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WEEKEND BREAK



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Fishing for Chinook salmon

In search of a Columbia River icon



Photos by David Campiche

ABOVE: The Chinook salmon is the spring prize of the Columbia River.

BELOW: A fishing boat waits near Cathlamet, aiming to catch spring run Chinook salmon.

By **DAVID CAMPICHE**
For The Astorian

The Columbia River is a salmon river. Though salmon numbers have declined dramatically since Lewis and Clark traveled downriver by canoe, salmon fishing here remains inspiring.

On an early spring afternoon, the skies were crowded with cirrus clouds. The weather remained cold on the stern of my brother's

small fiberglass boat. Wide and swift at its intersection at Cathlamet, Washington, the Columbia River is home to the prized Chinook, or king salmon. The spring run fish bust their way upstream, relying on their flat, wide tails to propel them over thousands of miles. The river itself stretches over 250,000 square miles and reaches 1,400 miles east and north to Canada.

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