

## Slow week of fishing, but lots of bottomfish still caught on coast

July 27, 2019



Fishing has slowed some this week on the Wild Rivers Coast. Although the week closed with some rough weather that limited ocean anglers, the Pacific halibut bite seemed to slow down even before things got bumpy. There have been a few salmon caught on both sides of the border this week, however.

Anglers are still catching a few salmon and steelhead on the Klamath River, and the Rogue Bay is still producing some nice salmon as well.

### On the ocean

Andy Martin of Wild River Fishing said Tuesday was a good day for salmon fishing out of Brookings Harbor, with lots of coho and chinook salmon in close. The bite has slowed down a little bit since, however, as winds started to pick up throughout the coast.

A few anglers out of Crescent City have also been able to haul in some chinook salmon, but the bite is still slow in Northern California. Jim Mitchell of Gotcha Hooked Fish Trips said although he didn't have any luck catching salmon this week, he has seen a lot more bait in the area throughout the week. He also said he was able to see several salmon swimming in the bait balls but he wasn't able to coax any of them into biting.

Meanwhile, the Pacific halibut bite has been slow on both sides of the California-Oregon border.

Bottom fishing has remained a good bet for anglers on the ocean, especially when winds keep boats from getting out too far. Mitchell said he was able to catch limits of black snappers, lots of coppers, and some good sized lingcod on Monday out of Crescent City.

South Beach has also been fairly productive this week as well with California halibut being caught in close to shore. There are also thresher shark starting to show up in the area.

Surf perch fishing from the beach has also been productive this week.

Martin said he heard of several sportfishermen going out to search for tuna out of Brookings this week, but they haven't had any luck yet. Anglers have been catching tuna about 30 miles out from Charleston, Oregon, and there have been reports of tuna caught out of Eureka as well. That could mean tuna fishing in the area will pick up when the wind dies down.

"The next good weather break that we have there will probably be some tuna out of Brookings, because it usually starts in Coos Bay first," Martin said.

### **River fishing**

There hasn't been much change in the Rogue Bay this week. Anglers are still catching chinook salmon and Martin said they seem to be getting bigger, but it still hasn't been red hot.

Martin estimated that there have been 30 to 40 salmon caught per day in the Rogue Bay, spread out between 40 to 50 boats targeting the fish.

"There are a lot of fish, but the moss is still really bad so you have to fish suspended and keep your gear out of the moss, or fish the areas that don't have moss," Martin said. "There have been a couple really good bite periods every day now, usually at some point during the outgoing tide and at some point during the incoming tide, but it hasn't been really good all day."

Down on the Klamath River fishing seems to have slowed some on the Lower Klamath River after a decent run came through last week. Up river anglers are still catching steelhead, however, and pulling an occasional salmon in as well.

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