

**Yakima River / Hanford Reach
Salmon Reports and Ringold Steelhead Reports**

Hanford Reach Fall Steelhead Sport Fishery: November 17 - 23

This past week WDFW staff interviewed 70 anglers fishing for steelhead in the Ringold Springs area of the Hanford Reach. Anglers had harvested 17 hatchery steelhead and released one hatchery and two wild steelhead. Anglers averaged roughly 11.5 hours per steelhead caught for both bank and boat anglers.

For the fishery that began October 1, 686 hatchery steelhead have been harvested in this area of the Columbia River.

The Columbia River from the Highway 24 bridge (Vernita Bridge) upstream to Priest Rapids Dam will open to fishing for steelhead on Thanksgiving day. Regulations **for this area** require mandatory retention of all hatchery steelhead and “selective gear rules” are in effect, except the use of bait is allowed. All hatchery steelhead landed must be retained. Daily limit is two hatchery steelhead. This area is scheduled to remain open through the winter months but may close early. Check the WDFW website for emergency rule closures. As with all steelhead fisheries, only hatchery fish with a clipped adipose fin and healed scar may be retained. All wild steelhead must be released.