

Creel Survey

August 24, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching summer run steelhead between the hatcheries.

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

- 124 spring Chinook adults, 23 jacks, 50 mini-jacks, 22 fall Chinook adults, eight jacks, 828 summer-run steelhead, and one cutthroat trout.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 111 spring Chinook adults and 20 jacks into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek;
- 22 fall Chinook adults, eight jacks, and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 2,580 cubic feet per second on Monday, Aug. 24.

Kalama River – Anglers are catching some summer run steelhead.

East Fork Lewis and Washougal rivers – No effort in the “hoot owl” areas. Lower sections of the rivers remain closed to all fishing.

Wind River – Boat anglers are catching some steelhead.

Drano Lake – Bank and boat anglers are catching good numbers of summer run steelhead. The problem continues to be only about 35% of the fish caught were hatchery fish. Fall Chinook catch is increasing for boat anglers. Any Chinook may be retained.

Buoy 10 – Chinook and coho catches have been excellent. Catch estimates through August 20 include 18,600 Chinook and 15,000 coho kept from 46,600 angler trips. The Chinook catch is already the 6th highest since at least 1982 and still going strong though from now through Sept. 7 only adipose fin clipped Chinook may be retained. All Chinook must be released Sept.8-30.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 1,200 salmonid anglers (including 197 boats) with 88 adult and 1 jack fall Chinook and 74 steelhead. All but 4 the adult Chinook were kept. 42 (57%) of the steelhead were kept.

Effort remains relatively light with <400 boats and <300 bank anglers observed during the weekday and weekend flight counts, respectively. Most of the boat effort was at the mouth of the Cowlitz though 73 were counted just upstream from Tongue Point last Saturday. In comparison, on Sat. Aug. 23, 2014 nearly 900 boats were counted.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers are catching summer run steelhead and some fall Chinook.

Hanford Reach – The fall chinook fishery in the Hanford Reach is off to a slow start as is typical for this fishery. From August 17 through August 23, WDFW staff interviewed 49 boats (103 anglers) fishing for fall chinook in the Hanford Reach. Anglers reported harvesting 7 adult fall chinook and releasing 1 sockeye. Staff sampled 25% of the boats fishing for salmon this past week. Estimated harvest for the week was 28 adult chinook and 8 jacks.

Fall chinook counts at John Day Dam picked up over the weekend to over 2,000 fish per day. Counts at McNary are averaging ~500 adult fall chinook per day. Based on the long term trend, fall chinook should start passing Bonneville Dam in good numbers this week.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem from the Marker 82 line downstream – Most of the attention remains for salmon during the current catch-and-release sturgeon fishery. However, some legals are being caught in the Kalama area.

Walleye, Bass, and Northern Pikeminnow

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Boaters are catching some walleye in the Camas/Washougal area.

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

- Bass: 16 boats, 35 anglers, 125 bass, 1 pikeminnow - **1.1 hours/bass**
- Pikeminnow: 5 boats, 8 anglers, 18 pikeminnow, 3 bass, 1 walleye - **1.9 hours/NPM**
- Walleye: 3 boats, 6 anglers, 16 walleye – **2.2 hours/walleye**

4:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid											Chinook											
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Coho Kept	Rel.	Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Coho Kept	Rel.	Other	
Bonneville	1	20	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	22	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
	3	32	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8	15	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
Vancouver	4	60	4	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	13	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	212	15	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	4	45	100	14	0	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	1
Kalama	6	237	11	1	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	58	131	11	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7											31	73	15	0	1	0	11	11	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	136	3	0	0	0	13	4	0	0	0	37	71	6	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cathlamet	9	69	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0												
private boats/bank charter	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Total	10	773	36	1	0	0	29	12	0	0	4	197	427	48	0	4	0	13	20	0	0	0	3

Sturgeon

	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept
Bonneville	1					CLOSED						CLOSED
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED						CLOSED
	3					CLOSED						CLOSED
Vancouver	4					CLOSED						CLOSED
Woodland	5					CLOSED						CLOSED
Kalama	6					CLOSED	2	3	5	4	0	CLOSED
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED						CLOSED
Longview	8					CLOSED						CLOSED
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED						CLOSED
	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Total		0	0	0	0	CLOSED	2	3	5	4	0	CLOSED

Walleye

	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2				1	2	1	0
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		0	0	0	1	2	1	0

Washington lower Columbia tributaries plus Bonneville and The Dalles pools salmonid sport sampling summaries - Aug. 17-23.

Area	Bank <u>Anglers</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		<u>Other</u>	Boat <u>Anglers</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		<u>Other</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>	
Cowlitz River	40	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	15	1	0	0	0	3	1	0
Kalama River	43	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Wind River									5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Drano Lake	19	0	0	0	0	3	7	0	223	22	1	0	0	54	101	1 sturgeon released
Bonneville Pool									30	1	0	0	0	7	4	0

Washington Buoy 10 Creel Sampling Summaries - 2015

Date	Number of Boats	Number of Anglers	Chinook Kept	Coho Kept	Comments
1-Aug	87	249	23	168	Opening day. Best start for coho since at least 2001.
2-Aug	76	207	25	134	
3-Aug	27	61	3	33	
4-Aug	19	53	6	24	
5-Aug	44	99	16	11	
6-Aug	48	121	59	24	
7-Aug	6	16	4	8	
8-Aug	90	272	84	35	
9-Aug	70	202	56	30	
10-Aug	30	79	33	25	
11-Aug	16	41	6	25	
12-Aug	61	159	71	89	
13-Aug					No sampling.
14-Aug	71	210	76	72	
15-Aug	114	346	88	100	
16-Aug	123	359	65	148	
17-Aug	81	216	77	93	
18-Aug	54	150	45	62	Private boats.
18-Aug	2	20	3	8	Charters.
19-Aug	152	414	175	88	Private boats.
19-Aug	3	29	8	14	Charters.
20-Aug	66	215	138	48	Catch estimates through August 20 include 18,600 Chinook and 15,000 coho kept from 46,600 angler trips. The Chinook catch is already the 6th highest since at least 1982.
21-Aug	89	278	141	27	
22-Aug	190	593	330	34	
23-Aug	181	551	290	127	Private boats.
23-Aug	4	31	12	21	Charters.
24-Aug					Starting today, Chinook must be adipose fin clipped to be retained. No sampling.