

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

Forecasting for the fishing week of **October 24th – October 30th, 2014**

Oregon Fisheries Update:

Willamette Valley/Metro – The Bonneville chinook fishery is coming to a close but given the magnitude of the coho run, trollers working the gorge flats should find bright and willing coho to take spinners and plugs into mid-November. Chinook anglers in the Bonneville reach were slightly disappointed by this season's results, largely due to the over-prediction of the run and the subsequent expectations that came with it. Witnessing the jack returns at Bonneville, maybe we'll make up for the under-prediction for chinook next year and it certainly looks like the coho run will be strong again.

Willamette level and flow reacted little to recent rainfall but there's more wet weather to come shortly. Summer steelhead daily passage at Willamette Falls is dwindling. Coho, on the other hand, are passing by the hundreds every day and seem to be in a hurry. And that's just fine by us. The cumulative total topped 16,000 as of October 19th, the latest data available.

McKenzie level and flow has yet to show much effect from the rainfall this week. On the contrary, it has been on a slow, steady drop over the past seven days.

The Santiams were not heavily impacted by rains this week but we'll see how this weekend's storm effects them.

Fishing effort on the Clackamas has been low except down by the mouth in Gladstone. That will change now that rain has finally started falling. Coho hopefuls can expect some decent coho fishing from Bonnie Lure up to the hatchery now that the water has started to rise.

Rain this past week did little to improve water conditions but a few hundred more coho managed to swim into the Sandy Hatchery holding ponds. The hatchery has already processed over 4,000 coho with most going to the Food Bank and now the river is fishing well.

Northwest – Significant rain storms continue to pound the north coast, allowing driftboaters to shake the cobwebs and get their gear backrolling. The Trask will be a favorite in what is still early in the boating season but the Wilson and Kilchis as well as the Nestucca should prove to be equally opportunistic.

Tillamook Bay itself is still giving up chinook for herring trollers but the upper and middle bay continue to be the most consistent producing areas. The Ghost Hole has been a disappointment for a good portion of the season but with fresh rains coming down the watersheds now, maybe Kilchis and Wilson River bound fish may once again utilize the extreme east side of the estuary (Ghost Hole/Bay City).

Now with water in the rivers, chinook should be shooting up all coastal systems with the Alsea and Siletz as well as the Yaquina likely to be good options for both boaters and bank anglers. The lower river reaches will likely produce the higher quality fish as fresh, sea-running chinook and coho should be entering, especially with the round of high tide exchanges we're now on.

The lower Columbia will finally begin to peter out for coho. After a strong showing, much of the run should be entering Columbia River tributaries. The estuary will largely be transformed into crabbing grounds now and the wicked tide exchange going on now won't do great things for crabbing this weekend.

Southwest- Opportunities to venture offshore for bottom-dwellers are fewer at this time of year and that situation is unlikely to improve. Take any opportunity to launch whenever water and weather conditions allow.

Offshore boaters are reminded that ocean crabbing closed on October 15th. Fortunately, most bays and estuaries have been putting out good numbers of quality Dungeness.

Tuna fishers are an enthusiastic lot and they are considering the next trip. We wish them well on this optimistic endeavor.

The latest report from the Siletz was early this week which indicated continued heavy pressure and a bobber bite that was best at first light.

Amidst coho rolling and jumping, trollers on the Yaquina River scored Chinook this week on baits of cut-plug herring.

Crabbing has remained good when it's not too stormy to take a boat out on Winchester Bay. With storms and rain, no reports have been forthcoming. Over the past weekend however, salmon fishing was good but the vast majority were wild coho which have to be released.

Trolling in Rogue Bay has been good for mostly coho. Summer steelheading had improved on the middle Rogue prior to the latest rainfall. Steelheading on the upper flies-only section slowed with the water too cool for best results.

Plenty of adult and jack Chinook in Chetco tidewater have been taken by bobber and bait fishers over the past week.

Enough rain has fallen in the Port Orford area to raise the levels of the Elk and Sixes rivers. Some Chinook should be nosing in but it's too early for the best fishing here.

Eastern – Water levels on the lower Deschutes started rising on October 15th and continued through the 18th at which time the current level was achieved, adding extra feet in depth and additional flow. This change also seemed to have shut down fishing for the time being.

Odell Lake has continued pumping out kokanee to trollers.

SW Washington - The Cowlitz traditionally out-shines most other Columbia River tributaries and great numbers of coho and some chinook are being taken from the system. Bank anglers were averaging a ½ of coho per rod, which is about as good as it gets for this fishery. Boat anglers were tallying 1½ fish per rod.

The Kalama and Lewis systems are also producing good coho catches and the Lewis has some fresh chinook available too.

Drano Lake is producing about a coho per rod and should continue for another few weeks at this pace. Further upstream, the mouth of the Klickitat is producing great for coho and some chinook.

Soapbox Update: Do you have your seats secured for the Association of NW Steelheaders 26th annual Hall of Fame Banquet on November 15th? This is the big one with lots of great auction items and a great program that highlights all the good things our association does for NW sports anglers. Go to the Steelheaders web site and secure your seats now. The Association would also LOVE to have any

wonderful donations you're able to provide. You can contact us through the web site with all your creative ideas. Thank you!

<http://nwsteelheaders.org/events/hall-of-fame/>

Columbia River Fishing Report – Anglers were still reporting great catches of coho last weekend, early limits to be exact, but with the recent rains, fish will be moving through the lower Columbia in pretty short order. It was a banner year for the few that took advantage of the action during the late season. It's also pretty daunting to recreationally fish with the gillnet fleet in full operation in this reach. Regardless of the commercial effort, there were plenty of fish for sport anglers to take advantage of. It also helped that we were coming off a weak tide exchange, which prolongs the bite over the course of the day for estuary trollers. Spinners turned back on for the few that were using them. Again, if you're fishing both bait and spinners side by side, it's bait that often draws the most strikes. If you're going to fish spinners, you should really put them on all of your rods. Again, the low tide exchange most often puts the biters in the lower end of the estuary, downstream of the Astoria/Megler Bridge. You'll see this portion of reporting for our newsletter drastically decline in the coming weeks, for obvious reasons.

Here's the latest round of commercial fisheries adopted by Oregon and Washington on Thursday:

Compact Action

The Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington met today and took the following actions:

Non-Indian Fisheries

Late Fall Commercial Fishery

- Adopted non-Indian commercial fishing periods as follows:

Season #1

7 AM to 7 PM Monday October 27	(12 hrs)
7 AM to 7 PM Tuesday October 28, 2014	(12 hrs)
7 AM to 7 PM Wednesday October 29, 2014	(12 hrs)
7 AM to 7 PM Thursday October 30, 2014	(12 hrs)
7 AM to 7 PM Friday October 31, 2014	(12 hrs)

Area:	Zones 1-3. Upper deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay, Elokomina, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A sanctuaries are in effect.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Unslackened, floater nets only.

Crabbers reported fair results downstream of Hammond but not as good as one would think for this time of year. Fresh bait always helps but with the weak tides and mild weather last weekend, keeper crabbing should have been much more rewarding.

The Bonneville backroll fishery is fading, fast. What few fish are there, aren't necessarily fresh in appearance. Anchor anglers are still taking about half or better of the catch but backtrollers are also inking a few. Most are hanging it up here, after a mediocre season.

The Guide's Forecast – Although it may not be quite time to write off the Buoy 10 fishery completely, given the recent rain events and run timing, anglers aren't very likely to see great action in this fishery this weekend. We also have to look at the magnitude of this year's run (yes, it's big) which is an indicator as to how long the fishery will hold up. With a significant bump in returning adults, there should still be fishable numbers in the estuary this weekend. For estuary trollers however, it's unfortunate that we received the rain we did, which would have kept them in the estuary for longer. If you are going to target these "screamin' upstreamin' coho, you will want to look towards the above bridge water at high tide. Keep in mind that the slower water bite won't last long as it will be running out fast to accommodate the fact we're on a minus tide series. In other words, don't put too much faith that limits will come easy for coho trollers at Buoy 10, we just don't have all the stars aligning (tides, water conditions) to make me believe that the opportunity will be there.

Same with the crabbing; high tide exchanges will limit productive activity, in the way of feeding crab. This crab fishery is better suited for smaller tide exchanges. You may find yourself working harder than you want to for a limit of crustaceans.

Upriver, if you're still planning on pursuing chinook in the Bonneville reach, you'll have your work cut out for you. Not only are numbers dipping, but quality is too. Most of the upriver brights are upriver browns right now but you may get lucky and find a fresh one. You'll be working for it though. This fishery is about over with, most would say it is.

Willamette, McKenzie & Santiam Rivers Fishing Report – Willamette level and flow reacted little to recent rainfall but there's more wet weather to come shortly. Summer steelhead daily passage at Willamette Falls is dwindling. The cumulative total of 22,855 belies the fact that several days over the past week, daily numbers were only single digits. Coho, on the other hand, are passing by the hundreds every day and seem to be in a hurry. And that's just fine by us. The cumulative total topped 16,000 as of October 19th, the latest data available. Those fishing above Willamette Falls are reminded that the mainstem and its tributaries are open to coho salmon with the bag limit increased by one clipped or unclipped coho during the scheduled coho seasons.

McKenzie level and flow has yet to show much effect from the rainfall this week. On the contrary, it has been on a slow, steady drop over the past seven days.

The Santiams were not heavily impacted by rains this week but we'll see how this weekend's storm effects them. October 21st is the latest data available for fish counts at Foster Dam on the South Santiam at which time the cumulative total for summer steelhead was 3,126 with fish continuing to pass daily.

Hagg won't be open year round this year as reported earlier by the Lake Stop store. It is scheduled to close November 23rd. Tagged trout have been released into Hagg. See **Random Links**, below, for the official "ODFW Tag Team Reporting" form online. *Save the tag* because some of them are worth \$50.

The Guide's Forecast – According to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**, "Walleye are starting to bite in the Channel," That's Multnomah Channel, of course where he shared that it's not unusual for this fishery to start up again at this time of year. "Sturgeon

catch-and-release has been awesome for the two or three people who are doing it," Campbell added. Now that rain has fallen and the upper Willamette tributaries are starting to cool, coho are becoming more active and willing to bite. Campbell advises trying the mouths of the Tualatin, Yamhill, Molalla and Santiam rivers with spinners.

The McKenzie River below Leaburg Lake was boat stocked in early September for the last time this season from Leaburg Town Landing down to Hendricks Bridge and above Leaburg Lake was boat stocked below Finn Rock in mid-September for the last time this season. Many of these fish should still be in the river and not too particular about what they hit.

Of 16,000 coho counted at the falls, around 3,900 made it above Stayton on the North Santiam through Oct. 18, according to the ODFW, including several hundred just in the last two weeks. The bag limit is three coho per day below Stayton but coho fishing is closed above the Stayton-Scio Bridge until Nov. 1.

Clackamas and Sandy River Fishing Reports – Fishing effort on the Clackamas has been low except down by the mouth in Gladstone although the hatchery has had over 400 coho enter in so far this fall. Anglers crowded at the Clackamas mouth as the only place to hook up is about to change now that rain has finally started falling. Coho hopefuls can expect some decent coho fishing from Bonnie Lure up to the hatchery now that the water has started to rise.

Rain this past week did little to improve water conditions but a few hundred more coho managed to swim into the Sandy Hatchery holding ponds. The hatchery has already processed over 4,000 coho with most going to the Food Bank.

The Guide's Forecast – "Coho are entering the Clackamas River in force" says Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600). He added that while there are some fish which have colored up while the water was low, "There are plenty of fresh, bright fish entering now." As Campbell stated a couple of weeks back, coho enter the Clack every year. The difference this year is that they're biting. Coho are streaming up Eagle Creek with the latest freshet but expect it to be crowded. Fresh coho will fall to eggs fished under a bobber or behind a diver and are most likely to bite if targeted when they are moving. When targeting summer steelhead, try the stretch from Carver up to McIver Park where acclimation ponds are located.

"Bright coho are being caught daily from the Sandy River" according to **Robert Campbell at Fisherman's Marine in Oregon City (503-557-5600)**. He told TGF by telephone today that silvers are available up to Cedar Creek and they're hitting spinners or drifted egg clusters. One angler reported he lost track of how many coho he'd hooked. There are still few dandy summer steelhead to be caught but they are becoming a rarity here.

North Coast Fishing Report – Chinook trollers are still hard at work in the Tillamook area, in pursuit of a mediocre run of fall chinook that seem to continue to bypass Ghost Hole trollers. In what is traditionally a late season go-to, those working the Ghost Hole and Bay City are largely coming up short. The best bite continues to be at Ray's Place Piling (also known as the Corral) through what we call the middle channel (or the rock pile) where fish last week were really only responsive for the first 2 hours of daylight. There were numerous fish taken there last week but nearly half of the fish that were falling, were wild coho that required release on all days except Friday's and Saturdays. The upper bay (picket fence, grassy knoll and oyster house have all put out some fish recently. The jaws were utterly pathetic for much of the ideal tide last week although on a rare day, there were some chinook taken here on herring.

The onset of the cooler weather, and subsequently cooler water, allowed us herring trollers to fish our baits with more confidence this past week. For much of the season, it was a spinner show and although spinners are still working, herring seemed to produce much better than in previous weeks for this middle bay fishery. Most recently, chinook (and coho) have been hitting the chartreuse/green dot spinners but the reds/pinks/whites have also still been taking fish. As water temperatures continue to drop however, herring will become a more valuable tool so watch for that.

Reliable rumors from the Wilson River on the season's first high water event gave us the impression that the river would be seeing a good return of chinook this season. Mumbblings of easy limits for the few that fished the system are likely accurate as this system, although better into November, can produce great catches of new chinook by mid-October. The river dropped quickly however before the current system swelled it again.

The Trask has been plugged with chinook, mostly in tidewater, prior to this current rain event. The hatchery received oodles of coho, some of which have been processed for the food bank, making for some good fishing in the hatchery hole reach. Hopefully, you saw last week's ODF&W press release which allows for an early opener in what should be a productive fishery. Hopefully, the snaggers stay away so we don't have our gear options limited in the future.

Bay crabbing has been slow and the recent rain freshet won't do much to improve it. The ocean is not only closed for crabbing now, it's upside down. The rough surf also doesn't do much for clamming either, razors don't often feed in a pounding surf.

The Guide's Forecast – Although most anglers will be looking to the rivers for action this weekend, the bay fishery is far from over. Chinook should be headed to the river systems while flows allow but they have to go through the estuary first. The bay was a bit colored up on Thursday but should be clearing soon as rivers drop. Until it does clear up, anglers will want to focus their efforts on the incoming tide, when green water is more likely to dominate the estuary. It's not that these salmon need really clear water to bite but we all certainly have a higher degree of confidence when we can see our propellers working in the water anyway. The strong incoming tides this week should bring fresh waves of chinook with it. As it has been for the last month, don't deviate from success and target the Ray's Place Piling and middle channel reaches of the upper estuary. Fish should still be moving through this area and receptive to a crippled herring. Spinner action should taper as water temperatures cool but I've seen spinners effective into mid-November before so if you have confidence in them, by all means, fish them. I've already seen some of the sturdy spinner trollers converting over however. The Ghost Hole and West Channel are the wild cards this week. With the rivers coming up significantly, fish could once again utilize these areas as fresh water channels from these reinvigorated river systems re-find their way back to the lower estuary. As Kilchis and Wilson fish dominate the returns to Tillamook Bay into early December, the Ghost Hole and Bay City should produce more consistent success but it sure has been pathetic lately.

With rains swelling the north coast systems, much of the focus will turn towards the river systems, where driftboaters will have the opportunity to access good numbers of river fish and the bank angling public will also get their crack at fresh fall chinook from the banks of all coastal river systems. Here's a system by system break down of river options for the weekend, from the north to the south.

Necanicum River – This small system may already been too low to drift by the weekend, depending on the amount of rainfall in the next few days. Regardless, the influx of fresh water should bring a good distribution of chinook (and coho) to the Necanicum for bank angler enjoyment. As flows subside, fish will gravitate towards the deeper holes, of which there aren't that many on this system, to feel most protected until they're ripe enough to spawn. Drifted eggs and hardware should produce results for those willing to put on some miles (both in and out of the car) for a reward.

North Fork Nehalem – River conditions were still too high and colored for interest on Thursday but hatchery personnel stated there were lots of fish around with some of them still bright. These fish have been here for weeks already and are getting ready to spawn. There are only a few chinook present. Winter steelhead won't show for several more weeks but I'm venturing a guess that the return will be a good one this season. The mainstem Nehalem (also known as the South Fork) will be too high and muddy to pursue salmon for a while yet. It's the last one to clear on the north coast due to the immense size of the watershed.

Kilchis River – This is a better late season option but if chinook are going to show in any number here, they should start on this round of high water. The river should be in ideal shape right now and should still fish fair through the weekend. If the river models remain accurate (good luck with that), chinook should be settling in deeper holes on this system and could be enticed by backbounced shrimp and egg combos. Plugs should also work well but can be hard to fish effectively with the geomorphology of the Kilchis system. Some fresh chum salmon may actually show up early here too; they must be released however.

Wilson River – This will likely be one of the better options this weekend. With a significant swelling happening at mid-week, fresh chinook should inundate this watershed from now through early December. It's just a guess as to how big the adult return will be. In recent years, it hasn't been all that impressive. Anglers should find the best success from Mills Bridge (near the old Guide Shop) downstream through tidewater. With the big tide exchange this weekend, fresh fish should be entering the system every day with the tidewater section producing best just after high tide in the afternoon. Backtrolling or anchor fishing with plugs should be effective if the fish are present. Backbounced eggs should produce well too. Bank anglers should have access to fresh fish well up to the Blue Hole and Siskeyville. Drifted eggs and shrimp should produce for some. Hardware such as spinners should be in your arsenal, especially after the morning bite is over.

Trask River – This should get one of the stronger looks for opportunity this weekend. Fresh rains should bring fresh fish and there should be ample numbers of them. Like in recent years, this system seems to be getting the lion's share of chinook and coho this year. Driftboaters should be sticking to the Cedar Creek to Highway 101 drift backbouncing eggs and shrimp in all the traditional chinook haunts. Plugs should also be effective here, bait-wrapped of course. Have you got your Bob's Bait Wraps for the season yet? You can order them from our on-line store or get them at Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor stores. Bank anglers should have good access to chinook and a rare hatchery coho in the Loren's Drift/hatchery hole area and slightly upstream on the north side of the river. Use Chance Road to access Loren's Drift and the hatchery hole, and Trask River Road for a good bunch more of the river above the hatchery. Like on the Wilson, the lower reaches should produce fresh, ocean-run fish.

Nestucca River – There are some tight-lipped anglers working the water down here and they are posting some decent results. With the fresh water influx, anglers should have good access to fresh fish downstream of 1st Bridge. Again, backrolled plugs and backbounced shrimp and egg combos should produce the best results. Fish will likely be racing through tidewater on this system.

Salmon River – The chinook return early on this system but bank anglers should still have some opportunity close to the hatchery here. There is no longer a viable hatchery coho return here.

Alsea River – Likely going to see a good return of chinook and coho this season, this river should be primed to put out both. The river level should be ideal for the weekend and the closer to tidewater you fish, the more likely you are to encounter fresh and willing chinook. Plugs and egg/shrimp combo's; do I sound like a broken record?

Crabbing, don't waste your time. Clamming? With this ocean forecast, I don't think so:

FRI SE WIND 10 KT...BACKING TO E IN THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS TO 15 KT. WIND WAVES 2 FT. W SWELL 9 FT AT 12 SECONDS. RAIN.

FRI NIGHT E WIND 10 TO 15 KT WITH GUSTS TO 20 KT... BECOMING SE 20 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. WIND WAVES 3 FT...BUILDING TO 5 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT. W SWELL 7 FT AT 12 SECONDS. RAIN.

SAT SE WIND 25 TO 30 KT...BECOMING S 30 TO 35 KT IN THE AFTERNOON. GUSTS TO 40 KT. COMBINED SEAS 13 FT... BUILDING TO 17 FT IN THE AFTERNOON. RAIN.

SAT NIGHT SW WIND 25 TO 30 KT WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT...BECOMING W 20 TO 25 KT WITH GUSTS TO 30 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. COMBINED SEAS 18 FT...SUBSIDING TO 14 FT AFTER MIDNIGHT. RAIN.

SUN W WIND 15 TO 20 KT WITH GUSTS TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 4 FT. W SWELL 11 FT AT 11 SECONDS. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

SUN NIGHT W WIND 10 TO 15 KT...EASING TO 5 TO 10 KT AFTER MIDNIGHT. GUSTS TO 20 KT. WIND WAVES 3 FT. W SWELL 8 FT. CHANCE OF SHOWERS.

MON S WIND 25 TO 30 KT. WIND WAVES 8 FT. W SWELL 6 FT.

TUE SW WIND 20 TO 25 KT. WIND WAVES 7 FT. SW SWELL 13 FT.

Central & South Coast Reports – Opportunities to venture offshore for bottom-dwellers are fewer at this time of year and that situation is unlikely to improve. Take any opportunity to launch whenever water and weather conditions allow and stay abreast of what fish may or may not be retained on those forays. For example, according to the Oregon Sportfishing Regulations, Cabazon may no longer be kept as part of a rockfish limit. This is in error. A check at the ODFW website ([*http://www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/finfish/groundfish_sport/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/mrp/finfish/groundfish_sport/index.asp)) indicates cabbies remain fair game. One Cabazon over 16 inches can still be part of a seven-fish limit.

All bottom fishing will continue without depth restriction through the end of the year. With an estimate 29% remaining in the quota, halibut fishing remains open off the central coast. The Southern Oregon Coast halibut fishery inside the 40-fathom line endures thanks to other fisheries closing with small percentages remaining which are being applied here which allows this ongoing extension.

Offshore boaters are reminded that ocean crabbing closed on October 15th. Fortunately, most bays and estuaries have been putting out good numbers of quality Dungeness.

Tuna fishers are an enthusiastic lot and they are considering the next trip. We wish them well on this optimistic endeavor.

The latest report from the Siletz was early this week which indicated continued heavy pressure and a bobber bite that was best at first light. Chinook are being hooked but not landed by many but the guide boats have been doing well. Bobber and high-quality cured salmon eggs seem to be most productive.

Amidst coho rolling and jumping, trollers on the Yaquina River scored Chinook this week on baits of cut-plug herring.

While rainfall this week may have thinned the numbers, coho have been thick on the lower Siuslaw. Earlier this week, catches were good below the Highway 101 Bridge but slow above despite jumpers and

rollers everywhere. It is challenging to say where the better fishing will be as the river level drops over the coming week.

In larger bays such as Winchester rain won't cause Dungeness to scurry back to the ocean although they will move to an area closer to the ocean where the salinity will remain higher. Crabbing has remained good when it's not too stormy to take a boat out on the bay. With storms and rain, no reports have been forthcoming. Over the past weekend however, salmon fishing was good but the vast majority were wild coho which have to be released. The Umpqua system had a 2,000-coho quota for unclipped fish that filled in the first week it opened. Because of this situation, pressure has been extremely light with anglers seeking fisheries elsewhere that are putting out fish they can take home.

Crabbing has remained worthwhile on Coos Bay with boats taking limits or near limits when it has been safe for them to get out. It takes a great deal more rain than has fallen thus far to negatively affect crabbing in large, deep bay like the Coos. Fishing has been good but rain may have changed that. As of the past weekend, pro guide Bryan Gill was guaranteeing at least one salmon or the trip is free.

Coho are plentiful in the Coquille River and are being caught. Wild fish are no problem but with the limit one a day and two for the year, short trips might be in order although there are a few Chinook in the system as well.

Trolling in Rogue Bay has been good for mostly coho. This will be changing as fish move upstream. Waters of the lower Rogue rose about a foot and a half with rain although today is forecast to be the peak at nearly four feet. Water is predicted to start dropping almost immediately to about 3.75 or 2,700 cfs on Friday this week, continuing through the weekend. This influx of fresh water is bound to have an effect on the fishery at Agness which had been reliably producing decent catches of summer steelhead adults and half-pounders. Targeting coho will be productive with spinners or by drifting roe. Reaction to rainfall this week in level and flow on the middle Rogue will be delayed slightly of that of the lower river. It will increase through Friday and Saturday this week, dripping slightly on Sunday, October 26th according to NOAA forecasts. With Chinook spawning in this stretch, fishing for summer steelhead has been good as they hold below the salmon to snag eggs drifting downstream. With releases from Lost Creek lowering water temperatures on the flies-only upper Rogue, catches of steelhead have slowed.

Plenty of adult and jack Chinook in Chetco tidewater have been taken by bobber and bait fishers over the past week. Heavy rains which are currently pushing the lower river from the 1,500 cfs range, heading toward 15,000 cfs will cause a marked change in that fishery as salmon will follow the freshet, hovered upstream by the swollen river. Fresh chinook will re-populate, however, and while the long-range river forecast indicates higher levels than prior to the downpour, fishing will improve as water levels drop. Plunking will replace bobber fishing as the most effective Chinook bagging technique.

Enough rain has fallen in the Port Orford area to raise the levels of the Elk and Sixes rivers. Some Chinook should be nosing in but as the salmon season winds down around the state, it's barely begun here. Look for the action to ramp up in November as this fishery heats up with catches continuing into the New Year.

Central and Eastern Oregon – Water levels on the lower Deschutes started rising on October 15th and continued through the 18th at which time the current level was achieved, adding extra feet in depth and additional flow. This change also seemed to have shut down fishing for the time being. Counts at Sherars Falls indicate a strong, steady movement of Chinook and summers. 'B' runs have started entering and will provide additional action when the river comes back into shape.

Now that irrigation season is about over on the east side, water levels of many rivers will be improving. One example would be the Crooked River which is fishing fair for fly anglers and spinner tossers but will be improving in the coming weeks.

Odell Lake has continued pumping out kokanee to trollers. Culling of fish showing signs of the upcoming spawn is necessary but it's still fairly easy to score limits of bright fish.

Write to the TGF staff:

Bob Rees: brees@pacifier.com

Michael Teague: TGFMichael@gmail.com

Doug Rees: doug@TheGuidesForecast.com

Random Links

ODFW Tag Team Reporting:

http://dfw.state.or.us/RR/fish_tag_return/hagg_lake.asp

OSU Studies Sea Lion Population Decline:

<http://www.kezi.com/osu-studies-sea-lion-population-decline/>

Swimming in a radioactive sea (it's good news):

http://www.myoutdoorbuddy.com/fishing_report.php?fishing=9609

Register Now for Adult Steelhead Fishing Workshop Nov. 8:

http://www.odfwcalendar.com/?tribe_events=adult-steelhead-fishing-workshop-2

GOOD LUCK!