

Creel Survey

October 1, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching a mix of chinook, coho, and sea run cutthroats.

Kalama River – Some fall chinook are being caught but most are dark and being released.

Lewis River – Anglers are catching a mix of fall chinook, coho, and a few steelhead. Quite a few chinook and coho jacks are being caught.

Effective October 1, any chinook, adipose fin clipped or not, may be retained on the mainstem Lewis. In addition, the North Fork from Colvin Creek (located above the salmon hatchery) upstream to Merwin Dam closes to all angling from October 1 through December 15.

Washougal River – Bank anglers are catching some fall chinook.

Wind River – Light effort but some hatchery coho are being caught.

Drano Lake – Boat anglers are catching some fall chinook. In October, fishing is closed from 6 pm Tuesdays to 6 pm Wednesdays.

Buoy 10 – A hatchery coho per rod at times last week. Effective October 1, the salmonid daily limit increases to 6 fish of which 2 may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Salmon minimum size is 12 inches. Release all salmon other than chinook and hatchery coho.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 497 salmonid anglers (including 135 boats) with 87 adult and 33 jack fall Chinook, 8 steelhead, 10 adult and 5 jack coho. Overall, 84 (97%) of the adult Chinook, 4 (50%) of the steelhead, and 4 (40%) of the adult coho were kept.

Still quite a few salmonid anglers last Saturday. Over a third of the 305 boats were observed in the airport to Washougal section during the Sept. 29 effort flight count.

Effective October 1, up to two adult fall chinook (adipose fin clipped or not) may be retained from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse, through Red Buoy #4, to the orange marker atop the dolphin on the Washington shore downstream. The salmonid daily is 6 fish of which 2 may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Salmon minimum size is 12 inches. Release all salmon other than chinook and hatchery coho.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers at the mouths of the White Salmon and Klickitat are catching fall chinook and some coho and steelhead.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some fall chinook.

For those that may have missed it, the 110,771 fall chinook jacks counted in August and September 2012 at Bonneville Dam are the third highest for that period since at least 1960. The highest count was 163,186 fish in 1986.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Sturgeon effort remains light during the current catch and release fishery.

A Joint State Hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. Tuesday October 2 to consider modifying the recreational sturgeon fishery upstream of the Wauna powerlines which is scheduled to re-open for retention October 20. Stay tuned!

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – There were only a couple walleye boats in the Camas/Washougal area during last Saturday's effort flight count. The half dozen walleye anglers sampled had only kept 1 fish.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some bass. No walleye anglers were sampled.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville	812	128	closed	closed	closed	896	closed	closed	closed	1,836	91.8%	Aug. 31 ¹	2,000
The Dalles	28	0	18	21	39	25	26	32		189	63.0%	Aug. 31	300
John Day	75	63	50	145	138	closed	closed	closed	closed	471	94.2%	Aug. 31 ¹	500

¹ Bonneville Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective February 18. It re-opened June 15-16 and June 22-23 to finish the guideline.
² 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	Sep		
Bonneville	66	20	closed	closed	closed	165 ^a	closed	closed	closed	251	Sep. 30
The Dalles	5	0	1	3	4	4	5	3	6	31	Sep. 30
John Day	9	10	18	28	6	closed	closed	closed	closed	71	Sep. 30

^a 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 ¹

September 24 - 30, 2012

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

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

Sturgeon															
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	6	12				11	1	2				2	20	31	
John Day Pool						17							54	71	
Total	6	12				54	1	2				2	299	353	
Salmonids															
	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum	
Bonneville Pool							18	36	25						
Chinook									21						
Coho									1						
Steelhead									3						
The Dalles Pool	6					76	1	2	1				68	144	2
Chinook						40			1				17	57	2
Coho						3							3	6	
Steelhead						33							48	81	
John Day Pool						25							1	26	
Chinook						24								24	
Coho															
Steelhead						1							1	2	
Walleye															
	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							614	617	
John Day Pool													339	339	
Bass															
	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		2			40							58	98	
John Day Pool						9							103	112	

¹ 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)	84%	23%	none	67%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.75	0.13	none	2.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.25	0.13	none	2.00
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

Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

10/01/2012

9:30 AM

Month/Week	Sec.	Salmonid												# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook				Coho				Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Other	
		Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Released Adults			Jacks											
Bonneville	1	63	6	8	0	1	3	0	0	2	1	0	0	16	45	16	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	76	9	8	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0
Vancouver	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	10	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	4	107	7	3	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	65	128	43	5	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	5	7	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	12	CLOSED	CLOSED	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	6	14	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	7	3	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	8	12	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	9	3	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	10		CLOSED	CLOSED												CLOSED	CLOSED										
Total	10	221	13	11	0	3	1	3	0	2	4	3	0	135	276	71	19	3	0	3	0	6	0	0	0	1	0

Month/Week	Sec.	Sturgeon																										
		Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept																
Bonneville	1																											
Camas/Washougal	2																											
Vancouver	3																											
Woodland	4																											
Kalama	5																											
Cowlitz	6						1	1	0	0	0																	
Longview	7																											
Cathlamet	8																											
Cathlamet	9																											
Chinook - Knappton bank	10																											
Knappton-Deep River ramps	10																											
Total	10	0	0	0	0	CLOSED	1	1	0	0	0																	

Month/Week	Sec.	Walleye				# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
		Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	Rel.				
Bonneville	1								
Camas/Washougal	2				3	5	1	0	
Vancouver	3								
Woodland	4				1	1	0	0	
Kalama	5								
Cowlitz	6								
Longview	7								
Cathlamet	8								
Chinook/Elochoman	9								
Total	10	0	0	0	4	6	1	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".

Update - Aug. 28

CWT data is complete through August 22. The preliminary data indicates LRH stock represents around 19% of the catch compared to 28% expected.

The projected catch (kept plus release mortalities) for August 27-September 3 is 8,700 Chinook, bringing the season total to 24,000 Chinook.

CWT data indicates additional fish are available for harvest due to the low LRH catch observed to date.

When combined with expected savings from the ongoing ocean recreational fishery, the Buoy 10 fishery should be able to continue through September 3 without modification.

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	An estimated 45% of the allocated 13,900 chinook had been caught through Aug. 19.
20-Aug	84	235	65	17	Private boats
20-Aug	1	14	2	4	Charter
21-Aug	60	168	58	21	
22-Aug					No sampling.
23-Aug	118	342	102	29	
24-Aug	57	166	44	9	Private boats
24-Aug	1	5	3	0	Charters
25-Aug	166	480	165	60	Private boats. Approximately 1,400 boats counted during flight.
25-Aug	3	33	2	1	Charters
26-Aug	122	354	67	37	The estimated catch (including release mortalities) through August 26 includes 15,300 Chinook and
27-Aug	53	147	21	16	Private boats
27-Aug	7	65	9	4	Charters
28-Aug					No sampling.
28-Aug					See update highlighted in yellow at top of page.
29-Aug	84	215	48	32	
30-Aug	79	193	36	30	
31-Aug	55	144	34	23	
01-Sep	107	307	69	68	
02-Sep	77	226	33	36	
03-Sep	74	183	29	35	
04-Sep	18	49	0	10	Effective Sept. 4, chinook have to be released below Tongue Point but can be kept above.
05-Sep	16	34	2	14	
06-Sep	24	57	2	13	
06-Sep					North Jetty - No effort.
07-Sep	14	36	6	10	
08-Sep	48	134	18	69	
09-Sep	28	80	22	27	Private boats
09-Sep	3	38	1	40	Charters
10-Sep	29	67	3	24	Private boats. Hatchery chinook may be kept above Tongue Point Sept. 10-16.
10-Sep	1	9	0	6	Charters
11-Sep	17	34	1	6	
12-Sep	6	15	2	3	Private boats
12-Sep	1	10	0	5	Charters
13-Sep	14	28	0	3	
14-Sep	16	33	0	4	
15-Sep	23	59	0	13	Private boats
15-Sep	1	13	0	5	Charter
16-Sep	30	74	0	17	
17-Sep	14	27	CLOSED	3	
18-Sep	5	11	CLOSED	6	
19-Sep	5	10	CLOSED	5	
20-Sep			CLOSED		No sampling.
21-Sep	4	11	CLOSED	3	
22-Sep	17	42	CLOSED	14	
23-Sep	16	27	CLOSED	13	
24-Sep	1	2	CLOSED	0	
25-Sep	4	6	CLOSED	7	
26-Sep	1	2	CLOSED	0	
27-Sep	5	8	CLOSED	6	
28-Sep	4	10	CLOSED	9	
29-Sep	20	51	CLOSED	10	
30-Sep	2	3	CLOSED	0	