

## Creel Survey

November 16, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Mainstem Grays 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are already open and effective today the night closure, anti-snagging rules, and stationary gear rule restrictions are no longer in effect.

**Coweeman River** – No effort found for steelhead.

**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.

**Outlet Creek (Cowlitz Co.)** - November 30 is the last day to fish for hatchery steelhead

**South Fork Toutle River** – From 4100 Bridge upstream, November 30 is the last day to fish for hatchery steelhead. The mouth to the bridge remains open with selective gear rules in effect beginning December 1.

**Cowlitz River** – Some fall Chinook and coho are being caught at the barrier dam and summer run steelhead around the trout hatchery. Most of the fall Chinook were wild and had to be released. The majority of the coho were hatchery jacks that were voluntarily released.

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

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 626 coho adults, 583 jacks, 126 fall Chinook adults, 11 jacks, 90 summer-run steelhead and eight cutthroat trout during four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 30 fall Chinook adults, four fall Chinook jacks, one coho adult and 192 jacks at Franklin Bridge in Packwood and 19 coho adults and 90 jacks into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

During the week, Tacoma Power released 144 coho adults, 251 jacks, 85 fall Chinook adults, and seven jacks into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. Also, 48 coho jacks and one cutthroat trout were released into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam.

Of the 3,300 summer-run steelhead that have been recycled during the 2015 season, a total of 1,666 (56%) have been accounted for through November 13.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately **14,900 cubic feet per second** on Monday, November 16.

**Mill Creek (tributary to Cowlitz River)** – Beginning December 1, opens to fishing for hatchery steelhead and hatchery sea run cutthroats from the mouth to the salmon hatchery road crossing culvert. Selective gear rules, night closures and anti-snagging rules will be in effect for this one month fishery.

**Kalama River** – Anglers are catching a mix of hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead.

**North Fork Lewis River** – Improved for boat anglers that are catching equal numbers of adult fall Chinook and hatchery coho. Bank anglers are also catching some fish.

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

Flows at Merwin Dam are currently **15,300 cfs**, nearly 3X the long-term mean for this date.

**East Fork Lewis River** – Bank anglers are releasing some wild steelhead.

**Wind River from Shipherd Falls upstream to Moore Bridge** – The catch-and-release game fish (including steelhead) season runs through Nov. 30.

**Klickitat River** – Slow for the few anglers that were sampled. Flows at Pitt are currently 950 cfs, just above the long-term mean for this date.

Under permanent rules, the Klickitat River from Fishway #5 upstream closes to fishing for salmon and trout (including hatchery steelhead) beginning December 1. 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.

The salmon and hatchery steelhead fishery from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream to the mouth (Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge) remains open through January 31.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Anglers are reminded, under permanent rules fishing for salmon is closed from Beacon Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam (except from the Oregon bank). The closure is to protect ESA-listed chum spawning in the area.

**Bonneville Pool** – Light effort and catch.

**BONUS FACTOID – From the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Facebook page:**

**GOOD NEWS!** Sometime early this morning (Nov. 10) the cumulative record for adult fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam was broken. As of 9:05 am this morning, the count was at 953,240. More fall chinook adults have passed this year than any other since the dam was built in 1938.



## Trout

**Ft. Borst Pond** – 1 bank angler had 0 fish.

**South Lewis County Park Pond** – 2 bank anglers had 0 fish.

**Kress Lake** – 2 bank anglers had 0 fish.

**Lake Merwin** – Minimal effort but limits of kokanee. Reservoir is 6 feet below full pool level. See <http://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?site=NWS&product=RVM&issuedby=PQR> for most recent Lewis River reservoirs pool levels.

**Swift Reservoir from dam upstream to the Eagle Cliff Bridge** – Effort is picking up with several trout limits. Remains open to fishing through November 30. Until then, the daily limit is 10 hatchery rainbows. Landlocked salmon rules are in effect (salmon count towards the trout daily limit); however, all salmon larger than 15 inches must be released.

Reservoir is 15 feet below full pool level.

**Rowland Lake** – Effort is picking up with trout limits.

**Black Friday trout opener is coming up the day after Thanksgiving.** The six lakes to be planted will be closed starting the Monday before Thanksgiving (November 23) through Thanksgiving (November 26) and reopen Friday November 27. The lakes to be planted with 2,000 very large rainbows (averaging 15 to 16 inches in length and weighing 1-1/4 pounds) each are:

Lewis County

Fort Borst Park Pond  
South Lewis County Park Pond

Cowlitz county

Kress Lake

Clark County

Battleground Lake  
Klineline Pond

Klickitat County

North Rowland Lake

Area	Bank Anglers	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead		Other	Boat Anglers	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	95	2	0	33	1	6	7	7	11	8	1	1 cutt rel.	11	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama River	37	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0
East Fork Lewis River	11	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	3	0		CLOSED	CLOSED			CLOSED	CLOSED					
North Fork Lewis River	52	1	0	3	1	5	0	1	1	0	0	0	25	14	0	1	0	15	0	5	0	0	0	0
Klickitat River	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Bonneville Pool													4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - March 1-6

<u>Area</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Catch</u>
Klineline Pond	17 bank	with no catch.