

The Guide's Forecast - volume 15 issue number 35

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 16th – August 22nd, 2013**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro - On the Columbia River, summer steelhead and fall chinook are being caught from Bonneville Dam downriver. Anchor fishing with small spinners for steelhead and wobblers for chinook salmon are the go to methods. Mainstem anchor boats target water between 33 and 48 feet, using a 5-foot dropper lead line with a 5-foot leader and wobbler, working the entire outgoing tide.

Walleye and smallmouth bass are still available in the Multnomah Channel and up river in the Willamette. Catch and release sturgeon fishing remains very slow.

McKenzie flows had been fluctuation from 2,100 to 2,150 cfs at Vida until August 17th when it dropped to 2,000 cfs and has remained fairly steady. It is fishing well with caddis patterns a reliable choice.

With fish passage slowed in the warm waters of the Willamette, there are few fresh steelhead entering the Santiam system. The Santiams are low and stable but steelheading has been slow although the upper Santiams have been productive for trout.

The Clackamas River from Rivermill Dam down to Carver Park is busy with rafters, swimmers and tubers. Limited opportunities for summer steelhead are available early in the morning and late in the evening.

On the Sandy River rafting traffic is intense as well but a few summer steelhead are available here too. Anglers are encouraged to fish early and late in the evening for any success.

Northwest – Although the Buoy 10 fishery is peaking, white-hot catches slowed on Friday and through the weekend although 1-fish limits were still quite common. The best fishing continues to be near high tide and during the softer late afternoon outgoing tide. Just above the Astoria Bridge on the Washington side remains a good afternoon option where Jim Bryant took a 23-pound upriver bright on Tuesday trolling a herring near the bottom. Action should remain excellent with coho starting to show in greater numbers later this week. A WDF&W agency official stated with the catch rates for chinook so high, an early closure is imminent. Industry leaders were advocating for continued opportunity for fin-clipped only chinook in the Buoy 10 fishery; managers will likely review options this week.

Ocean trollers have witnessed sporadic success rates with chinook occasionally showing to the north off of Long Beach and coho making a stronger showing to the south between Buoy's 2 and the CR. Effort remains highest in the river however.

Friendly seas motivated albacore anglers this week as good catches were common for much of the week. Tuna are starting to respond to live bait best but jigged hardware can also take fish.

The chinook bite at Nehalem has slowed but action in both Tillamook and Nehalem Bays should pick up again soon. Fall chinook and some hatchery coho should be staging later this month.

Southwest- Rockfish limits are being taken out of Newport and Depoe Bay along with a few ling cod, some of which have been huge.

Swells are forecast to flatten out of the central coast over the coming weekend while winds are predicted to lighten up. Launches for offshore boats should be no problem.

A few tuna were taken far offshore out of Newport over the past weekend. In addition to improving ocean conditions, there's a good chance warmer water will be moving nearer to the beach and if this occurs, albacore will follow.

When boats have been able to launch out of Winchester Bay, ocean Chinook trolling with whole herring has been producing Chinook. Be sure to drop crab traps on the way out as results have been good. crabbing inside Winchester Bay remains slow. The occasional Chinook has been caught in the jaws and while there are fish in the river, they have been off the bite.

Boats were able to get out of Gold Beach to fish the ocean every day over the past week. Results were excellent, yielding limits of near-limits of rockfish and ling cod. Over the past weekend, the Chinook troll fishery in Rogue Bay turned on once again. Lower Rogue half-pounder and adult steelhead are being taken below Quosatana Creek. Chinook fishing is fair in the Grants Pass stretch but is expected to improve. On the upper Rogue. Chinook are being caught below Dodge Bridge while steelheading is reliable upriver from that point.

The ocean Chinook bite out of Brookings Harbor, wide open a few weeks back, is now slow but steady. Trolling whole herring or anchovies at 40 to 100 feet in water 110 to 150 feet deep had been consistently effective. It is hoped the bite will pick up for the Slam'n Salmon Derby taking place Aug. 29 through Sept. 1. Rockfish and ling cod fishing is excellent and halibut from 70 to 90 pounds are being caught. Limits of ocean crab are being taken daily.

Eastern – With fresh fish entering from the Columbia now, number of summer steelhead and catches have improved on the lower Deschutes. Target them anywhere between Sherars Falls and the mouth. Caddis patterns remain effective for redsides on the lower river.

Crooked River flows are steady at 220 cfs and fishing is good.

East Lake is fishing well for kokanee averaging 16 inches.

Fishing for kokanee at Paulina has been slow and fish are small.

SW Washington- Most anglers remain focused on mainstem Columbia chinook with the Cowlitz a prime target for anchor fishers. The Cowlitz itself will have chinook nose into the lower reaches as salmon escape the warm Columbia waters on their way upstream. The mouth of the Lewis is also a favorite destination for anglers to target chinook and coho.

With Bonneville Dam passing good numbers of steelhead and salmon, Drano Lake anglers are finding good success for both species. Action will only get better near these tributaries although warm water temperatures often slow catches.

Columbia River Fishing Report – Most folks know by now that the Buoy 10 fishery is scheduled to go to fin-clipped only chinook on Friday. After blistering hot catch rates, fishery managers decided on Wednesday to prolong opportunity by allowing a mark- select fishery to continue. Here is the official press release:

NEWS RELEASE

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Contact: Jeff Whisler (971) 673-6024
Jessica Sall (503) 947-6023

Aug. 20, 2013

Buoy 10 chinook season goes to fin-clipped only on Friday, Aug. 23

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – In an effort to extend the Columbia River Buoy 10 chinook season through Sept. 1, Oregon and Washington fishery managers decided today to limit harvest to hatchery fin-clipped chinook beginning Friday, Aug. 23.

Thanks to good fishing early in the season, anglers are quickly approaching the harvest quota of 20,000 chinook salmon in the popular fishery at the mouth of the Columbia River. Managers hope today's action will allow them to keep a chinook fishery open through Sept. 1 as originally scheduled.

"We're taking this action today because we've been having an excellent chinook fishery at Buoy 10 this year and this will allow chinook anglers to keep fishing," said Steve Williams, ODFW fish division deputy administrator.

Under the rules adopted today:

- Effective Friday, Aug. 23 through Sunday, Sept. 1 only chinook with a clipped and healed adipose fin, or a completely clipped and healed left ventral fin may be retained.
- The daily bag limit will continue to be two hatchery salmon or steelhead, in combination, only one of which may be a chinook. All wild salmon and steelhead must be released.
- Effective Monday, Sept. 2 through Monday, Sept. 30 Buoy 10 will be closed to ALL chinook harvest.
- Anglers may transport wild, un-clipped salmon caught in adjacent fisheries (such as the ocean or the Columbia River above Tongue Point) through the Buoy 10 area, but cannot fish in Buoy 10 with an un-clipped chinook onboard.

Fishery managers will meet again on Tuesday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. to review the status of the fishery and make any necessary adjustments.

In the meantime, Williams says Buoy 10 anglers should start anticipating a strong coho return.

"By this time next week it ought to be bang up fishing for coho at Buoy 10," he said.

And yes, the fishing has been as good as the numbers indicate although chinook got much more elusive since the more extreme tide series took hold. With a stronger tide series, the bite period is more intense, it just lasts for a much shorter period of time. When flow are strong, the fish simply don't bite all that well. For a good part of this week, the intense flood tide has not been conducive to productive fishing. If you look at your speed over ground feature on the depth finder, you'll find that once you attain trolling speeds greater than 4.0 MPH, your opportunities will drastically drop. If it's 4.5 MPH, you might as well hit the dock. The ideal trolling speed for both chinook and coho is between 2.3 MPH and 3.5. On these intense tide series, those trolling speeds only last for a short period of time and in the case of the tides we're currently on, it lasts longer during the late afternoon outgoing tide; that's when we've been scoring our best results.

For those that have been fishing, it's pretty well known that there has been a fair bite (definitely not the best of the day) on the last ½ hour of outgoing tide and the first part of incoming tide between Buoy's 20 to 12 or on the Washington side from Chinook to Illwaco. It doesn't last long

and you won't get too many opportunities but both chinook and coho have been taken. The chinook typically come on the last part of outgoing tide and the coho and some chinook on the first part of incoming tide. Both spinners and bait have been working during this time of the tide, I just prefer bait, especially this week.

The real action has been brief but productive with fish coming from above the shipwreck on the Washington side of the river. Our bite on Wednesday occurred at high slack (about 3:00 p.m.) and lasted through the first 2 hours of outgoing tide. On Wednesday, it was very consistent fishing in the flat calm waters above the bridge in the (what we call) south ditch, which runs adjacent to Blind Channel but breaks off to the south towards Tongue Point. This ditch has some 50-foot water in it but for the most part, stick to the 30 to 35 foot lines, hopefully during the softer outgoing tide where you can work your gear at 3.5 MPH or less. Although we've been catching many of our fish suspended (17 to 24 strips, using 16 to 12 ounces on the bow and middle rods respectively), it seems the stronger the outgoing push, the closer to the bottom you want to be. By max ebb, the baits fishing the deepest will often get the most bites. Although several guides are confidently running spinners and taking fish, I got most of my bites on Wednesday using fresh, whole-rigged herring and frozen, blue label plug cut herring. It seems that guides using spinners exclusively have been doing well too. As the tide intensifies, concentrate on the lower portion of the ditch, say from the shipwreck to the bridge as it seems the fish, or at least the willing biters, get pushed down the ditch the longer the tide runs. DO start high early in the outgoing however. The Oregon side has been dead.

Tules seem pretty scarce, brights are abundant and the SAB's (Select Area Brights; also known as the Rogue Strain fish) are gone. Coho are in the catch and most likely to show themselves near Buoy 10 or 12 early in the incoming tide and just prior to high tide. They become scarce when the tide starts to run out but that will likely change when the river gets more loaded with coho in the next couple of weeks.

Remember: it's fin-clipped only for chinook, coho and steelhead from Tongue Point to Buoy 10 starting on Friday from Buoy 10 to Tongue Point/Rocky Point. Fishing upstream of Tongue Point has seen little effort but that's about to change. Click here: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/fishing/reg_changes/columbia.asp for information on Columbia River regulations. You'll want to be clear on these regulations when you fish this area.

Ocean fishing has been hit or miss. On Sunday, ocean fishing was pretty good, both for coho to the south and chinook and coho to the north off of Long Beach. The ocean and bar were pretty dreamy; after low slack that is, we're on a minus tide series. Most recent reports were oddly dismal. Rumor has it, you have to travel to 320 feet before you find consistent action and most of those are coho. There should be another batch of chinook to come down the Long Beach Peninsula, there are a whole lot more coming into the river in the coming weeks, just you wait and see. Anglers reported coho in pretty close on Sunday, but that's all changed now.

Effective immediately, the commercial troll salmon fishery North of Cape Falcon is closed until further notice. A conference call will be convened next week to discuss possible options for any further openings.

Tuna chasers are few, with the salmon being easy targets and all. When calm waters prevail, so do abundant albacore catches. There have been some friendly days and super windy days lately. We should see more of those friendly days come September. They are still pretty far offshore and live bait becomes key as we progress into the season.

Halibut fishing has been fair when folks do it. You have to search for them however. Effort is light. 83% of the quota remained as of August 11th.

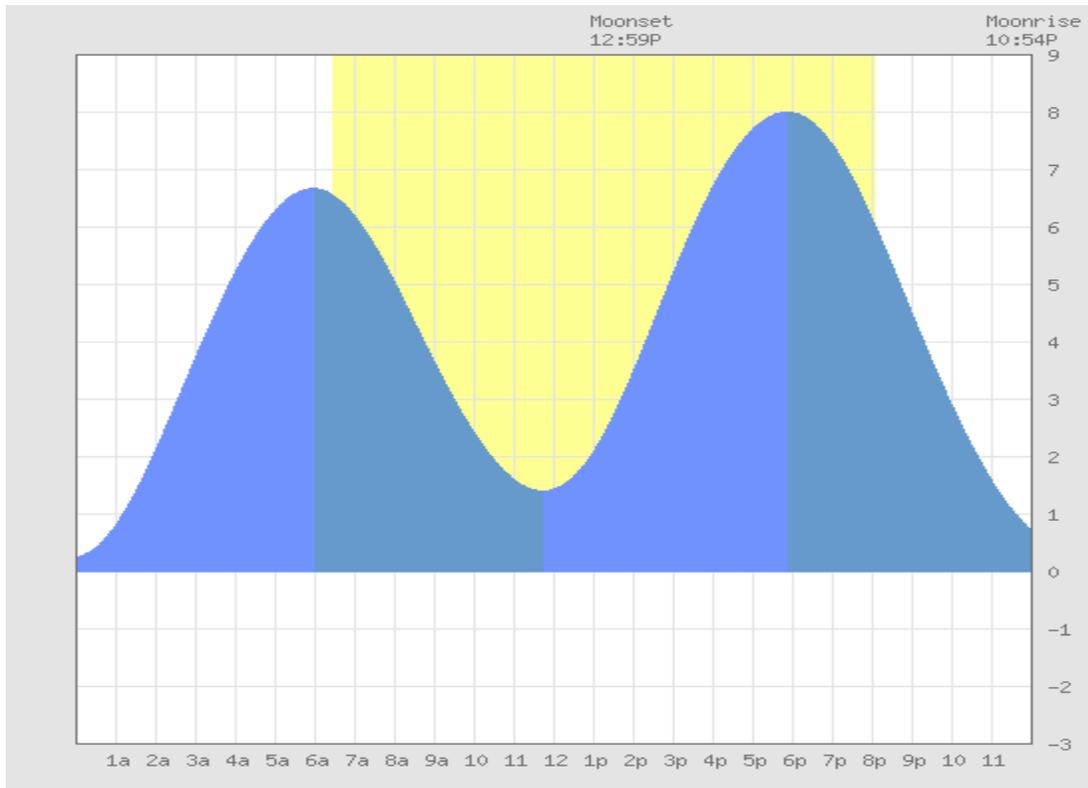
Not many people are crabbing and that's a good thing. The tides are too extreme for good action and there are so many boats participating in this fishery that you're likely to get your crab ropes chopped off in a prop or hooks broke off in them. It'll be better to wait when traffic lightens, and the extreme tide series wanes.

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "On the Columbia River, diminishing numbers of summer steelhead and building numbers of fall Chinook are being caught from Bonneville dam downriver. Bonneville is releasing 70 degree water, slowing fish passage. Anchor fishing with small red and brass (or better yet, gold) spinners for steelhead works wonders. Simon, Clancy or Alvin wobblers fished in 30-50 ft depths get the Chinook."

The Guide's Forecast – It'll be hard to forecast what interest there will be in the mark-select fishery at Buoy 10. Fortunately, we'll have options. Let's start with the Buoy 10 fishery first.

We're coming off the big minus tide series and that is a good thing. This affords us opportunities but upstream and downstream of the Buoy 10 fishery. If you are going to participate in the Buoy 10 fishery, seeking fin-clipped chinook and coho, an early morning high tide is on the horizon, making for some pretty good fishing when the outgoing tide weakens for much of next week. All the usual places will likely produce nicely following high tide. Above the bridge early in the morning and all along the church hole drift on the first part of outgoing tide and the Chinook wing jetties/Buoys 14 to 12 on the last part of outgoing tide. The first part of incoming tide at Buoy 10 should produce some nice coho catches in the coming weeks, that is, if the run prediction comes in. I suggest you have a strong bait presence. Spinners will likely continue to work but bait seems to be king right now. Don't hesitate to jig your own fresh anchovies as they are plentiful in the river and make a much better bait than you can buy at the bait shops. Rig them whole to get the best roll. Smaller plug cut or whole rigged herring should also take biters, especially since we should spend more time targeting coho during this mark-select chinook season starting Friday.

A more interesting option will start up early next week, hopefully as early as Monday when the high tide will be right at first light. It's a soft outgoing tide, totaling about 5.3 foot of run-off. Remember, the longer we have slow velocities, the longer we'll have access to biting fish. It could be a barn burner above Tongue Point to Rice Island as early as Monday. High slack occurs at 5:56 and is just over a 6 foot high:



You can go to our home page to view the rest of the week but it should be a good one in the Tongue Point fishery all week, and you don't have to let "wild" ones go. DO check the regulations closely as you can NOT fish in adjacent waters with wild chinook on board your boat. Spinners often work well in this fishery but bait has been productive in recent years as well. You had better be prepared with both options as I've seen spinners take limits when bait won't get bit (but only once). The entire shipping channel from the top of Rice Island downstream to the deadline should produce results this next week.

The other option is of course the ocean. Coho numbers should start to blossom and chinook should make another strong showing off of Long Beach in the coming week. Here is the weather forecast:

FRI

SW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. GUSTS TO 15 KT IN THE AFTERNOON.
WIND WAVES 1 FT...BUILDING TO 3 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. W SWELL
3 FT AT 8 SECONDS.

FRI NIGHT

SW WIND 10 KT WITH GUSTS TO 15 KT... VEERING TO NW
AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 8 SECONDS.

SAT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT
7 SECONDS.

SAT NIGHT

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT...EASING TO 5 KT AFTER

MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT.

SUN

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

MON

NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 3 FT.

Looks like pretty friendly seas to me, especially if you get an early morning start. Keep in mind that the coho were last reported pretty far offshore but that should change really soon if the run forecast comes in as predicted. It'll be a bit of a crap shoot if you go north and fish the beach in order to target big chinook or head offshore to the SW toward the CR Buoy in search of coho. Hopefully, it gets much easier really soon. It could remain sporadic, much to my surprise.

Halibut season remains open out of the Columbia from Fridays through Sundays. It might make a nice combo trip with tuna to round out the day. It would be a long day however.

River crabbing might be more feasible if the river traffic slows. The ocean will likely continue to produce soft-shelled crab.

Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Fall Chinook numbers are steadily climbing over Bonneville Dam and steelhead counts are quickly shrinking into the hundreds."

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, "Nothing new to report for the Willamette river. Walleye and smallmouth bass are still available in the Multnomah Channel and up river. Catch and release sturgeon fishing remains very slow."

While the Santiam system flows remain good for fishing, results have been slow.

McKenzie flows at Vida jumped to 2125 cfs from the 2,000 level overnight on August 22nd. Aside from slight fluctuations, there's no reason to expect and great changes here in the week to come.

The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, "Expect little change on the Willamette. Bass will be bass and walleye will be walleye."

The Foster Fish trap is closed to allow the construction of the new facility and will remain so until September 3rd. Counts are wrapped until then at 2,506 Chinook and 4,307 summer steelhead as of August 7th.

McKenzie flows have been low and stable. This is not expected to change in the coming week. Trout fishing has been fair to good, steelheading has been slow all season with low returns this year and this is unlikely to change this late in the season.

The Sixth Annual McKenzie River Two Fly Tournament takes place October 5th and it's not too early to think about registration. Pick two flies, don't lose 'em and fish all day with just those two. See **Random Links**, below, for more information.

Estacada Lake, Faraday Lake, North Fork Reservoir, Small Fry Lake, Alton Baker Canal. Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above and below Leaburg Lake and Salmon Creek are scheduled for trout stocking.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) reports, “The Clackamas River From Rivermill dam down to Carver Park Is busy with rafters, swimmers and tubers. Starting this week, county sheriffs will be spot checking for alcoholic beverages at all county parks on the river. The new rule will be strictly enforced, alcohol is not allowed at Clackamas county parks along the river. Meager opportunities for summer steelhead are available early in the morning and late in the evening.

“On the Sandy River, the sun loving, splash and giggle crowd Is here too but not as prominent as on the Clackamas. A few summer steelhead are available but they move through the lower river rather quickly. Anglers are encouraged to fish early and late in the evening for any success.”

The Guide’s Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377) predicts, “As long as the warm weather persists, the Clack will remain a playground for county residents on a mission to keep cool. Now, without the booze.

“The Sandy river will also see little to no change. The first silvers are 3 to four weeks away.”

North Coast Fishing Report – Not yet, but soon. Soon, large fall chinook will make their way into the Tillamook, Nehalem and Nestucca Basins, as well as the Salmon and Siletz Rivers as well. We’re still a few weeks away from productive fishing but there could certainly be some early risers available right now. The stronger tide series would likely put them in the upper reaches of tidewater or the estuary but since effort is light, so are reports. The Nehalem Basin is most likely to produce the best catches but recent reports weren’t encouraging. It’s best to wait a few more weeks.

Offshore, tuna will remain the best option but the crab are soft and the coho are waiting for the September opener. We can wait another few weeks. It should be a great fall in Tillamook County.

Still low and too clear for summer steelheaders. You’ll have to earn your catch this year as the run appears to be down.

The Guide’s Forecast – It should be a nice ocean but tuna is the only real option this week. Plan on a long trip offshore. If you’re serious about your salmon fishing, you have much better options than the Nehalem or Tillamook systems.

Bay crabbing may improve over the weekend with the softer tide series coming on. There should be plenty of fresh salmon or tuna carcasses available.

Central & South Coast Reports – September 1st and 2nd, the ocean will reopen for non-specific (fins or no) coho then again Sept 5,6,7 with additional dates to follow or until the quota is taken. The remaining 3,920 coho salmon from the July recreational selective coho salmon fishery from Cape Falcon to the Oregon / California border were transferred on an impact neutral basis to the September recreational non-selective coho quota for the area from Cape Falcon to Humbug Mt. The net transfer results in an increase to the September quota of 3,580 coho, and brings the September quota to 19,580 coho. Ocean Chinook Salmon is open until October.

Bottom fishing remains excellent out of central Oregon ports with plenty of nice lings and rock fish.

Many tuna trips have been made recently for tuna out of most ports. Success has been mixed with most taking a few, a few taking many. More trips are planned for the coming weekend.

For those fortunate enough to actually bag a few (or more) tuna, they can leave behind slime, blood and a distinctive odor which is notoriously hard to clean up. We just heard of a product, "Dr. Bronner's Pure Castile Peppermint Oil Soap." Which is supposed to do the job. We've not yet tried it, but understand it really does the job without damaging a waxed surface. At natural grocers, it's certainly worth a try.

Forecasts for offshore conditions remain fairly moderate. Launches shouldn't be a problem but it's always smart to get updated conditions at the last moment.

Siletz Bay has been slow for salmon trollers although it has given up a couple. Chinook are in the bay in good number, just not responding this week. Grabbing has been fair but will improve into the fall.

Winchester Bay was the top o' the heap of all Oregon ports for boat launching for ocean Chinook. Averages were a little better than one fish per angler according to ODFW fish checkers. Some are averaging better. Troll 50 to 70 foot depths of 200 to 220 feet of water. Smallmouth fishing remains good on the Umpqua mainstem. Try a leech pattern for summer steelhead on the flies-only stretch of the North Umpqua.

Boats launching out of Charleston for offshore Chinook have been doing well. Crabbing has picked up a little for boats in Coos Bay although it's still slow from docks. A few Chinook have been caught in the lower bay.

Trollers in Rogue Bay have seen spotty results lately but water temperatures have increased recently which will keep Chinook kegged.

Expect to see a brief spike in water level on the lower Rogue starting Friday, August 23rd into Saturday, the 24th. Whether this is enough to draw Chinook upstream remains to be seen. Chinook which ran up the Rogue earlier this month are being caught on the middle river below Gold Hill with back-bounced roe, wrapped Kwikfish and other plugs effective. Spinners, bait and flies have been taking summer steelhead in this stretch. While the action for summer steelhead isn't hot 'n' heavy on the upper Rogue, it is steady. Morning and evening trips are productive for those using bait, flies or lures. A slight increase in flows out of Lost Creek Lake over the past weekend improved catches slightly. Hatchery counts have been off a little from last year at this time but it's still considered early season for steelhead. Chinook are also being caught by backbouncers and plug-pullers but many are too dark to keep. Chinook may not be kept above Dodge Bridge through August.

The ocean is open for halibut south of Humbug Mountain seven days per week through Oct. 31. This pretty much means boats out of Brookings Harbor where some very large halibut in the 70-, 80- and 90-pound category have been taken recently along with one that scaled 97 pounds. Halibut are being caught in depths ranging from 180 to 240 feet off of all the local hotspots ranging from Bird Island north up to the Thomas Creek Bridge. Limits of Dungeness crab are also coming to the Port of Brookings fillet station, with many crab measuring between 7 and 8 inches. The Slam'n Salmon Derby will be taking place from Aug. 29 through Sept. 1. The Chetco will remain closed above River Mole 33.3 until November. There are some cutthroat in the lower river but seriously, there are salmon to catch.

On August 20th, a 12.1 pound rainbow measuring 28 ½ inches was dredged from 50 feet of water on Diamond Lake. A youngster named Kenny took the fish on orange Power Bait. The fish broke the old lake record by 2.7 pounds. Otherwise, fishing has been fair, although the algae is down and the mosquitoes are gone.

Lemolo Res and the Rogue above Lost Creek are scheduled to be planted with trout.

Central and Eastern Oregon – The time has come to chase steelhead on the lower Deschutes. They're being taken daily from Sherars Falls to the mouth. Reside action has slowed with little insect activity now so patient nymphing is the best approach. Counts at the Sherars Falls trap indicate one Chinook passing nearly every day while Hatchery steelhead are showing in slightly greater number. Wild summers are in the mix as well. The river has been crowded recently.

The Metolius River was predictable crowded following a two-week closure but produced a few large redsides to fly casters executing a drag-free drift to these finicky trout.

East Lake continues to produce good catches of kokanee 14 to 16 inches although many are showing signs of the spawn to come.

Algae is no longer a problem nor are mosquitoes. Overall, fishing is fair. Odell is producing good numbers of kokanee for trollers working hoochies behind flashers at the 50-foot level in a couple of hundred feet of water. Every so often, a lake trout will provide a surprise.

ODFW and Oregon State Parks are seeking people to serve as fish guides on the Willowa River as the kokanee begin spawning here. The goal is to have these informed guides explaining the importance of not wading the river nor allowing pets to enter the water during spawning in order to protect this delicate process. Volunteers should contact either Jeff Yanke, (541) 426-3279 or Lindsey Jones, (541) 432-8855, ext. 24.

Washington fishing reports:

From the WDF&W Weekender Report for August 2013

North Puget Sound

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

Anglers are reeling in chinook, pinks, and coho in North Puget Sound, where two additional marine areas open for salmon Aug. 1 and crabbing is still an option.

"We are expecting more than 6 million pinks to make their way through Puget Sound into area rivers this year," says Ryan Lothrop, Puget Sound recreational salmon manager for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). "Anglers across the state have been catching these salmon, catch rates are improving steadily, and we expect the run to continue to build as pink salmon enter rivers like the Skagit, Green, and Snohomish by mid-to-late August." The **Puget Sound crab fishery** is also under way in most marine areas. The exception is the northern portion (Gulf of Georgia) of Marine Area 7, which opens for crab Aug. 15. All marine areas of Puget Sound will be open for crabbing Thursday through Monday of each week only. Tuesdays and Wednesdays are closed and all crab gear must be removed from the water. 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 Dungeness Crab Guide,” both of which have information on crabbing regulations.

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.

Meanwhile, for those more interested in river fishing, freshwater anglers are gearing up for **salmon** openers on select rivers.

Those rivers include the following:

- **Skagit River:** Salmon fishing opens Aug. 1 from the mouth of the river to the mouth of Gilligan Creek. The Skagit opens from the mouth of Gilligan Creek to the Dalles Bridge at Concrete for salmon fishing Aug. 16. Anglers fishing those sections have a four-salmon daily limit, and no more than two can be wild coho. All chinook and chum must be released.
- **Snohomish River:** Salmon fishing opens Aug. 1 from the mouth of the river to the highway 9 bridge and on Aug. 16 from highway 9 bridge upstream to the confluence of the Skykomish and Snoqualmie rivers. There is a three-salmon daily limit, plus one additional pink salmon. Chinook and chum must be released.
- **Green River:** Salmon fishing opens Aug. 23 from the 1st Ave. South Bridge to Hwy. 99/Tukwila Intl. Blvd. Anglers fishing the Green have a daily limit of six salmon; up to three adult coho and chum (combined) may be retained. Chinook must be released.

Check the [Fish Washington pamphlet](#) for additional details on regulations for these rivers.

On North Puget Sound, anglers can fish for chinook salmon in marine areas 7 (San Juan Islands), 9 (Admiralty Inlet) and 10 (Seattle/Bremerton). Those fishing Marine Area 7 can keep one chinook as part of their two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. They must, however, release wild coho and chum starting Aug. 1.

Anglers should note that those fishing Marine Area 9 (Admiralty Inlet) are allowed to keep only one hatchery chinook as part of their daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon. For more information, see this [recent announcement](#) and the [Fish Washington rules pamphlet](#).

Those fishing Marine Area 10 can keep up to two hatchery chinook – marked with a clipped adipose fin – as part of a two-salmon daily limit, plus two additional pink salmon. Wild chinook must be released. Anglers fishing marine areas 9 and 10 also must release chum salmon. Additional rules apply to Elliot Bay and Sinclair Inlet in Marine Area 10. Anglers are advised to check the [fishing pamphlet](#) starting on page 116 for maps of these regions and for additional details on regulations.

August brings other opportunities in the region to catch and keep salmon. Beginning Aug. 1, marine areas 8-1 (Deception Pass, Hope Island and Skagit Bay) and 8-2 (Port Susan and Port Gardner) open for salmon. Anglers fishing these areas will have a daily limit of two salmon, plus two additional pink salmon, but must release chinook. Within area 8-2, Tulalip Bay at the terminal is open Friday through noon on Mondays and allows the use of two poles for those with a two-pole endorsement.

Check the [Fish Washington rules pamphlet](#) for additional details on current salmon fishing opportunities.

Though many anglers focus on burgeoning opportunities for salmon in mid-to-late summer, August is also a great time to pursue **yellow perch, bass, bluegill** and **catfish** in lowland lakes.

“With warmer water temperatures, anglers should seek deepwater structure such as ledges and weed lines to find warmwater species during the heat of the day,” says Danny Garrett, WDFW lead warmwater fisheries biologist. “In clearer lakes, such as Lake Washington, start your search

for perch and bass in 15 to 20 feet of water. In shallower lakes with stained water, such as Lake Cassidy, look for fish along the weed edge in five to 10 feet of water."

Yellow perch is a species that will bite throughout the day, so perch fishing is a great way to introduce kids to the sport.

Though many **trout** fisheries have slowed with rising water temperatures, anglers in pursuit of trout or **kokanee** are still finding bountiful harvests in deeper Puget Sound lowland waters.

"Try trolling for these fishes below the thermocline with common gear such as wedding rings, woolly buggers, hoochies, and even bare hooks baited with shoepeg corn behind a dodger--usually 12 to 30 inches--at slow speeds," says WDFW trout biologist, Justin Spinelli. "Remember that kokanee, in particular, migrate vertically in the water column as they pursue invertebrates so try various depths until you find the schools."

Trout and kokanee fisheries where success has been reported recently include Lake Stevens (Snohomish County), Lake Meridian (King County), Angle Lake (King County), and American Lake (Pierce County). Anglers can identify other potential fisheries by consulting the [Statewide Hatchery Trout and Kokanee Stocking Plan](#).

To find out more about fishing for these and other species in Washington, visit the [Fish Washington website](#).

South Sound/Olympic Peninsula

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

The surge of summer salmon is upon us, and the smell of smoking fish is already wafting through campgrounds and neighborhoods across the region.

Along with strong numbers of **chinook** and **coho salmon** in the ocean and in protected waters, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) fisheries managers estimate 6.2 million **pink salmon** are flooding into the Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound on their biannual, odd-numbered-years-only spawning run. Many of those scrappy pinks are headed for South Sound rivers.

Doug Milward, WDFW's ocean salmon manager, says Marine Areas 1-4 were very kind to salmon anglers in July. He expects the fishing to be good and perhaps even better in August. Chinook fishing has been outstanding so far this year, according to Milward.

In Marine Area 1 (Ilwaco) and Marine Area 2 (Westport), anglers are allowed two adult salmon, one of which may be a chinook, but are required to release all wild coho. Almost the same daily bag limit applies in Marine Area 3 (La Push) and Marine Area 4 (Neah Bay), except anglers are allowed up to two adult chinook.

In the Strait of Juan de Fuca (marine areas 5 and 6), chinook retention opportunities come to a close on Aug. 15, but hatchery coho and pink salmon options continue into fall. Prior to Aug. 15, anglers may retain two adult salmon, two of which may be chinook, plus two pink salmon. Wild coho, chinook, and chum salmon are all subject to release during summer in marine areas 5 and 6.

The South Sound (marine areas 11-13) is host to many salmon opportunities this August, but they vary within the areas. Check your fishing regulations carefully, and go get 'em!

Opportunities abound for catching and keeping coho, chinook, and pink salmon.

August 2013 is shaping up to be an epic month for the region's salmon anglers, but the opportunities aren't limited to salmon. Marine Area 1 anglers have not yet exhausted their **halibut** quota, which means it's not too late to book a charter or plan a trip to the Port of Ilwaco to fill your freezer with one of the Pacific's most prized fish.

All of Washington's major ocean ports offer good bottomfishing for **rockfish** and **lingcod**, and August is a great and usually gentle time to take to the ocean in search of these firm, white-fleshed fish.

Similarly, **albacore tuna** fishing begins to peak in August, when these sub-tropical, pelagic fish ride warm currents that have flowed delightfully close to shore in recent years. When tuna are

only 25 to 50 miles offshore, charter and private boat operators lick their chops. Shorter runs to the tuna grounds mean less fuel burned and more time fighting these 50-mile-per-hour saltwater rockets.

A variety of river salmon fisheries materialize in August, including the South Sound's pink salmon rivers: the Puyallup and Nisqually. All three streams will receive large returns and will draw large crowds of anglers.

Discussions between WDFW and the Skokomish and Puyallup tribes has resulted in a plan that opens prime areas on both rivers for tribal members and the general public. Before grabbing your salmon rods, check out the news releases describing newly forged regulations for both the [Skokomish](#) and [Puyallup](#).

The region's best hatchery summer **steelhead** streams are the Humptulips and Wynoochee rivers, but summer fishing in these streams is often weather- and temperature-dependent and can be feast or famine. Still, anglers shouldn't overlook these beautiful walk-and-wade rivers. The best strategy for success is to fish high in the river system in areas that are open to fishing. Search for groups of steelhead seeking thermal refuges near springs.

For details on river fishing for salmon and steelhead, including catch and gear limitations, open waters, and allowable fishing days, always check the Washington [sport fishing rules](#) pamphlet before hitting the water.

Trout fishing remains strong in the region's deeper, cooler lakes, despite soaring summer temperatures that make trout lethargic. Lethargy or not, they still have to eat.

Trout in August feed almost exclusively early in the morning, in the evenings, and under cover of darkness. Fish don't like to move much for their meals. As such, the region's still fishers are outperforming trollers. Those still fishing baits like shrimp, nightcrawlers, salmon eggs, and dough baits are doing well, especially near springs that discharge cold water.

North of Olympia, Saint Clair Lake has been especially good to trout anglers this summer, which should continue through August. American, Clear, and Ward lakes also produce good trout fishing during August due to their depth and good water quality.

Region 6 offers some of the Washington's finest **kokanee** fishing, and it should continue to be good in August. Larry Phillips, WDFW district fish biologist, says fishing has been excellent this summer at Summit Lake, where anglers have been catching kokanee to 13 inches. Clear and Ward lakes have been good, too, for fish from 10 to 12 inches.

The popular kokanee fishery at American Lake won't produce many limits this summer, says Phillips, but the fish are large and in excellent condition. American's kokanee are averaging 14-16 inches this year, and Phillips recently received a picture of a 21.5-inch koke from the popular fishery south of Tacoma.

Bruce Bolding, WDFW's Warmwater Fish Program manager, says Region 6 is home to some very good and overlooked bass, panfish, and channel catfish angling.

"We stocked Saint Clair Lake and Lawrence Lake with **channel catfish** for the first time in the fall of 2011, but the fish should be big enough this summer to catch and fillet and have a great meal," said Bolding. "Chambers Lake was also stocked in 2011 but had been previously stocked in the 1990's, so there could be a few really big fish left. Harts Lake in Pierce County was not stocked in 2011, but still has fish from 2005."

Bolding cites eastern Pierce County's Kapowsin, Tanwax, Ohop, and Rapjon lakes as being good for panfish — especially **perch and crappie**. He adds Thurston County's Summit, Long, and Pattison lakes to the list.

For a mix of **largemouth and smallmouth bass**, he advocates the same lakes as above, as well as Kitsap County's Long and Kitsap lakes and Thurston County's Black and Hicks lakes. Munn Lake is a Thurston County selective fishery requiring catch and release and is good for bass and **bluegill**.

Southwest Washington

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

This year's **fall chinook** fishery opens Aug. 1 on the Columbia River, where a strong run of upriver brights is expected to exceed both the 10-year average and last year's return. Of the 678,000 "falls" included in the pre-season forecast, about 434,000 are projected to be upriver brights, which are expected to return in the largest numbers since record keeping began in 1964.

Those chinook salmon – along with the chance to catch **hatchery coho** and **summer steelhead** – should make August a great time to fish the lower Columbia River, said Joe Hymer, a fish biologist for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

"We're definitely expecting a big angler turnout for these fisheries," Hymer said. "The fall chinook should pick up quickly through the month of August, and the upriver brights tend to keep biting as they move upriver."

Although the opener for the fall chinook will extend upriver as far as Priest Rapids Dam, most of the action during the first few weeks focuses on the popular **Buoy 10 fishery** in the lower 16 miles of the river. Fishery managers estimate that anglers will catch nearly 20,000 chinook salmon in those waters by the end of the day Sept. 1, after which the retention fishery for chinook in the Buoy 10 area will close for the remainder of September. Anglers are also expected to catch 13,000 coho in that area by the time that fishery closes at the end of the year. The daily limit for the Buoy 10 fishery is two salmon, two hatchery steelhead, or one of each. But through Sept. 1, only one of those salmon may be a chinook (marked or unmarked). For steelhead and coho, only fish marked with a missing adipose fin and a healed scar may be retained.

Barbless hooks are required when fishing for salmon and steelhead on the mainstem Columbia River and many of its tributaries.

Additional rules for the Buoy 10 area and waters farther upriver are described in WDFW's [Fishing in Washington](#) pamphlet. Bank anglers planning to fish near the mouth of the Columbia River should be aware they will need to purchase a Discover Pass to park on State Parks property near the North Jetty. The vehicle-access pass anglers receive with their fishing license only substitutes for a Discover Pass on WDFW lands.

By mid-to-late August, the bulk of the chinook run usually begins to move upstream with increasing numbers of coho moving in behind them. For anglers following upriver brights upstream, Hymer recommends fishing deep, between 40 and 50 feet down. For a lure, he suggests wobblers anchored with a heavy weight.

"Chinook go deep when water temperatures are high, so that's a good place to find them," Hymer said. "At the same time, anglers should take care not to drop anchor in the shipping channel. That can lead to real trouble."

Hatchery coho are expected to make a stronger showing this year, helping to round out anglers' daily limits. WDFW currently expects about 434,000 coho to return this year – three times more than last year's return and similar to the recent 10-year average. Hymer said coho salmon usually bite best at Buoy 10 on herring and spinners, and later on bait and lures in the tributaries.

Meanwhile, plenty of **hatchery steelhead** are also available for harvest, said Hymer, noting that the smaller "A-run" fish should keep biting through mid-August. By then, the larger "B-run" steelhead – many weighing in the teens – will start arriving to pick up the slack. Together, returns of both runs are expected to total 322,000 fish, on par with the recent 10-year average. The procession of fall chinook, coho and hatchery steelhead should also provide good fishing on area tributaries for months to come, Hymer said. Like the mainstem Columbia River, most tributaries open for fall chinook Aug. 1, although those fisheries usually don't take off until September. For steelhead, Drano Lake and the Wind River are good popular spots to cast for migrating fish dipping into cooler waters.

The White Salmon River has historically been another productive dip-in fishery, but how the fish will respond after Condit Dam was breached in late 2011 remains to be seen.

Like last year, anglers will be allowed to retain up to six adult hatchery coho on all tributaries to the lower Columbia River with hatchery programs. Those rivers include the Cowlitz, Deep, Elochoman, Grays (including West Fork), Kalama, Klickitat, Lewis (including North Fork), Toutle (including Green and North Fork) and Washougal.

Unlike the mainstem Columbia River, chinook retention is limited to marked hatchery fish on those river systems, except on the Klickitat and Deep rivers where unmarked chinook can also be retained. Mark-selective fisheries also will be in effect on the Wind and White Salmon rivers. Any fall chinook and coho may be retained at Drano Lake beginning Aug. 1 and any chinook on the North Fork Lewis River beginning in October. Anglers are advised to check the [Fishing in Washington rules pamphlet](#) and any [emergency rules](#) applicable to specific waters before leaving home.

Of course, salmon and steelhead aren't the only fish available for harvest in August. **Walleye** fishing can be good in the Columbia River near Camas, as well as in The Dalles and John Day Pools. **Bass** fishing is also heating up from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam. Anglers can also retain sturgeon measuring 43 to 54 inches in The Dalles Pool until the guideline has been reached.

For **trout**, the high lakes in the Cascades offer unparalleled fishing experiences for those willing to brave the mosquitoes. Wilderness areas around Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens are now accessible with the snowmelt.

A couple of drive-up lakes to check out are Council and Takhlakh Lake on the northwest side of Mt. Adams. Council was stocked July 8 with 3,000 rainbow catchable trout weighing half-a-pound each. Takhlakh was planted on June 24 with 3,000 catchables, along with 150 rainbows weighing almost 3.5 pounds each.

Eastern Washington

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

Fishing in August can sometimes be slow, due to higher daytime water and air temperatures. But anglers fishing early in the morning, late in the evening, or on days with lots of cloud cover can have success this time of year.

Randy Osborne, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) central district fish biologist in Spokane, says mixed species waters are a good bet. Anglers can find **yellow perch**, **largemouth** and **smallmouth bass**, and **crappie**, along with some trout, at Coffeepot Lake in Lincoln County, Downs Lakes in southwest Spokane County, Newman, Silver, and Liberty lakes in eastern Spokane County, Eloika Lake in north Spokane County, and the Spokane River reservoir of Long Lake (or Lake Spokane).

Osborne says some of the best **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** lakes close to Spokane are Amber, Clear, Williams, and West Medical lakes in Spokane County, and Fishtrap Lake in Lincoln County. The lower Spokane River has nice rainbows and browns, but river anglers need to be aware of catch limits, gear restrictions, and other rules listed in the fishing pamphlet.

Bill Baker, WDFW northeast district fish biologist in Colville, said **kokanee** fishing should be productive in August at Loon Lake in southern Stevens County. "Most anglers there are fishing during the evening with glow hooks and other gear," he said. "But trolling during the day should also be good."

Baker notes that kokanee can also be had in a few other northeast district waters including Bead, Sullivan, and Davis lakes in Pend Oreille County and Pierre and Deep lakes in Stevens County. Deep Lake should produce 12- inch-plus kokanee.

"I've also heard anglers are catching some kokanee in the lower portion of Lake Roosevelt," Baker said. "They're also doing well on rainbows in the reservoir. **Walleye** fishing at Roosevelt has been fair, with somewhat lower success rates for most anglers compared to the last couple of years."

Baker suggests fishing for trout (rainbow, cutthroat, brook and tiger) in higher elevation lakes on U.S. Forest Service property throughout August. Davis, Ellen, Empire, and Ferry lakes are good bets in Ferry County. In Stevens County, Black, Little Twin, and Summit lakes should be good producers. In Pend Oreille County, anglers should find good fishing at Carl's, Frater, Halfmoon, Mystic, North and South Skookum, Petit, and Yokum lakes.

Glen Mendel, WDFW southeast district fish biologist in Dayton, reminds anglers that **steelhead** fishing on the Snake River is open for retention of hatchery-marked fish in August this year. Mendel notes that steelhead numbers are rapidly increasing at the Columbia and Snake River dams.

"The return of **fall chinook salmon** to the Snake is expected to be a 30 to 40 year record number this year and also very good in the mid-Columbia River region overall," Mendel said. "We are considering an opening, so anglers should watch for an announcement on our website."

WDFW Wooten Wildlife Area Manager Kari Dingman said the Tucannon River impoundments on the area are a bit "warm and green." Some folks are still fishing them, she says, but many more are fishing the river during warmer weather.

Mendel reminds river anglers and other recreationists not to build rock or log dams across rivers and streams because it prevents bull trout and other species from moving upstream and downstream. "Every year we have new rock dams in August and early September that block bull trout migration and sometimes trap and kill them," Mendel said. "Bull trout and spring chinook are very vulnerable at this time of year in low water, sometimes in marginal water temperatures. Neither can be legally harvested or harassed."

Northcentral Washington

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

The Wenatchee River **hatchery summer chinook salmon** fishery opens Aug. 1 from the mouth to 400 feet below Dryden Dam. Travis Maitland, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Chelan district fish biologist, notes that on Sept. 1 the fishery extends to the Icicle River Road Bridge (Hwy. 2 at Leavenworth) and runs through Sept. 30. See all the details for this fishery in the [rules pamphlet](#).

Maitland reports another Lake Wenatchee **sockeye salmon** fishery is being considered. Anglers should watch WDFW's website for an official [emergency rule change](#).

Meanwhile, sockeye salmon fishing has picked up considerably in the Columbia River near Brewster, said Bob Jateff, WDFW Okanogan district fish biologist in Twisp. Effort has been good with catch rates of one to two fish per angler. Chinook salmon are also being caught, but in much smaller numbers.

Jateff also notes the section of the Columbia River from Wells Dam upstream to the Hwy. 173 Bridge in Brewster has been open to salmon fishing since July 16. Anglers are required to release any sockeye or **chinook** with a colored anchor (floy) tag located just below the dorsal fin. "Most of the sockeye are running smaller this year, in the 1- to 3-pound range with some larger adults up to 5 pounds," Jateff said. "The chinook are averaging 10 to 15 pounds."

Jateff said fishing in the Methow River is good with flows leveling out due to earlier than normal snow melt. Selective gear rules are in effect and no bait is allowed. The open area of the Methow extends from the Lower Burma Road Bridge (below the town of Methow) upstream to the Weeman Bridge (eight miles north of Winthrop). "With warmer water conditions expected during the month of August, anglers should be very careful in playing and releasing fish during that time," Jateff said. "It's best to play the fish as quickly as possible and to not remove it from the water."

Jateff notes there are two sections of the Twisp and Chewuch rivers that are open to catch-and-release trout fishing. The Twisp is open from the mouth upstream to War Creek, and the Chewuch is open from the mouth upstream to Eight Mile Creek. Anglers should check the current sportfishing rules pamphlet as all of these open areas have varying closure dates. Anglers can

expect resident **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout** in the 8- to 16-inch range, along with **whitefish** up to 18 inches.

Jateff also says it's a good time to fish the smaller tributaries within the Methow River drainage as river and small creek flows recede. Boulder, Falls, and Eightmile creeks are all within easy driving distance from Winthrop and provide good fishing for eastern brook trout. Daily limit is five **brook trout** in Falls and Eightmile Creeks, no minimum size and bait is allowed. In Boulder Creek the daily limit for brook trout is 10, no minimum size and bait is allowed. In the Beaver Creek drainage, anglers can retain five brook trout, no minimum size, selective gear rules required, and no bait allowed.

Southcentral Washington

(Benton, Franklin, Kittitas and Yakima counties)

Columbia and Snake River **walleye** fishing has been excellent this summer and is expected to remain strong throughout August. Paul Hoffarth, a fish biologist for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), said the best catches have come from Lake Umatilla -- the 67 miles of the Columbia River between John Day and McNary Dams. Angling upstream of McNary for the toothy fish has also been good.

Walleye are also numerous and active during August on the Hanford Reach of the Columbia and on the lower portions of the Snake River, especially below Ice Harbor Dam. Most anglers use diving plugs, jigs, blade baits, or 'crawler harnesses to catch them.

Hoffarth reminds anglers that there is no minimum size limit and no limit on the number of walleye you can keep upstream of the Washington-Oregon border (17 miles upstream of McNary Dam). Below the state line (downstream), there is a daily limit of 10 fish, only five of which can measure over 18 inches and only one of which can be over 24 inches.

Rather fish for **smallmouth bass**? During August they swim deep, but the fishing can be good for those in-the-know. Trolling with deep-diving plugs and fine-diameter braided lines 150 to 200 feet behind the boat allows anglers to get their plugs down to the fish. Smallmouth usually run even deeper than walleye during the burning heat and gentle flows of summer.

Mid-river humps and bars from 30-45 feet in depth tend to attract large concentrations of mature smallmouth during August. Along with trolling these areas, vertical jigging with blade baits and soft-plastic jigs is also very effective. As with walleye, Hoffarth says there is no limit on the number or the size of smallmouth bass anglers can keep in the Columbia River or its tributaries above the Washington-Oregon state line. Below the state line, anglers can keep a daily limit of five smallmouth bass, only three of which can exceed 15 inches.

Anglers tend to catch both species at the same time, as well as occasional chinook salmon, coho salmon, and steelhead. To retain salmon and adipose-fin-clipped steelhead caught accidentally while fishing for walleye or smallmouth, anglers must use barbless hooks. Starting Aug. 1, both fall chinook and coho with intact adipose fins may be retained.

Hoffarth reports **sturgeon** are still biting on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, but July 31 was the last day for retention fishing on Lake Wallula and the Snake River below Ice Harbor Dam. Lake Umatilla switched to catch-and-release-only on June 29. Sturgeon sanctuaries (located below many of the dams) remain off-limits to anglers until Aug. 1 when a catch-and-release season opens.

Fishery managers are projecting a strong run of 339,200 summer-run **steelhead** over Bonneville Dam this year, many bound for the Snake River and the mid to upper Columbia River. The Snake and areas of the Columbia opened for hatchery steelhead fishing June 16 this year, including the stretch from Bonneville to the Highway 395 bridge in Kennewick.

WDFW will open the area of the Columbia River from the Highway 395 bridge to the old Hanford town site Oct. 1, earlier if the run comes in stronger or earlier than expected. Look for announcements on the [WDFW website](http://www.WDFW.com).

Steelhead fishing in southcentral Washington can be tough during summer due to sunny conditions and high water temperatures, even when large numbers of fish are moving

upriver. Fishing very early in the morning or from dusk into darkness increases the odds of hooking up with these temperature-sensitive fish.

Night fishing with black or lighted plugs can be very productive and is both legal and popular above McNary Dam on Oregon's and Washington's halves of the river. A night closure is in effect below McNary on Oregon's half of the river, so anglers must remain on Washington's side of the river channel to stay legal.

Anglers can also look forward to great fishing for **fall chinook salmon** in the weeks ahead. A strong run of 677,900 is expected to return to the Columbia this year, including 432,500 "upriver brights" expected to cross McNary Dam – many headed for the Hanford Reach. Chinook should start biting at the end of August with the fishing improving and peaking in late September and early October.

Further north in Region 3, spring chinook fishing closed July 15 on the Upper Yakima River between Union Gap and Roza Dam after a strong season, said Eric Anderson, a WDFW fish biologist in Yakima.

"Catch rates for springers were highest during June and tapered off during early July," says Anderson. "Now anglers are looking ahead to the fishery for fall chinook in the Columbia River and lower Yakima."

Salmon fishing will be allowed from Sept. 1 to Oct. 22 for fall chinook in the lower Yakima in an area stretching from Prosser Dam to the river's mouth at the Highway 240 bridge in Richland. Catch rates can soar once the Yakima's waters cool enough to draw fish out of the colder water of the Columbia River, but that often doesn't occur until late September or early October. Nonetheless, throughout August, a combination of upper-Columbia summer chinook and early arriving fall chinook bound for the Hanford Reach and the Yakima River will hold at the Yakima's mouth near Bateman Island in Tri-Cities. This fishery has been popular in recent years. Water levels have now dropped in streams flowing into the upper Yakima and Naches rivers and their tributaries, said Anderson, providing excellent fishing conditions for wild **rainbow** and **cutthroat trout**. Anglers should be sure to check the regulations for those streams and to release all salmon, bull trout, and steelhead.

In the Cascade Mountains, ice has now melted from alpine lakes, and anglers looking to beat the heat are headed for the high country. WDFW stocks many hike-in lakes around White Pass, Chinook Pass, and Snoqualmie Pass with **rainbow and cutthroat trout**; others have naturally reproducing **eastern brook trout** populations.

For more information on fishing the high lakes in south-central Washington, Anderson suggested anglers check out the [high lakes stocking list](#) for the past several years to get ideas on where to go. Hikers and anglers can check trail conditions with U.S. Forest Service offices in Naches and Cle Elum before heading out.

Anderson adds that anglers seeking boating or drive-up shore fishing opportunities will find good fishing is still available in August for planted trout at Clear and Dog Lakes in the White Pass area. Also near White Pass, Rimrock Lake is kicking out limits of 16 **kokanee** averaging almost 10 inches. The fish are deep, but they can be found all over the lake. Very slow trolling with pop gear (gang trolls) or dodgers followed by a wedding ring spinner baited with maggots or tuna-scented shoe-peg corn is very effective. Kokanee are also available in August at Kachess, Keechelus & Cle Elum Lakes off Interstate 90, and fishing is good for both kokanee and cutthroat at Bumping Lake off Highway 410.

The daily combined trout and kokanee limit has been reduced to five fish at Cle Elum Lake in an effort to protect rebounding stocks of sockeye salmon. Since juvenile sockeye remain in the lake for two or more years before migrating to sea and are nearly indistinguishable from kokanee, reducing the kokanee bag limit reduces impacts on sensitive sockeye smolts.

Whether in Cle Elum Lake or elsewhere in the Yakima River Basin, Anderson reminds anglers that bull trout caught inadvertently while fishing for other species must be released unharmed.

"There are very stiff penalties for catching and keeping a bull trout," says Anderson.

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<http://www.grindtv.com/outdoor/excursions/post/german-fisherman-catches-world-record-515-pound-atlantic-halibut/>

McKenzie River Two Fly Tournament:

<http://oregonflyfishingblog.com/2013/08/16/sixth-annual-mckenzie-river-two-fly-tournament/>

GOOD LUCK!