

The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 24

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** – Bonneville fishers continue to take fair numbers of summer chinook and steelhead catches should ramp up soon. Adipose finned chinook still largely outnumber hatchery catches however. Shad however remains the primary focus for most anglers with creel catches quite impressive under the sunny skies.

An average of 250 spring chinook per day have been counted at Willamette Falls despite moderating flows and water temperatures in the mid-60s. The modest total is over 20,000 as of early June. Springer catches in the lower river have been slow although a few are still being caught on trolled herring, backbounced roe or on spinners. Shad fishing at Oregon City is taking the spotlight. Boats are doing best by far but bank fishers are also scoring some shad. Anything shiny is worthy of a hit from these fish. Bass fishing has been good.

McKenzie water levels are subject only to snowmelt from which the waters showed a slight increase on June 5th. Expect to find waters gently dropping and redsides sipping on caddis.

Summer steelhead are being caught in the North Santiam on a variety of lures. It's not hot but is getting to be worthwhile. As numbers build, so are catches of spring chinook near the confluence and into the South Santiam River. Bobber and bait has been most consistent.

Free fishing weekend drew plenty of hopefuls to the Clackamas. Now that the crowds have thinned, summer steelhead will be the target of most anglers. With water flows skinny and clear, try early mornings or late evenings for the best chance of fooling a fish. Bobber and jig fishers have been successful recently.

Summer steelhead have been spooky in the low waters of the Sandy River. The best approach at this time of year and in these conditions will be at first light. Small spinners will often draw a strike. Swinging flies is often effective. Spring chinook have been MIA in the lower river over the past week.

**Northwest** – Anglers banking on a productive tide series on lower Tillamook Bay this weekend went home largely humbled. Catches were poor despite ideal tides and fishing conditions although the wind hampered some effort up the bay. Saturday's Bounty on the Bay fundraiser netted proceeds for local restoration projects but only 6 fish for 66 anglers. Andy Schneider took "Captain with the most inches" with 2 spring chinook totaling 61¾". Fishing hasn't improved since.

With persistent NW winds, the small boat fleet didn't expend much effort for last week's halibut opener. Bottomfishing remains good, mostly for sea bass but again, strong winds are keeping most sportanglers at bay.

Spring chinook and a rare summer steelhead are in the Trask, Wilson and Nestucca Rivers but low, clear water is challenging anglers. First light will produce the best results and it's clear that the run is not as large as it was last year.

Lower Columbia salmon and steelhead anglers are finding fair success and improving odds with the upcoming minus tide series. Beach plunkers have nearly ideal conditions by the weekend. Use spin-n-glos and coon shrimp for best success. The sockeye return is expected to be good and anglers are allowed to retain sockeye as part of their daily bag limit beginning June 16<sup>th</sup>. Check regulations for specifics.

Catch and release sturgeon fishing in the lower Columbia River is productive. Smelt is taking a fair number of quality fish but sand shrimp, when available, will also produce good results.

Razor clam digging along Clatsop area beaches should be productive if the ocean swell remains subdued.

**Southwest-** Wind has played havoc with offshore boaters recently, making alternate activities in lakes, bays and rivers appealing alternative choices for south coast anglers.

Charters out of Depoe Bay were able to get out on the past Saturday for deep-water halibut despite rough ocean conditions. The reward of large flatties was considered well worth it. The next all-depth halibut opener will be June 19-21.

Rockfish and lingcod catches have been excellent out of central Oregon ports whenever boats have been able to get out.

While crabbing is not worthwhile at Winchester Bay, the pinkfin perch run is ongoing. Success with these fish is sporadic but can be rewarding for those who hit the right place at the right time.

Limits of bottomfish await sport and charter boats once offshore conditions allow launches out of Charleston. Chinook catches have been slow but are expected to show some improvement as salmon move northward. Bay crabbing remains slow.

Fierce offshore winds have kept boats inside the port at Gold Beach over most of the past week. When brief windows of opportunity opened, lingcod and rockfish were taken in good number. High winds have hampered efforts on the lower Rogue over the past week and middle river efforts have been in vain. Above the old Gold Ray Dam site however, spring chinook fishing has been fair to good for those fishing cured egg and sand shrimp combos. Stable flows and good numbers of springers moving upriver are credited with keeping upper Rogue anglers busy. Last week, over 1,200 spring chinook entered Cole Rivers Hatchery, bringing the total to more than 4,200. Summer steelhead are just starting to make an appearance. All wild chinook must be released unharmed downstream of the Fishers Ferry boat ramp.

Brookings anglers were plying the waters of the harbor for crab from the docks over the past week with fair success. Area beaches have been producing decent catches of surf perch. Ocean chinook fishing, which has been the best in Oregon, will resume when ocean conditions settle down.

**Eastern** – An early Salmonfly hatch on the Deschutes was rewarding to many who timed it right. Now about over, it's time to shift to Caddis patterns and keep an eye out for Green Drakes, particularly on drizzly days.

Pale Morning Duns have been making a regular appearance on the Metolius although Green Drakes are showing occasionally upstream toward Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery. Large browns have been taken on imitations.

Fall River has been fishing well with a mix of Mayfly, Caddis and midge patterns effective at times.

Flows are high at the Imnaha and Wallowa River although some trout fishing is taking place with fair result. Both rivers will open to hatchery spring chinook fishing on Saturday, June 21.

Odell trollers are having their way with fair-sized kokanee in decent number on brightly-colored hoochies.

**SW Washington-** The Cowlitz remains the only viable option for spring chinook with fair catches happening between the hatcheries. Summer steelhead are beginning to show on the Cowlitz and Lewis systems.

Beach plunkers will start to show in force as steelhead and sockeye numbers begin to grow. Action for

both species will peak in the next 4 weeks with better success coming on the minus tide series this weekend and towards the end of June.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** – Fish passage at Bonneville Dam is still going swimmingly well. Summer chinook seemed to have arrived although anglers are still having a hard time finding hatchery fish in the mix. Opportunities river-wide are good now with flows slightly dropping and water temperatures in good shape. Gorge anglers were faring best when comparing all mainstem anglers, averaging over a fish per boat. Spinners are starting to take off in this fishery but plugs remain a large part of an angler's key to success. Fish continue to run in 12 to 22 foot of water and you have to make sure you have the proper anchor equipment to safely fish here. Here are the catch stats for the gorge:

**Gorge Bank:**

*Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook kept, plus four unclipped adult Chinook released for 20 bank anglers; and 906 shad kept, plus 15 shad released for 202 shad anglers.*

**Gorge Boats:**

*Weekend checking showed 14 adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook kept, plus 25 adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook released for 31 boats (100 anglers); and 858 shad kept for 35 shad boats (114 anglers).*

**Troutdale Boats:**

*Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook and one unclipped jack Chinook released for 36 boats (87 anglers); and four shad kept, plus three shad released for seven shad boats (19 anglers).*

Beaches didn't produce measureable results downriver of Portland, likely due to the weak tide series we're coming off of. One thing is clear however, steelhead are starting to show in better numbers. It looks like it's off to a good early start which should bode well for the overall run size. Here's the stats for boaters and bank anglers in this reach:

**Portland to Westport Bank:**

*Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, two adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and 14 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook, three unclipped jack Chinook, one unclipped steelhead and one sockeye released for 191 bank anglers.*

**Portland to Westport Boats:**

*Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and six adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus five unclipped adult Chinook and one unclipped steelhead released for 15 boats (40 anglers); and 15 shad kept for two boats (six anglers).*

Lower river anglers will start to see more competition for bank space as the upcoming minus tide series and strong outgoing tides coupled with appropriate run timing should produce good results for steelheaders working lower Columbia Beaches in the coming weeks. It's time to "heat" up those spin-n-glos, using the hot colors (reds, oranges and pinks) to lure what looks to be an abundant return of summer steelhead coming back this year. Boaters are still working the lower wing-dams although chinook success here is likely to become a bit more spotty below Longview for some reason. It can be quite inconsistent from day to day although Puget Island remains a consistent target. Here is the estuary tally:

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

Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept for 18 bank anglers.

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

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

Sturgeon fishers in the estuary are coming up strong with great action with little competition. **Pro guide Andy Betnar (503-791-4094)** reported 40 and 50 fish days for large, keeper range sturgeon fishing out of the John Day Boat Ramp. Smelt, sand shrimp and anchovies are all taking good numbers of fish, make that great numbers and Andy even used baby octopus the other day, landing an oversize and 60" class fish too. It's mayhem for the few that are doing it. Admittedly, anchovies and sand shrimp are hard to get locally. Anchovies have to come from Illwaco and Andy dug his own shrimp from the Necanicum River Estuary so be prepared if you're going to fish this fishery.

Here's Andy's octopus fish:



The ocean has been too rough for anybody to enjoy themselves but one boat reported 2 keeper chinook taken in front of the Lighthouse just north of the Columbia River entrance on Thursday morning. When the ocean lays down, there should be some fish available. The coho season starts on Saturday. Bait should be available by then but DO call ahead.

**The Guide's Forecast** – River chinook should still be readily available but success will likely remain best in the Bonneville reach. Anchor anglers will continue to take fair numbers of fish using spinners and plugs fished in the swift flows from 12 to 20 foot of water. Flows are expected to continue to moderate so action could even improve in the coming week. Steelhead numbers are increasing daily so anglers may want to consider downsizing gear to target them as well. Shad fishing remains phenomenal for those interested in getting novices interested in fishing. The sunny days will produce the best catches and we're not supposed to see much of that this weekend.

Downriver, action may continue to slow as flows drop and steelhead dominate the run. With a minus tide series currently underway, the bank angler bite should improve into the weekend. If you're targeting chinook, stick with the greens and yellows, red can produce too but with burgeoning numbers of

steelhead showing, the hot pinks, oranges and reds will also take fish. Don't hesitate to slide a plug down your line either, the small Flatfish and Kwikfish will take fish with some consistency.

Anglers should really look to the estuary for sturgeon if you're into great action for big fish. Target quality fish out of the Tongue Point area but the strong tide series this weekend will make deep water fishing more challenging. It doesn't matter however, there are LOTS of sturgeon in the shallows right now too. Taylor Sands is producing very well. Smelt will work fine but if you have fresh shrimp or anchovies, you'll likely be quite impressed with your results.

Crabbing and ocean options won't be great through the weekend. Despite good opportunity, the weather won't be doing you any favors along with the extreme tide exchange. It's best to focus on fresh water this weekend.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Willamette flows are on the increase at the Falls as spring Chinook continue to cross at the rate of roughly 250 per day. Summer steelhead daily counts are trending upward with additional flows. Spring Chinook fishing is "all but over" in the lower Willamette according to **pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)**. Smallmouth bass fishing has been good and should reward anglers with steady catches in the coming weeks.

While the McKenzie has been dropping for the most part following a bump in flows on the 5th, any fluctuation in the absence of precipitation will be from snowmelt.

North Santiam flows are low, stable and quite fishable. Boating at current flows can be tricky in places so be sure to scout ahead before you drift. Slight water fluctuations on the South Santiam are predicted to moderate over the next couple of days at which time the flows there will also become stable. See related information below.

**The ODFW announced on June 10th:** "The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife today announced it has increased the daily bag limit on adipose fin-clipped rainbow trout and steelhead in the Santiam River and the Little North Fork and North Fork rivers.

"Under the new rules, effective today, anglers are permitted to keep up to five hatchery trout and an additional steelhead a day in the mainstem Santiam River, the North Fork to the markers upstream of Packsaddle Park, and in the South Fork to the markers below Foster Dam. There are no size restrictions on trout.

"The steelhead bag limit is subject to aggregate limits for both steelhead and salmon. For example, under the new rule, an angler may keep up to four steelhead and salmon (of which a maximum of two may be salmon).

"The rule was adopted to give anglers the opportunity to help remove surplus rainbow trout and steelhead.

"This is a way to serve the dual goals of providing additional fishing opportunity and enhancing the conservation of native fish," said Elise Kelley, ODFW district fish biologist.

"Kelley added that she hopes the increased bag limits will raise angler awareness of the great trout fishing available in the lower Santiam basin.

"Our creel surveys indicated that anglers weren't keeping trout," she said. "The lower Santiam is a great trout fishery and we encourage people to get out and give it a try."

Alton Baker Canal, Breitenbush River, Detroit Reservoir, Leaburg Lake, McKenzie River above Leaburg Dam, Santiam River, North Fork, Trail Bridge Reservoir, North Fork Reservoir, Sheridan Pond, Silver Creek Reservoir and Small Fry Lake are scheduled for trout planting.

**The Guide's Forecast – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos (503-349-1377)** said the boats crowding the Oregon City stretch of the lower Willamette are making fair to good catches of shad. The topic of night fishing came up recently, as it does every year. Don't bother; shad don't bite after dark. And while we're on the topic, no, there are no shad above Willamette Falls as they won't pass through an enclosed ladder. For those fishing below the Falls, however, prospects are good for those who get in the 'line.' Shad move upriver nose-to-tail so moving toward one bank or the other can make the difference between a few and a hundred. Steelhead-weight gear works fine. Shad will hit small jigs tipped with a fluorescent chartreuse curly-tail grub, Dick Nite spoons are always effective but many use a small Siwash Hook on a shiny brass swivel to catch all they want.

Plying the waters of the lower McKenzie with Caddis patterns should ensure success for fly fishers over the coming weekend and through the remainder of June. Upper McKenzie anglers have landed some large whitefish in the pursuit of trout recently.

Over 2,100 spring Chinook and roughly half that many summer steelhead have made it upriver above Stayton on the North Santiam. Catches have been fair but will improve with more fish entering daily. The lower South Santiam is producing a few springers every day.

**Pro guide Bill Sanderson (503-897-3301)** offers this on boating the North Santiam, "On the Packsaddle run, many of the rocks are covered or nearly covered with current, so navigation is somewhat easier than at low levels. However, the waves are large in many rapids, especially in the Gorge section a mile below the Gates Bridge. High water last season moved tons of gravel around just upstream from Spencer's Hole, and the current there has changed.

One raft went right over the middle of the ledge on the right side of the river and was taken right on top of the underwater rock at the bottom in the middle of the river. The raft swung around to the left side of the rock and rapids and came out backwards but safe. Prior to the changes, the current would let us go over the middle of the ledge and come out on the right side of the rock. This was at 1,700 cubic feet per second, and the river has dropped down to about 1,400 cfs since then. It seems safest now to approach the left edge of the underwater ledge and to pivot into the right channel. It is a tricky maneuver and tricky rapids with a deserved reputation. Many other rapids are difficult and noteworthy, but they are easier than last year. The high waters have been friendly to river users in most cases.

Mill City Falls is a big drop, but the channel just to the left of center can be run with minimal problem if the boat is kept in the middle of the chute. The large rock bar below Mill City Falls is best run on the far left side. There are many little rocks sticking up in the channels, but it is the best way. From Mill City and Fishermen's Bend down to Mehama is easier than last season and has many medium difficulty rapids along with some peaceful stretches. Mehama to Stayton has lots of easy water and half a dozen nice rapids and also the difficult portage at Bennett Dams (Stayton Island).

There will be work in progress starting on June 20, and the boat slide will be out of service on the left channel. Work is scheduled to be done so that boats can more easily use the slide at Lower Bennett Dam on the North channel. Boats will need to pull in to the shore on the side of the island and walk the boats around the fish ladder to drop them down the slide. From Stayton to Shelburn is comparatively easy to navigate. Below Shelburn there are dozens of shallow gravel bars and some of them have difficult logjams below them. It is critically important to be able to pull the boats up on the gravel bars and to rope them down safely. It is true that many of the channels may be navigated, but any little error can cause a disaster. It is also possible for new tree branches to wash downstream and cause more clogging of the narrow channels. Below Green's Bridge and down the junction with the South Santiam there are a

couple of additional shallow, tree blocked channels. It is safer to drag the boat through a good channel than to run a channel that may be partially blocked."

### **Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos: (503) 349-1377)**

said by telephone today that angling pressure has been light on the Clackamas as low water has challenged anglers as level and flow have been dropping since the 1st of June. Shower this week are supposed to improve flows with NOAA predicting and increase from about 1,300 cfs to over 1,500 cfs with the water level rising only a few inches. Summer steelhead numbers are still low but spring Chinook fishing has been fair this week. Over the past weekend, ODFW checks showed 17 springers kept, 5 springers released, and 4 summer steelhead kept for 12 boats. as **pro guide Chris Nordling (503-866-0971)** said, "It's too bad that this beautiful river so close to Portland doesn't put out fish on a more consistent basis. When she's good, she's good, but when it's tough, it's really tough!" Try spinners in assorted sizes and finishes as well as bobber and bait. Cover as much water as possible in order to find a biter. You will see fish.

Effort for salmon and steelhead has been very light on the Sandy River according to **Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos: (503) 349-1377)** due to skinny water conditions. The ODFW predicts a good year for Sandy Springers. The Oxbow to Dabney trip is a good choice and if you're bank angling try Oxbow Park, Dodge Park, the Cedar Creek area, Revenue Bridge, up around the old Marmot dam site, or near the mouth of the Salmon River.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Steelheaders have reported finding spring Chinook in the haunts where they normally find summers on the Clackamas upriver from Estacada. Little Cleo spoons have been effective at attracting either or both. Be aware that springers are showing some color at this time of the season but that bucks will invariably cut better than hens of similar hue.

Bobber and bait have been effective in drawing spring Chinook bites on the Sandy River with a recommendation to carry more than one cure and some sand shrimp for combo baits when the salmon get picky (as if they're ever any other way). There are good numbers of summer steelhead in the Dabney Park stretch but they are spooky in low water conditions. In these situations, a long cast with a fly rod can often get an offering within striking distance.

This time of year with the water low and clear, whether you choose the Clack or Sandy to chase summer or springers, get there early to put the odds of a hookup in your favor.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – Grim results for spring chinook anglers on Tillamook Bay last weekend. After much effort, the bay gave up very little results for anglers working ideal tides last weekend. It's evident that the Tillamook spring chinook run is less than impressive. The perfect tide exchange and little seaweed to hamper success were still not enough to produce great results. The relentless NW wind forced us to work the water close the north jetty (on the inside), still, with poor results. It appears as if the sub-par Tillamook season is already winding down.

The wind-whipped ocean left little option for saltwater action over the weekend. Anglers were able to fish for a few hours in the early morning before the winds came up but the upcoming weather change is going to be very welcomed. There was some halibut boats that braved the wind-waves and bottomfishers did head north early so they could ride the NW wind chop back to port in the afternoon; they scored good results as well.

Most of the river effort is taking place in tidewater. Although you can expect to produce some results if you put in a strong effort, tidewater, and the river reaches upstream, produced best a few weeks ago

when the initial spurt of mid-May springers made their appearance in higher flows. Fish are getting pretty worked over right now and not that interested in biting. Maybe that will change in the improving tides this weekend.

Crabbing remains fair but the catch remains largely softshell.

**The Guide's Forecast** – Although there will still be some action for spring chinook in the Tillamook district, the season here is largely over, at least in the estuary. Anglers will begin to turn their focus onto ocean salmon, particularly coho. That season opens on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

Spring chinook seekers this weekend will be met with a minus tide series so upper bay fishing is recommended; except for the fact that you'll likely catch much more moss than you will salmon. If you can tolerate cleaning your gear on a regular basis, you may find success. Anglers may also take advantage of the high tide bite in the upper bay. Work the flats around the mouth of the Wilson River. The bite doesn't typically last long here, but it can be productive. Troll herring preferably but spinners can work too.

Tidewater bobber tossers should produce fish too, especially the last ½ of the outgoing tide. Fish should be well distributed throughout tidewater but it won't be easy to catch your fish. Smaller clusters of eggs and small shrimp tails are recommended in the clear water.

Anglers targeting freshwater chinook and a rare summer steelhead are best off in the Trask, Wilson, Nestucca or Three Rivers reaches on the north coast. Early morning effort will pan out the best but don't go into it with high expectations.

**Central & South Coast Reports** – offshore conditions moderated on Wednesday this week, allowing sport and charter vessels to access the bounty of the ocean out of Depoe Bay. Catches did not disappoint as bouts returned laden with rockfish, ling cod and ocean crab. Once charter boat even took and elusive Chinook which pulled scales to the 30 pound mark. While this newsletter goes out too early for reports from Today, June 12th, offshore conditions appear to allow for a repeat of yesterday's success.

Bottom fishing has reportedly slowed out of Newport according to reports on Wednesday this week. This change is attributed to strong north winds having a cooling effect on the water offshore.

The ODFW says that "Chinook salmon fishing this year should be good to great based on forecasted adult returns" but this fishery has yet to materialize for all but the ocean off the southwest tip of the state. If winds turn to coming out of the southwest, the change in water temperature should move salmon closer to shore. Offshore coho season opens June 21st and this is historically a decent fishery.

Bay crabbing has been an exercise in frustration 'most everywhere. When it has been possible to cross the bars, however, ocean crabbing remains a worthwhile endeavor.

Summer steelhead numbers are improving on the Siletz with mid-June usually offering fair to good fishing from Moonshine Park up to the deadline. Try small spinners or a drifted corky.

Crabbing is low in Yaquina Bay but those who have put in the time have managed a few keepers for several hours effort.

Offshore Chinook fishing has shown a slight improvement for boats launching out of Winchester Bay. The annual redtailed surfperch spawning run which brings these fish into the lower Umpqua by the thousands is going strong. A boat is required to fish them but there are local guides who are targeting them. The Oregon daily bag limit is 15 which is a few meal's worth when they're running large. Well-

known pacific northwest outdoor writer Pete Heley says the 2014 Umpqua River pinkfin run is "the best in years." Shad fishing is fair on the Umpqua but hasn't really taken off this year. Most pressure is at the popular Yellow Creek stretch and at Sawyers Rapids. A few summers have entered the system but this is primarily a catch-and-release fishery for wild fish on the mainstem (See related story following). Steelheading is slow on the North Umpqua. South Umpqua smallmouth bass fishing is improving but has yet to hit its stride.

We reported earlier about the ODFW Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan meeting in an effort to alert our readers who may have wanted to attend, particularly those with opinions one way or another about a possible change in the hatchery-only restriction on the Umpqua. As it turned out, the ODFW received so many Emails supporting the status quo that the issue was removed from the docket.

Coos Bay crabbing is a sport for the dedicated but persistent boaters have managed to take a few legal-sized Dungeness. Minus tides this week will allow diggers access to the excellent clam beds available here.

Springer fishing remains hit-or-miss in the low, clear, warm waters of the lower Rogue. A couple are being taken daily but those anglers who do so rightfully consider themselves most fortunate. Levels will only get lower through the coming weekend. The middle Rogue has been a dead zone for fishing. On the upper Rogue, however, things are looking pretty good. Spring Chinook are streaming into Cole Rivers Hatchery in good number and salmon fishers on the upper river have been taking decent numbers. Backbouncing, back-trolling plugs and drift fishing have all been effective at times. Summer steelhead are just beginning to show but there are too few around to consider targeting them yet. Stimulators have been very effective for trout on the Rogue above Lost Creek Reservoir and this pattern will hold up as long as the Salmon Files are present.

Boats launching out of the Port of Brookings have been jigging up rockfish and ling cod just outside the jaws. A quick morning trip is sometimes required to fish before the wind comes up. Cutthroat trout fishing is fair to good at the Chetco River. When boats have been able to get out for Chinook, catches have been good with five out of six anglers returning to port with a salmon.

**Pro guide Chris Vertopoulos: (503) 349-1377** fished Diamond Lake for a couple of days this week and reports fishing is "average at best." There are a few nice-sized trout in the lake, however, as Tracy Webb and Mike Sawyer (home locations unknown) caught trout weighing 4.5 and 5.6 pounds respectively.

Wallowa Lake, Kinney Lake, Salt Creek Summit Pond and McGraw Pond are scheduled for trout stocking this week.

**Central and Eastern Oregon** – Now that Salmon Flies and Golden Stones are all but gone from the Deschutes, redsides seem disinterested in imitations but have been responding well to nymphs. Fish counting resumed at the trap at the sorting facility near the Pelton Reregulating Dam on the Deschutes June 1st. Through the 8th, 72 hatchery springers have been counted along with four which were unclipped. No steelhead entered the trap during that time period.

Crooked River 225 cfs and gradually dropping. Fishing has been fair recently.

**Reminder:** "ODFW biologists will be electrofishing the river between the Big Bend and Cobble Rock campgrounds from Monday, June 16 through Friday, June 20. During the sampling, fish are stunned and netted so biologists can record the size, condition, and abundance of both redband trout and mountain whitefish. The fish are then released unharmed. Fishing is likely to be adversely affected in the portion of the river being sampled but the remainder of the river will be unaffected.

"For safety reasons, ODFW advises anglers to avoid this stretch of river while the biologists are sampling."

When Green Drakes are hatching on the Metolius, those tricky trout get slightly easier to catch. There are no sure things but why not play the odds and throw some imitations in the area of the Camp Creek Campground? Pack dome Stonefly nymphs which have been effective between hatches. Bears are becoming active so keep an eye out.

Action picked up at Lake Billy Chinook this week for trollers, several of whom reported landing some nice bull trout. Smallmouth bass fishing is also improving. Anglers are advised of a kokanee tournament planned for the weekend of June 14th.

Results have been mixed for fly fishers targeting largemouth bass at Davis Lake. The west side has been good for topwater fishers at times.

Wickiup is rewarding early morning trollers with decent catches. Large browns can be seen feeding in the shallows but they'll only respond to a well-presented fly that matches their bug du jour.

The Grande Ronde River is still running high although it is producing some trout. Fly anglers are not doing as well as those throwing hardware.

Crane Prairie is producing some of those large rainbows for which it is well known.

Odell has been producing good numbers of kokanee to trollers dragging hoochies behind flashers around 50 foot depths.

Limits of kokanee have been reported from Paulina Reservoir for anglers using jigs. Some have been tipping jigs with shoepeg corn or using a corn scent. Kokes are averaging 12 inches or better.

Green Peter has been producing fair to good numbers of kokanee although small fish in catches have required some culling.

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

Bob Rees: [brees@pacifier.com](mailto:brees@pacifier.com)

Michael Teague: [TGFMichael@gmail.com](mailto:TGFMichael@gmail.com)

Doug Rees: [doug@TheGuidesForecast.com](mailto:doug@TheGuidesForecast.com)

#### **Random Links**

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ODFW's clamming workshops: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2014/june/060214b.asp>

Kayak Ling Cod: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWMhsvKLi6c>

**GOOD LUCK!**