

Creel Survey

December 27, 2011

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Note: ODFW & WDFW have scheduled a Compact Hearing for Thursday, January 26, 2012 in Oregon City to discuss commercial and recreational seasons for spring chinook and sturgeon.



Salmon/Steelhead

Under permanent rules, Dec. 31 is the last day to fish for steelhead in Mill Creek (Cowlitz River tributary) and salmon in the Elochoman, Grays (including West Fork), Tilton, Washougal rivers, the mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge upstream to the Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco, and Drano and Mayfield lakes. Effective Jan. 1, any Chinook kept must be adipose fin clipped on the Cispus, upper Cowlitz, Deep, Lewis (including North Fork) rivers, the mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream, and Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir). In addition, only 2 adult hatchery salmon may be retained daily on the lower Cowlitz and the daily limit is only 1 adult hatchery Chinook on the Kalama and Lewis rivers.

Cowlitz River – 47 boat anglers kept 11 winter steelhead while 32 bank anglers kept 7.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 306 coho adults, five jacks and 159 winter-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 185 coho adults and six winter-run steelhead at the Day Use Site on Lake Scanewa behind Cowlitz Falls Dam and 28 coho adults and four winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam will be increasing to approximately 5,000 cubic feet per second on Tuesday, December 27.

Washougal River – From Dec. 15-20th, 106 bank anglers kept 17 steelhead and rel. 7 while 7 boat anglers had no catch. From Dec. 21-26, 54 bank anglers kept 15 steelhead and rel. 4 while 3 boat anglers had no catch.

Flows had been very low and most of the fish were caught in the lower river.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Effort is light.

Sturgeon

Under permanent rules for white sturgeon that take effect Jan. 1 for the mainstem Columbia and adjoining tributaries:

Lower Columbia mainstem from the mouth upstream to the Wauna powerlines – Open 7 days per week. Daily limit 1 fish, min. size 38" fork length and max. 54" fork length.

Lower Columbia mainstem from the Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam - Open for retention on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only. Daily limit 1 fish, min. size 38" fork length and max. 54" fork length.

Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam – Sturgeon may be retained beginning Jan. 1. In Bonneville Pool, the daily limit is 1 fish, min. size 38" fork length and max. 54" fork length. In The Dalles and John Day pools, the daily limit 1 fish, min. size 43" fork length and max. 54" fork length.

Trout

Carlisle Lake near Onalaska – Planted with 17 ten pound and 71 five pound rainbows Dec. 19. No report on angling success.

Kidney Lake near North Bonneville – Planted with 641 rainbows averaging 1.25 pounds each Dec. 12. No report on angling success.

