

# Creel Survey

August 20, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

## Salmon/Steelhead

**Portions of Abernathy, Cedar (tributary of N.F. Lewis, Clark Co.), Cougar (tributary to Yale Reservoir, Cowlitz Co.), Coal, Germany, Lacamas (Clark Co.), Mill (Cowlitz Co.) creeks and Coweeman River close to all fishing beginning September 1.** Except for Cougar Creek, all close to protect naturally spawning fall chinook; Cougar Creek to protect naturally spawning kokanee.

**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** – No report on angling success. Beginning Sept. 1, anti-snagging rule and night closure plus closed waters from 400 feet below to 400 feet above the water intake at the upper end of the hatchery.

**Cowlitz River** – Anglers are catching steelhead between the hatcheries and near the mouth.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 611 summer-run steelhead, 168 spring Chinook adults, 11 jacks, 21 mini-jacks, 13 fall Chinook adults, one sockeye jack salmon and two sea-run cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 65 spring Chinook adults, five jacks, one fall Chinook adult at the Day Use Park in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, 63 spring Chinook adults and four jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood, and released 26 spring Chinook adults into the Cispus River near Randle. Twelve fall Chinook adults and two sea-run cutthroat were released at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

A total of 57 summer-run steelhead and one sockeye jack salmon were transported to the lower Cowlitz River and released at the Interstate-5 boat launch during the week.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 3,030 cubic feet per second on Monday, August 20.

**Mayfield Lake** – Salmon season begins Sept. 1. Daily limit 6, no more than 2 adults may be retained. **New for 2012: Release wild chinook in addition to wild coho.**

**Tilton River from mouth to West Fork** – Sept. 1-Oct. 31: night closure and anti-snagging rule. When anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

**Lake Scanewa** – **New for 2012: Effective Sept. 1, up to 10 adipose clipped rainbow trout may be retained.**

**Cowlitz River from posted PUD sign on Peters Rd. to the mouth of Ohanepecosh and Muddy Fork** – Sept. 1-Oct. 31: night closure and anti-snagging rule. When the anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

**Kalama River** – No report on angling success. Sept. 1-Oct. 31: Stationary gear restriction from the railroad bridge below I-5 to natural gas pipeline and fly fishing only from the natural gas pipeline crossing to the deadline at the intake to the lower salmon hatchery.

**Lewis River** – Boat anglers are catching some steelhead near the mouth.

**Washougal River** – No report on angling success. Sept. 1-Oct. 31: night closure, anti snagging rule, and stationary gear restriction from Mt. Norway Br. upstream. When anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained. Note: restrictions are already in effect from Mt. Norway Br. downstream.

**Wind River** – Boat anglers are catching some steelhead. A half dozen boats were observed there last Saturday morning.

**Drano Lake** – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just over a steelhead per rod. A few fall Chinook are also being caught. About 80 boats were counted there last Saturday morning.

**White Salmon River** – No effort observed there last week. River has been reported turbid at times.

**Buoy 10** – Improved for Chinook over the weekend. A few coho are also being caught.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Last week we sampled 2,347 salmonid anglers (including 494 boats) with 268 steelhead, 109 adult and 10 jack fall Chinook and 1 sockeye plus our first coho and cutthroat of the season. 168 (63%) of the steelhead were kept. 104 (95%) of the adult and 9 (90%) of jack Chinook were kept though all were legal to be kept. The cutthroat was kept but the coho and sockeye were released.

Just over 500 boats and 400 bank anglers were counted during last Saturday's effort flight count.

**Bonneville Pool** – Boat anglers are catching some Chinook and steelhead. There were 14 boats off the White Salmon and a handful off Drano last Saturday morning.

**The Dalles Pool** – The few boat and bank anglers sampled had no catch.

## **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – We did not sample any sturgeon anglers last week and only a couple boats were counted during last Saturday's effort flight count.

The section upstream from the Navigation Marker 82 line opens for catch and release angling beginning September 1.

**The Dalles Pool** – Only a couple bank anglers were sampled last week and they had no catch.

## **Walleye**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – 7 boats were observed during last Saturday's effort flight count; none were found in our sample.

**The Dalles Pool** – Only 1 bass angler with no catch was sampled last week. No walleye anglers were found in the creel.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville	812	128	closed	closed	closed	896	closed		1,836	91.8%	Jul. 31 <sup>1</sup>	2,000
The Dalles	28	0	18	21	39	25	26		157	52.3%	Jul. 31	300
John Day	75	63	50	145	138	closed	closed		471	94.2%	Jul. 31 <sup>2</sup>	500

<sup>1</sup> Bonneville Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective February 18. It re-opened June 15-16 and June 22-23 to finish the guideline.  
<sup>2</sup> John Day Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective May 21. The expansion for May is high because sample rate was low (bank was 6.5% and boat was 6.2% of estimated angler trips sampled, with a total of 11 "sampler days").

Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary, and subject to update.

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		
Bonneville	66	20	closed	closed	closed	165 <sup>a</sup>	closed		251	Aug. 19
The Dalles	5	0	1	3	4	4	5		22	Aug. 19
John Day	9	10	18	28	6	closed	closed		71	Aug. 19

<sup>a</sup> In sample harvest for Bonneville Pool June 15-16 was 104. Sample rate was much higher than usual at 5.5 sampler days for the 2 day fishery.  
 Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

### WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary <sup>1</sup>

August 13 - 19, 2012

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

<b>Sturgeon</b>															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool						26							225	251	
The Dalles Pool	2					10							12	22	
John Day Pool						17							54	71	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>					<b>53</b>							<b>291</b>	<b>344</b>	
<b>Salmonids</b>															
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool							3	4			1				1
Chinook															
Coho											1				
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	9					73	2	9					46	119	1
Chinook						40							9	49	1
Coho						1								1	
Steelhead						32							37	69	
John Day Pool						25							1	26	
Chinook						24								24	
Coho															
Steelhead						1							1	2	
<b>Walleye</b>															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool													27	27	
The Dalles Pool						3							603	606	
John Day Pool													339	339	
<b>Bass</b>															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool						2							2	4	
The Dalles Pool	1					33							55	88	
John Day Pool						9							103	112	

<sup>1</sup> Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	11%	37%	none	19%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none



Washington lower Columbia tributaries salmonid sport sampling summaries - Aug. 13-19.

Area	Bank # Rods	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		Other	Boat # Rods	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		Other
		Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.			Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	
Cowlitz River	70	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	84	1	0	0	0	46	2	0
Lewis River									4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Wind River									5	0	0	0	0	4	1	0
Drano Lake									61	3	0	0	0	40	25	0

Washington Buoy 10 Creel Sampling Summaries - 2012

Preseason catch expectations: 13,900 chinook and 8,000 coho

Aug. 1-Sept. 3: Daily limit 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD or one of each.  
Only 1 may be a CHINOOK. Release all SALMON except CHINOOK and hatchery COHO.  
CHINOOK minimum size 24"; COHO 16".

Sept. 4-30: Daily limit 2 hatchery COHO or hatchery STEELHEAD or one of each.  
Release all SALMON other than hatchery COHO.  
COHO minimum size 16".

Date	Number of Boats	Number of Anglers	Chinook Kept	Coho Kept	Comments
01-Aug	12	23	2	1	Opening Day
02-Aug	2	5	0	0	
03-Aug	29	69	7	3	
04-Aug	38	90	16	3	
05-Aug	41	109	9	2	
06-Aug	19	52	3	1	
07-Aug	4	10	1	0	
08-Aug	39	85	8	6	
09-Aug	28	59	9	4	
10-Aug	56	158	59	10	186 private and 2 charter boats were observed during effort flight count.
10-Aug					North Jetty - No effort.
11-Aug	113	315	115	9	
12-Aug	134	379	130	16	Private boats
12-Aug	11	111	10	2	Charters
13-Aug	91	246	84	8	Private boats
13-Aug	6	55	17	0	Charters
14-Aug	No	Sample			Estimated total thru 8/14: 8,689 angler trips with 2,823 chinook and 258 coho.
15-Aug	57	145	52	3	
16-Aug	41	116	13	3	
16-Aug					North Jetty - No effort.
17-Aug	141	386	69	8	Private boats
17-Aug	2	21	0	0	Charters
18-Aug	120	359	83	15	
19-Aug	103	285	62	15	
19-Aug					