

The Guide's Forecast - volume 16 issue number 31

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **August 1st – August 6th, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – Strong numbers of summer steelhead continue to pass Bonneville Dam. Due to high water temperatures however, success rates are beginning to fall. Spinners and spin-n-glos tipped with coon shrimp will continue to be an anglers best bet. Catchable numbers of fall chinook are still about 3 weeks away.

Salmon and steelhead counts have picked up a little at Willamette Falls. Coho will appear in the counts starting around mid-August. The Multnomah Channel has produced walleye occasionally but it has been slow. Smallmouth bass fishing has been good while catch-and-release sturgeon fishing is slow in the summertime.

McKenzie River levels have dropped to levels where it will fish quite well. Target trout with caddis patterns and steelhead with spinners or drift gear.

Despite good numbers of summer steelhead on the North Santiam, they have been off the bite lately, Best chance is with a small spinner or jig early in the morning. Expect to pick up some fresh character on a hard-hulled drifter on the South Santiam. Boats are banging and dragging in places but they're picking up a few fish.

A push of summer steelhead historically occurs on the Clackamas in late July and early August. Steelheaders are hoping this comes to pass despite low, clear water conditions. Early mornings are really the only opportunity this time of year in these conditions. Try small spinners and a stealthy approach.

Hot weather this week is triggering glacial runoff in the Sandy during which the water turns from clear to milky. Some anglers prefer it that way, most do not. Steelhead are being caught between Marmot Dam and Dabney Park by anglers using small offerings early in the day.

Northwest – Moorage slips are next to non-existent in Astoria as anxious anglers await the opening of the Buoy 10 fishery starting Friday. Early returning chinook are typically destined for Young's Bay but the target fishery that had developed there in previous years, near the mouth of Young's Bay, has been rescinded by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission; be mindful of the new closure, it can be viewed here: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/lower-columbia/Map_YBC_Boundaries.pdf.

With predicted returns (about 10,000 adults) of these Young's Bay brood about half of what it was last year, the early season may not prove to be too productive anyway. Regardless of where you fish, you'll want to target the last 2 hours of incoming tide and the first hour of outgoing.

Ocean fishing out of the mouth of the Columbia remains excellent with more chinook beginning to show north of the river mouth, just off of the Long Beach Peninsula. Unfortunately, rough seas will continue to keep the small boat fleet at bay.

Success rates dropped out of Garibaldi over the weekend as coho seemed to scatter when water temperatures warmed. Now, with the trade winds blowing and cooling the offshore water, coho may once again go on the bite. **Don Loper** of Portland landed a 23-pound chinook fishing deep for halibut, in 210 feet of water west of Manzanita on a trolled whole-rigged green label herring. Ocean crabbing has been productive too although some soft-shells remain in the catch.

Nehalem Bay action remains fair at Wheeler and the city of Nehalem but the upcoming weekend tide series should draw interest back to the mouth where August should produce impressive catches here.

NOW IS THE TIME to prep yourself for a RECORD return of salmon on the lower Columbia. Don't go into this fishery thinking it's still going to be easy! Go to our tech report page at: <http://www.theguidesforecast.com/techrpt.shtml> and order your Buoy 10 tech report for home study. Look for the report titled **Columbia River Estuary Salmon Fishing #04**. You'll need every advantage you can to outshine the competition you'll have this year. Good luck!

Southwest- Salmon fishing has been good out of Depoe Bay with the majority of the catch coho although there have been chinook in the mix as well. Ocean crabbing is yielding good numbers but the majority of Dungeness are still soft. Bottom fishing is producing limits of rockfish along with a few lingcod.

All-depth halibut opens for the summer on August 1 & 2 then every other Friday and Saturday until the quota fills.

Over the past weekend, one of the charter boats out of Newport returned to the docks with 96 albacore on board. Tuna are running large this year with fish running up to 35 pounds.

Boats out of Winchester Bay have been taking a mix of coho and chinook. Bay crabbing is improving and a few salmon are available to trollers in the bay, The pinkfin perch run is winding down on the lower Umpqua but has still provided decent catches recently around marker 12.

The most productive port for tuna on the entire coast has been Charleston where every angler has returned with eight to 10 albacore. Crabbing has been good on Coos Bay although many are still soft.

Bottom fishing has been excellent out of Gold Beach although opportunities to launch have been frequently hampered by windy seas. Ocean coho salmon fishing has been good when bar crossings have been possible. Rogue Bay was giving up chinook to 30 pounds or better until last week's rainfall dropped the water temperature of the lower Rogue, sending salmon upstream. Chinook will continue to enter however, and August is expected to be a good month for bay trollers. Half-pounders are being caught from the low water between Quosatana and Lobster Creek on the lower river. There's little interest on the middle river as fishing has been poor to slow. Upper Rogue summer steelheading is worthwhile and will continue to improve into August. Plugs have been hooking fish recently.

Salmon fishing out of Brookings has been a little more challenging this week with chinook at 100 to 120-foot depths. This requires downriggers, a specialized technique with heavy weights.

Eastern – Caddis dries remain the best bet for redbase surface action on the lower Deschutes. Take representations of other life stages of the insects life as well in case trout aren't looking up.

Fly fishing has been good on the stretches of the Metolius which remain open. Sections of the river are closed due to wildfires, most recently around Wizard Falls Hatchery.

Now that the Wallowa River water level has dropped sufficiently to allow wading, water temperatures have slowed the bite. Wallowa Lake is fishing well for trout but poorly for kokanee.

Kokanee are running large at Wickiup although the bite has been unpredictable; on one day, off the next two.

Jigging has been most effective for good-sized kokanee at Paulina with best results coming from early to mid-morning.

SW Washington- The Cowlitz River has slowed for steelhead but boat and beach anglers in the lower river had a productive week of mainstem Columbia steelhead fishing. Still, on average, only every other steelhead could be retained as wild fish made up over half of the catch.

Seasons and bag limits become more liberal on SW Washington tributaries after August 1st. Check local listings before heading out. Good chinook and coho returns are expected.

Drano Lake action is slowing but some summer steelhead remain in the catch.

Columbia River Fishing Report – It's still a summer steelhead fishery drawing all the interest for Columbia River anglers this week. Of course, that's about to change but we'll write about that in the forecast section.

Summer steelhead action remains somewhat subdued for the number of fish in the system. With rising water temperatures and dropping flows, the abundant fish still do not respond very well to offerings, well, relatively speaking, given the numbers present in the system right now. The gorge remains one of the better bets for boaters but bank anglers are having a tough time finding consistent success. Even when anglers in the gorge find a dumb one, it's most often a wild fish, requiring release. Here are the ODF&W checks for the gorge and Portland to Longview stretch:

Gorge Bank: *Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped adult Chinook and one adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus three unclipped steelhead released for 49 bank anglers.*

Gorge Boats: *Weekend checking showed five adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook and 21 unclipped steelhead released for 16 boats (46 anglers).*

Troutdale Bank: *No report.*

Troutdale Boats: *Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and six adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus three unclipped steelhead released for 23 boats (47 anglers).*

Portland to Westport Bank: *Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus six unclipped steelhead and one sockeye released for 46 bank anglers.*

Portland to Westport Boats: *Weekend checking showed one adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook and 40 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus one unclipped adult Chinook, one unclipped jack Chinook and 33 unclipped steelhead released for 56 boats (137 anglers).*

Closer to the estuary, creel checks for steelhead remained fairly good. One odd anomaly was the high incidence of hatchery fish in the estuary fishery. This fishery largely takes place on lower Columbia beaches with Tenasillahe being one of the more popular destinations. Maybe these folks are implementing their own fin-clipping program? Here is the check:

Estuary Bank (Astoria Bridge to Wauna Powerlines): *Weekend checking showed four adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus two unclipped adult Chinook released for 16 bank anglers.*

Estuary Boats (Astoria Bridge to Wauna Powerlines): *Weekend checking showed 13 adipose fin-clipped steelhead kept, plus three unclipped steelhead released for 10 boats (19 anglers).*

Next week, we'll be talking salmon but we'll save all that news for the next (Forecast) section of the newsletter. There have been reports however of opportunity coming from trollers working upstream of

the Astoria/Megler Bridge for chinook. There must be a mix of summer and fall chinook but anglers were required to release any finned chinook that they caught. There have been very few hatchery fish for the few participating in the fishery.

Sturgeon fishing remains epic for the few anglers that know where to go. The fish don't seem to be distributed as well as they have been for a good portion of the season. We found ample numbers on Taylor Sands, more on the Washington side above the Astoria Bridge on Tuesday. We easily landed 35 to 40 sturgeon, mostly in the keeper range, using fresh anchovies for bait. **Pro guide Andy Betnar (503-791-4094)** brought us to a small pocket of holed-up sturgeon that were easy targets on the minus tide. Doubles and triples were not uncommon and it was a rare moment on the 6 hour trip that we weren't hooked up. We found another batch of willing biters in 27 feet of water just NE of the East End Basin. The bite may slow as water temperatures warm.

Boaters, at least the small boat fleet, haven't been able to get out on the ocean for the ample numbers of salmon that are available. Larger charter boats that have been going out have not had a problem getting their limits with more chinook starting to show in the catch. The fleet has been concentrating to the north of the mouth of the Columbia where chinook are more likely to be intercepted on the southerly migration to the mainstem Columbia. Numbers will be building in the coming weeks. Some boats have been taking advantage of the strong outgoing tides which knock down the NW winds in the morning. What happens is the Columbia River Plume quells the wind waves, providing a barrier for those fishing south of it. Be cautious however, as the outgoing tide slows, the ocean south of the outgoing flow will become susceptible to the trade winds and it will be a bumpy ride north back to the river mouth. Ample numbers of coho reside in this area of the ocean right now. Unfortunately, there looks to be no reprieve for those north winds so the ocean won't be a great option for the weekend fleet.

Lower Columbia crabbing is picking up but smaller crab still make up the bulk of the catch. That should change in the coming weeks but the river will be so inundated with boats that it will be challenging to keep your crab gear effectively working.

Here's an amusing aside: The top angler in the Pikeminnow bounty program in 2013 made over \$76,000 dollars. Thus far in 2014, the top angler is at \$56,000 with plenty of time for a strong finish.

<http://www.pikeminnow.org/>

The Guide's Forecast – It's here! The Buoy 10 fishery kicks off tomorrow but don't count on a slaughter for several reasons:

1. High tide is at first light. That will make the first light bite pretty good and although there's good numbers already in the river, you won't have a lot of time to take advantage of it. These fish respond best in the cool, saline, ocean influenced waters of high tide. You won't have too much of that water quality much after sunrise. There is the evening tide however but the winds will likely keep you from effectively fishing, or at least having a good time during this time.
2. The Young's Bay Bubble is closed. This area of the estuary was the most productive at the start of the season. Rogue River Chinook are destined for Young's Bay but the fish and wildlife commission closed this section of the estuary through the Columbia River Policy conversation. The Association of NW Steelheaders, NSIA and the NW Guides and Anglers Association will continue to get this section re-opened for the sport fleet. Be sure to check out the closure map here: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/docs/lower-columbia/Map_YBC_Boundaries.pdf.
3. It's still early for great catches. Although there are certainly some fair numbers of chinook in the lower Columbia, we're still weeks away from consistent fishing. It is important to point out however, that with such a large run forecasted to return, we should experience excellent early

season catches. It will be interesting to see if anglers take advantage of this relatively quiet time for this fishery.

As the week progresses however, we should start to see catches ramp up. I'm starting my trips on August 4th and if the ocean remains off limits due to the morning north winds still blowing, the river should give up some quality sized chinook throughout the incoming tide, high tide and the first part of outgoing. With the Young's Bay closure, I'll likely keep my focus on the stretch upstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge on the Washington side. Bait, such as fresh or frozen herring and fresh anchovies as well as spinners should produce some fair catches by early next week. It's likely you'll still see some of the Rogue strain chinook (left ventral fin-clipped) on the Washington side; these are a high quality fish. We encourage anglers to strongly consider releasing wild tule chinook (typically darker skinned) as these are a strain of chinook that still need some recovery time.

Meanwhile, the ocean will remain the best bet but we'll have to deal with the trade winds still blowing. Here is the offshore forecast, it's actually tamed from previous predictions and oddly consistent:

FRI NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. COMBINED SEAS NW 4 FT AT 7 SECONDS. AREAS OF FOG IN THE MORNING.

FRI NIGHT NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. COMBINED SEAS NW 4 FT AT 7 SECONDS. PATCHY FOG AFTER MIDNIGHT.

SAT NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT. COMBINED SEAS NW 4 FT AT 7 SECONDS. PATCHY FOG.

SAT NIGHT NW WIND 10 TO 15 KT. COMBINED SEAS NW 4 FT AT 7 SECONDS.

SUN NW WIND 5 TO 10 KT WITH GUSTS TO 15 KT. COMBINED SEAS NW 4 FT AT 7 SECONDS.

SUN NIGHT N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. COMBINED SEAS NW 4 FT.

MON N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. COMBINED SEAS NW 4 FT.

TUE N WIND 10 TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. NW SWELL 4 FT.

If you do take your recreation offshore, it's best to pursue these fish at first light. It's time to check out the Long Beach Peninsula where anglers should have good access to returning chinook. Start in shallow water around the light house, likely water 25 to 35 feet of water, fishing pretty close to the surface with fresh anchovies, the bulk of the bait present in our offshore waters. Coho should remain amply available to the SW of the river mouth but are also very available to the north as well.

Tuna chasers have been out of luck lately but may brave a calming sea after this weekend. The tuna season has been great thus far and should continue to improve out of Astoria and northerly ports.

Ocean crabbing will also remain good but many remain on a soft-shell state. Condition should improve by September where soft-shells will be in the minority by then.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Passage at Willamette Falls has shown some improvement over the past week with spring Chinook crossing at better than 50 per day and summer steelhead counts over 100 per day. Springer totals are nearing 30,000 while summers are pushing the 21,000 mark. Water temperatures remain over 70 degrees at the Falls.

McKenzie River levels have continued to drop while flows moderate. The river measured 2,300 cfs at Vide on July 31st. The McKenzie River below Leaburg Lake will be boat stocked this week with 3,000 rainbow trout which will be released from Leaburg Town Landing down to Hendricks Bridge. Anglers are reminded that bait fishing is not allowed below Hendricks Bridge. Five hatchery trout may be kept on the Santiams without regard to size. The limit for summer steelhead is four per day on the lower Santiam.

Summer steelhead are scattered with better concentrations of fish on the upper North Santiam. As of July 28th, about 2,000 springers and 2,500 summer steelhead have been counted at the dam on the South Santiam.

The Guide's Forecast – Despite improving movement of salmon and steelhead over the Falls, prospects are great for catching one or the other in the warm water of the lower Willamette. **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** reminds us the smallmouth bass fishing has been very good and that it's definitely the best bet right now.

While mornings are frequently mentioned as prime-time for fishing in the summertime, don't neglect the opportunity to spend some quality time chasing reddsides as the light fades on the lower McKenzie. Try dropper rigs with a bead-head nymphs until it's too dark to see. Or your arms get tired. Or both.

Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) reports that steelheading has been good on the Santiams. Keep offerings small as larger baits and lures, particularly bright spinners, can spook summers in these water conditions. Campbell advises that it's getting late in the season for springers and the best idea is to just leave them alone.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Water levels on the Clackamas have been gradually but steadily dropping over the past week. These conditions combined with seasonally clear water can challenge those of us who chase the fishes. Steelheaders have been taking fish on spoons, corkies and jogs over the past week.

Sandy flows have stabilized but the level is seasonally low. Readings at Estacada indicate water moving at less than 1,000 cfs and the level below the 11 foot mark. At Bull Run, it's closer to 590 cfs and eight feet. Water temperature varies from the lower to mid-60s. Expect hot weather this week to keep the water color typical given its glacial origin at Mt. Hood.

The Guide's Forecast – 'Springers are over' according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)** who advised that Clackamas salmon are not in any condition for the table at this time of year. He went on to report that "there are some summer steelhead around" and that spinners took several, including a 15-pounder over the past weekend. The area around Dog Creek and just below the dam have been kicking out some steelhead this week.

According to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**, "There are still quite a few bright Chinook in the Sandy." He went on to say that these fish will continue to trickle through the summer. Campbell acknowledged the milky water condition that exists here much of the time when the weather is hot but sagely advises fishing first thing in the morning, not because of the bite at that time of day but rather that cool overnight temperatures will cause an improvement in water conditions. Early risers will fish the best water of the day. He went on to say that fishing low on the river is the best bet for Chinook. Summer steelhead are also available, however, with upstream the best option. The stretch around Cedar Creek has produced several recently.

North Coast Fishing Report – With the exception of ocean coho, anglers don't have much in the way

of options in this region. Nehalem chinook are certainly in the game but the strong tide series took the most productive section, the jaws, out of play last weekend. That should change this weekend however.

Wind-whipped ocean waters kept most of the fleet from participating in the offshore coho fishery. The last feasible attempts were not all that impressive anyway. Oddly, coho catches slowed last weekend, which is contradictory from what should have been. This is the time of year when the Garibaldi fleet should be pounding hatchery coho that are often en route to the Columbia River in prep of a strong run in late August. They were certainly present the previous weekend as many reported great catches. It's been a quiet week however.

We ventured over the bar on Saturday and got a semi-productive day of fishing and crabbing in before the winds kicked up. Although it was challenging to find the coho, we did manage 2 chinook, one in the 22 or 23-pound class. The other chinook likely weighed in around 12 pounds. Both of these chinook and another bite or two came from my VERY deep running rod. I sent my rod down to the bottom at 210 feet, in search of a wily halibut. Simply trolling a green label herring, we were picking up chinook. We were in that deep water off of Manzanita, trolling south with the wind as it came up by 10:00 a.m. A portion of the fleet was targeting halibut and salmon closer to the mouth of the Nehalem. Although far from explosive, there were some coho taken but I didn't hear of many halibut or chinook. No one reported more than 3 fish for a morning's effort despite a friendly ocean. After a 5-hour soak on the crab gear, we hauled in 34 nice sized keepers, many still in the soft-shell state. We had our best success to the north of Twin Rocks, it was evident that pressure was far greater south of there. I re-dropped the pots to the south off Tillamook Bay for an evening haul, bringing in an additional 36 keepers with my neighbors on board, of course. By then, the bar had become restricted by vessels less than 22 feet as the wind waves came up, maybe as high as 5 feet at times. The ocean blew up for the next several days.

Nehalem trollers didn't have an exceptional week but fish were caught around the Wheeler area. The stronger tide series makes for better up-bay fishing and herring trollers did take fish in that reach. The Nehalem (city) reach didn't produce all that well but should improve later into August.

North coast estuaries didn't produce all that well on the strong tide series of last weekend. That too should change this weekend but bays still won't produce the bounty the ocean will this time of year. (Did I mention that I used fresh albacore carcasses for bait last weekend? Hard to beat that for crab bait).

Anglers that know how to target sea-run cutthroat trout in the tidewater reaches of these river systems should be entering peak options right now. Numbers should be strong but be mindful of catch limits, they're pretty conservative.

The Guide's Forecast – The ocean will remain the focus for most with the fin-clipped only coho fishery continuing just another 10 days (closes August 10th). Catches should improve for a couple of reasons; NW winds have cooled water temperatures since last weekend. Prior to the consistent winds, water temperatures were exceeding 60 degrees. Now, they're back down to the mid-50 degree range, where salmon prefer and become more active in their feeding habits. If the winds stayed subdued, especially in the morning hours, coho catches should be pretty good. Chinook will remain elusive but if you target them in deep water south of Cape Falcon, fishing close to the bottom with downriggers or extremely heavy lead, you should come up with some chinook. Target the coho in 170 to 200 foot of water fishing close to the surface with frozen green label herring. If you can get your hands on fresh anchovies, that certainly wouldn't hurt either.

All depth halibut season opens up Friday. It's only a 2-day season but rough seas may keep interest low. Here is the info on the rest of the summer season:

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/MRP/finfish/halibut/seasonmaps/2014_hbt_map.pdf

Ocean crabbing will remain great and bay crabbing should improve as well with the softer tide series. Of course, fresh crab bait will bolster catches.

An soft tide series, an early morning high tide and weak out-go and run timing make Nehalem look attractive this weekend. It's likely to be another good run on this system with mid-August producing the best catches. None-the-less, if it is a good run, this tide series should produce good catches. Trolled herring, or more likely, trollers holding in the soft outgoing tide at the mouth should produce some impressive catches in the morning. Don't miss high tide on the bar either and if the ocean cooperates, just outside the bar should produce as well. Be aware however that you have to go barbless once you cross the bar.

Freshwater fisheries remain challenging for even the savviest of anglers. Low, clear water keeps fish uncomfortable with summer steelhead still available in the Wilson, Nestucca and Three Rivers systems. You still have to go at first light and the bite won't last long, if there's one at all. One may consider tidewater cutthroat trout instead.

Central & South Coast Reports - Offshore salmon trollers have done well at times out of central Oregon ports. It seems this week the bite has been better in the morning than in the afternoon. As of July 27th, 38.5% of the 80,000-fish hatchery coho quota had been taken. The fin-clipped coho season is scheduled to run through August 10th and, at this rate, the quota should hold out until then.

Winds have been bar crossings problematic out of Newport and Depoe Bay this week. When boats have been able to get out, rockfishing has been excellent with ling cod catches fair to good.

There are tuna offshore but ocean conditions have prevented sport boats from making the trip. The few charter boats which have endured windy conditions and lumpy seas found a few tuna, however. On a brighter note, warmer water is moving closer to shore and where there are warmer water temperatures, albacore are sure to follow.

All-Depth halibut fishing is expected to be good at the opener on Friday, August 2nd with the fishery continuing Saturday, August 3rd then every other Friday and Saturday until the quota is depleted. Incidentally, 6% or 6,446 pounds remaining from the spring all-depth halibut quota was rolled into the 46,405-pound quota for the summer fishery.

Here's a little-known halibut fact: Halibut quotas are based on dressed weight (with guts and heads removed) rather than on the weight of the whole fish. There ya go; win yourself a bar bet.

Crabbing has been reported as pretty good in Newport Bay where boats are taking near-limits of Dungeness which are in fair to good condition.

With 60% of the quota remaining as of July 17, nearshore halibut may be taken inside the 40-fathom line seven days a week. These fish are generally smaller than their deep water counterparts and somewhat less plentiful but a welcome addition to offshore catches.

Ocean crabbing has been good but the majority of the crab taken have been softshells. Condition will improve later in August and should be excellent come September.

Boats launching out of Winchester Bay have encountered Chinook which have pushed the 30-pound mark. As Chinook numbers improve in Winchester Bay, that fishery will become worthwhile. Crabbing has continued to improve although many of those being taken are still soft at this time of year. Umpqua River flows have dropped below 3,000 cfs at Elkton and levels are down. Despite this situation, smallmouth

bass fishing remain good. Chinook fishing is closed on the North Umpqua although steelhead are available with the flies only section producing some summers. South Umpqua bass fishers are doing well.

Trollers along the Coos Bay bar have been picking up decent numbers of hatchery coho along with a few Chinook. Crabbing has been good for boats dropping rings and traps along the jetties. Limits of Dungeness are being reported. Sea-run cutthroat trout have begun their annual trek into the Coos River. Catches are fair but will improve through August and into September.

A few salmon have been taken by herring trollers on the lower Coquille where the season is just starting to get underway.

It was accurately reported that last week's rainfall in the Rogue Valley had lowered the water temperature of the lower river, drawing Chinook upstream and out of the bay. Since that time, salmon have continued to enter and the troll fishery has been improving once again. As long as hot weather persists (and it's supposed to for a while), keeping water temperatures above normal, Chinook will stay keged in the bay where they are at the mercy of those dragging spinner/anchovy combinations. Best results will come below the Highway 101 bridge to the mouth. That warm water in the lower Rogue has slowed the bite for those targeting summer steelhead and half-pounders. With recent water temperatures reported from 68 to 72 degrees in the middle Rogue, fishing is understandably slow. Early morning attempts with bait or small spinners has produced some steelhead but no fall Chinook fishery has developed in this stretch as yet. With the ODFW a good summer steelhead season on the Rogue, catches thus far have been quite good for steelheaders on the upper Rogue. Early and late day are predictably the most productive. Chinook may no longer be targeted above Dodge Park as of August 1.

Central & Eastern - There are a few trying for steelhead at the mouth of the Deschutes despite it being early for this activity. The summers that have been landed this week had too many fins and were released. While a few steelhead are being counted daily at Sherars Falls, they have yet to make it as far upriver as Pelton Dam. The wildfire northwest of warm springs has is mostly contained.

Kokanee fishing has improved at Green Peter for numbers of fish although they're running small this year. The limit is 25 fish and keeping that many is only doing the fishery a favor.

Trollers at Lake Billy Chinook have enjoyed steady fishing for fair to good numbers of good-sized kokanee.

Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600) mentioned that Timothy Lake has been fishing very well. And don't forget your crawfish trap - it has been stellar lately.

East Lake has continued to fish well this week, producing some dandy brown trout.

Despite a toxic algae alert, boaters are trolling with good success for kokanee at Odell figuring algae is unlikely to affect fish at 50-foot depths.

On July 29, the From the Interagency Fire Center issued this update on the Bridge 99 Complex Wildfire closure: "The Wizard Falls Fish Hatchery is now open to the public. Allen Springs, Pioneer Ford, Lower Bridge and Candle Creek Campgrounds are also open to the public as well as the 14 Road north of Camp Sherman along the Metolius River. Other road and area closures remain in effect (see details below). Visitors to the area are cautioned to drive slowly and carefully as emergency response vehicles, heavy equipment and firefighters remain in the area."

At this writing mid-day on Thursday, July 31st, nearly half a million acres in Oregon are being destroyed by wildfires. Check ahead on conditions before traveling to the east side and once there, use the utmost

caution to avoid contributing to the problem. See Random Links, below, for an online wildfire tracking website.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

ODFW asks anglers to design the 2015 halibut regulations and seasons:

<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/news/2014/july/073014.asp>

Halibut Swarm:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY7IPXZjqws&sns=em>

Halibut length - Net Weight Table:

<http://www.iphc.washington.edu/HALCOM/pubs/bulletin/lenwtimpchart.htm>

Fall Salmon Workshop August 9th from the ODFW:

http://www.odfwcalendar.com/?tribe_events=adult-fall-salmon-fishing-workshop

The Pacific's Salmon Are Back — Thank Human Ingenuity :

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/376258/pacifics-salmon-are-back-thank-human-ingenuity-robert-zubrin>

Making Trolling Spinners for Salmon and Steelhead:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4EPyYI7ROD4#t=14>

New version (08/01/2014) proposed license fees from the ODFW:

[http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/14/07_july/Exhibit%20B_Attachment%204_Proposed%20Recreational%20License%20Fee%20Schedule%20\(08012014\).pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/14/07_july/Exhibit%20B_Attachment%204_Proposed%20Recreational%20License%20Fee%20Schedule%20(08012014).pdf)

GOOD LUCK!