

Creel Survey

November 25, 2013

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Mainstem Grays River from Hwy. 4 Bridge to South Fork and West Fork Grays River from mouth to 300 yards below hatchery road bridge – Opens to fishing for hatchery steelhead, hatchery coho, and adipose and/or ventral fin clipped Chinook beginning December 1. Mainstem Grays below the Hwy. 4 Bridge and West Fork from 300 yards below the salmon hatchery road bridge upstream to the hatchery intake/footbridge are already open.

Green River, North Fork Toutle River, and mainstem Toutle River from mouth to forks – November 30 is the last day to fish for hatchery steelhead and hatchery salmon.

South Fork Toutle River – From 4100 Bridge upstream, November 30 is the last day to fish for hatchery steelhead. The section from the 4700 Bridge to the 4100 Bridge remains open but selective gear rules will be in effect beginning December 1.

Cowlitz River – Coho are primarily being caught near the salmon hatchery while some sea run cutthroats are being caught around the trout hatchery.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 1,435 coho salmon, 692 coho jacks, ten fall Chinook adults, **19 winter-run steelhead**, 16 summer-run steelhead and 290 cutthroat trout during seven days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 275 coho adults, 60 coho jacks, five fall Chinook adults and three cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 322 coho adults and 120 coho jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at the Skate Creek Bridge in Packwood and 299 coho adults, 169 jacks and one winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa behind Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 9,600 cubic feet per second on Monday, November 25. Water visibility is 11 feet.

Under permanent rules, November 30 is the last day of the night closure and anti-snagging rule from Mill Creek to the barrier dam.

Mill creek (tributary to Cowlitz River) – Beginning December 1, opens to fishing for hatchery steelhead from the mouth to the salmon hatchery road crossing culvert. Night closures and anti-snagging rules will be in effect for the one month fishery.

Kalama River – Bank anglers are catching coho jacks and some steelhead though most fish were released.

Lewis River – Including fish released, North Fork boat anglers averaged almost a salmon per rod. Catch was comprised of fall Chinook and coho. Bank anglers were catching the same species but at a much lower rate. Effort and catch was low on the mainstem Lewis.

Under permanent rules, the night closure and anti-snagging rule are lifted from Johnson Creek to Colvin Creek beginning December 1.

As of November 19, the first hatchery winter run steelhead of the season had returned to Lewis River Salmon Hatchery.

Washougal River – Some hatchery winter run steelhead were sampled in the creel last week, as well as a few coho and late fall Chinook.

Seven hatchery winter run steelhead had returned to Skamania Hatchery through November 16.

Klickitat River – Boat and bank anglers on the lower river averaged about a coho kept per rod.

Under permanent rules, the Klickitat (except for the salmon fishery from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream) closes to fishing for trout including hatchery steelhead and salmon beginning December 1. The salmon season from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream remains open through January.

The whitefish only season from 400 feet above Fishway #5 upstream to the Yakama Reservation boundary begins December 1. Whitefish gear rules will be in effect.

Trout

Carlisle Lake near Onalaska – Planted with 54 rainbows averaging 5 pounds each and 30 averaging 10 pounds each November 20.

Swift Reservoir – Remains open to fishing through November 30. Until then, the daily limit is 10 trout (except closed to fishing for bull trout). Landlocked rules are in effect (salmon count towards the trout daily limit); however, all salmon larger than 15 inches must be released.

