide series that we're currently on, could produce fair results. The crabbing really picked up last year in early August.

This will be the last minus tide series of the season for razor clam diggers. It was likely good at mid-week, before the swell picked up but do try and hit the beaches before the series begins to weaken on July 8th. The peak minus tide will take place on the 7th (Sunday).

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "A recent resurgence in shad fishing below Willamette Falls is likely due to the high pressure. Even though we are on the backside of the run a decent handful of fish have been caught in the last few days by a few participating anglers. A handful of fly fishermen, fishing from anchored boats with high density sinking lines and tiny green shad flies have been basking in the cool mist of the falls while pulling on shad after shad. Finding a travel lane is essential. Traditionally the shad run drops off by the Fourth of July and this is likely the last surge of fish before the bottom falls out. There has been little effort for sturgeon leaving little to report, however a few anglers are catching (and releasing) some oversize fish below Willamette Falls. The sturgeon retention opener slated for July 11-13 will likely yield a few fish if anglers put in the effort. Still, a couple of locals are making the effort trying to catch the last late springer below the falls. The occasional fish is caught, but both the effort and the catch are at a minimum. Smallmouth bass fishing had been decent, but the hot weather has slowed the bite and is keeping most fishermen off the water. The recent cooling trend should bring the bite back on track. "

McKenzie level and flow has been fluctuating with snowmelt this week but anglers will find the river fairly low and fishing well over the holiday weekend.

The water level of the North Santiam has continued to drop over the last week. While anglers will encounter low water conditions this weekend, the river will be stable. Chinook and steelhead are in the system although this has been a tough year on the Santiams.

Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, Horseshoe Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Olallie Lake, Trillium Lake, Alton Baker Canal, Blue River above Reservoir, Blue River Reservoir, Breitenbush River, Carmen Reservoir, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, Salmon Creek and the Santiam River NF above Detroit Lake are scheduled to be stocked with trout.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "The Willamette will likely give up the last of the shad this week. Sturgeon and salmon fishing is also at a minimum as anglers are more concerned with staying cool than catching the odd fish. Smallmouth bass and walleye are likely the best catchable candidates through the rest of the summer."

Try the upper McKenzie river for steady action on smallish cutthroat and the possibility of larger fish early mornings.

If the opportunity and urge presents itself, don't hesitate to gear up in an effort to target springers on the North Santiam. A couple have been taken recently and it will make your day. The upriver fish frequently show a great deal of color but will almost always cut very well and will be excellent table fare.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Both the Sandy and Clackamas rivers are best left to the splash and giggle crowd during the hot weather. Prior to the high pressure system, a few summer steelhead and spring Chinook had been present, but the fishing was marginal at best. The Clackamas is running low and clear and the Sandy is murky with glacial silt. If you must, get there early and take advantage of a rested river before the swimmers show up. The last couple hours before dark can also sometimes deliver a bite or two. In the Clack's clear water, a small black jig under a clear float can coax a steelhead while a nickel size gob of cured roe might attract a springer. On the Sandy however with the milky green run-off, larger bright presentations are called for. Use lures and baits much as you would for winter steelhead. Larger, brighter presentations are necessary to get the attention of a milling fish with the low visibility."

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Although a "slight" cooling trend is predicted for the next couple days, the weather will stay generally warm for the next week. Swimming and rafting takes precedence on tributaries like the Sandy and Clackamas Rivers and fishing is merely an afterthought. Small opportunities for a steelhead or salmon are a possibility early and late in the day. When cool, overcast weather returns to the valley, it's time to think about summer steelhead again.

North Coast Fishing Report – The recent coho opener south of Cape Falcon didn't necessarily go off with a bang. Reports from Garibaldi Marina state that action has been "off and on", meaning you have to troll a lot of mileage to expect any results. Anglers have been mentioning targeting bait balls for your best action, even some very close to shore. This isn't uncommon for this time of year as Columbia River coho are most often the ones we catch out of these mid and north coast ports into August. With a big forecast for coho back to the Columbia, fishing out of these ports should be productive when the fish actually show up. When we see coho catch rates start climbing to the south, get ready, they're headed back to the Columbia for their spawning run and should be "interceptible" as they journey northward. Right now, you'll have to work for them.

Ocean crabbing out of Garibaldi has picked up and should stay fair for a while. Hopefully, we get a nice summer season in before the summer molt happens. It's not really worth the effort to take soft-shelled crab, there isn't a lot of meat in them.

Springer fishing is largely over but another week remains for anglers targeting salmon near the Trask and Three Rivers hatcheries. This is where the best fishing is and although the bite is tapering, it remains productive for early morning anglers that have good bait. Action downstream of these liberation points is fair but like the hatchery holes, early morning will produce the best results. Fish the deepest, darkest water.

Summer steelhead on the north coast remain elusive, mostly because there don't seem to be a lot around. Experienced anglers can still justify their trip but be prepared to work for them. Bring your trout gear (but check regulations carefully) as a backup but they too fish best in the early morning.

It's the summer doldrums on the north coast but this is the time of year when Nehalem Chinook begin to make their showing. Fishing near the mouth or in Wheeler won't necessarily be productive but anglers should see summer run chinook start to get taken with more regularity in the coming weeks. Early to mid-August can be better but fish should start to show any time now. Trolled blue label herring is responsible for the bulk of the catch.

Just off the mouth of Nehalem Bay, nearshore halibut are an option but like the salmon fishing, there is a degree of luck involved when searching for them. I target 90 feet of water, slow drifting a herring near the bottom. Guides have reported some success doing that in recent weeks. Of course you have to follow the Thursday – Saturday open season guidelines.

Bay crabbing remains challenging but the current tide series we're on is best during the incoming flood tide.

The Guide's Forecast – Don't have high expectations for much of the north coast this weekend. With a crappy ocean forecast, offshore won't be a great place to recreate. Watch the ocean weather but we're not putting too much effort into a saltwater portion of a forecast given the outlook.

Coho should be a fair option if the weather cooperates but look for the bait balls to target feeding fish. It's standard procedure to target coho in 180 to 200 feet of water NW of the tips of Tillamook Bay, working your way back when the NW wind does kick up in the late morning or in the case of my most recent trips, right from the get-go. Fish small herring (green label if you can find them) or fresh jigged anchovies or herring if you have them.

Halibut remain a nearshore option Thursdays through Saturdays. Slow troll or drift large herring near the bottom in 90 to 110 foot of water. Target gravel bottom if you can find it.

Just a few more days of Trask River hatchery hole fishing. Action is slowing but bobber and egg/shrimp combo's should continue to produce results into mid-month. Show up early to get the best spot and target the best bite of the daylight hours. You may even try and take advantage of the 1 hour before sunlight rule if you can.

Target the sparse return of summer steelhead in the pocket water or broken-surfaced water of the Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. Small baits or single-egg imitations should produce an occasional biter in the early morning hours.

Bay clamming in the early morning minus tide, bay crabbing in the late morning flood.

Central & South Coast Reports – Boats launching out of Newport and Depoe Bay mid-week returned with mostly limits of ocean salmon. Catches were a fairly even split of larger Chinook and rapidly-growing hatchery coho. While windy conditions are forecast and the water will be dicey over the next several days, boats launching at first light may be able to enjoy a couple decent hours of productive trolling time before ducking to safety inside coastal harbors. The north wind forecast for the weekend may nix the deal, however.

Newport rock fishers who have located concentration of rockfish on the South Jetty have quickly limited this week. Light jigs with curly-tail plastics have done the trick. Be extra careful when wind and wave action comes up.

Tuna anglers are getting anxious but warm water has yet to move close to shore. When that occurs, albacore will surely follow. That said, a single albie has been confirmed taken out of Depoe Bay (with requisite photo evidence). The fish was landed late last week.

Dedicated steelheaders who have been putting in their time on the Siletz River have been enjoying fair to good results this week.

Crabbers in the Siuslaw estuary have been taking only small females and undersized males. The lower river has given up a few sea-run cutthroat trout.

Chinook fishing has been fair to good out of Winchester Bay this week. Coho numbers are starting to build as well. The Umpqua system is low and running warm so target smallies if you go.

Springer fishing has been slow to fair on the lower and middle Rogue but a few are being taken daily, mostly by guide boats. Waters of the upper Rogue will be low but stable over the holiday weekend. Summer steelhead numbers will be increasing every day in this stretch of the river. Targeting them should be worthwhile now and these fish are certainly more aggressive biters than spring Chinook, although the latter will also be available. Bottom fishing has been excellent out of the Port of Brookings and ocean Chinook catches have been most impressive recently. Launching over the long weekend should be a breeze (pun intended) for those doing so early. Swells will be long and occur on ling duration but offshore winds will become pesky do get up early, get out & back with you catch o' the day, then grab a well-deserved holiday siesta to prepare for a repeat performance the following day.



The trout pictured above represents a typical 17 incher at Diamond Lake although catches slowed as water temperatures warmed to the high 60s with the weather over the past week. Still trollers using wedding rings, Triple Teazers or small Flatfish have been taking fish from deeper areas. Bank fishing with Power Bait has been effective only for those locating feeding areas. Below, Terry Kutz is pictured with his first-place winner in last week's Blackbird Derby (Diamond Lake Resort photos).



Central and Eastern Oregon – Waters of the lower Deschutes hold promise for a few trout but only early and late in the day or heavily shaded water during daylight hours. High temperatures have been a daily occurrence here. Summer steelhead, are coming but there has been no sign of them as yet. We don't expect a banner year as the run was really off.

The Crooked River deserves another mention for the holiday weekend as it will not only offer decent prospects for fly anglers targeting trout but is also a good option for camping.

High Cascade Lakes provided a relief from valley heat earlier this week for fly fishers who dig the stillwater scene. The East Lake Callibaetis hatch did not disappoint with bogs popping from mid-morning to mid-day. Large resident rainbows and brookies have been responding to patterns mimicking the hatch.

Timothy Lake fair to good trolling or casting hardware

The Wallowa River is too high to fish and is likely to remain that way for a week or so.

It is hoped the Imnaha River will be in shape for the three-day Chinook opener starting July 5th.

Odell has improved recently for kokanee with both trollers and jigger taking fish. Another Chinook, this one about four pounds, was taken recently by an angler throwing a spinner.

Green Peter has continued to crank out good numbers of kokanee and several limits to trollers working depths of 50 to 60 feet. Early mornings have been best.

Trolled hoochies have been effective for good numbers of kokanee averaging 15 inches at Wickiup.

While Wallowa Lake has become a fishery for fair to good numbers of small kokanee, trollers targeting lake trout with plugs have been mostly unsuccessful for that specie but are taking large rainbows with some regularity.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for July 2013

Fishing sizzles in July for salmon, steelhead, crab, trout, other gamefish

Summer fishing seasons are now in full swing, requiring anglers to make some tough decisions about how to spend their time on the water. Salmon, steelhead, crab, trout, bass and walleye – all are now available for harvest in various waters around the state.

But for thousands of anglers, nothing beats the thrill of reeling in a big chinook salmon. Many are doing just that as waves of chinook move south along the Washington coast, then east into Puget Sound, coastal streams and the Columbia River.

“Fishing for both chinook salmon and hatchery coho should improve off the coast right through the month,” said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). “The same is true for Puget Sound and other inside waters.”

Six marine areas of Puget Sound open to salmon fishing July 1, joining other salmon fisheries already in progress. Various westside rivers, including the Bogacheil, Calawah and Nisqually, also open for salmon fishing that day, and Baker Lake in Whatcom County opens for sockeye salmon July 10.

Summer steelhead are another option – notably in Columbia River and many of its tributaries – where 339,200 adult fish are expected to move upriver in the coming weeks. As always, anglers are required to release any wild, unmarked steelhead they intercept in the fishery, which extends from the mouth of the Columbia to the Canadian Border.

Fishing regulations for these and other fisheries are described in WDFW’s For additional information on fishing regulations, see WDFW’s 2013-14 *Fishing in Washington* rule pamphlet, available from sporting goods stores and posted online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/>.

Rather catch some crab? All but one marine area in Puget Sound will open 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. 15 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. The season will get under way with a one-day opening (July 1), and will be closed July 2-3 before reopening on its regular weekly schedule Thursday, July 4. See <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/crab/> for all crab-fishing rules.

Meanwhile, WDFW land managers are urging everyone planning to spend time outdoors this month to take care not to spark a wildfire. Unattended campfires, fireworks, hot vehicle mufflers, careless disposal of cigarettes and outdoor burning are all common causes of wildfires in the state.

Fireworks are prohibited at all 32 WDFW wildlife areas and 700 water access sites around the state. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has also issued a summer burn ban that prohibits campfires in all WDFW forested areas.

Campfires are also prohibited on other WDFW lands, particularly on the east side of the Cascade Mountains. For example, no campfires of any kind are allowed at the four WDFW wildlife areas in Yakima and Kittitas counties until Oct. 15 due to the high risk of wildfires.

Current campfire restrictions are posted in campgrounds and at the gates of each wildlife area. More information on DNR's summer burn ban is available at <http://goo.gl/5jykD>

For more information about fishing, wildlife viewing and other outdoor activities available this month, see the Weekender Regional Reports posted on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/weekender/>. These reports are updated throughout the month to provide up-to-date information about recreational opportunities in six regions around the state.

North Puget Sound

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

Summer has arrived, and anglers have their pick of numerous fishing opportunities. Freshwater anglers can cast for chinook at some of the region's rivers, as well as trout and bass at local lakes. On Puget Sound, the crab season opens July 1 in most areas, and additional salmon openings are just around the corner.

"July really marks the start of the **salmon** fishing season in Puget Sound, where a variety of angling opportunities get under way in the region," said Ryan Lothrop, recreational salmon fishery manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

Puget Sound salmon fishing opportunities in July include:

- **Marine Area 7** (San Juan Islands), which opens July 1. Anglers can keep one chinook as part of their two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon.
- **Marine areas 9** (Admiralty Inlet) **and 10** (Seattle-Bremerton), where anglers will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink 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. Anglers should note that chum must also be released in Marine Area 9 throughout July.
- **Sinclair** Inlet, a portion of Marine Area 10, opens July 1. Anglers fishing Sinclair will have a daily limit of three salmon, plus one additional pink salmon, but must release wild chinook. Anglers are allowed to use two fishing poles with the purchase of a two-pole endorsement.
- **Tulalip Bay "bubble" fishery**, a portion of Marine Area 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner), remains open each week from Friday through noon Monday through Sept. 2. Anglers fishing the bubble have a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon, and are allowed to use two fishing poles with the purchase of a two-pole endorsement.

Check the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#) for details on salmon fishing opportunities.

Lothrop reminds anglers that they are responsible for correctly identifying their catch. In past years, some anglers were checked at the docks with undersized chinook they misidentified as pink salmon, he said.

“It’s important that people take the time to learn the differences between each salmon species – both to protect the resource and to avoid a fine,” Lothrop said. Descriptions of each salmon species can be found on the department’s [recreational salmon fishing webpage](#) and in the [Fishing in Washington pamphlet](#).

Break out those **crab** pots. All but one marine area in Puget Sound will open 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. 15 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. The season will get under way with a one-day opening (July 1), and will be closed July 2-3 before reopening on its regular weekly schedule Thursday, July 4.

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.

Rich Childers, shellfish policy lead for WDFW, said recent test fisheries indicate the crab population in Puget Sound remains abundant. “We continue to see healthy numbers of crab throughout Puget Sound,” he said. “With such strong numbers, crabbing should be good from opening day all the way through the end of the summer season.”

Information on the rules, including how to properly record and report catch information is available on [WDFW's crab fishing webpage](#). The page includes links to a printable “Crabbing in Puget Sound” brochure and a “Puget Sound Recreational Crab Guide,” both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

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).

Portions of the Skykomish River are also open for salmon fishing. Anglers fishing the Skykomish, from the mouth to the Wallace River, have a daily limit of four hatchery chinook, two of which may be adults.

Farther north, anglers will have an opportunity to hook **sockeye salmon at Baker Lake** beginning July 10. Anglers will have a daily limit of two adult sockeye salmon (minimum size 18 inches in length). All other salmon, as well as bull trout, must be released.

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

Meanwhile, lake fishing for **bass, bluegill, perch,** and **crappie** is steadily improving as water temperatures increase and fish become more active.

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.

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

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

Summer salmon fishing is in full swing along the coast, where anglers have been reeling in bright chinook since early June. In Puget Sound, fishing seasons will also expand for salmon and get under way for crab starting July 1.

Salmon fishing got off to a slow start off Westport in June when onshore winds moved the feed – and the fish – off course, but that situation has improved, said Doug Milward, ocean salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"Fishing for both chinook salmon and hatchery coho should improve off the coast right through the month," Milward said. "The same is true for Puget Sound and other inside waters." Anglers fishing marine areas 1 (Ilwaco) and 2 (Westport) can retain one chinook as part of a two-salmon daily limit, but are required to release wild coho. In areas 3 (LaPush) and 4 (Neah Bay), the daily limit is two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon. All wild coho salmon must be released.

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

Halibut fishing is also still an option in Marine Area 1. The season there is open Friday through Sunday each week until the early season quota is reached or Aug. 3, whichever occurs first. The fishery will reopen, with the late-season quota Aug. 3, and continue three days a week (Friday-Sunday), until the remaining quota is taken, or Sept. 30, whichever occurs first.

Meanwhile, six Puget Sound marine areas will open to salmon fishing July 1, joining fisheries already in progress in other areas. Bag limits in marine areas 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 13 include two bonus pink salmon. New this year, Sinclair Inlet in Marine Area 10 allows a three salmon limit plus one additional pink--and two pole fishing for those who have purchased the two-pole endorsement. No wild chinook may be retained in Marine Area 10.

Regulations regarding chinook retention in waters of Puget Sound vary by time and area. Anglers are advised to check the [Washington sport fishing rules pamphlet](#) and the [emergency rule website](#) before heading out.

Ryan Lothrop, Puget Sound recreational salmon manager points to strong forecasts of hatchery chinook returning to most of Puget Sound, including Hood Canal and South Sound. Anglers have also been consistently picking up fish in Marine Area 11 near Tacoma as of the end of June. In addition, nearly 6.2 million pink salmon are projected to return to the Sound this summer. "Given these factors, fishing inside much of Puget Sound could be very good," Lothrop said.

Lothrop reminds anglers that chum and wild chinook in most Puget Sound areas must be

released. He also notes that anglers can check WDFW [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.

Ready to catch some crab? The popular fishery for Dungeness crab gets underway 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. 15 in the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia).

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

Rich Childers, shellfish policy lead for WDFW, said recent test fisheries indicate the crab population in Puget Sound remains abundant. "We continue to see healthy numbers of crab throughout Puget Sound," Childers said. "With such strong numbers, crabbing should be good from opening day all the way through the end of the summer season."

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.

Additional information on the crab fishery is available on [WDFW's crab fishing website](#). The page includes links to a printable "Crabbing in Puget Sound" brochure and a "Puget Sound Recreational Dungeness Crab Guide," both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

Freshwater anglers should be aware that several rivers on the north Coast – including the Hoh, Quillayute and Sol Duc – remain open for **salmon** fishing. The Bogachiel and Calawah join that list July 1. Also beginning in July, opportunities for salmon fishing open in some south Sound streams including Chamber and McAllister creeks and the Nisqually and Deschutes rivers. For details on river fishing, including catch limitations, gear limits, and allowable fishing days, check the [Washington sport fishing rules pamphlet](#).

Many of those rivers and streams are also open to trout fishing. 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. Again, check the [rules pamphlet](#) and the [emergency rule website](#) to make sure.

Southwest Washington

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

Anglers who fish the lower Columbia River are gearing up for hatchery steelhead now that most salmon-fishing opportunities are moving upstream. Summer steelhead are arriving to take up the slack after the close of the fishery for adult chinook and sockeye salmon below Bonneville Dam.

Based on current projections, 339,200 **adult upriver steelhead** will 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). While the upriver run is slightly below the average since 2003, those fish should provide plenty of action in the weeks ahead, he said.

"These fish, which generally run four to eight pounds apiece, are fun to catch and great to eat," Hymer said. "Steelhead tend to run close to shore, so bank anglers should have some great fishing opportunities in the weeks ahead."

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.

Above Bonneville Dam, fishing seasons are still 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.

Hymer suggests that anglers targeting hatchery steelhead consider fishing area tributaries as well as the mainstem Columbia River. As he sees it, the best bet is probably the Cowlitz River, where fish start arriving in larger numbers early in the month.

Other options below Bonneville 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.

Anglers might also want to try fishing Drano Lake or the lower Wind River, where salmon and steelhead historically dip in to beat the heat. The White Salmon River is another option, although it is still recovering from the removal of Condit Dam, which filled the mouth of the river with sediment.

Rather catch a **sturgeon**? Retention fishing is now closed in the Columbia River and its tributaries below John Day Dam, but anglers can still keep fish measuring 43 to 54 inches (fork length) above the dam in the John Day Pool. Both of those fisheries will close when respective catch limits are met, so anglers should keep an eye on the [WDFW website](#) for possible regulation changes.

A one-fish daily limit and two-fish annual limit for white sturgeon are in effect throughout the state.

For **trout** anglers, access to high mountain lakes continues to improve as the snow recedes. John Weinheimer, a WDFW fish biologist, recommends Takhlakh, Horseshoe, Walupt and Big Mosquito lakes in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest this time of year.

Goose Lake, a forest lake in Skamania County, was recently planted with thousands of good-sized brown and cutthroat trout, and rainbows have been biting at Swift Reservoir. For **kokanee**, Yale and Merwin reservoirs are a good bet, said Weinheimer, noting that Riffe Reservoir on the Cowlitz River has also been good for **landlocked coho**.

Fishing for **bass**, **walleye**, and **tiger musky** is also warming up in the summer sun, Weinheimer said. Anglers are catching bass and walleye in the Columbia River and tiger musky in the Merwin and Mayfield reservoirs.

Eastern Washington

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

Cooler and wetter weather in spring has kept trout fishing lively in many of the region's lakes and rivers, while the action continues to pick up in warmwater fisheries.

In July, lakes in the northern third of the region are a good place to combine fishing with camping, since many are on public lands with campgrounds. In Stevens County, the Little Pend Oreille chain of lakes – Gillette, Heritage, Sherry, and Thomas – are producing fish, as are Pend Oreille County's Skookum and Yocum lakes and many others at higher elevations. Other northeast lakes that continue to see action include Cedar, Mudgett, Rocky, Starvation, and Waitts lakes in Stevens County; Diamond Lake in Pend Oreille County; and Ellen Lake in Ferry County.

Randy Osborne, a Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fish biologist based in Spokane, said cool water temperatures in many Spokane County lakes have been keeping rainbow trout biting.

"Fish Lake near Cheney is still producing catches of both **rainbow** and **brook trout**," Osborne said. "West Medical, Clear, and Williams lakes are also still producing good catches of rainbows."

Lake Roosevelt, the Columbia River reservoir on the Lincoln-Stevens-Ferry county line, is still producing catches of **kokanee**, rainbows, and **walleye**, although Osborne says walleye fishing has been a little spotty. Early July is usually a good time to fish the upper portion of the reservoir, upriver from the town of Kettle Falls in Stevens County.

"Some of the central district's warmwater fisheries have been really good," Osborne said. "Anglers fishing Sprague Lake have been catching good numbers of **largemouth bass** up to six pounds. Anglers at Downs, Bonnie, and Long lakes have been catching decent numbers of **yellow perch** and **black crappie**. Silver and Newman lakes have been pretty consistent for catches of largemouth bass and yellow perch, although the perch are pretty small at Newman."

WDFW warmwater fish biologist Marc Divens added that fishery sampling just completed on Sprague Lake produced a 16-inch **channel catfish** from stocking of eight-inchers in 2011.

"The channel catfish we stocked in Sprague in 2008 should be even larger," Divens said. "This is another good fishing opportunity for anglers at Sprague Lake and these fish are excellent eating."

At the south end of the region, angler interest has shifted to **smallmouth bass** and **channel catfish** since spring chinook salmon fishing closed on the Snake River in late June.

The Tucannon River impoundments in the south end of the region are still providing good fishing for rainbow trout, reports Kari Dingman, WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area manager. The extended cool, rainy weather this spring has probably extended the life of those hatchery-stocked fisheries – Big Four, Blue, Deer, Rainbow, Spring and Watson lakes. Dingman notes fishing in the Tucannon River itself has also been good.

Northcentral Washington

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

Angler can catch hatchery-marked **chinook salmon** starting July 1 on the mainstem Columbia River from Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster to Chief Joseph Dam, as well as the Okanogan and Similkameen rivers.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Okanogan district fish biologist Bob Jateff reminds anglers that new rules are in effect for this year requiring the use of barbless hooks when fishing for salmon. The daily limit includes six hatchery-marked (missing adipose fin and healed scar) chinook, of which only two may be adults measuring at least 24 inches. Minimum size for any chinook is 12 inches.

Also starting July 1 anglers can keep **sockeye salmon** on portions of the Columbia and Okanogan rivers, based on new and updated run estimates that allows limited harvest. The fishery is open from Priest Rapids to Wells dams, from Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster to Chief Joseph Dam, and from the mouth of the Okanogan River upstream to the first Highway 97 bridge.

On July 16, the stretch from Wells Dam to the Highway 173 Bridge in Brewster will also be open for sockeye retention. Of the daily catch limit of six salmon, only two adult sockeye (minimum size 12 inches). For details, see the [emergency rule change](#).

Jateff said many lakes in Okanogan County are still fishing well due to cool spring temperatures have helped to keep water temperatures lower than normal. Waters still providing good limits of **rainbow trout** include Conconully Reservoir/Lake and Pearrygin, Alta, Spectacle, and Wannacut lakes. Anglers can expect rainbow trout in the 10 to 12-inch range at these lakes with carryover fish up to 16 inches, Jateff said. **Kokanee** are also available at Conconully Reservoir/Lake and Patterson, Bonaparte, and Palmer lakes.

"Bass fishermen can try any one of many waters in the district for either **smallmouth** or **largemouth bass**," Jateff said. He suggests Whitestone, Palmer, Lake Osoyoos, Washburn Island Pond, Okanogan River, and the Columbia River from Wells Dam to Chief Joseph Dam.

Jateff recommends that anglers fishing with selective gear try Big Twin, Blue (Sinlahekin), Cougar, Campbell, Davis, and Big Green lakes for rainbow trout. Fly-fishing-only waters, such as Chopaka and Aeneas lakes, are also still producing good catches of rainbow in the 12 to 18-inch range.

Jateff offers this advice for catch-and-release anglers as lake water temperatures increase during the summer months: "Always keep fish in the water prior to release and play fish as quickly as possible to the net."

Jateff reports that the Methow River has been dropping and should provide good trout fishing during the catch-and-release fishery that started in May. Anglers can expect to catch resident rainbow and **cutthroat trout**, as well as **whitefish** in this popular fishery. Selective gear rules are in effect, with no bait allowed.

WDFW Columbia Basin district fish biologist Chad Jackson said warmwater fishing has been hot since late-May or early-June this year and should continue through the summer.

"**Smallmouth** and **largemouth bass** have been good in Moses Lake, Banks Lake and Potholes Reservoir," Jackson said. "**Walleye** has mostly been slow thus far, even though the fish are present in all three waters."

Jackson also noted that fishing for **yellow perch** has been good at Potholes Reservoir and Moses Lake, with large schools of perch observed by WDFW staff and reported by anglers.

All three lakes, open year-round, also have varying populations of **bluegill** and **crappie**, which 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 somewhat slowed normal shoreline or dockside action at some, like Potholes.

Lower Goose Lake, one of the Seep lakes south of Potholes Reservoir, has a good crappie and bluegill fishery. The catch limit at Lower Goose is 10 crappie per day with a minimum size limit of nine inches. For bluegill, there is no daily limit and no minimum size, but anglers are limited to five bluegill over six inches long.

Hutchinson and Shiner lakes on the Columbia National Wildlife Refuge has been good for largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie and perch since May. Jackson reports lots of 12 to 17-inch largemouth bass, many running to 20 inches on the two lakes, located seven miles north of Othello in Adams County. However, as summer progresses, both can be tough to fish because of excessive weed growth.

Southcentral Washington

(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

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

Eric Anderson, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), said **spring chinook** fishing has been good on the Yakima River this season, although a good portion of the run has moved past Roza Dam on its way to the spawning grounds.

The fishery closed June 30 upriver to the Grant Avenue Bridge in Prosser, but is expected to remain open through July 15 from the Interstate 82 Bridge in Union Gap to the Burlington Northern Railroad bridge 500 feet downstream of Roza Dam.

"Springers are still moving upstream below Roza Dam, but fishing has slowed considerably and anglers will have to put in some time to catch fish," Anderson said.

The daily limit is two adipose-fin-clipped hatchery chinook. The area is closed for steelhead, and terminal gear 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](#) for the Yakima River fishery on the WDFW website.

On the Columbia River, most anglers fishing below McNary Dam have been focusing on **sturgeon**, **walleye** and **shad**, said Paul Hoffarth, another WDFW fish biologist. Anglers have also been picking up a few **summer chinook** and sockeye, although the action has been slow.

The fishery for summer chinook and **sockeye** salmon on the Columbia River is open upstream to Priest Rapids Dam, under a daily limit of two adult hatchery chinook. Through July, only those chinook with a clipped adipose may be retained.

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 on some areas of the Columbia River. For additional rules on the salmon fishery, see the 2013-14 *Fishing in Washington* pamphlet.

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). Fishing is not allowed in sturgeon spawning sanctuary areas below McNary Dam.

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

To spice things up, WDFW has also planted hundreds of 1.5-pound **jumbo trout** in popular "drive to" high-mountain lakes during June, Anderson said. Those lakes include Leech, Dog and Clear lakes near White Pass in Yakima County and Lost and Cooper lakes near Snoqualmie Pass in Kittitas County.

"All of these lakes also received thousands of catchable sized rainbows (11-13 inches) in June, and should provide excellent trout fishing right through summer," Anderson said.

Kokanee fishing has also been fast and furious at Rimrock Lake in Yakima County, Anderson said. Although the fish are small, anglers have been doing well fishing 10 to 30 feet deep trolling pop gear (gang trolls) just about everywhere on the lake.

"Trolling a two ounce trolling sinker and a wedding ring spinner baited with maggots or tuna-scented shoe peg corn 15-20-feet deep works great," Anderson said.

Other kokanee hotspots include Bumping Lake, Keechelus Reservoir and Kachess Reservoir. Anglers should be aware of a new slot limit for kokanee at Cle Elum and Cooper lakes in Kittitas County, where only kokanee measuring seven to 14 inches in length can be retained. Anderson also reminds anglers that all bull trout caught while fishing for other species must be released unharmed.

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Random Links

Centuries-old rockfish believed to have been caught off Alaska's coast:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/07/02/centuries-old-rockfish-believed-to-have-been-caught-off-alaskas-coast/#ixzz2Y6QIBP4F>

Columbia River Getting Its Freak Fish On: Another Striper, First Pink, Random Chum:

<http://nwsportsmanmag.com/editors-blog/columbia-river-getting-its-freak-fish-on-another-striper-first-pink/>

Here's some footage of North Santiam salmon & steelhead:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVJ9w1i4p4>

GOOD LUCK!