

Creel Survey

November 12, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers near the barrier dam are mainly catching fall Chinook (mostly wild or dark fish released) and Coho while steelhead and sea run cutthroats are the primary catch near the trout hatchery. The lower river is generally slow.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 830 Coho adults, 316 jacks, 71 fall Chinook adults, three jacks, 47 summer-run steelhead and 26 cutthroat trout during six days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 187 Coho adults and 124 jacks into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam at the Day Use Site, 31 fall Chinook adults, one jack, 23 Coho adults and 46 jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood, and 101 Coho adults, 63 jacks, one fall Chinook adult and one cutthroat trout into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

A total of 445 Coho adults, 117 jacks, 71 fall Chinook adults, three jacks and eight cutthroat trout were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton during the week.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,300 cubic feet per second on Tuesday, November 13. Water visibility is five feet. River flows could change at any time so boaters and anglers should remain alert for this possibility.

2012 Upstream Totals

		Upstream Transportation							
Fall Chinook Adults		Upstream Transportation							
Week Ending	Total Returns	Tilton River		Lake Scanewa		Cowlitz @ Packwood		Cispus River	
		Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural
Season to date	6,977	812	1,904	645	0	2,283	0	398	0
10-Nov	71	12	26	0	0	31	0	0	0

Coho Adults		Upstream Transportation							
Week Ending	Total Returns	Tilton River		Lake Scanewa		Cowlitz @ Packwood		Cispus River	
		Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural
Season to date	11,197	3,706	944	556	1,055	216	15	606	252
10-Nov	830	342	87	133	54	23	0	55	28

Kalama River – Generally slow for fall Chinook, Coho, and steelhead.

Four wild winter steelhead had returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery through Nov. 2.

Lewis River – North Fork boat anglers are catching fall Chinook and some Coho; fishing from the bank is slow.

Flows below Merwin Dam are currently 4,430 cfs, similar to the long-term mean for this date.

Washougal River – No creel data is currently available though effort and catches are reportedly light.

Klickitat River – Bank anglers are catching some Coho on the lower river while boat anglers are catching some fish at the mouth.

Flows at Pitt are currently 992 cfs, similar to the long-term mean for this date.

Washington hatchery returns of hatchery adult late stock Coho continue to be down from the same time last year:

<u>River</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Grays	609	397
Cowlitz	29,747	8,247
Kalama	1,120	1,085
Lewis	1,789	892
Washougal	650	564

Area	Bank # Rods	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead		Other	Boat # Rods	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	136	0	0	13	0	7	11	3	4	2	0	6 cutts rel.	31	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	0
Kalama River	47	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lewis River mainstem	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
North Fork	54	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	34	17	2	2	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0
Washougal River																								
Klickitat River	12	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Bonneville Pool													11	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0