

Creel Survey

April 26, 2010

Contributed by Joe Hymer

Salmon/Steelhead

Lower portions of Abernathy, Coal, Germany, Mill creeks near Longview and Coweeman River: Under permanent rules, closed to all fishing in September and October to protect naturally spawning fall chinook. Coweeman River from Mulholland Creek upstream closes to all fishing September 1 for the same reason.

New for 2010: The lower portion of Cedar Creek (North Fork Lewis River tributary) from the Grist Mill Bridge downstream and Lacamas Creek (tributary to the Washougal River) from the foot bridge at lower falls downstream are closed to fishing in September and October to protect naturally spawning fall chinook and coho. In addition, stream flows are increased on Lacamas Creek in the fall when the water behind Round/Lacamas lakes is lowered for annual maintenance on the dam. This increase in flows sometimes attracts fall Chinook to the creek. The upper portion of Cedar Creek also closes to fishing September 1.

Cougar Creek (tributary to Yale Reservoir) – Under permanent rule, closes to fishing beginning September 1 to protect naturally spawning kokanee.

Toutle River – No report on angling success. Anti-snagging rule and night closure begins September 1 on the North Fork Toutle River from confluence with South Fork to mouth of the Green River and the Green River from mouth to 400 feet below salmon hatchery rack.

The first couple fall chinook of the season had returned to the hatchery last week.

Cowlitz River – Some steelhead are being caught by boat anglers in the lower river. The first fall chinook of the season had arrived at the salmon hatchery last week and three dozen sea-run cutthroat have returned to date.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 382 summer-run steelhead, 316 spring Chinook adults, 42 jacks, 65 mini-jacks, five fall Chinook adults, two jacks, one sockeye salmon and 14 sea-run cutthroat trout during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

Tacoma Power employees released 216 spring Chinook adults and 12 jacks into the Cispus River, 78 spring Chinook adults and 18 jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at the Skate Creek Bridge in Packwood, 60 spring Chinook mini-jacks into Riffe Lake at Mossyrock Park, and five fall Chinook adults and one jack into Mayfield Lake at the Ike Kinswa boat launch the during the week. Mayfield Lake opens to fishing for salmon September 1.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 4,780 cubic feet per second on Monday August 23. Water visibility is 12 feet.

Kalama River – No effort on the lowest part of the river last week. The first few coho of the season had

returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery last week.

Lewis River – No report on angling success. The first four hatchery coho of the season had returned to the Merwin Dam trap last week.

Wind River – Bank and boat anglers at the mouth are catching some steelhead.

Drano Lake – Eighty percent of the anglers sampled had caught a steelhead. About two-thirds of the fish caught were kept. Some fall chinook are also being caught. About 80 boats observed here last Saturday morning.

White Salmon River – Both boat and bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

Buoy 10 – One of every 3 private boat anglers sampled at the ports of Chinook and Ilwaco/Fort Canby had caught a salmon. Catch was tilted slightly towards coho than chinook. Chinook retention is expected to be allowed through the end of the month.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Chinook catches have picked up while steelhead catches have dropped off. Last week we sampled 776 salmonid bank anglers with 20 adult and 1 jack fall Chinook and 62 steelhead, an average of a salmonid kept/released per every 9.3 rods based on mainly incomplete trips. In addition, we sampled 696 salmonid boat anglers (335 boats) with 66 adult and 1 jack fall Chinook and 50 steelhead, an average of a salmonid kept/released per every 5.9 rods based on mainly completed trips. Overall, 71% of the steelhead caught were kept. We again did not sample any coho.

From August 1-15, there have been an estimated 13,900 angler trips with 182 adult fall chinook and 2,699 steelhead kept and 1,476 steelhead released. The total catch expectation for chinook for the entire season is 17,200 fish.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers at the mouths of the tributaries are catching some fall chinook.

Hanford Reach – During the first three weeks of sampling the Reach WDFW staff sampled a total of 7 days. Ten boat and 23 anglers were sampled during that time with 1 Chinook retained and 7 Steelhead released. Expanded catch data will be reported weekly starting next week.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia from mouth to Marker 82 – Light effort during the current catch-and-release only fishery.

McNary Dam to Priest Rapids Dam – Catch-and-release only through January 31.

Walleye

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Boat anglers in the Camas/Washougal area averaged just over a walleye each.

Washington lower Columbia tributaries and Bonneville Pool salmonid sport sampling summaries - Aug. 16-22.

Area	Bank Anglers	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead		Other	Boat Anglers	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead		Other	
		Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.			Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.		
Cowlitz River													7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0
Wind River	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	
Drano Lake													140	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	75	37	0	
White Salmon River	36	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	
Bonneville Pool													21	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - Aug. 16-22.

Area Anglers Catch

No report.