

The Guide's Forecast - volume 15 issue number 42

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 11<sup>th</sup> – October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** - Fishing for chinook salmon below Bonneville Dam has dropped off a bit, as have the counts over the dam. The peak of the run has now passed and more sporadic fishing should be expected for the next few weeks. However, fish are still being caught and some good days are still in order for back trollers and anchor fishermen alike.

The Willamette River holds some opportunity for coho salmon at the mouth of the Clackamas, but hot fishing is not likely. As the water clears from last week's storm, bass and walleye fishing will pick up for the season's finale. The section from Ross Island to Lake Oswego should fish best for smallmouth bass and the Multnomah Channel will be the go-to spot for late season walleye.

The entire McKenzie River is fishing very well for fly anglers. Large reddsides have been looking up lately, creating exciting opportunities for dry patterns. In the absence of surface activity, nymphs have been effective.

Thanks to thousands of coho which have passed over Willamette Falls, these fish far outnumber steelhead on the North Santiam. Fishing for coho has been fair to good at times.

The Clackamas River has dropped into prime shape for early fall coho fishing, but the numbers of fish available are disappointing. A few pods of fish scoot by from time to time but relatively few get caught. Clackamas coho are notorious for being non-biters, but with fewer hatchery fish planted in the last few years, the outlook for decent action is mediocre at best. Anglers intent on trying for the random coho would be well advised to spend their time near and in Eagle Creek.

The Sandy River offers better opportunity for coho and chinook salmon than the Clack. Best action for coho would be from Oxbow Park up to Cedar Creek and the few chinook salmon that are available, would be better sought after down low in the system. Chinook are mixed stock, with both darker tules and a few brighter "quality" fish.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will host a Family Fishing Event Saturday, Oct. 12 at Mt. Hood Pond in Gresham. The event is free and open to anglers of all ages. ODFW staff and volunteers will help participants learn how to set up tackle, cast and land fish.

Hagg Lake closes for the season on November 24th but will be open year 'round starting in 2014.

**Northwest** – North Coast fishing, particularly in Tillamook Bay have been nothing short of epic. Anglers working Tillamook Bay, as well as the lower reaches of the Wilson and Trask Rivers are realizing catches that haven't been witnessed in many years. In Tillamook Bay itself, the west channel produced many boat limits last weekend and although it has dropped off, remains a strong option. Todd Liebow of Portland took his 2-fish limit on Sunday; a 25-pounder from Bay City and a 16-pounder from the West Channel on trolled herring. The Ghost Hole is still producing good catches too, especially around the last part of outgoing tide and the first part of incoming. The middle and upper bay is also producing consistent results and could pick up when the morning tide series intensifies over the weekend.

Bobber fishing in the lower Wilson is excellent and last week's high water produced excellent catches for driftboaters over the weekend on the Trask and Nestucca Rivers as well. River levels are expected to

remain stable but the strong early showing of Wilson and Kilchis River chinook are an indication that Tillamook area anglers will likely have good fishing well into Thanksgiving.

The Nehalem River has had an epic run as well although fishing tapered with the recent high water. The system should be well primed for the weekend however as the run is sure to continue well into October. The North Fork Nehalem hatchery reports fair coho fishing, particularly from the handicap platform although the bite is likely to taper.

Crabbing has picked up in some coastal estuaries, likely due to the fall crab spawn approaching. Ocean crabbing may be an option over the weekend if the calming trend continues. Deep-reef bottomfishing will also be productive for lingcod and sea bass out of Garibaldi.

**Southwest**- Without depth restrictions as of October 1, offshore boats have been taking limits of lingcod out of Newport and Depoe Bay. Nearshore bottom fishing has been excellent. Ocean crabbing remains rewarding but will close at the end of day on October 15th.

Long-range offshore forecasts predict a moderating trend into the coming weekend with mild swells at manageable duration and coastal winds becoming breezes.

Chinook fishing has been good on the Umpqua River bar. Hatchery coho may be kept anywhere on the Umpqua, wild coho are legal to take below the Scottsburg Bridge. The North Umpqua is producing some steelhead but be prepared to find campgrounds such as Fisherman's Bend and Susan Creek closed and locked.

Trollers on Rogue Bay have had some good days over the past week, landing both chinook and coho. About 15% of the coho have been hatchery keepers however. Anglers are still waiting for decent numbers of Indian Creek chinook to show. These fish are due to show any day now. Adult steelhead and half-pounders are being taken at Agness with best results early and late in the day. Now that chinook fishing is closed on the middle Rogue, anglers are targeting steelhead with fair results. Drifting flies for steelhead holding below spawning chinook has been an effective technique on the upper Rogue.

When trollers have been able to get out for the Chetco Bubble fishery, it has not disappointed. Plenty of 20 pounders have been landed and a few have topped 30. Cut-plug purple label herring has been most effective. This fishery will remain open through Sunday, October 13. Fishing is closed above River Mile 2.2 until November 2nd although an early opener of the waters above may occur if flows justify doing so in mid to late October.

The mouth of the Elk River produced chinook earlier this week despite low, clear water conditions.

Despite lower water temperatures at Diamond Lake, fishing remains only fair at best. Try the south end with Power Bait or night crawlers.

**Eastern** – Following a spike in water levels at the end of September, the lower Deschutes has returned to stable flows. Steelheading and trout fishing are worthwhile.

Trout to 14-inches or better have been responding to October Caddis patterns on the Wallowa River.

Steelhead are bound for the Imnaha and Grande Ronde Rivers at the 10-year average which means better numbers this season than last.

**SW Washington-** The Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis Rivers are all producing fair to good catches of chinook and coho with the Lewis the bright spot for quality chinook. Action is likely to continue through October although the quality of fish will degrade rapidly on some of these systems.

The Klickitat River, especially near the mouth, remains a great option for late season chinook and coho are starting to show as well. With chinook making up the primary catch and coho numbers down, this fishery will slow after mid-month.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Not that there is any great interest in the lower reaches of the Columbia River these days but the lower river is really over. Between a rigorous tooth tangle-net fishery for coho and a turbid river from all the recent run-off, the bite has dramatically slowed for what few late-run coho were there in the first place. It was an over-all air ball for lower Columbia River coho this year despite some bright spots, albeit brief in this fall fishery. The latest reports came from Tuesday, when one guide reported landing just a single coho, and it was wild. Another guide reported no bites for a few quality hours of effort, only to leave the river coho grounds and head to the jetty for a plethora of bottomfish, catches in the mid-thirties actually. Put a fork in it, the salmon fishery is over.

Crabbing effort is somewhat light as well. With folks still focused on chinook fishing elsewhere, most are saving the crabbing for next month.

There is still some late-season effort upstream near Longview, where anchor anglers and spinner trollers are still taking a few fish. What few anglers still fishing this area, are trolling spinners or herring behind flashers and coming up with fairly consistent results. Anchor anglers are having a harder time of it and will likely become even more challenged when the tide exchange slows this weekend.

**Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "Boaters and bank anglers are still getting fall Chinook below Bonneville Dam, but the consistency has dipped. Since Monday the counts of adult Chinook over the ladders has been between 2 and 4 thousand, signaling that the peak of the run has passed us by. Fishermen are also having to sort through fish to get a quality fish for the smoker. At some point very soon the question of: whether or not to fish on these spawning fish has to be asked. Many of the fish below the dam are ripening and will spawn right there in the coming weeks."

**The Guide's Forecast** – With the Buoy 10 fishery effectively over, it's time to look other places unless crabbing is high on your priority list. This should be a good weekend for crabbing out of Hammond.

For those still seeking chinook and an occasional coho, trolling spinners or small herring may still produce some action into mid-month around the mouths of the Lewis, Cowlitz and upstream on the mainstem. You'll have to experiment with hardware or bait but bait seems to be most effective this year. The weather should offer up some fair opportunity this weekend.

If you watch the weather, you may be able to take advantage of the soft tides around the jetty for bottomfish this weekend. Target bass in the shallower water along the jetty during the ebb tide but move out to the sunken jetty when you near slack tide. The action should be good.

**Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, "Expect fishing for late Chinook to drop off in the coming weeks. The quality of the fish is already dropping off and hopefully anglers take notice and give these fish a break for greener pastures down at the coast."

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "On the Willamette River, little is happening other than the random coho caught at

the mouth of the Clackamas. Bank anglers cast spinners and plugs in hope of hooking into the occasional fish and boaters back-troll or upstream troll plugs along Meldrum Bar. Either way, its peaceful and uncrowded and you will have plenty of time to ponder life between hook-ups. Above the falls, a few more are getting caught at the mouth of the Tualatin River. Anglers are casting or upstream trolling fire tiger wiggle warts and Brad's Wigglers. further downstream, conditions are great for late season smallmouth bass fishing and anglers intent on getting after some bass should enjoy the mild fall weather and the room to play. Crank-baits are a great searching bait when lots of water has to be covered to locate fish. Deep divers in bright colors with rattles are the best bet. Work rocky shorelines, rows of pilings and seams adjacent to cover for fall smallies. Conditions are also ideal for late season walleye in the Multnomah Channel. Worm harnesses trolled either upstream or downstream along 12-20 foot line will entice any October walleye. A chartreuse spinner blade or spin n glow in front of your worm is a favorite this time of year. Saturday October 19th is the last "open for retention" sturgeon day on the books for the lower Willamette. Anglers wishing to keep their last gator of 2013 (and beyond) should plan their attack."

Following a solid hit from storms early in the month, the McKenzie River has been slowly but steadily dropping back into shape. This week, anglers will find it stable and exhibiting excellent color. Fall trout fishing has been producing redsides which mimic steelhead in several ways; color, size and fighting ability on the end of a line come to mind.

Waters of the North Santiam have been dropping and clearing for a week. Conditions are decent for dishing as levels will continue to moderate as fresh coho enter daily by the hundreds.

All the boats being offered for rent at Henry Hagg are now available on Craigslist. In addition, the lunch trailer and all related items and equipment are up for sale according to an ad appearing on October 10th. The owner is closing shop after 23 years.

Henry Hagg will be planter with 8,000 hatchery trout this week in the last stocking of the year. In spring, 2014, the lake will open and remain so year-around.

Other locations being planted with trout this week include Alton Baker Canal, Detroit Reservoir, Walling Pond, Walter Wirth Lake and Mt Hood Pond.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, The Willamette River is quickly transitioning into its fall/winter dormancy. As the weather begins to deteriorate, there is little to give itself up till the winter sturgeon fishery in the harbor starts to unfold and the first of the spring salmon arrive sometime in January."

The McKenzie will fish best in a drizzle or during those frequent dry but cloudy fall days with which Oregon is often blessed. There's no right spit to fish at this time of year as the upper and lower Mac are producing well as is the Willamette below it. Dries will often be effective in low light conditions but carry standard nymph patterns to cover every eventuality.

2009 and 2010 were banner years for coho passage at Willamette Falls as counts exceeded 20,000. But the way it's going, 2013 is shaping up to another for the record books. One ODFW biologist quipped that the numbers of coho counted at Willamette Falls over the past couple of weeks exceeded counts normally seen in an entire year. Coho passing over the Falls are considered naturally-produced natives as hatchery stocks have not been released in the upper Willamette for about 15 years. The daily bag limit is two fish. Most upstream anglers target coho with plugs or spinners at the mouths of tributaries but the best chance of a river fish will be on the North Santiam.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** reports, "Coho fishing on the Clackamas River has been a disappointment to most anglers who have tried. The occasional fish is caught when a pod rolls through but biters are in-frequent and the sheer numbers of fish are way down from past years. Until the state decides to rebuild this fishery by planting a sufficient number of fish to achieve a viable return, you might be better served by looking elsewhere for coho. Eagle Creek has some fish in it but the water is getting low, they are scattered and make their way up to the hatchery in a hurry.

"The Sandy is putting out coho, especially in the upper stretch near Cedar Creek. After the first rains happen, the fish consistently make a B-line for the hatchery wasting little time in the lower river. Anglers casting spinners and spoons will do the best, but some still prefer drifting roe, either under a bobber or bounced along the bottom with slinkies. A few Chinook are also encountered by anglers fishing the heads of the deep pools. Most are darker Tules but the odd fish is of a brighter strain."

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** predicts, Water conditions are ideal, but the Clackamas River has little to offer other than the occasional coho salmon. The next rain coming this weekend should bring some fish into Eagle Creek.

"Near perfect water conditions on the Sandy River should give anglers a good shot at hatchery coho in the upper stretch below Cedar Creek. The rain expected this weekend shouldn't amount to much, only enough to keep the water flowing at an optimum level."

**North Coast Fishing Report** – Some of the best fishing I have ever witnessed in Tillamook Bay took place over the weekend. As we mentioned in last week's Forecast section, the West Channel lit up and produced ample numbers of chinook throughout the extensive ditch. Chinook dominated the catch and many boats took limits on Friday and Saturday with relative ease. The bite really started over there on Thursday but blew up on Friday and Saturday where we took 8 chinook and a coho on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and 10 chinook on the 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday), all in the west channel. Fish were taking herring and spinners and I even heard of fish taken there recently on plugs! All told, between Friday and Sunday, we harvested 24 chinook and one coho, all on herring. The best bite continued to be from the first part of incoming tide through the first part of outgoing tide and that's it. That is plenty of time to take a limit however and many, many 2-fish limits were taken.

And while the bloodbath in the west channel was going on, action remained pretty good on the east side of the bay between Hobsonville Point and the upper Ghost Hole. Trollers were taking fish there on the early part of the incoming tide on that side of the bay as well. The best action however, was certainly in the west channel.

More recently, catches have slowed but Tillamook Bay remains the top option for good catches in the area. The Ghost Hole produced consistent catches both on the morning outgoing and the afternoon incoming on Tuesday but to a much lesser extent on Wednesday. The West Channel did produce fair catches again on Wednesday afternoon but not nearly as consistent as last weekend. It seemed to dramatically slow down on the last half of incoming tide. Boaters can however, troll the upper end of the west channel, in the shallows (8 to 10 foot on high tide) and expect a reasonable chance at a biter near high tide. Spinners are still working in the West Channel but it seems that unless you're fishing multiple rods, you should stick to herring; blue label in fact. There are also fish available at Bay City for brief periods of the day. Lately the outgoing tide has been producing better than the incoming. The upper bay remains more sporadic but Ray's Place Piling is producing a few fish close to high slack. Memaloose is not fishing consistently right now.

There seem to be some sturgeon in Tillamook Bay right now. Although anglers remain focused on salmon

(and justifiably so), the numbers of sturgeon we're seeing jumping and the few that are being snagged, seem to indicate that there may be a good fall run starting pretty soon. Only time will tell as I see no one in pursuit of them right now.

Bobber tossers working the tidewater stretches of the lower Trask and Wilson Rivers are doing very well. Overall, since the major rainstorm, action has been great and with the Wilson River fishery taking off already, it's a good sign that we'll have ample numbers of fish well into November. Most bobber fishers are working the Wilson downstream of Highway 101 but fish should be distributed throughout tidewater. Driftboaters over the weekend did very well on the Wilson for this early, signifying that there are great numbers of fish returning to this system this year (for a change). The Kilchis also fished well early last week so we're in for a good November. Good reports are also coming throughout the Trask Basin. Driftboaters did well over the weekend and tidewater bobber fishers continue to produce good catches into this week. Fresh fish should be available on the current strong tide series and given the fact that the river is still holding good flow although it's scheduled to drop into the weekend.

The Nestucca also reportedly had a good weekend with anglers now working the lowest reaches of the estuary again but fish should be available throughout the open reaches (downstream of 1<sup>st</sup> Bridge).

The Nehalem system has finally picked back up again, after a brief hiatus following the strong weather front that blew the system out last week. The color is good and action remains good for the few anglers still fishing the system. Wheeler and upstream to Nehalem produced fairly good for the guide fleet on Tuesday. Trolled herring in the high water and strong incoming push is the obvious choice. The North Fork Nehalem has already dropped back down to low levels and action for coho has slowed although anglers working the handicap dock are still scoring fair results, especially in the early morning. This fishery typically starts to die down after mid-month but with the whooper return they've experienced this season, it could easily go on for longer.

The ocean has been closed and for good reason. On Wednesday, it started off with a 40 foot restriction, down to 30 foot and then no restriction at all by the afternoon. It should fish well on Thursday morning but blow back up again by Friday. Maybe the crabbing will pick up as well as we near fall spawning time. Tillamook Bay seems to be picking up as well. Maybe by the weekend, it will be worthwhile again.

Although no reports have come in on how the Clatsop Beach razor clam digs have gone, SW Washington diggers were scoring good numbers of keeper clams. No doubt, as the surf dropped down, the action picked up. The next tide series will be starting around mid-month.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Although it's likely that we've seen the best fishing of the season (mostly because it's hard to believe that it can ever get that EPIC again), there should still be lots of great action for the remainder of the fall season here in Tillamook. What's particularly exciting, is the early season showing of Wilson River fish. Typically not showing in great numbers until mid-October, the early showing is a good indicator that there will be a lot of fish still to come to the system. It's highly unlikely that the mother lode of Wilson fish has come and gone as everyone seems to know that these fish come back in their best numbers from mid-October through mid-November. Here's what's on tap for the Tillamook area systems this weekend:

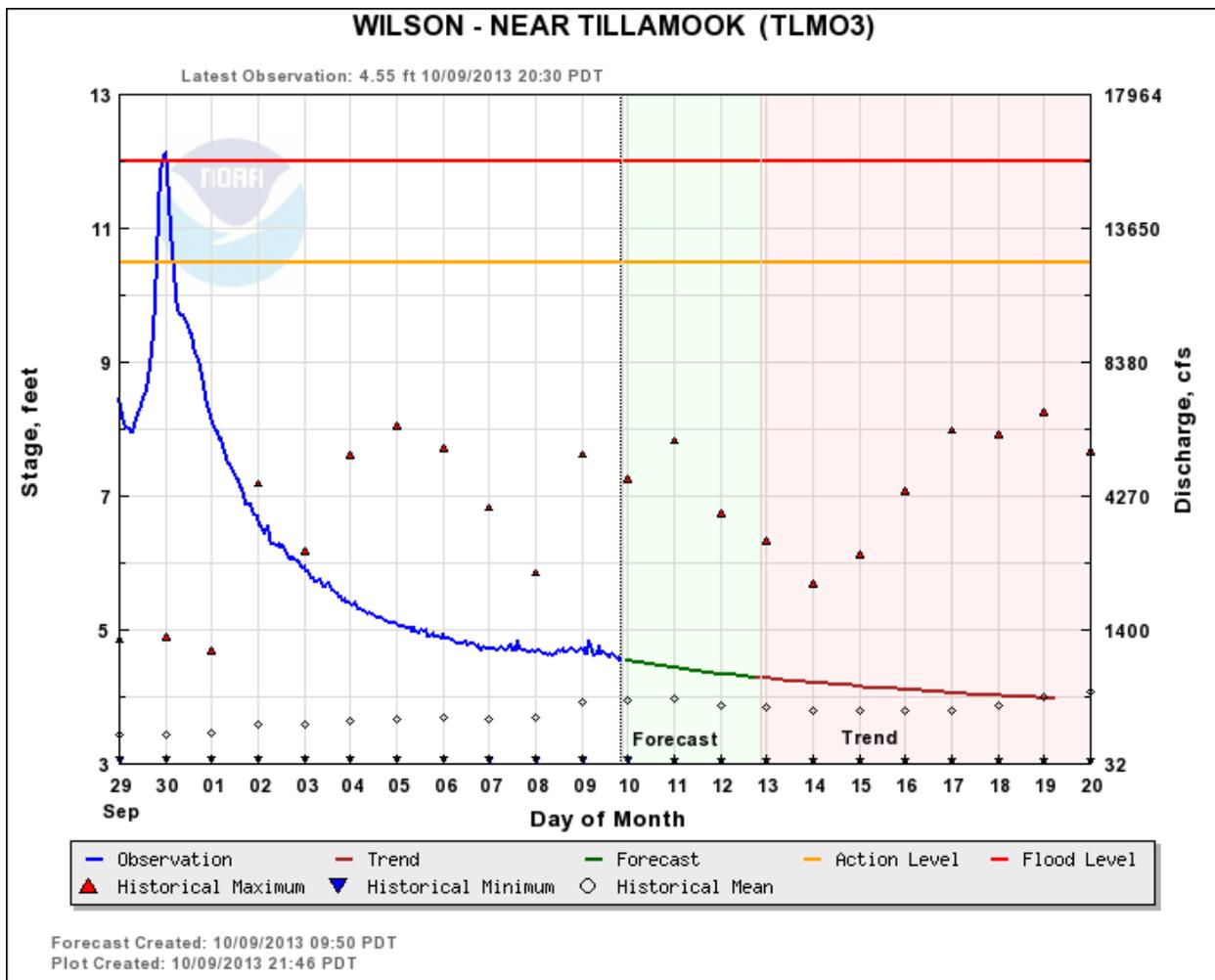
Tillamook Bay – The bay is likely to continue to produce good catches, just not as good as they were last weekend. I may have over-used the work "EPIC", well, maybe not. It was EPIC! Like last weekend, action is likely to continue in the West Channel and of course, the Ghost Hole has been producing all season. That likely won't change. With the weak incoming morning tide, don't look for a strong push of fish to make it to the upper bay anytime soon. The stronger push will come in the late afternoon but it's still best to take advantage of that tide in the lower reaches. Sorry, don't look to the ocean for any great opportunity until maybe Sunday but that's certainly subject to change (as the weather does). Herring will

only get more productive as the water temperatures cool but spinners are still taking a fair number of fish in the middle bay and West Channel. Don't overlook Bay City either, particularly near high and low tides. The soft outgoing tide along the jetty didn't produce all that well on Wednesday but it may improve by the weekend when we see just little 3 and 4-foot run-out tides in the late morning. Keep your herring fishing near the bottom, especially in the shallower water of the middle and upper bay.

Crabbing could pick up in the estuary this weekend but the ocean should be well primed for good crabbing as we near the fall spawn. The ocean has likely cooled down as well which should also help the ocean crabbing.

Tidewater of the Trask and Wilson Rivers- Both should continue to produce some catches but with the waning tide series, new fish may not make such an entrance. The long term trend is for the rivers to continue to drop, which certainly won't stimulate much migration in the near future. Tidewater anglers will be fishing on older fish so use your discretion when choosing which fish to take. Don't take a dark hen, just to take a hen. The softer tides however may prolong the low slack bite and fish may be more receptive to biting throughout the incoming tide as well. The ditch that runs between the Trask and Tillamook Rivers should also be holding fair numbers of fish. Use smaller baits in the clearer waters.

The upper reaches (by driftboat) will be dropping and clearing. Only dark fish will be present and anglers should consider leaving these degrading fish alone. Here is the river forecast for the Wilson:



The Nestucca System – Much like the Tillamook Bay region, anglers will want to start re-focusing their efforts in the estuary and lower tidewater reaches; especially with the upcoming weak tide series. Trolled herring at the jaws and trolled herring, spinners or plugs should all take fish in the tidewater reaches, especially below Woods. The river reach is well seeded but dark fish will dominate the catches.

Nehalem system – The estuary should pick back up again for chinook and wild coho should begin to make a stronger showing this weekend. No system is in any danger of closing anytime soon as the coho quota is far from being met. Troll herring between Wheeler and Nehalem, keeping your baits fishing near the bottom, especially on outgoing tide. Spinners should also work above the Highway 101 Bridge. Anglers may take a look at fishing herring at the jaws on the soft outgoing tide over the weekend (and Friday) as conditions may be ideal for good action there through low slack.

Razor Clam opportunities are gone, at least until mid-month.

For those looking for deep reef or ocean salmon opportunities, here is the offshore forecast but it's certainly subject to change. Be prepared for any opportunity:

**FRI**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 7 FT AT 12 SECONDS.

**FRI NIGHT**

NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...VEERING TO N AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT AT 11 SECONDS.

**SAT**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

**SAT NIGHT**

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

**SUN**

N WIND 5 TO 10 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT.

**MON**

NE WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 4 FT.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – The ability to hunt ling cod in deep water haunts has enabled the filling of many limits for boats launching out of central Oregon ports. While there's no depth restriction on rockfish, nearshore reefs have been so productive that long trips are unnecessary. As a bonus, ocean crabbing has been producing Dungeness in prime condition but closes for the year on October 15th.

Forecasts for offshore launches indicate moderating wind and wave conditions into the coming weekend continued improvement early in the coming week.

As the 2013 tuna season comes to a close, we look back and can only hope that 2014 will be better. Warm water held steadfastly far offshore which necessitated trips of 30 and 40 miles or more a common

occurrence. This situation also put smaller craft with limited range out of the game. To top this off, catch numbers were half of those in 2012 and the lowest in eight years.

Crabbing is poor in Yaquina Bay. Reports indicate somewhat better results in Alsea Bay but still slow.

Historically, the wild coho fishery in south coast lakes gets underway in October. Only the Siltcoos is producing any fish, and the majority of those taken have been jacks which started trickling in following the recent storm.

Catches of wild coho have been fair to good in Alsea Bay with trollers taking fish in the lower bay near the mouth on the incoming tide with action switching to the upper bay on the outgoing. Chinook are also being taken with the jaws producing a few daily and bank anglers scoring a few upriver.

Trolled herring will continue to pick up fish on the lower Siuslaw but fishing upriver with bobber and bait will become more effective as fish move upstream and spread out.

Boats launching out of Winchester Bay have done well for ocean Chinook. Herring trolled just inside the Umpqua bar has been effective in hooking Chinook every day this week. Bay crabbing remains slow. Fishing for smallmouth bass on the upper Umpqua mainstem has slowed with water temperatures dropping. Steelhead numbers are good on the North Umpqua which is resulting in fair to good catches for fly anglers.

Action slowed this week for dock anglers at Coos Bay who are throwing spinners or dangling baits from bobbers in hopes of a close encounter of the Chinook kind. This fishery can get crowded, however, even by veteran guerilla fishing standards. Chinook fishing has started to slow for trollers in the bay as the peak of the season here has passed. Catches of wild coho have been fair to good, however. Bay crabbing remains slow.

Mixed catches of coho and Chinook are being taken on the lower Coquille with best results near the Rocky Point Boat Ramp. Salmon have started moving into the tidewater sections of the river where fish have been taken this week.

Catches of Chinook and coho picked up a little this week for trollers on Rogue Bay. Steelhead and half-pounder catches are fair but steady around Agness. Steelheaders on the middle river have been taking a few fish but catches are only fair. The upper Rogue is producing decent numbers of steelhead to fly fishers who are drifting offerings below spawning Chinook.

The Chetco Hawg (Bubble) Fishery has been putting Chinook onto the decks of boats with regularity every day they have been able cross the bar. Ocean conditions will continue to moderate right up to the closure at end of day on Sunday, October 13th. Plug-cut herring trolled behind a flasher is taking the majority of fish. Chinook to 48 pounds have been taken this year and 50-pounder are not unheard-of. Halibut fishing remains open out of Brookings through October 31st.

Elk and Sixes rivers are running low and clear. Without precipitation in southwest weather forecasts, they'll remain in this condition through the coming weekend. This late-blooming fall Chinook fishery is weeks away from fully producing.

Trout fishing at Diamond Lake showed a little improvement this week with most everyone taking large fish but not limits of eight. Bait fishing the south end remains most productive.

Lost Creek Reservoir is scheduled to be stocked with trout.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Anglers on the lower Deschutes have been taking fair to good numbers of good-sized, mostly native steelhead in excellent water conditions.

Metolius fly anglers have been taking a fair number of good-sized bull trout.

Despite extremely low flows (even for this river), the crooked has been producing lots of fish with Blue-Winged Olive hatches thick.

Suttle Lake has continued to produce good numbers of kokanee, most of which are unsuitable for table fare this late in the season. Rainbows are being taken and occasionally an elusive brown trout.

It's not too late for kokanee as limits of bright fish are being taken with some regularity at Odell Lake.

A few bull trout have been taken from Lake Billy Chinook over the past week.

It's time to start planning trips to Crescent Lake to chase Mackinaw. This fishery generally moves into high gear in mid-November.

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

Last Sunday was the annual U-DA-MAN Yaquina Bay Salmon Tournament. Englund Marine, Harry's Bait and Tackle, and several other local retailers and fishing groups host this tournament each year and the proceeds go to improving the Yaquina Bay/Newport Bay salmon fishery. The tournament is a big Chinook tournament where the three heaviest Chinook weighted earn cash prizes. The entry fee was \$35 per angler and for an additional \$10 you could buy into the 50/50 Coho pot where half of the winnings go to the tournament and half to the angler with the largest Coho.

I put a team together while giving my Trolling Herring for Salmon seminar at Englund Marine a couple weeks ago. This team consisted of local anglers Tim Shank, Blake Whetstone, Blake's son Tanner, and my dad Don. We decided to fish the deeper water up to marker 21 for our first couple of passes then we moved up to the flats near the oyster beds. This is where we landed our four Chinook and our one Coho. All the fish came trolling green label plug cut herring and a flasher. Gary started us off with his 15 pound Chinook. The next pass Tim landed a 9 pound Chinook. On our third pass through the same area ten year old Tanner showed them all up with his 18 pound Chinook. A few passes later Tim put a 10 pound Coho in the boat. No to be shown up Don Currey landed our last fish of the day, a 20 pound 6 ounce Chinook! After the dust cleared at the weigh-in Don's fish was the largest fish of the tournament and Tanner finished fourth. Tanner took home a bottom fishing gift certificate and Don took home the grand prize of \$500 which was generously shared with his guide. From the captains meeting the night before the event to the check-in and the weigh-in on the day of the event the U-DA-MAN guys did a great job! This is certainly a tournament I look forward to participating in for years to come.

Don Currey with his \$500 fish! Thanks and GOOD FISHING!



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**Random Links**

Lethal Take of Sea Lions Upheld:  
<http://www.theoutdoorwire.com/story/13807815978g3q202p8my>

Bar Crossing Technique:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9lsAnmnFP1o>

**GOOD LUCK!**