

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **March 7<sup>th</sup> – March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Oregon Fisheries Update:**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** – Spring chinook have been taken at Davis Bar this season with many anglers hopeful that as March progresses, so will catches. In just another 2 weeks, catches should dramatically improve based on water temperatures and flow. The often turbid Willamette won't affect anglers working from Davis Bar across from the mouth of the Willamette, upstream.

Another rise in river levels will keep Willamette River springer hopefuls sidelined for at least another week. It hasn't been a prosperous start to the salmon season but hopes weren't running high given the mediocre prediction this year. Sturgeon catch should remain good, if not great for those in pursuit. Anglers lucky enough to have fresh smelt to fish should produce awesome catches.

As of Tuesday this week, water levels on the McKenzie River were headed for bank full stage. With more rainfall on the way, it's not likely to be fishable for a while.

Expect the North Santiam to be a raging torrent this weekend and it won't disappoint. While the South Santiam is high, it is forecast to drop rapidly into the coming weekend. There may be some native winter steelhead staging in the lower sections to provide catch-and-release action.

Overall, Sandy River anglers have been largely disappointed with the season and currently, the river is turbid and in need of dropping to see improvements in the catch. The upper reaches from Dodge Park to Cedar Creek offer up the best chances in higher flows but be sure to match your offerings to water conditions; bigger and brighter offerings in high water, most subdued colors in clear.

The Clackamas saw its first push of fish late last week with anglers taking fair numbers around Cross Park and vicinity. There were some large hatchery broodstock fish taken and Meldrum Bar lit up with fish on Thursday and Friday. The ratio of wild to hatchery was near 50/50, indicating that the Clackamas hatchery component is underway. Action will improve when flows drop.

Hagg Lake was slow at the opener on March 1 but a few nice fish were landed. The local store weighed four over seven pounds. It was heavily planted again this week.

**Northwest** – North Coast steelheaders had to put up with another significant rise in rivers levels late in the weekend with another rise forecast for Friday. The late season return of wild and hatchery fish was markedly better than the early returns so there is hope for a salvaged season.

The Wilson and Nestucca will remain primary targets of interest but wild fish should be available in all open north coast systems. By Saturday, if river levels cooperate, action should be good on most smaller systems such as the Necanicum, Kilchis and upper Trask and Nestucca systems and by Sunday and early next week, most systems should be fishing good.

The Nehalem will remain colored for another several days but fair numbers should be returning by this time when conditions cooperate.

No sign of calming seas but when saltwater anglers are able to get out, fishing has been productive. Jiggers did well at the mouth of the Columbia last week with limits of sea bass and lingcod easily attainable. Tides and conditions have to match perfectly for good catches however.

Razor clamming was good as well last week but the next set of minus tides won't happen until late in the month.

**Southwest**- Charter boats launching out of central Oregon ports in less-than-optimum conditions early this week caught plenty of fish despite wind and rain. They reported seeing whales beginning their northern migration, a sure sign that spring is coming. All-depth bottom fishing will continue through March.

The projection for the 2014 ocean salmon fishing has been released, predicting around 25% fewer Chinook off the southwest coast than in 2013. Anglers are reminded that last season was outstanding so this year still looks pretty darned good.

Surf perch fishing is picking up on south coast beaches with best results on the last two hours of incoming tide on days when the ocean is somewhat calm.

Umpqua water levels are rising and it's getting muddy. While there may be a springer or two in the river by now, it'll be a week or more until conditions allow for fishing. Good numbers of hatchery steelhead are entering the South Umpqua now which will reward steelheaders as the peak of the season is mid-March through early April and improving water conditions should coincide with that timeframe.

Fishing was good on the Rogue over the past week. The first spring Chinook got caught. Then the rain came. Water levels on the lower Rogue are rising at this writing and are forecast to rollercoaster through the coming weekend. Averaging it out, it will be mostly high and off-color. The Grants Pass stretch upstream will be no better. The upper Rogue, which will usually offer a little respite from lower river torrents, is forecast to top 9,000 cfs by the coming weekend. Look to mid-March for the next steelhead (or springer) opportunity on the Rogue.

Boats fishing just outside Brookings Harbor are doing well with jigs for rockfish and ling cod. The Chetco River blew out on March 4th with levels expected to rapidly rise and fall over the coming week. This will put the kibosh on steelheading for a while.

The Elk River has had decent numbers of winter steelhead enter. It will be rising and falling over the coming week with steelheaders scoring when they hit it as it drops and clears.

**Eastern** – Deschutes water levels have continued to drop and the clarity is good as of early this week. There will be a few redsides around which may show some interest but results are expected to be fair at best. Waters of the Deschutes are scheduled to open for spring Chinook on April 15, 2014, with a good run expected following a river-wide closure last season.

**SW Washington**- Late season effort for steelhead is light throughout the region but some anglers are catching a few fish from the Cowlitz.

Most anglers are awaiting the season's early spring chinook on the mainstem Columbia although effort remains somewhat light for good reason. Trollers working Davis Bar or plunkers working any sandbar downstream of Davis should stand a reasonable chance at fish by the end of next week.

Smelt dippers did well on the season finale on the Cowlitz but dippers will now look to the Sandy in hopes that the run appears there next.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Prior to the high water and inclement weather, salmon fishers working Davis Bar were taking a rare “black-faced” spring chinook, indicating that the mainstem springer run is underway. Truthfully however, it was a rare occasion but it doesn’t take much to get spring chinook anglers enthused. In the higher, colored water, trollers often work flashers along with their green label herring and come up with better results later in March. Early arrivals however tend to be the larger ones of the year thus, justifying early season attempts. Wet, windy weather however has dampened enthusiasm recently but as March rolls on, effort and interest will peak. As for now, you’re not missing a white hot bite but it’s a good time to get your gear in order.

Here is the ODF&W creel check report from last weekend, you won’t be impressed:

**Gorge Bank:**

No report.

**Gorge Boats:**

No report.

**Troutdale Boats:**

No report.

**Portland to Westport Bank:**

Weekly checking showed one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped spring Chinook released for 77 bank anglers.

**Portland to Westport Boats:**

Weekly checking showed no catch for 14 boats (32 anglers).

**Estuary Bank (Clatsop Spit to Wauna Powerlines):**

Weekly checking showed no catch for two bank anglers.

**Estuary Boats (Tongue Point to Wauna Powerlines):**

Weekly checking showed no catch for one boat (two anglers).

Did we mention it’s a bit early?

Sturgeon fishing hasn’t been much better with few practicing catch and release below Bonneville Dam. Here are the creel checks from above the dam however, also, not impressive and the Bonneville Pool is well below expectations:

**Bonneville Pool:**

Weekly checking showed one legal and 13 sublegal sturgeon released for 25 bank anglers; and three legal white sturgeon kept, plus one legal, one oversize and 192 sublegal sturgeon released for 15 boats (35 anglers).

**The Dalles Pool:**

Weekly checking showed one sublegal sturgeon released for eight bank anglers; and one oversize and three sublegal sturgeon released for two boats (five anglers).

**John Day Pool:**

Weekly checking showed no catch for two bank anglers; and one legal white sturgeon kept, plus 11 sublegal sturgeon released for 15 boats (36 anglers).

**The Guide's Forecast** – Flows at Bonneville are expected to jump substantially in the coming days so don't look for spring chinook angling to improve anytime soon. With the Willamette likely to muddy the system below Davis Bar (Washington side; Kelly Point Park on the Oregon side), the bulk of the catch and effort will be upstream of this area. Although catches should start to improve, your time will be much better served after the 20<sup>th</sup> of March. Those that do catch an early springer however, will be handsomely rewarded with fish that often fetches better than \$25.00/per pound in America's finest restaurants.

Sturgeon season in the Bonneville Pool closes after March 9<sup>th</sup> but don't look to any of these mainstem Columbia reservoirs to produce measureable results anytime soon.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Anglers remain sidelined for spring chinook as torrential downpours keep coming our way, making the river unfishable for the foreseeable future. Sellwood is typically the first point of interception but we won't have to worry about that anytime soon.

Sturgeon anglers are still doing well in the Portland Harbor although not everyone would agree that's the case. One reader quipped that action wasn't as good as was reported in TGF and that can certainly be the case for those fishing areas void of fish. We always appreciate reader feedback but former TGF contributor Chris Vertopoulos responded recently to our reader, confirming he had received several reports as to the good action in the harbor. Chris' response was:

"I have talked to no less than three people in the last few days that have been out sturgeon fishing on the lower Willamette; all credible people that I know. There aren't many people doing it, maybe one or two boats per hole (spot) on weekdays and three or four on the weekends. But I assure you they are all doing well, getting numbers of fish to the boat per day, despite the muddy water. My buddy Jim who I work closely with, went out with another mutual friend, Shane Nichols and another guy. Just below Cathedral Pk they landed about 25 fish between 3 rods (They lost count). Four or five of which were keeper size fish they said. Another fellow that I work with at Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor went out in his small car topper boat and they landed a mess fish during some real crappy weather last week. It really isn't BIG news, it's been like this every winter for the last 6 to 8 years. Yet very few people fish it, especially now since it's catch and release. I have also seen some pics on i-fish that a fella in a kayak took while sturgeon fishing out of Swan Island. He said he had 13 himself and his partner in another kayak caught a bunch of fish too. They posted pictures."

Thanks for your detail Chris Vertopoulos and we'll miss you as a TGF contributor!

The McKenzie River is out and over its banks at this writing mid-day on Thursday, March 6th. It'll come back, it always does.

The Santiam system will be too high over the coming week to be a consideration for anglers.

The **Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Show** will take place in Albany Saturday and Sunday, March 8 & 9. Billed as one of the biggest fly-fishing events in the Pacific Northwest, entrants can learn from 194 tyers, visit 50 exhibitors, take part in casting clinics and enjoy numerous fishing presentations. There will also be a learning venue for kids that promises to be fun. See **Random Links**, below, for details.

Benson Lake, Bethany Pond, Blue Lake, Canby Pond, Commonwealth Lake, Dorman Pond, Huddleston Pond, Mt. Hood Pond, Progress Lake, Sheridan Pond, St. Louis Pond, Cottage Grove Pond, Cottage Grove Reservoir, Creswell Pond, Dexter Reservoir, Dorena Reservoir, E. E. Wilson Pond, East Freeway Lake, Junction City Pond, Roaring River Park Pond, Walling Pond, Walter Wirth Lake and Waverly Lake are scheduled to be planted with hatchery trout this week.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The Willamette will remain a strong option for sturgeon but springers will remain on the back-burner for a while longer; maybe better than a week. When the river does clear, some larger 5-year old fish should be available for anglers to pursue.

Fresh smelt might be available for bait and if so, plan on some fast action. Fresh smelt is an excellent option this time of year, especially if the smelt make their way to the Sandy River. Let's hope that the run is just that big!

Guides will be starting early season trout fishing trips for fly anglers this month, an indication the results will be improving as springtime conditions approach. Leaburg Dam closed to all vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Monday, February 10 from 8am-noon and 1pm–4pm, Monday through Friday. This closure schedule is expected to continue into March, and then be followed by periodic closures through the summer. Vehicles and pedestrians will be able to cross the dam from noon until 1pm during the week. The closure is necessary for EWEB to repair damage to the facility. The river is closed to fishing above the dam.

It's a shame that the Santiams, once measured by steelhead per mile, by 21st Century standards has become miles per steelhead. It will offer some fishing, however, once it drops and clears.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Although technically in the Willamette, it's worthy to report on Meldrum Bar here as most of the fish caught in that area are typically destined for the Clackamas River anyway. Reports from **Robert Campbell of Fisherman's Marine** indicate that there is a slug of hatchery fish present at Meldrum Bar. Catches last week were impressive according to Robert, especially on Thursday and Friday where a small handful of steelhead topping 12 pounds were taken. Fisherman's Marine weighed in one fish at 17 pounds. Robert mentioned that the ratio of hatchery to wild fish was about 50/50, giving anglers one of the better chances of the season to take home a keeper.

Not to be outshined by Clackamas River anglers, the lower Clackamas did see a surge of hatchery and some wild steelhead late last week. Although action didn't compare to the Meldrum Bar action, it did improve, just before the river blew out again. It doesn't look to be returning to normal or fishable condition until well after the weekend.

On the Sandy, guides are stating that this is one of the most challenging seasons in a while. While water conditions haven't been all the conducive to success, in the higher flows, fish are moving quite rapidly upstream and away from boaters that can be most successful in pursuing them. There have been a few good days but overall, action has been less than impressive on this metro system. Furthermore, that doesn't look like it's going to change anytime soon. More winter weather, and particularly not of the cold variety that keeps precipitation falling as snow instead of rain, will keep the river swollen in the near future. The upper reaches have been producing the best results but even up above Dodge Park, action is mediocre at best, and that's when the water conditions are tolerable.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Don't look to the Clackamas or Sandy to produce viable results until well after the weekend. If the weather pattern subsides, mid-week anglers could see some decent action on both the Sandy and Clackamas systems.

The Clackamas may be the best bet as broodstock steelhead and maybe a rare early summer run may show. It's best to concentrate higher in the system with all the high water we've had recently and use bigger, brighter baits until flows subside.

The Sandy River, although always an option for late-season steelhead, doesn't look like it's shaping up to be a Willamette Valley favorite this year. This is the time of year when we get a good sense of how it will

fare for the remainder of the year but this week won't be a good one to explore as high water and a warming trend will keep the river largely unfishable.

### **Here's some smelt info:**

There will be one more day allowed for smelt dipping on the Cowlitz. March 8th 6 AM 'til Noon but this will really be the last chance for Washington smelters who have been taking Cowlitz limits in one to three dips.

Smelt dipping will be allowed on the Sandy River March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th. River watchers on the Sandy this week report no smelt seen one seen this week.

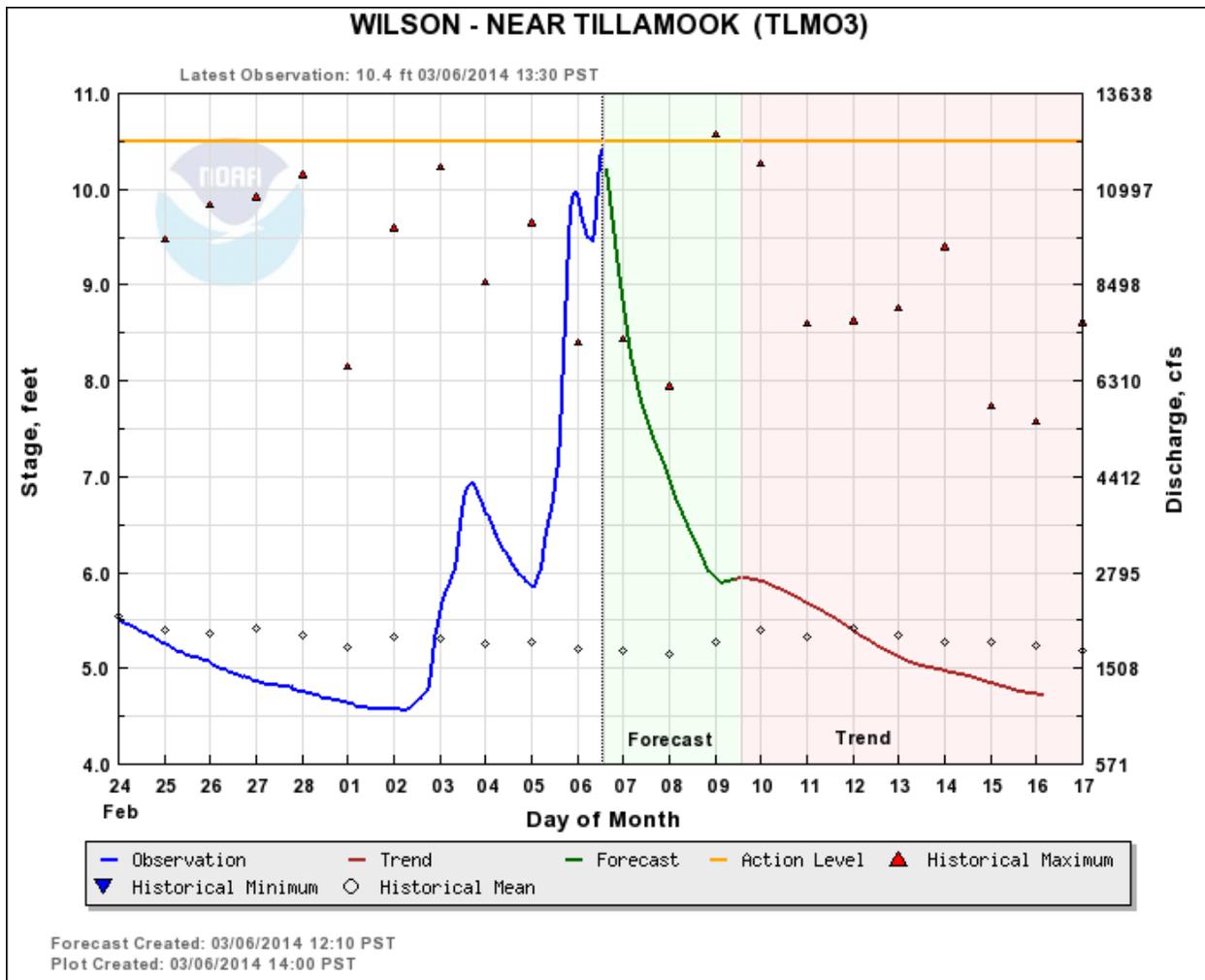
There is no license required to dip smelt in Oregon or Washington although each participant must have a separate container (bucket), one for each person. Everyone (kids included) must dip their own fish.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – With another winter storm battering the NW corner of the state, steelheaders working mid-week weren't left with many options. Prior to the rapid rise on Wednesday, action had been mediocre for those willing to pound the water.

The Nestucca and Wilson fished best as they too have the most pressure and the best likelihood of catching fresh, quality hatchery broodstock fish. Although action wasn't as good as it was after the last drop, the slow rise in river levels on Sunday and Monday although the weather wasn't all the much fun to fish on. Reports of good fishing for a bobber and jig guide working the lower reaches of the Nestucca were likely accurate as fish can become quite active and willing if the river rises slowly over the period of a day. The Wilson didn't come in as productive according to reports but a few fish were taken in the 3 day swing prior to the dramatic rise on Wednesday.

One avid angler reported covering multiple river and creek systems in the Nehalem, Trask and Wilson basins on Monday, hooking about 7 fish for his 200+ mile steelhead journey from the Portland area. He used a mix of bait, jigs under bobbers and spoons. He's an avid steelheader and regularly posts numbers like this.

Most recently, Wednesday anglers got blown off of their rivers by afternoon as torrential rains hit the coast with a vengeance. River systems have already spiked well past their predicted crests, which will put systems out well into the weekend. Of course that all hinges on how much additional rainfall we get and when the river actually crests. Here is the Wilson River hydrograph, which will put into perspective most of the other systems on the north coast. Keep in mind that the Wilson fishes best between 5.5 and 4.5 on the drop. Here's the Wilson River outlook as of late Wednesday night:



And the ocean, forget it. There are some epic seas out there and that includes the estuaries.

**The Guide's Forecast** – It's still a windy, whippy mess on the north coast and although the sun has finally broken, the Wilson is headed for "action" stage. It doesn't look like it will hit flood stage but none-the-less, weekend anglers stand little chance for successful creel counts until early next week on the larger Wilson and Nestucca Rivers. When these two rivers do clear, both will be fair options for steelheaders, starting with the higher drifts, maybe as early as Monday and dropping flows should make all reaches of both of these systems fishable by Tuesday of next week, barring any additional heavy rains. Simply follow the rule that you fish high in the system during high flows (bank anglers included) and low in the system as flows drop. Bank anglers may have some of the earliest access to fresh steelhead, even prior to the weekend if you fish above Jordan Creek on the Wilson and 6<sup>th</sup> Bridge on the Nestucca. Bank anglers will want to target steelhead close to the shoreline or in soft water as long as the river is running with color.

Trask River anglers fishing the Dam Hole also have an advantage on the early part of the drop. The Dam Hole is a significant barrier to fish, except in high flows but fish none-the-less, stop over and rest here in high flows. It should begin to fish well starting as early as Saturday but again, make sure to put most of your effort into the slower current edges and don't be afraid to use bigger baits.

Small stream anglers should have something to look forward to this weekend, especially by Sunday. Some streams may fish by Saturday, particularly if they didn't get the precipitation that Tillamook area systems did. The Necanicum would be a prime example of that.

Other small north coast systems, like the Necanicum, should harbor steelhead although most would already agree that there won't be hoards of them. The Highway 30 streams (Gnat Creek, Big Creek and the Klaskanine River), North Fork Nehalem, Miami, Kilchis and Three Rivers as some examples, should all have wild steelhead available for catch and release fishing. Small stream tactics should take fish and you'll be relatively alone as most steelheaders will wait for the consumptive opportunities that come with our Tillamook County favorites. You'll be brush beating and you'll lose some tackle but the action could be fair to good if you put on some miles. By Tuesday of next week, these smaller systems will be too low and clear to fish effectively.

With more high winds in the forecast, don't look west and expect anything special from the ample population of bottomfish that just await your offerings. Here is the offshore forecast and it doesn't look good:

**FRI**

S WIND 10 TO 15 KT...RISING TO 15 TO 20 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 11 FT AT 12 SECONDS.

**FRI NIGHT**

S WIND 20 TO 25 KT...SE WIND 5 TO 10 KT EXCEPT IN THE NEARSHORE WATERS. WIND WAVES 4 FT. SW SWELL 8 FT AT 12 SECONDS.

**SAT**

S WIND 25 TO 30 KT...EASING TO 20 TO 25 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. COMBINED SEAS 13 FT. RAIN.

**SAT NIGHT**

S WIND 30 TO 35 KT...EASING TO 25 TO 30 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. GUSTS TO 40 KT. COMBINED SEAS 15 FT. RAIN.

**SUN**

SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT...EASING TO 10 TO 15 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 10 FT AT 14 SECONDS. RAIN.

**SUN NIGHT**

SW WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT...SUBSIDING TO 2 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT. W SWELL 10 FT.

**MON**

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

**TUE**

N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 8 FT.

Bay crabbing will be a waste of time given the amount of fresh water in our estuaries. You'll have better things to do this weekend.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – Offshore conditions are predicted to be too rough for sport craft over the coming weekend but are forecast to moderate somewhat over the week to come. All-depth halibut will open in May with ocean coho fishing opening in June, We'll talk specific dates as the seasons approach. Fish all depths for bottomfish when you can get out during March as the depth restrictions kick in again on the first day of April. Over the past weekend, fishing was excellent out of Depoe Bay and ocean crabbing was pretty darned good as well.

Water levels approaching 11.5 feet on the Siuslaw at Mapleton are forecast to crest today, start dropping and continue to do so over the weekend. It will still be too high to fish although there should be some opportunities for plunkers early in the coming week.

While the Umpqua mainstem will be rising and roiled over the next several days, putting native steelhead and early springers out of an angler's reach, the South Umpqua will be dropping and if the clarity is passable (and is should be), will produce hatchery winters for steelheaders.

The lower Rogue is on the rise and while it is supposed to start dropping on Saturday, there will be too much muddy water here to consider it a fishing spot. When it does recover, there will be spring Chinook to be caught. Middle Rogue conditions will be similar and won't drop and clear sufficiently to fish before the next storm hits on Monday next week and starts the high water cycle all over again. Even the upper Rogue, which can sometimes be a haven when the lower river is blown, will be too high and swift to fish over the coming weekend. For reference, here's a video shot Wednesday this week:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQsYx9s\\_L6c&feature=youtube\\_gdata\\_player](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQsYx9s_L6c&feature=youtube_gdata_player)

Crabbing in Coos Bay is poor due to high volumes of fresh water washing into the estuary. Pushing 15,000 cfs on Thursday this week, the Chetco is forecast to be dropping rapidly on Saturday, March 8th, and may clear sufficiently for plunkers to get in and do their thing before it turns once again into a torrent on Sunday, the 9th. When water conditions have been even halfway decent here, the Chetco has fished well for winter steelhead.

The Elk River has been getting good numbers of winter steelhead this season and this volatile ocean tributary will rise and fall quickly with changes in precipitation. Be there as it's dropping and clearing to score.

As of the latest update, rain and warming temperatures have softened the ice at Diamond Lake, making it unsafe to access for ice fishing. Another round of extended freezing temperatures will be required to restore this fishery.

Mingus Park Pond was planted with trout this week.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – The Crooked River has been fishing pretty well but the word is out and that little stream has been getting plenty of attention from fly anglers.

Downrigger trollers have been taking large bull trout from Lake Billy Chinook. Limits of kokanee have also been boated recently. The Metolius Arm opened for fishing on March 1st.

Boats that have trolled at Prineville Reservoir recently have taken some good-sized rainbows near Bear Creek. Use caution as there is wood and ice floating on the lake's surface.

The Central Oregon Sportsmen's show continues through Sunday, March 9th at the Deschutes County Fair & Expo Center. It opens at 10 AM each day. See **Random Links**, below for details.

**ODFW Bulletin, March 3, 2012**

THE DALLES, Ore. – The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has announced that the popular spring Chinook fisheries on the Deschutes and Hood rivers will open April 15.

### **Deschutes River**

According to Rod French, ODFW fish biologist, managers are predicting that as many 13,000 hatchery fish may return to the Deschutes. This year's run should be substantially larger than last year's, when no spring Chinook fishing was allowed in order to protect the small number of returning fish. "If the run comes back as predicted, Chinook salmon fishing on the Deschutes should be excellent," he said.

"The Deschutes River fishery below Sherars Falls is extremely popular because it offers a great chance to catch a Columbia River spring Chinook from the bank," he said. "In recent years, as many as 10,000 anglers a year have participated in the fishery."

Here is a summary of the temporary rules for the Deschutes River adopted by ODFW: Open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook from April 15 through July 31 from the mouth of the I-84 bridge upstream to Sherars Falls.

The catch limit is two adult adipose fin-clipped salmon per day, and five adipose fin-clipped jack salmon per day. All non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon must be released unharmed. It is unlawful to continue to fish from Sherars Falls downstream to the upper railroad trestle after taking a daily bag limit of two adult Chinook salmon.

### **Hood River**

Managers are also predicting a fairly strong return of spring Chinook to return to the Hood River. A return of over 1,300 hatchery fish is predicted for the Hood River, which is slightly better than last year's return. According to French, the Hood River offers another good opportunity to catch a spring Chinook from the bank but in conditions that are much less crowded than on the Deschutes.

Here is a summary of the temporary rules for the Hood River adopted by ODFW:

Open for adipose fin-clipped chinook from April 15 through June 30 from the mouth to mainstem confluence with the East Fork, and the West Fork from the confluence with the mainstem upstream to the angling deadline 200 feet downstream of Punchbowl Falls. The catch limit is two adult adipose fin-clipped salmon per day, and five adipose fin-clipped jack salmon per day. All non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon must be released unharmed.

### **Washington fishing reports:**

#### ***From the WDF&W***

There will be one more day allowed for smelt dipping on the Cowlitz. March 8th 6 AM 'til Noon but this will really be the last chance for Washington smelters who have been taking Cowlitz limits in one to three dips.

Smelt dipping will be allowed on the Sandy river March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th. River watchers on the Sandy this week report no smelt seen one seen this week.

There is no license required too dip smelt in Oregon or Washington although each participant must have a separate container (bucket), one for each person. Everyone (kids included) must dip their own fish.

## **WDFW NEWS RELEASE**

March 5, 2014

New State Fishing Record: Walleye (*Sander vitreus*). Caught by John Grubenhoff of Pasco, WA, in Lake Wallula (Columbia River), Benton County, on Feb. 28, 2014

Weight: 20.32 lbs

Total Length: 35.50 inches (90 cm)

Girth: 22.75 inches (57.5 cm)

Fishing method/gear: Trolling in 22 feet of water upstream along a current break at 0.8 mph and using a Rapala® J-13 lure 6 feet behind a 2 oz. "bottom walker" weight.

Conditions: Sunny, but with a cold front coming in the next day. Water temperature: 37.2 degrees; air temperature: upper 40s.

Species description: Walleye are extremely popular sport fish everywhere they occur, and are known for their exquisite flavor. They are native to the Midwest United States and were first identified in Washington about 1960 in Banks Lake. They have since spread throughout the Columbia Basin and the Columbia River from Lake Roosevelt, downstream to near Longview. Washington is known nationwide for its walleye fishing.

Previous record: Taken Feb. 5, 2007 in Lake Wallula (Columbia River) by Mike Hepper of Richland, WA:

Weight: 19.3 lbs

Total Length: 33.7 inches

Girth: 22.2 inches

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### **Random Links**

This weekend, March 8th and 9<sup>th</sup>, several choices -

Saltwater Sportsman Show In Salem: <http://saltwatersportsmensshow.com/>

The Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Show: <http://nwexpo.com/index.php>

The Central Oregon Sportsmen's show <http://www.thesportshows.com/coss/>

**GOOD LUCK!**