

# Creel Survey

October 21, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

## Salmon/Steelhead

**Lower portions of Abernathy, Cedar (North Fork Lewis tributary), Coal, Germany, Mill (Cowlitz Co.) creeks and Coweeman River** – Re-open to fishing for hatchery steelhead and other game fish November 1.

**Elochoman River** – No report on angling success. Oct. 31 is the last day of night closure, anti-snagging rule, and stationary gear restrictions.

**Cowlitz River** – Mixture of fall Chinook, coho, summer run steelhead, and sea run cutthroats are being caught.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 2,773 coho adults, 928 jacks, 983 fall Chinook adults, 79 jacks, 128 summer-run steelhead and 44 cutthroat trout during seven days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 332 coho adults and 106 jacks into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam at the Day Use Site and 614 fall Chinook adults, 53 jacks, 241 coho adults and 389 jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood. A total of 1,082 coho adults, 157 jacks, 344 fall Chinook adults, 34 jacks and twelve cutthroat trout were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton during the week.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 4,870 cubic feet per second on Monday, October 22. Water visibility is 11 feet.

**Cowlitz River from posted sign on Peters Road to the mouth of Ohanepecosh and Muddy Forks, Tilton River from mouth to West Fork, and the Green River** – Oct. 31 is the last day of the night closure and anti-snagging rule.

**Kalama River** – Bank anglers are catching a mix of fall Chinook (most being released), coho, and summer run steelhead. Oct. 31 is the last day of the night closures, anti-snagging, stationary gear restriction, and fly fishing only rules on the lower river.

**Lewis River** – Boat anglers in the mainstem Lewis are catching some coho and steelhead while fall Chinook are the dominant catch in the North Fork Lewis.

**Washougal River** – No effort observed recently. Oct. 31 is the last day of the anti-snagging rule and stationary gear restrictions. In addition, night fishing will be allowed from the Mt. Norway Bridge upstream to the Salmon Falls Bridge.

**Wind River** – No report on angling success. October 31 is the last day to fish for salmon and anti-snagging rule will no longer be in effect below Shiphord Falls.

**White Salmon River** – No report on angling success. Oct. 31 is the last day to fish from the Northwestern Lake Road Bridge upstream to 400 feet below Big Brothers Falls.

**Klickitat River** – Coho numbers are increasing though fall Chinook continue to be caught. October 31 is the last day Chinook may be kept from #5 Fishway (located just upstream from the Fisher Hill Bridge) upstream.

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Last week we sampled 228 salmonid anglers (including 49 boats) with 2 adult and 2 jack fall Chinook, 2 steelhead, and 7 adult and 2 jack Coho. Overall, all the Chinook and 6 (86%) of the adult coho were kept but both the steelhead were released.

Under permanent rules, closed to fishing for salmon from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam effective November 1.

Oct. 31 is the last day of the 2012 lower Columbia mainstem creel census program. The program will resume February 2013.

**Bonneville Pool** – Coho are now the dominant catch at the mouth of the Klickitat.

**The Dalles Pool** – Light effort and no catch was observed.

### **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Boat anglers in the gorge are releasing some legals.

**The Dalles Pool** – Bank anglers are catching some legals.

### **Walleye**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville** – The handful of walleye boat anglers sampled in the Camas/Washougal area had no catch.

**The Dalles Pool** – Light effort and no catch was observed.

### **Trout**

**Blue, Horsethief, Packwood, Walupt, and Willame lakes and Lewis River Power Canal** – October 31 is the last day to fish for the year.



Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

10/22/2012

9:30 AM

Month/Week Oct. 15-21	Sec.	Salmonid										Other	Chinook						Coho						Other											
		Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Kept Adults	Kept Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Kept Adults		Kept Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Kept Adults	Kept Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Kept Adults	Kept Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Kept Adults		Kept Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Kept Adults	Kept Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks				
Bonneville	1	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Camas/Washougal	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Vancouver	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Woodland	5	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kalama	6	80	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cowlitz	7																																			
Longview	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cathlamet	9																																			
private boats/bank charter	10																																			
<b>Total</b>		138	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Month/Week Oct. 15-21	Sec.	Sturgeon										Other																									
		Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.		Legals Kept																								
Bonneville	1					CLOSED						1	CLOSED																								
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Vancouver	4					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Woodland	5					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Kalama	6					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Longview	8					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Chinook - Knappton bank	10					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
Knappton-Deep River ramps	10					CLOSED							CLOSED																								
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	CLOSED					3	10	8	3	1	CLOSED																					

Month/Week Oct. 15-21	Sec.	Walleye				Other
		Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	Rel.	
Bonneville	1					
Camas/Washougal	2					
Vancouver	4					
Woodland	5					
Kalama	6					
Cowlitz	7					
Longview	8					
Cathlamet	9					
Chinook/Elochoman	10					
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	0

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan - Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville	1,836	closed	closed	closed	closed	1,836	91.8%	Sep. 30 <sup>1</sup>	2,000
The Dalles	131	26	32	50		239	79.7%	Sep. 30	300
John Day	471	closed	closed	closed	closed	471	94.2%	Sep. 30 <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.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	Jan - Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct		
Bonneville	251	closed	closed	closed	closed	251	Oct. 21
The Dalles	17	5	3	6	4	35	Oct. 21
John Day	71	closed	closed	closed	closed	71	Oct. 21

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

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

October 15 - 21, 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	108		2		13							22	35
John Day Pool						17							54	71
Total	6	108		2		56							301	357

Salmonids	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept	Rel
Bonneville Pool						58					
Chinook							2	1			
Coho							35			4	1
Steelhead											
The Dalles Pool	4			76	3	6			76	152	8
Chinook				40					17	57	7
Coho				3					6	9	1
Steelhead				33					53	86	
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
The Dalles Pool				3	1	2			616
John Day Pool									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
The Dalles Pool				40					60
John Day Pool				9					103

<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)	86%	46%	133%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	18.33	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.33	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