

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

### **Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Sport Fishery Update: October 19 – 24**

We are heading into the final week of the Hanford Reach fall Chinook fishery. The fishery will close on October 31. Last week harvest was estimated at 2,566 fall chinook (2,467 adults and 98 jacks). WDFW estimates there were 2,465 anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach. To date, over 35,000 fall chinook have been harvested in the Hanford Reach by 47,770 anglers. This is a record harvest for fall Chinook in the Hanford Reach exceeding last year's record of 32,427 chinook.

Overall, anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach average 3.4 chinook per boat, 4.5 angler hours per fish, slightly better than the week prior. Bank anglers are picking up a few fall chinook each day at the Ringold Springs Access area. This past week 60 chinook were harvested off the bank.

### **Hanford Reach "King of the Reach" Wild Broodstock Collection Project**

WDFW is collecting wild broodstock by "hook and line" for Priest Rapids Hatchery this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (October 30 – November 1). This is a unique opportunity for anglers to fish the late season in the upstream areas of the Hanford Reach and help WDFW improve the genetics of our hatchery produced fall Chinook. WDFW is estimating over 200,000 fall Chinook will be spawning in the Hanford Reach this year so the fishing should be excellent. Hatchery fish tankers will be parked at the two boat launches to collect live wild chinook caught during the three day project. Fish will need to be immediately transported alive back to the boat launch after landing to ensure survival of the fish until ready to spawn. No harvest is allowed during this project. Any anglers who would like to participate in this project are welcome to volunteer. Anglers must register each morning at either the Vernita or White Bluffs boat launches to participate. Anyone needing more details on the project can contact Paul Hoffarth at 509-545-2284 or by email at Paul.Hoffarth@dfw.wa.gov.

The Tri-cities Chapter of the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) will be holding a derby during the project and anglers are encouraged to register for the derby. Thousands of dollars in prizes will be awarded to derby participants for the most live salmon turned in per boat per day and overall for the three day event. Random prizes will be awarded as well. Derby entries will be available at [www.ccawashington.org/KingoftheReach](http://www.ccawashington.org/KingoftheReach) and selected sporting goods stores. Information is also available from CCA Tri-Cities President Don McBride (509)554-9202/ [don.mcbride@live.com](mailto:don.mcbride@live.com) or Dana Mueller (509) 554-9159/ [damueller57@hotmail.com](mailto:damueller57@hotmail.com).

# Attention Anglers!

## WDFW NEEDS YOUR HELP

### Fall Chinook Broodstock Collection at Vernita and White Bluffs Boat Launches

**Friday, Saturday, and Sunday; October 30 – November 1**

**Friday & Saturday 6:00am – 5pm, Sunday 6:00am – 1:00pm**

The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) in conjunction with the Coastal Conservation Association of the Tri-cities and Grant County PUD is conducting the 4th Annual “**Angler Broodstock Collection**” Project to collect live adult wild fall chinook by hook & line at the Vernita and White Bluffs boat launches. We are looking for anglers that are willing to commit to a day or three of fishing to help us reach our collection goal of **400 live wild fall chinook**. WDFW, GCPUD & the CCA will have volunteers at the boat launches to collect your donated chinook. A fish truck will be parked at the boat launches each day to collect the fish and transport them to the hatchery for use as broodstock to enhance our local hatchery fall chinook programs.



# Hanford Reach Fall Chinook Live Capture Broodstock Derby

A cooperative project between

*Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Grant County Public Utility District #2  
&  
Coastal Conservation Association Tri-Cities Chapter*



The Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife in conjunction with Grant County Public Utility District and the Coastal Conservation Association Tri-Cities Chapter are undertaking a project to collect live adult natural origin fall Chinook salmon from the Hanford Reach. We are looking for anglers that are willing to commit to one to three days of fishing in the Hanford Reach this fall to help us reach our collection goal of 400 wild fall Chinook. We will be collecting and transporting wild fall Chinook salmon October 30<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and November 1<sup>st</sup> from the Vernita and Wahluke (White Bluffs) boat launches to Priest Rapids Hatchery. We will use these fish for brood stock for the production of fall Chinook to be incubated, reared, and released at Priest Rapids Hatchery.

The fitness of hatchery salmon can be improved, and the impact on naturally spawning salmon in the river can be reduced, by increasing the percentage of the hatchery fry production that has at least one wild origin parent. A pilot program in 2012 proved that anglers can successfully capture live salmon and return them to the hatchery for use as brood stock.

Daily registration is mandatory for anglers to participate in the Project as each participant will need to be registered as a WDFW volunteer. Participants are encouraged to sign up for one, two or all three days of the derby at a cost of \$25 (youth age 17/under are \$15) but derby participation is not mandatory.

Prizes will be awarded to derby participants for the most live salmon turned in per boat per day, and for the entire event. Random prizes will be awarded as well. Derby entries will be available at [www.ccawashington.org/KingoftheReach](http://www.ccawashington.org/KingoftheReach) and selected sporting goods stores. Information is also available from CCA Tri-Cities President Don McBride (509)554-9202/ [don.mcbride@live.com](mailto:don.mcbride@live.com) or Dana Mueller (509) 554-9159/ [damueller57@hotmail.com](mailto:damueller57@hotmail.com)

**Dates: Friday, October 30; Saturday, October 31; and Sunday, November 1, 2015**

**Registration** 6am – 10am each day at the Vernita and Wahluke (White Bluffs) boat launch  
(daily registration required)

**Collection** **Vernita:** 7am – 5pm Friday & Saturday, 7am-1pm Sunday  
**White Bluffs:** 7am-4pm Friday & Saturday, 7am-noon Sunday  
**Coyote Rapids** (shuttle boat): 7am-3pm Friday-Saturday, 7am-noon Sunday

## Registrations:

***Boat Captains Only:*** All boats participating in the Project must have a signed Fish Transport Permit in the boat. The permit will be provided to each boat captain when they register each day. This permit allows the anglers to transport live fish.

***Boat Captains & Volunteer Anglers:*** All anglers participating in the Project must sign in each day as a WDFW volunteer when they check in at the Vernita or Wahluke registration stations. Please bring a valid Washington State fishing license.

***Derby Participants:*** Although derby entry is not required in order to participate in live capture, **all anglers aboard boats participating in the derby must be registered as derby participants.** Prizes will be awarded Sunday, time and location to be announced!

## Location:

WDFW Vernita Boat Launch and Wahluke (White Bluffs) Ferry Landing

The WDFW Vernita access area is located approximately 36 miles from the city of Richland. To get there take Hwy 240 from Richland to Hwy 243. After crossing the Columbia River (Vernita Bridge) continue north on Hwy 243. The entrance to the access area is on your left approximately ½ mile after passing over the bridge. Follow the access road to the boat launch. The Wahluke/White Bluffs boat launch is accessed by turning off Hwy 24 approximately 19 miles east of Vernita Bridge.

## Rules & Regulations:

***All anglers must follow rules and regulations as listed in the Fishing in Washington Sport Fishing Rules Pamphlet with the exceptions listed below:***

All boats participating in the Project must have a signed Fish Transport Permit in the boat.

All anglers participating in the Project must register each day and possess a valid Washington State Fishing License.

**NO** fish may be retained (harvested) and fish not intended for live capture must be immediately released.

Fishing will be allowed in all areas from the Hanford Wooden Powerlines to the boat restriction zone below Priest Rapids Dam with the exception of the river adjacent to Priest Rapids Hatchery.

For data collection purposes please be prepared to provide the information on the numbers of fish caught and released.

Each licensed angler will be allowed to use two fishing poles.

## Required Equipment:

A means of transporting the live salmon is **REQUIRED** for participation. *Livewell/Ice Chest:* Anglers must have a live well or ice chest capable of transporting live adult Chinook for a minimum of ½ hour. Ice chest/live well must be a minimum of 36" in length by 12" in width and 15" in depth (120qt). Preference: minimum 40"x15"x17".

*Recirculation pumps* will be available at the registration station for those anglers that do not have a livewell. These recirculation pumps & aerators will fit most large ice chests. **ICE CHEST IS NOT PROVIDED.**

*Rods, Reels, Nets, and Tackle:* Have appropriate fishing gear for catching and handling adult fall Chinook.

*Hooks:* Single Point hooks are preferred. Barbless hooks are mandatory. Treble hooks are discouraged due to potential hooking mortality.

**Loaner Equipment:**

*Aerators/Recirculators:* Aerators and recirculation systems will be available for lending. Loaned Equipment must be returned before closing time for the location each day.

**Fish Eligibility:**

Only adult fall Chinook in good condition with an intact adipose fin are eligible for live capture and transport. Males are preferred but females are terrific too.

Fall Chinook **NOT** eligible for live capture are jacks, adipose fin clipped adults, and any wild adult in poor condition.

**Fish Handling:**

Prior to landing a fish, be sure to fill the livewell/ice chest with fresh river water. Ice chests with recirculating aerators should be emptied and refilled every two hours or after every live fish transported. Livewells with an automatic water refresh feature should be turned on when a fish is hooked and only switched to recirculation, if required, when motoring to the collection location. Take extreme care in handling the fish and keep them in water to the greatest extent possible. After landing a fish, place the fish into the livewell/ice chest. It is ok to use a standard landing net to get the fish aboard the boat but they should be immediately transferred to your livewell/ice chest. The recommended method for hand carrying a fish is to firmly wrap one hand around the fish just in front of the tail while cradling the fish with your other hand just behind the ventral fins and gently lifting the fish up by its tail. Never put your fingers in or near the fish's gills or gill plate. ***After placing the fish into the live well immediately motor to the collection location.*** Once at the beach at the collection location WDFW staff or a volunteer will come to your boat with a cotton handling net. Do not attempt to remove the fish from your livewell/ice chest until instructed to do so by someone who has a cotton landing net. In the event the truck is not at the launch hold the fish and continue to add fresh water to the livewell/ice chest.

**Questions:**

If you have any questions about the project contact Paul Hoffarth 509-545-2284, Don McBride 509-554-9202, or Dana Mueller 509-554-9159. On the day of the event a contact number will be provided at the registration station.