

Late September 2026 Fishing Report – Orvis Lake Oswego

Local Trout Fishing: The Upper Clackamas, Collawash, Fish Creek, the Oak Grove Fork (upper Clack tributaries), and the Salmon River (Sandy River tributary) have all been providing fair to good trout fishing. As we get deeper into the fall, fishing will improve. Fish with a Chubby Chernobyl with a Tungsten Quill Jig or Blowtorch dropper nymph. During the evening hatch, you should expect to see October Caddis, smaller caddis, some larger Drakes, and Blue Winged Olives. These locations can also be great for building up your Euro Nymph game. Don't forget about swinging streamers like Sculpzillas and Swing Kings for the largest rainbows in the river (Trout Spey or single hand rods). Fishing at these streams can improve your skills for the famous destination rivers.

Deschutes: We have had some good trout reports come from anglers who have recently been to the Deschutes. Reports of good action on October Caddis Pupae have been coming in. There have been Blue Winged Olives coming off in the eddies and fish are looking up for them. There are still PMDs and PEDs hatching along with the BWOs. Some smaller caddis have been coming off in the riffles and under the bushes providing for some dry fly action. Nymphing has been good using October Caddis Pupae, Stonefly nymphs, Perdiggers, Blowtorches, and Frenchies. People looking to get their "Wet Fly Swing" itch scratched are having some good success with Trout Spey Tactics. Tie on a Sculpzilla and hold on!

Steelhead is closed as of August 15th, 2026 due to poor runs in the Columbia River going over Bonneville Dam.

Sea Run Cutthroat Trout: Sea run Cutthroat are in many of the north coast streams currently. The little bit of rain we had a couple of weeks back sent a bunch of fish into the freshwater stretches right above tidewater, and some fish will be even higher in the systems. There are more Sea Run Cutts in the lower rivers currently, and every day more fish push into the rivers from tidewater.

Sea Run Cutts are best fished with streamers or dry flies. Fishing with Sea Run Cutthroat streamers is lots of fun, and these aggressive fish often want to pounce on them. We have both traditional and new school streamers for Sea Run Cutts at Orvis Lake Oswego. We also have some incredible ***custom tied Reverse Spiders*** tied from a group of veterans. Our Sea Run Cutthroat Trout fly selection is very extensive with the hottest patterns available.

Many anglers like fishing with dry flies for Sea Run Cutts. October Caddis patterns, or Chubby Chernobyl flies in purple, orange, or Royal can work very well. We also have Holo Humpies and even the Purple Parachute Adams also gets the attention from the Cutts very well. Don't be afraid to give your dry fly a little twitch here and there. Get out there and experience this fun fall fishery!

Clackamas River: Summer Steelheading has been fair, and you'll have the best chances of success at first light. The river is low currently, and fishing will improve dramatically once we get some more rain to bump the river level up a bit. As we get deeper into fall, you can have longer sessions because the angle of the sun gets lower, and it seems to affect the fish less than the bright sun of the summer. Water temperatures have been cooling off and making the fishing better. Most of the fish will be in tailouts and

runs this time of the year, and often the spawning Spring Chinook will push the steelhead around. Once the Spring Chinook Salmon use up their last bits of reserve energy and die off from their spawning cycle, the steelhead will become the bosses out there. They do get a little pushed around from the Coho Salmon but not much compared to the Chinook.

You can fish with floating lines and less aggressive sinking tips for best success. We have sink tips for Spey rods like the 1/2, 2/4 to get you into the strike zone, and increase your catch chances. You will want to fish with flies that are primarily black or purple with color pops of pink, blue, or orange. Hoh Bo Speys and Ghost Chromes are two patterns that offer great success. Also don't be shy to skate a dry fly. Often if you don't hook up, you will be able to locate fish with boils on your fly if they don't fully commit. You can't catch them on a dry fly unless you try!

Coho Salmon (Clackamas & Sandy): The Coho run is seemingly coming in a little late this year. I was at the mouth of the Clack recently, and the fish were barely coming in, and most were still out in the Willamette, or farther downstream. There was not much happening down at the mouth of the Clack, but that should change any day, and especially when we get some more rain to help draw them in the river. Anglers floating down the river have reported seeing some Coho in the Clack in the slower eddy style pools. The best way to get into these fish is to have a fly line ranging from a Full Sink Intermediate Line, a Sonar 1/2/3 triple density full sink, or a depth Charge 1/3/6 full sink line and to cast into those backwater eddy pools (make sure fish are in rolling or present in the holes to know you are fishing to fish). Then strip back with a slow, but jiggy style retrieve. People want to catch these fish on a swung fly, but that by far the least probably way to get into these fish. It is more like lake fishing for trout than swinging flies for steelhead. They are also reputable for being a fish that doesn't want to bite anything. Simply, they are just far inland, no matter how bright they are. On the flip side, you can't catch them unless you are trying. People do catch them, and every once in a while, they are more willing to bite your fly. If you are not opposed to nymph fishing, you can catch these Cohos dead drifting egg patterns or beads in more bottlenecked or constricted areas of the river. You can catch way more with nymphing techniques than you can with streamer techniques on the Sandy River especially. We have an extensive Coho Streamer fly selection at the store.

Metolius River: This can be the best time of the year for the Met. The hatches can be very diverse, but that is also why the trout go crazy in the fall on this river. You can see hatches of fall Green Drakes, Flavs (*the lesser Green Drake – smaller cousin*), October Caddis, Blue Winged Olives, Pale Morning Duns, Cinygmula (starting up and gaining frequency), smaller mixed bag of caddis, smaller Olive Stones, some Golden Stones, and some other larger stoneflies, may be out there. You will want to make sure you have several phases for many of the mayflies you would be fishing out there ranging from emergers, to CDC Comparaduns, to their Spinner phases (spent dead females from egg laying).

Nymphing has been good for anglers out there not seeing any fish feeding on the surface, and fishing with a Chubby Chernobyl and deeply dropped Euro Nymph like a Frenchie can be a great non-hatch searching technique. You want to have a variety of nymphs ranging from heavy fast sinking to slower sinking flies to cover different situations.

Bull Trout fishing has been good lately with resident fish getting more aggressive with fall encroaching and migratory Bulls from the lake are filling into the river providing for some good action with larger streamers.

Crooked River: The river has been fishing well with good caddis action in the late afternoon till dusk. They are mainly size 16-18 caddis coming off. There have been BWOs and PMDs both coming off during the day, and they can get the fish feeding hard on the surface. When the fish aren't looking up to feed on the surface, you can have some good productive nymphing. Have some smaller Perdigos, Zebra Midge, Scuds, Ray Charles, Cavair Scud, and Espresso Midge.

McKenzie River: The Mac can offer some good fishing this time of the year, and as we get deeper into the fall, it typically gets even better. This is when the entire river can have good fishing from the upper river down to the lower river. You can fish with a buoyant October Caddis Dry (Morrish October Caddis Adult) with a Possie Bugger or Frenchie as a dropper nymph off that dry fly to have an ultra-productive rig. Fishing with an October Caddis Dry Fly (I really like the Sedgeback October Caddis) can be really fun and some days the fish will readily take that surface offering. On cloudy days on the upper Mac you can experience the fall Green Drakes or Flavs. Many people who frequent the Mac call them Gray Drakes, but they aren't really that fly, but they are a grayish colored Green Drake. Fishing with a size 10 or 12 Adams or Parachute Adams can really produce lots of nice rainbows. On the lower river you can have some fantastic days with abundant hatches of Blue Winged Olives. Swinging olive colored softhackles can offer some excellent fishing when the fish are really keying on the BWOs. Also make sure you have some smaller and medium sized caddis in a few colors to match those unexpected hatches.

Steelheading has been fair with some good days here and there. Things will only improve as the water temperatures cool off over the next several weeks. Swing black or purple dominated patterns for best success. Also, the McKenzie fish are very susceptible to dead drifted nymphs like a stonefly/egg pattern combo or a lead eyed egg with a steely nymph dropped off about 14-18".

Middle Fork Willamette: The Middle Fork can have some really good fishing in store for the fall. You will see October Caddis, Pale Morning Duns (waning for the season), and Blue Winged Olives (picking up for the season), some fall Green Drakes, Short Winged Stones, and a mixed bag of smaller caddis. You can be productive fishing with a Chubby Chernobyl or buoyant October Caddis Dry fly with a dropper nymph. If you want to fish with a dry fly only, then I would fish with a Sedgeback October Caddis or Better Foam October Caddis. There will be times when there is a large BWO hatch and the fish will be actively surface feeding, and that tends to be on the more cloud covered days or spritzzy rainy days.

Coastal Salmon: Typically, you need a boat for this type of fishing, but there are a few spots that you can get to without a boat. We have everything it takes for coastal tidewater salmon fishing. Whether you are targeting Chinook or Coho salmon, we have the specialized fly lines for successfully targeting salmon when they are chrome bright and fresh. We also have a well-rounded selection of flies for targeting coastal salmon.

Surf Perch: Cast a Depth Charge fly line with a Shrimp Fly or Sand Flea fly into the surf, strip back your fly, and have a blast tying into surf perch. Make sure you know the surf conditions and don't fish when the swells are over 4-5 feet. Stop by the shop and we'll get you dialed in to this fishery.

Jetty Fishing: Cast a Depth Charge Fly Line with some baitfish streamers and a stripping basket and have some fun roping in Rockfish and/or Lingcod. Stop by the shop if you are interested in learning/trying out this fishery and we'll get you dialed in.