

Creel Survey

September 24, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

South Fork Toutle River – Effort and steelhead catches are light.

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching fall chinook and coho.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 823 fall Chinook adults, 106 jacks, 14 spring Chinook adults, one jack, 303 coho adults, 127 jacks, 118 summer-run steelhead, seven cutthroat trout, and two sockeye salmon during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 220 fall Chinook adults, 39 jacks, ten spring Chinook adults, 91 coho adults and 79 jacks into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam at the Day Use Site and 183 fall Chinook adults, 31 jacks, two spring Chinook adults, 13 coho adults and five jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood.

A total of 305 fall Chinook adults, 31 jacks, 133 coho adults, 43 jacks and one cutthroat trout were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton during the week.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 4,740 cubic feet per second on Monday, September 24. Water visibility is 14 feet.

Kalama River – Bank anglers are catching some fall chinook though the majority of the fish were released (dark or wild fish).

Lewis River – North Fork Lewis has been good for fall chinook and some coho jacks. 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 – Some fall chinook are being caught.

Wind River – Effort and catches are light.

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

White Salmon River – Effort and catches are light.

Klickitat River – Effort is heavy with nearly 65 vehicles counted from Fisher Hill Bridge downstream last Saturday morning. Bank anglers are catching fall chinook, a mix of adults and jacks.

Buoy 10 – Coho catches approached ½ fish 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 751 salmonid anglers (including 254 boats) with 91 adult and 47 jack fall Chinook, 11 steelhead, 5 adult and 1 jack coho. Overall, 79 (87%) of the adult Chinook, 5 (45%) of the steelhead, and 4 (80%) of the adult coho were kept.

Salmonid effort is way down, especially in the area below the Warrior Rock line where all chinook must be released.

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 will be 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 – High winds last Saturday hampered the boat fishery off the mouth of the Klickitat.

The Dalles Pool – Anglers are catching a mix of fall chinook, coho, and summer run steelhead.

Hanford Reach - WDFW staff interviewed 1,253 anglers from 933 boats with 767 adult Chinook and 260 jacks this past week. An estimated 1,661 adult fall Chinook and 618 jacks were harvested (1.3 chinook per boat). All areas are reporting strong catches, especially for this early in the fishery.

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The current in-season run forecast for the Hanford Reach estimates the 2012 adult return at 85,500 fish.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Only a handful of sturgeon boats in the current catch-and-release only fishery.

The Dalles Pool – Some sturgeon are being caught those most were by salmonid anglers.

Through August, an estimated 189 (63%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken.

Walleye

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Boat anglers averaged a walleye kept per rod last week. There were 15 walleye boats observed from Camas/Washougal upstream during last Saturday's effort flight count.

Trout

Mineral Lake – No report on angling success. September 30 is the last day to fish for the year.

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	Totals:	As of
Bonneville	66	20	closed	closed	closed	165 ^a	closed	closed	closed	251	Sep. 23
The Dalles	5	0	1	3	4	4	5	3	4	29	Sep. 23
John Day	9	10	18	28	6	closed	closed	closed	closed	71	Sep. 23

^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 17 - 23, 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	4	1				11			9		2		18	29
John Day Pool						17							54	71
Total	4	1				54			9		2		297	351
Salmonids														
	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	6						
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	31			1		76	20	44		2	12		67	143
Chinook						40					2		16	56
Coho						3					2		3	6
Steelhead				1		33				2	8		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						38							58	96
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)	47%	205%	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	3.00	0.21	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.50	0.19	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 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 2
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	