

# Creel Survey

September 4, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

## Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – Anglers are primarily catching fall Chinook near the mouth and at the barrier dam while steelhead are being caught near the mouth and at the trout hatchery.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 254 spring Chinook adults, 15 jacks, 131 fall Chinook adults, 15 jacks, 225 summer-run steelhead, ten sea-run cutthroat trout, one coho adult, one coho jack, and one sockeye salmon during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 97 spring Chinook adults and four jacks into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek, 149 spring Chinook adults, eleven jacks, 29 fall Chinook adults, seven jacks, and one coho jack into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood and 13 spring Chinook mini-jacks into Riffe Lake at the Mossyrock Park boat launch.

A total of 102 fall Chinook adults, eight jacks, one coho adult, and five sea-run cutthroat trout were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton during the week.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 2,460 cubic feet per second on Monday, September 3. River flows may go lower on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Boaters and anglers should be aware and be careful of the low flows.

**Kalama and Washougal rivers** – Slow the one day of sampling on both rivers last week but fall Chinook are present.

**North Fork Lewis River** – No report on angling success. Wild Chinook may be retained beginning Sept. 15.

Ten adult and five jack coho had returned to Lewis River Salmon Hatchery as of August 29.

**Wind River from 100 feet above Shipherd Falls to Moore Bridge (except closed 400 feet below to 100 feet above the coffer dam)** – Under permanent rules, scheduled to open for catch-and-release for all game fish (including steelhead) beginning Sept. 16. Selective gear rules will be in effect.

**Drano Lake** – Boat anglers are catching fall Chinook and some steelhead. Effective September 15, anglers may fish with two poles with a two pole endorsement.

**Klickitat River** – Bank anglers below the Fisher Hill Bridge are catching fall Chinook.

**Buoy 10** – Coho catches are improving. Closed for fall Chinook retention until October 1.

**Lower Columbia mainstem from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to Bonneville Dam** – During the first 3 days of September we sampled 1,099 salmonid anglers (including 342 boats) with 279 adult and 24 jack fall Chinook, 12 steelhead, and 6 adult coho. 278 (99%) of the adult Chinook, 10 (83%) of the steelhead, and 2 (33%) of the adult coho were kept.

Salmonid boat effort really ramped up over the holiday weekend with over 1,800 boats counted during last Saturday's effort flight count.

Through Sept. 9, the daily limit is six fish per day – including two adult salmon, two adult steelhead or one of each. Only one of the adult salmon may be a chinook. Anglers may keep any chinook, but must release any coho salmon or steelhead that is not marked with a clipped adipose fin.

Starting Sept. 10, rules for adult chinook retention in those waters will change in at least two ways.

- Anglers can retain two adult chinook as part of their daily limit from a line from the Warrior Rock lighthouse through Red Buoy #4 to the orange marker atop the dolphin on the Washington shore at Bachelor Island upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- Below this line, permanent rules require anglers to release chinook salmon through Sept. 30 – although there may be an exception to this rule. Fishery managers have agreed to allow a pilot mark-selective fishery for chinook Sept. 10-16 from Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to the Warrior Rock line – *if all other sport fisheries can meet their management objectives*. In any case, anglers will be allowed to retain two adult chinook in that area beginning Oct. 1.

## **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Light effort during the current catch-and-release only fishery.

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

## **Walleye and Bass**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Only 7 boats were observed during last Saturday's effort flight count.

**The Dalles Pool** – Bank and boat anglers are catching some bass.

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%	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	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	Sep		
Bonneville	66	20	closed	closed	closed	165 <sup>a</sup>	closed	closed	closed	251	Sep. 2
The Dalles	5	0	1	3	4	4	5	3	1	26	Sep. 2
John Day	9	10	18	28	6	closed	closed	closed	closed	71	Sep. 2

<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 27 - September 2, 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	10	7		1		11	1	2	24				15	26
John Day Pool						17							54	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>54</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>24</b>				<b>294</b>	<b>348</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							1	2			1			
Chinook											1			
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	12					73	23	56		2	4		52	125
Chinook						40					2		12	52
Coho						1					1		1	2
Steelhead						32				2	1		39	71
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							613	616
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	5	1	5			38	1	1		1			58	96
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)	84%	134%	none	171%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.67	0.09	none	1.17
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.08	0.06	none	1.00
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



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					<b>See update highlighted in yellow at top of page.</b>
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	

