

The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 28

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **July 11<sup>th</sup> – July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**Willamette Valley/Metro** – Sportanglers have been frustrated with a 38% mark rate for the summer chinook return this year. Typically, the mark rate is closer to 60% and although catches have been fair, few fish are being taken home for consumption. Fishery managers will meet today (Wednesday) to consider additional time on the water by the sport fleet. The any chinook season on the Columbia opens up on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

Springers and summer steelhead continue to cross Willamette Falls by the hundreds daily. There's little angler interest on the mid-70-degree water of the lower Willamette at this time. A few are bass fishing while some are fishing catch-and-release for sturgeon which has been good at times. Spring chinook and shad fishing is all but over. Upriver summer steelheading is fair to good in the stretch between Eugene and Springfield.

North Santiam steelhead has been fair but is improving. On the South Santiam, steelheading has been fair to good with the bonus of spring chinook in the river. Mornings are a good bet although evening fishing has been quite good recently.

A few spring chinook and summer steelhead are being taken on the upper Clackamas. For these fish in summer conditions, be there at first light to connect. It's a hardware show now with spinners and spoons taking fish. Try a copper finish if nickel and brass aren't producing.

Try the Sandy River early in the day from Dodge Park upstream. While there are springers and steelhead in the river, many are looking forward to coho which won't be arriving for several more weeks.

**Northwest** – With the minus tide now upon us and the summer steelhead run coming on strong, action for these fish should ramp up this week along lower Columbia beaches. Hot colored spin-n-glos tipped with coon shrimp should account for success on the morning tide series. Sockeye retention remains open as it appears we're on the way to a record return. Sockeye are occasionally taken while fishing for steelhead.

Ocean fishing out of Astoria was excellent over the holiday weekend. Coho and some chinook were taken south of the mouth of the Columbia, not much effort along the Long Beach Peninsula. Rough seas this week will keep offshore effort to a minimum. A strong minus tide will make bar crossings dangerous.

Garibaldi ocean trollers also took fair numbers of coho over the holiday weekend. Some halibut were taken between 90 and 170 foot of water as well. Crabbing is great on the ocean and improving in Tillamook and Nehalem Bays but a large portion of the crab remain in a soft shelled state.

This will be the last minus tide for clam diggers as the season closes beginning July 15<sup>th</sup> until September 30<sup>th</sup> along Clatsop area beaches.

**Southwest**- Salmon fishing has been decent out of Depoe Bay and Newport with limits of rockfish being taken although lingcod have remained more challenging. Ocean crabbing has been good but half or more in the pots are soft-shells at this time of year.

The Oregon coast is open for all shellfish except mussels; the harvest of which is closed due to a naturally-occurring toxin.

Sport boats launching out of Reedsport are taking good numbers of chinook and coho salmon and have returned with good catches of ocean crab. Winchester Bay is slow to fair for crabbing although the surf

perch fishery in the lower Umpqua has continued to produce.

Tuna remain 20 or more miles offshore out of Charleston with windy conditions preventing most sport boats from making the trip. Clamming will be excellent in Coos Bay with a series of minus tides extending into the coming week. Bay crabbing has improved but is only fair.

Charter boats out of Gold Beach have been scoring limits of lingcod then finishing up with similar results for rockfish. Bottom fishers are taking cabezon to 7 pounds since that specie became legal to keep on July 1. Ocean crabbing has been fair.

Offshore fishing has been good out of Brookings for chinook averaging 20 pounds and most coho around eight pounds. Bottom fishing has been good as well with some large cabezon filling out rockfish limits. Boats are starting to troll Rogue Bay but no fall fish have yet been reported. Fishing is poor in the low, warm waters or the lower Rogue River. Fish are being taken following a long dry spell on the middle river as summer steelhead are starting to show up. With over 200 summer steelhead at the hatchery already, upper Rogue steelheading is fair but will improve as numbers build. Spring chinook are being caught above Shady Cove. Wild Chinook may be kept from Dodge Bridge down to the Hatchery Hole.

Trout are biting light at Diamond Lake but they *are* biting. Power Bait is still the best choice but keep baits small to improve hookup-to-bite ratios.

**Eastern** – With decent summer steelhead movement in the Columbia, fishing is picking up on the lower Deschutes as the season gets underway here.

Caddis Flies and Stoneflies are hatching evenings on the Metolius but not in great number.

Crane Prairie has been fishing well for fly anglers. With Damsel Flies furiously hatching, the local 'bows have been suckers for the nymph version.

Gold Lake continues to produce nice-sized rainbows and brook trout to anglers using nymphs or wet attractor patterns.

Wallowa Lake is fishing well for trout but poor for kokanee. While still too high to wade, the Wallowa River has started to drop and is producing trout on Stonefly nymphs.

**SW Washington-** Summer steelhead are starting to show in fair numbers on the Cowlitz. The Kalama and Lewis systems remain depressed.

Mainstem Columbia plunkers should find fair to good success for steelhead this weekend. As long as water temperatures remain cooler than 67 or 68 degrees, action should remain fair. It won't be long however, until the mainstem Columbia edges toward 70 degrees.

**Columbia River Fishing Report** —. Despite a rough ocean, some boats have been exiting the Columbia River in pursuit of offshore coho and an occasional chinook. Charter boats and a few smaller ones have been pounding their way out, to the SW of the Columbia River mouth, have been rewarded with easy limits of salmon. Most recently (Monday and Tuesday) charters reported coming back to the dock around 9:00 a.m., full of limits with excellent action coming from trolled anchovies indicate that indeed, the coho run will come in as predicted (if not more). The trend for Columbia River fishing has been one of under-prediction. We'll talk about that a bit later. Not many boats are venturing to the north, where it's more likely to intercept chinook that hover close to shore this time of year. With coho limits coming all too easy to the SW, why bother? It will take you a bit longer to find all your fish to the north, when you can be

back to the dock for breakfast fishing to the south. It's a minus tide series on the mainstem so of course you have to pay attention to the strong run-off. We'll talk more about that later too.

Certainly noteworthy is the sturgeon fishing in the estuary. Guides are reporting highly unusual occurrences when pursuing sturgeon down here. **Pro guide Andy Betnar (503-791-4094)** continues to be impressed with the action and observations taking place near Astoria. Andy reported 3 to 6 sturgeon jumping simultaneously during the ENTIRE 5 hour trip he conducted the other day, along Desdemona Sands, just downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. Andy reported never before, seeing such aerial action from oversize and large keepers for such a prolonged period of time. In the 5 hours he fished 4 customers and 2 guides (counting himself), they landed an estimated 45 fish with a dozen of them being oversize and nearly half of them over 50 inches in length. Truly an impressive fishery that few are taking advantage of.

Further upstream, effort for summer chinook continues to erode as frustrated anglers are turning back more chinook than they are retaining. Although it may not have meaningful application, fishery managers extended the summer chinook fishery through July 31<sup>st</sup>. That will take us directly to the non-select salmon season (for chinook) starting August 1<sup>st</sup>. Managers upgraded the summer chinook run to over 70,000 fish and the sockeye run to over 560,000 returning adults, showing a new record for sockeye anyway. It's good times for salmon on the mainstem Columbia and thanks in large part to spring and summer flow for out-migrating juveniles. It's high time that you commented on the benefits of spring and summer spill on the mainstem Columbia. Email Richard Whitman and Brett Brownscombe on how we appreciate Oregon advocating for spring and summer flow. Here are their email addresses, they are negotiating with Bonneville Power Administration on appropriate flow and spill regimes for the mainstem Columbia:

PLEASE reach out to:

Brett Brownscombe: [brett.brownscombe@gmail.com](mailto:brett.brownscombe@gmail.com) or  
Richard Whitman: [Richard.M.Whitman@state.or.us](mailto:Richard.M.Whitman@state.or.us)

It's long past time that these two natural resource advisors hear from us on the importance of flow and spill! It's a small ask for a big return on investment! Please email NOW!

THIS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

As we've mentioned before, the low mark rates have frustrated anglers on the mainstem Columbia. Although this is unlikely to change, it's pretty cool that we have the opportunity that we do for these summer chinook. Don't count on great catch and keep opportunity but it remains one of the best opportunities for those that can't get offshore this time of year.

Fishery managers made this decision yesterday:

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

**Contact:      Jeff Whisler                      (971) 673-6024**  
**Rick Swart                                (971) 673-6038**

[www.dfw.state.or.us](http://www.dfw.state.or.us)

*For Immediate Release*

*July 9, 2014*

## **States reopen Chinook salmon fishing below Bonneville**

CLACKAMAS, Ore. – Recreational Chinook salmon fishermen will get an additional three weeks of fishing on the main stem Columbia river downstream of Bonneville Dam under rules adopted today by fishery managers from Oregon and Washington.

The fishery will take place Friday, July 11 through Thursday, July 31 from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline, with a daily bag limit of two adult salmonids – Chinook, steelhead or sockeye – per day. All Chinook and steelhead must be fin-clipped.

This is the second time fishery managers have extended the summer Chinook salmon retention season below Bonneville Dam. Sockeye and steelhead seasons are already open.

Today's decision was based on an increase in the catch guideline for summer Chinook that resulted from updated run size and catch data. Current expectations are for a Columbia River return of 74,000 summer Chinook and 560,000 sockeye, up from the preseason forecasts of 67,500 Chinook and 347,000 sockeye. The summer Chinook and sockeye season remains open through July 31 from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border. Steelhead fisheries in this section of the Columbia are open through the end of the year,

Fall Chinook salmon fisheries are scheduled to commence on Aug. 1.  
For more information, visit ODFW's website at [www.odfw.com](http://www.odfw.com)

Not many would say that summer chinook fishing has been all that productive but summer steelhead action is heating up.

Here are the catch statistics for the lower Columbia River:

### **Gorge Bank:**

Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook released for 24 bank anglers; and no catch for two shad anglers.

### **Gorge Boats:**

Weekend checking showed five adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus 10 unclipped adult Chinook and nine unclipped steelhead released for 19 boats (51 anglers).

### **Troutdale Boats:**

Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, one adipose fin-clipped steelhead and one sockeye kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook, and one unclipped steelhead released for 24 boats (55 anglers).

### **Portland to Westport Bank:**

Weekend checking showed five adipose fin-clipped steelhead and one sockeye kept, plus one unclipped steelhead released for 109 bank anglers.

### **Portland to Westport Boats:**

*Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook, one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook, two adipose fin-clipped steelhead and two sockeye kept, plus four unclipped adult Chinook, one unclipped jack Chinook and four unclipped steelhead released for 63 boats (148 anglers).*

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

*Weekend checking showed three adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept for 14 bank anglers.*

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

*Weekend checking showed two adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped adult Chinook and one unclipped steelhead released for seven boats (14 anglers).*

It's clearly not white hot fishing for salmon or steelhead but we are entering peak season for summer steelhead in the gorge. Passage is peaking with tens of thousands more to come. Anglers are reporting mossy conditions downstream of Camas so be aware of the conditions you'll be experiencing if you fish downstream of this area.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The best prospects are looking west of the mouth of the river. If you have appropriate offshore boats and equipment, this is a great year to catch offshore coho and the occasional chinook. For quick limits, target the ocean SW of the mouth of the Columbia River and work your way SW of Buoy 2 or the CR Buoy for easy limits. Granted, they're small coho but none-the-less, they are quality coho, available for the taking. Troll anchovies for best success and if for some reason, you don't limit prior to 9:00 a.m., you may drop your baits down 30 to 40 strips to get those hungry fish that have gone deeper when the sun has risen. This should not be a challenging fishery for those taking advantage of friendly seas as the offshore forecast indicates:

**FRI** N WIND 5 TO 10 KT...BACKING TO NW IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT AT 8 SECONDS.

**FRI NIGHT** NW WIND 5 KT...BACKING TO SW TO 5 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT AT 8 SECONDS.

**SAT** SW WIND TO 5 KT...VEERING TO W 5 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 1 FT. NW SWELL 3 FT AT 12 SECONDS.

**SAT NIGHT** NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT...VEERING TO N AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 17 SECONDS.

**SUN** NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. GUSTS TO 15 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 3 FT AT 17 SECONDS. CHANCE OF DRIZZLE.

**SUN NIGHT** NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 4 FT.

**MON** N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 5 FT.

**TUE** N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 6 FT.

It's going to be a great week to harvest hatchery coho salmon and an occasional chinook from the ocean, outside of the mouth of the Columbia. Go get 'em! It's pretty simple fishing; be sure to go deeper if you're not limited by 9:30 a.m.!

For those targeting steelhead on the lower Columbia beaches, you've heard us advocate for hot colored spin-n-glos fished close to the beach for summer steelhead and what's sure to be a rare sockeye right now. Although the run for summer chinook and sockeye has been upgraded, we're well past the peak of these runs so action should start to slow for each of these species. Don't count on hoards of take-home fish but at least we have some opportunity!

If awesome catch and release fishing is important to you, sturgeon fishing is OFF THE HOOK right now. Fresh anchovies will impress you; it's easiest to fish along the green line, just downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. With the number of hard fighting keeper sized fish available in the estuary, it won't be hard to find good action from Tongue Point to Hammond in the coming weeks. Fresh sand shrimp will be quite productive too.

Upriver, you plan on targeting summer chinook, use spinners in the warming waters. That way, you have a chance at summer steelhead as well. Summer steelhead will respond pretty well to spin-n-glos tipped with coon shrimp as well; both in the gorge and along lower Columbia River Beaches too. With this minus tide series and the Columbia on the cusp of too warm for success conditions, this will be the peak week for summer steelhead catches on the lower Columbia Beaches.

**Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report** – Daily counts for spring Chinook at Willamette Falls fell below the century mark only twice during the month of June and were, for the part, many times more, particularly toward the end of the month and into July. The situation is this: the water upriver is cool while the lower Willamette is hot, hot, hot and we don't mean from the aspect of fishing action. Water temperatures are climbing into the 70s and springers don't play dat. Similarly, summer steelhead have been crossing the falls by the hundreds every day. Even with some days skipped, more than 28,000 Chinook and 18,000 summer steelhead are upriver now.

McKenzie River water levels which were dropping through the Fourth of July are now stable and forecast to remain that way for the coming week or longer. While many anglers prefer to fish a dropping river, steady levels and flows is not a bad thing.

The North Santiam level and flow is good for fishing. The new gate at the Green's Bridge boat launch site is now closed for the summer through Labor Day. Boat anglers wishing to use the site will need to obtain a key from the ODFW district office in Adair Village. For further information, call 541-757-4183. The boat slide at Upper Bennett Dam is closed to perform routine maintenance on the dam but is scheduled to re-open around Labor Day. Boaters can use the boat slide at Lower Bennett dam on the north channel around Geren Island to reach the Stayton boat ramp.

**The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** today announced that EE Wilson Pond will be closed to fishing, effective Friday, July 11 through the remainder of the year. The closure is necessary to allow for workers to deepen the pond which will provide improved fishing conditions. The pond is due to open next year. "Making the pond deeper and getting rid of some of the aquatic vegetation will lower the water temperatures, all of which help the fish, said Elise Kelley, ODFW district biologist in Corvallis.

"The resident populations of trout, bass, crappie and bluegill will be removed and held at another facility until EE Wilson Pond is refilled next winter, according to Kelley. The pond is typically open from Feb. 1 through Sept. 30 and Kelley expects the improvements to be made in time to return to that schedule in 2015."

It appears there are still a few trout if the larger variety swimming around in Hagg Lake as in lucky anglers caught a rainbow which scaled four pounds over the past weekend. A worm fooled the big fish. Or fed him, depending on your school of thought on the subject.

**The Guide's Forecast** – According to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**, a few spring Chinook have been taken on the lower Willamette, primarily right at the deadline just below the Falls but the reason counts have been so good is that these fish are escaping high water temperatures in the lower river for cooler alternatives upstream. He went on to say that "the place to fish for them is the Mack and Santiams which are really good." Also mentioned were shad which are very nearly done for the year although Campbell did say that smallmouth bass fishing "is fantastic" on the lower Willamette.

While fly fishing for reidsides is decent on the McKenzie and Caddis patterns are de rigueur for trout at this time of year, a greater number of anglers are targeting summer steelhead as numbers of these anadromous fishes increases daily. Chances are good and a hopeful fisher could do worse than throwing a spinner at them. It's the only lure some steelheaders use for summers. Such as Michael who is writing these words.

It's a tough decision but a win either way. The upper North Santiam holds some beautiful water for trout fishing. The lower river offers not only trout but a good chance for a hook up with a fresh summer steelhead. A delicious dilemma. South Santiam spring Chinook fishers are floating baits of cured roe under a bobber or back-bouncing to connect with springers.

**Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports** – Low, warm water is a positive river report to those who would as soon inflate their polyethylene seahorse and float the Clackamas while swigging a cold Pabst from the floating porta-piggy in tow. For those of us who would rather be fishing, these are not optimum conditions but can be avoided at first and last light.

Water level at the Sandy River is lower by nearly a foot compared to only one week ago. This, combined with warm weather this week as triggered the trademark milky gray green color typical of the Sandy and any river of glacial origin. These are far from optimal conditions.

**The Guide's Forecast** – "It's getting late for springers" according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**. He went on to say that steelhead are "spread throughout the system" and that he recommends "hardware or bait to catch them." No surprise he also recommends trying at first light.

**Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** put another employee on the line when I called for a report today, **Pro guide Scott Coppinler** who guides on the Sandy and had just returned from a uniquely productive trip. Initially, despite the water condition which is fluctuating between opaque and translucent, he said steelhead are being caught on the upper river. More surprising were the results of his mid-week drift from Oxbow Park to Dabney Park, during which he said he "landed 12 sturgeon measuring from three to six and one-half feet by backbouncing eggs." I don't know what we could add to that.

**North Coast Fishing Report** – Offshore fishing remains the best bet for north coast fishermen and the forecast makes me think that we'll have a productive week of fishing out of Garibaldi, Depoe Bay and Newport in the coming week. Rough offshore conditions kept many boats at bay this week but the upcoming week's offshore weather prediction looks much more favorable. Anchovy and chunk shad trollers did well the previous week but have been hampered by rough ocean conditions. With calming

seas and peak season approaching, catches should be good for the upcoming week. We'll report more on that in the forecast section.

Largely, anglers were not motivated to participate in this fishery as rough seas kept many at port this week. I know it's only coho but these fish are numerous and action will likely only get better in the coming weeks. With an 80k quota, we don't get opportunities like this that often. Anglers should take advantage of the quality opportunities that exist this week. Chinook will be sparse but coho action should be good. Offshore crabbing is improving too but quality hard-shelled crab is becoming hard to come by. It won't be a great week for crabbers to work the estuary fishery, strong tides will limit success.

For freshwater anglers, you'll continue to be challenged as low, clear waters keep success rates low. Warming waters will also limit success. It will be hard to score on the few remaining quality spring chinook and a rare summer steelhead in the Wilson, Trask or Three Rivers systems.

Motivated anglers should find some sea-run cutthroat trout trolling or angling in the tidewater sections of all north coast systems. This is an under-tapped fishery.

**The Guide's Forecast** – The ocean will provide the best opportunity, assuming bar crossings remain safe. According to the offshore forecast, things look good for ocean salmon, halibut and bottomfish enthusiasts.

Salmon anglers on the north coast (Garibaldi, Depoe Bay) should head North by NW in pursuit of hatchery coho, which should be plentiful. Ride the NW winds home late in the morning, hopefully with your limit. Action should only improve as the weeks progress.

Bottomfishers will have to travel some distance for good catches. Lingcod are becoming scarce but sea bass catches should remain steady. Halibut should be available from 170 to 220 feet of water but you'll have to spend some time pursuing these fish. Slow drift sardines or large herring and chunks of shad should work as well.

If you drop crab pots, you'll do well but you'll likely want to pick through the numerous soft-shelled crab to find some quality ones. Estuaries should provide some opportunity as well but with the large tide exchange, there won't be a large window of opportunity.

Clamming should be good along Clatsop area beaches and in estuaries. This will be the last chance for razor clam diggers as it closes beginning July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Central & South Coast Reports** - Fishing for salmon has been good out of Newport and Depoe Bay when offshore conditions have allowed boats to get out. The ling cod bite has bounced back this week out of central Oregon ports with many anglers taking limits. Rockfish catches have continued strong.

The daily bag limit is seven rockfish which must be taken from offshore waters no deeper than 180 feet, One cabezon is allowed as part of a rockfish limit as of July 1st and there have been some dandies taken. It's a good thing, too as cabezon, while great eating, are the epitome of the "mostly head" style of fish. A good-sized one is required to produce a decent fillet. As with other species including lings and many kelp greenling, the flesh of the fish is green or blue, turning white upon cooling, This is due to retention of copper in the fishes' diet which factor makes the eggs poisonous, so don't eat the roe, cooked or otherwise.

On Saturday, July the 12th, Northwest Kayak Anglers will be holding their annual Oregon Rockfish Classic tournament in Depoe Bay. Proceeds from this event go to local charities and organizations such as Depoe

Bay's Neighbors for Kids program and the Oregon chapter of Heroes on the Water. For more information, see **Random Links**, below.

**Department of Agriculture Advisory:** "Recreational mussel harvesting is closed from the South Jetty of the Columbia River to the California border. All other recreational shellfish harvesting is open. Scallops are not being sampled for bio-toxins at this time. Due to potential bio-toxins, consuming whole scallops is not recommended. However, the scallops' adductor muscle does not accumulate bio-toxins and may be safe for consumption."

Sea-run cutthroat trout start entering coastal tributaries in July and will continue into fall. These fish aren't shy about hitting spinners or brightly-colored flies but are in locations different from other trout species, salmon or steelhead. Look for them along brushy banks or hanging in dark, soft water above riffles.

Charter and sport boats out of Winchester Bay have continued to post good results with mostly coho although some Chinook are also being caught with the bonus of returning to port with find catches of Dungeness crab. Pinkfin surf perch are having a helluva run this year and show no signs of abating. Yeah, that was kind of a homophonic pun. The primary target of interest to anglers is smallmouth on the mainstem and South Umpqua and fishing is good. It'd be excellent if the fish were larger but for quantity, it's hard to beat. Summer steelhead have started nosing into the North Umpqua where anglers are intercepting them. While there are a few springers till in the system. that fishery is on the wane although a couple in the mid-30-pound range have been taken over the past week.

Most of the salmon caught by boats launching out of Charleston have been coho and about half of those have been wild, requiring release. Fishing has been good enough that limits are more common than not. albacore are being taken by recreational boats capable of a 40 to 50 mile round trip. As crabbing has continued to improve at Coos Bay, some boaters are reporting limits although sorting of softshells is necessary to retain the best Dungeness for the table. Get out for clams if you can with minus tides through the weekend and into the coming week. If clamming came with a written guarantee of excellence, it would be from Coos Bay. It's just that good.

The same low, clear, warm water in the lower Rogue which has stalled fishing in that stretch is having a positive effect. It's keeping the fall Chinook which have started entering the bay kegged up where trollers are now taking a few. This fishery will improve as salmon continue to enter and will peak in August. Steelheaders on the lower river are picking up summers occasionally by throwing spinners, always a good choice for these fish. Target them early in the morning for the best chance of success at this time of year. On the middle Rogue, spring Chinook catches remain poor but with summer steelhead starting to move through, a few are being caught. Bobber and bait, backtrolled plugs and backbounced roe have been effective on the upper Rogue in landing both summer steelhead and spring Chinook. Fishing in this stretch has been fair to good which means it's the best the Rogue has to offer at this time despite a considerable dropping level and flow since the 1st of July. The upper Rogue is forecast to remain stable for the next 10 days or more.

Salmon fishing has remained excellent out of the Port of Brookings with most boats heading due west five or 10 miles or a little more or south too fish near the California border. Chinook are at 60 to 100 feet over 200 foot or so depths while coho will shallower, often no more than 35 feet.

Nearly 24,000 legal and trophy-sized rainbow trout will be planted in Diamond Lake starting this week in an effort to boost catches.

**Central & Eastern** - Summer steelhead will be entering the lower Deschutes this month. Results will improve into August and September.

East Lake continues to fish very well for fly anglers. Rainbows and browns to 18 inches along with the Blackwater rainbow planted to reduce the chub populations should keep even the most jaded angler smiling. Be certain to release unclipped trout. Chromatids are hatching now.

Odell has been productive for kokanee trollers who report hooking lake trout on occasion.

Wallowa Lake is producing good numbers of rainbows along with some kokanee and a few bull trout to trollers.

Trollers are making good catches of kokanee at Wickiup the hoochies out-shining wedding rings or wobblers. Start shallow in the morning, then ply gradually deeper water as the sun gets higher in the sky.

A kokanee derby will take place at Green Peter on Saturday, July 12th.

**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**

NorthWest Kayak Anglers:

<http://www.northwestkayakanglers.com/index.php?topic=13595.new#new>

Reading Weather, Bar & Ocean Conditions for a Small Boater:

[http://www.leeroyramblings.com/Weather\\_Barcrossing\\_small\\_boat.htm](http://www.leeroyramblings.com/Weather_Barcrossing_small_boat.htm)

**GOOD LUCK!**