

Creel Survey

December 22, 2014

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – About equal numbers of winter run steelhead and coho are being caught. Catch is spread throughout the river with the salmon hatchery best for coho and the trout hatchery for steelhead.

During six days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator, last week Tacoma Power recovered:

- 1,967 coho adults and 13 jacks
- one summer-run steelhead
- 186 winter-run steelhead
- six cutthroat trout

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 256 coho adults, three jacks and two cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton
- 89 coho adults, one jack and one winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 14,300 cubic feet per second on Monday, December 22. Water visibility is seven feet.

Coho Upstream Releases

	Total Returns	Tilton River		Lake Scanewa		Cowlitz River at Packwood		Cispus River	
		Hatchery	Natural Origin	Hatchery	Natural Origin	Hatchery	Natural Origin	Hatchery	Natural Origin
Week ending Dec 19, 2014	1,967	0	256	0	89	0	0	0	253
Season to date	104,567	5,805	8,343	11,147	4,579	11,328	23	2,672	1,671

Kalama River – Light effort below Modrow.

Lewis River – A few fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead are being caught.

Klickitat River – Bank anglers on the lower river still averaged nearly 2 adult coho per rod when including fish released.

Bonneville Dam – Some coho are still being caught by boat anglers at the mouth of the Klickitat.

Under permanent rules, Dec. 31, is the last day to fish for steelhead in Mill Creek (Cowlitz River tributary) and salmon in the Elochoman, Grays (including West Fork), Tilton, and Washougal rivers, plus the mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge upstream to the Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco and Drano and Mayfield lakes.

Effective Jan. 1, any Chinook kept must be adipose fin clipped on the Deep and Lewis (including North Fork) rivers and the mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream. In addition, only 2 adult hatchery salmon may be

retained daily on the mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream and lower Cowlitz River; the daily limit is only 1 hatchery adult Chinook on the Kalama and Lewis rivers.

Columbia River Compact/Joint State hearing

A hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday January 28, 2014 at the Clark Regional Wastewater District office (8000 52nd Court, Vancouver, Washington). The purpose of this hearing is to review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian commercial and recreational fishing seasons in the Columbia River and Select Areas, including:

- 2015 recreational spring salmon fisheries.
- 2015 Select Area winter-summer commercial fisheries.
- 2015 Non-Indian commercial winter/spring commercial salmon fishing plan.

Sturgeon

Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam including adjoining tributaries –Effective January 1 through March 1, sturgeon may be retained 7 days per week. The daily limit will be 1 fish, min. size 38” fork length and max. 54” fork length.

Harvest in the fishery will be monitored with a check-in planned for mid-January to consider whether the season should be modified consistent with balancing harvest between winter and summer seasons. Fishery managers will meet again in March or April to set dates for the summer retention season sometime in June 2015.

Anglers should be aware that a sturgeon research program may still be ongoing in Bonneville Pool in early January. Tribal fishers will be deploying gillnets in designated areas to collect and tag white sturgeon for multi-agency stock assessment work.

The Dalles Dam to McNary Dam including adjoining tributaries- Effective January 1 until respective harvest guidelines for each reservoir are reached, the daily limit will be 1 fish min. size 43” fork length and max. 54” fork length.

Trout

Recent catchable size rainbow plants into SW WA lakes (no report on angling success):

Lake/Pond	Date	Species	Number	Fish per Pound	Hatchery	Notes
• BATTLE GROUND LK (CLAR)						
Dec 16, 2014		Rainbow	4,000	3	VANCOUVER HATCHERY	
• KLINELINE PD (CLAR)						
Dec 16, 2014		Rainbow	1,000	3	VANCOUVER HATCHERY	

Area	Bank # Rods	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead		Other	Boat # Rods	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead		Other
		Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.			Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	
Cowlitz River	105	0	0	0	0	9	0	2	0	9	0	0	40	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	2	0
Kalama River	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Lewis River	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0												
North Fork Lewis River	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Klickitat River	9	0	0	0	0	16	0	3	0	0	0	0												
Bonneville Pool												0	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0