

Creel Survey

August 17, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Portions or all of **Abernathy, Cedar (tributary of N.F. Lewis, Clark Co.), Cougar (tributary to Yale Reservoir, Cowlitz Co.), Coal, Germany, Lacamas (Clark Co.), Mill (Cowlitz Co.) and Coweeman River** close to all fishing beginning **September 1. New for 2015: Skamokawa Creek will also close to all fishing Sept. 1.**

Except for Cougar Creek, all close to protect naturally spawning fall Chinook; Cougar Creek to protect naturally spawning kokanee.

North Fork Toutle River from confluence with South Fork to the mouth of the Green River and the Green River from mouth to 400 feet below salmon hatchery rack – No report on angling success. Beginning Sept. 1, anti-snagging rule and night closure plus closed waters from 400 feet below to 400 feet above the water intake at the upper end of the hatchery. On the Green River, when anti-snagging rule is in effect only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

Cowlitz River – Boat anglers are doing well for steelhead near the mouth. Some fall Chinook are also being caught.

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

- 150 spring Chinook adults, 29 jacks, 114 mini-jacks, 20 fall Chinook adults, eight jacks, 1,267 summer-run steelhead and five cutthroat trout.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 135 spring Chinook adults and 27 jacks into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek;
- 19 fall Chinook adults, nine jacks and two cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton;
- 123 spring Chinook mini-jacks into Riffe Lake at Mossyrock Park.
- Employees anchor-tagged and recycled 361 summer steelhead at the I-5 bridge boat launch.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 2,720 cubic feet per second on Monday, Aug. 17.

Mayfield Lake – Salmon season begins Sept. 1. Daily limit 6, no more than 2 adults may be retained. Release wild Chinook and wild coho.

New for 2015: Though not listed in the pamphlet, effective Sept. 1 up to 10 hatchery rainbows may be retained. The correction is listed in the errata sheet @ http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01726/2015_fishing_regulation_errata.pdf.

Tilton River from mouth to West Fork – Sept. 1-Oct. 31: night closure and anti-snagging rule. When anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

Cowlitz River from posted PUD sign on Peters Rd. to the mouth of Ohanepecosh and Muddy Fork – Sept. 1-Oct. 31: night closure and anti-snagging rule. When the anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

Kalama River – No report on angling success. Sept. 1-Oct. 31: Fly fishing only from the natural gas pipeline crossing to the deadline at the intake to the lower salmon hatchery.

North Fork Lewis River – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead near the salmon hatchery. Light effort.

Wind River – Boat anglers at the mouth are doing well for steelhead. Bank anglers are also catching some fish. Unfortunately, about ¾ of the fish caught were wild and had to be released.

Drano Lake – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just over 1.2 steelhead per rod. Unfortunately, just over 60% of the fish caught were wild and had to be released. Increasing numbers of Chinook are also being caught.

Klickitat River – No report on angling success.

New for 2015 From Fisher Bridge downstream to the mouth (Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge): From Sept. 1- Dec. 31, barbed hooks may be used for salmon and steelhead.

Buoy 10 – Fishing is good. Overall, catches have averaged ½ to 1 fish per rod the past several days. Wind has been an issue at times.

Anglers heading to Buoy 10 via Hwy. 4 on the Washington side should be alert for road work.

- **Monday, Aug. 17 to Friday, Oct. 2:** Both directions of SR 4 will be closed between Risk Road and Elochoman Valley Road, beginning 6 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17, for culvert replacement work.
- **NOTE:** Drivers should watch for detour signs and flaggers and expect delays of up to 20 minutes.
- **NOTE:** The speed limit has been reduced to 35 mph throughout the work zone.
- **Monday, Aug. 17 to Thursday, Aug. 20:** Both directions of SR 4 will alternate through a single-lane, between Fossil Creek Road and Ingalls Road, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., for grind and inlay work. Drivers should watch for flaggers and pilot car.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam - Last week we sampled 1,074 salmonid anglers (including 173 boats) with 61 adult fall Chinook and 211 steelhead. All but one of the adult Chinook and 157 (74%) of the steelhead were kept.

Effort is beginning to increase with over 400 boats and nearly 500 bank anglers counted during last Saturday's effort flight count. Nearly 1/3 of the boats were observed at the mouth of the Cowlitz.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers averaged ½ Chinook per rod, mainly just outside Drano Lake.

The Dalles Pool – Except for the mouth of the Deschutes, effort is light.

Hanford Reach – From Paul Hoffarth, WDFW District Fish Biologist in Pasco: From August 10 through August 15, WDFW staff interviewed 9 boats (15 anglers) fishing for summer chinook and sockeye in the Columbia River from the Hwy 395 bridge upstream to Priest Rapids Dam. Anglers reported harvesting 2 hatchery adult summer chinook and 2 sockeye. They released 2 wild adult chinook.

Sunday August 16 kicked off the **fall** chinook sport fishery in the Hanford Reach (**Hwy. 395 bridge at Kennewick/Pasco upstream to Priest Rapids Dam**). Anglers may keep up to three adult salmon, hatchery (adipose clipped) or wild fish. Anglers may fish with two poles when fishing for any species (except sturgeon) if they have the "Two-Pole Endorsement" license. Current regulations are listed in the "Washington Sport Fishing Rules" pamphlet.

WDFW is expecting in excess of 200,000 fall chinook to return to the Hanford Reach this year.

Anglers are reminded that the Hanford Reach is closed to fishing for steelhead.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem from the Marker 82 line downstream – Some legals are being caught and released.

The section from the Navigation Marker 82 line upstream to the permanent boundaries opens for catch and release angling beginning September 1.

Walleye, Bass, and other species

The Dalles Pool – 1 boat angler released 6 walleye.

Hanford Reach - WDFW staff also interviewed boats fishing for bass, northern pikeminnow, and walleye.

Bass: 3 boats, 4 anglers, 14 bass, 1 walleye - **1.6 hours/bass**

Pikeminnow: 5 boats, 6 anglers, 41 pikeminnow, 3 bass, 1 walleye - **0.7 hours/Northern Pikeminnow**

Walleye: 9 boats, 16 anglers, 28 walleye, 6 bass – **3.0 hours/walleye**

Trout

Lake Scanewa and Swift Reservoir (from dam upstream to 3/8 mile below Eagle Cliff Bridge)– No report on angling success. Effective Sept. 1, up to 10 hatchery rainbow trout may be retained in each reservoir.

Summer 2015 ALERT: Due to low water levels the boat ramp at Swift Forest Camp on Swift Reservoir **will likely be not operational for the remainder of the summer.**

Washington lower Columbia tributaries plus Bonneville and The Dalles pools salmonid sport sampling summaries - Aug. 10-16.

Area	<u>Bank Anglers</u>	<u>Chinook Kept</u>		<u>Chinook Rel.</u>		<u>Steelhead</u>		<u>Other</u>		<u>Boat Anglers</u>	<u>Chinook Kept</u>		<u>Chinook Rel.</u>		<u>Steelhead</u>		
		<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>				<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Cowlitz River										16	2	0	1	0	14	16	0
North Fork Lewis River	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	0									
Wind River	9	0	0	0	0	0	2	0		9	0	0	0	0	7	18	0
Drano Lake										212	16	0	1	1	101	159	0
Bonneville Pool										21	10	0	0	0	0	1	0
The Dalles Pool										2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0