

## **Creel Survey**

**December 21, 2015**

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

**Note:** No report next week. Have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Cowlitz River** – No report on angling success is currently available.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 38 coho adults, 12 jacks, one summer-run steelhead, four winter run steelhead, and one cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the week, Tacoma Power released 12 coho adults and seven jacks into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. They also released four coho adults and two jacks into Lake Scanewa at Cowlitz Falls Dam. During the past week Tacoma Power employees released six coho adults, three jacks and one winter-run steelhead into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

Of the 3,300 summer-run steelhead that have been recycled during the 2015 season, a total of 1,683 have been accounted for through December 18.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 19,100 cubic feet per second on Monday, December 21. Visibility is six inches.

### **Coweeman River**

- 7 bank anglers
- 0 fish
- No boats were sampled.

### **Kalama River**

- 31 bank anglers
- 2 hatchery steelhead kept
- 2 wild steelhead released
- No boats were sampled.

### **East Fork Lewis River**

- 10 bank anglers
- 1 wild steelhead released
- No boats were sampled.

### **Columbia River Mainstem**

Starting January 1, anglers may retain up to two hatchery adult Chinook salmon per day on the mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream. Upstream of the I-5 Bridge will close to fishing for salmon.

### **Columbia River Tributaries**

Starting January 1, anglers may retain up to two hatchery adult Chinook salmon per day in the lower Cowlitz and Deep rivers. On the Lewis and Kalama rivers, the daily limit will be one hatchery adult Chinook per day. All other permanent regulations are in effect.

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 Drano and Mayfield lakes.

## **Sturgeon**

**Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam including adjacent tributaries** - Starting January 1 until further notice, retention fishing for sturgeon will be open seven days a week. The daily limit will be one white sturgeon per person. Minimum size is 38 inches fork length; maximum size 54 inches fork length. State fishery managers anticipate a Joint State Hearing in late January 2016 to set the winter season retention closure date.

**The Dalles Dam upstream to McNary Dam including adjacent tributaries** - Starting January 1, retention fishing for sturgeon will be open seven days a week until harvest guidelines are reached. The daily limit will be one white sturgeon per person. Minimum size is 43 inches fork length; maximum size 54 inches fork length.

### **2016 Non-Indian Sturgeon Fisheries Expectations**

Based on current Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and Washington administrative rules, all recreational and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River and tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam remain closed to the retention of white sturgeon; however, catch and release opportunity is expected during non-retention periods. The only retention opportunity for white sturgeon currently planned for 2016 will be recreational fisheries in the Columbia River upstream of Bonneville Dam and in the Willamette River upstream of Willamette Falls.

## **Columbia River smelt (eulachon)**

Currently closed statewide. The states of Washington and Oregon are discussing with the National Marine Fisheries Service the possibility of conducting a limited research-based eulachon fishery in 2016 to gather adult biological samples needed to parameterize the Spawning Stock Biomass estimation model and to collect catch and effort data (CPUE) used for monitoring the status of the population.

## **Trout**

**Maryhill Pond in Klickitat County** – Planted with 500 catchable size rainbows on Dec. 15. No report on angling success.