

## Creel Survey

October 13, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – Bank anglers are catching fall Chinook at the barrier dam and steelhead near the trout hatchery while boat anglers are catching fall Chinook and coho primarily from Castle Rock to the mouth.

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

- 61 summer-run steelhead, 1,101 fall Chinook adults, 86 jacks, 418 coho adults, 619 jacks and seven cutthroat trout.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 64 coho adults, 62 jacks, 315 fall Chinook adults and 36 jacks at Franklin Bridge in Packwood;
- 503 fall Chinook adults, 47 jacks, with 126 coho adults, 533 jacks and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 3,670 cubic feet per second on Monday, October 12.

**Kalama River** – Bank anglers are catching some fall Chinook, coho, and summer run steelhead.

**East Fork Lewis and Washougal river** – Light effort and catches.

**Drano Lake** – Still some fall Chinook being caught here.

From the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery Facebook page on September 30:

For those who are interested in fish numbers, here's a breakdown of estimated numbers expected to return to Little White Salmon Hatchery. "PIT" stands for Passive Integrated Transponder. Prior to release, a specified number of fish are tagged internally with a PIT tag containing information. This information includes its PIT tag number, tagging location, organization responsible for the tagging, species, run, weight, length, wild or hatchery type, marks and general health.

After the fish is released its movements can be tracked in various ways depending upon the reason for tagging. Hatcheries use PIT tags to estimate the number and age of fish returning to their individual hatchery.

Info courtesy of Steve Lazzini with the Lower Columbia River Fisheries Program in Vancouver, WA.

Year spawned	Release totals	PIT Detections	PIT Detection expanded	# of fish each PIT accounts for
2014	6,500,000			
2013	6,252,092			
2012	4,421,578	56	16,509	294.8
2011	4,500,000	76	13,680	180
2010	4,470,000	145	25,926	178.8
URB over Bonneville		56,115		
Est return to Hatchery after 40% harvest			33,669	

**Yakima River** – From Paul Hoffarth WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco - The salmon fishery in the lower Yakima River picked up this past week. WDFW staff interviewed 212 anglers with 70 adult chinook, 1 jack, and 1 coho. An estimated 995 anglers fished for salmon in the Yakima River harvesting 352 adult fall chinook, 8 jacks, and 6 coho.

Anglers averaged 7.6 hours of fishing per chinook. This season, 1,016 adult chinook, 49 jacks, and 9 coho have been harvested from 3,648 angler trips.

This fishery will close on October 22.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Fall Chinook catches continue to remain strong from the mouth of the Cowlitz upstream. Boat anglers from Woodland upstream averaged ½ adult fall Chinook or better per rod last week.

**Bonneville Pool** – Anglers continue to do well for fall Chinook at the mouth of the tributaries. Effort is fairly heavy at the mouth of the Klickitat with 65 and 55 boats counted there last Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

**Hanford Reach** – From Paul Hoffarth - Fishing for fall chinook in the Hanford Reach continues to be excellent. Harvest for the week was estimated at 5,958 fall chinook (5,680 adults and 278 jacks). WDFW estimates there were 6,838 anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach this past week. To date, 25,631 adult chinook and 1,306 jacks have been harvested in the Hanford Reach by the 40,235 anglers.

Effort dropped off a bit this past week with the opening of the hunting seasons. Fish were harvested throughout the Hanford Reach with the best catch per boat at White Bluffs, Ringold, and Vernita at 2.8 fish per boat. Anglers fishing in the Tri-cities averaged 1.3 chinook per boat. Overall, anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach average 2.4 chinook per boat, 7.4 angler hours per fish, slightly better than the week prior. Bank anglers are picking up a few fall chinook each day at the Ringold Springs Access area. This past week 63 chinook were harvested off the bank.

WDFW staff interviewed 2,412 anglers from 856 boats and 198 bank anglers fishing for fall chinook in the Hanford Reach.

The in-season run update (Oct. 7) for the Hanford Reach continues to predict a record escapement of over 200,000 adult chinook.

Hatchery adult coho returns to Washington lower Columbia river stations are less than 10% of the same time last year:

<u>River</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Toutle	116	175	Early stock.
Cowlitz	571	15,288	Late stock. Includes integrated wild and hatchery stocks.
Kalama	74	1,262	Early stock. 917 adults counted at new Modrow trap this year.
Lewis	1,802	19,490	Early stock.
Total	2,563	36,215	7%

Hatchery jack coho returns are slightly more than half the same time last year:

Toutle	2	17	Early stock.
Cowlitz	735	1,398	Late stock. Includes integrated wild and hatchery stocks.
Kalama	1	130	Early stock. 9 jacks counted at new Modrow trap this year.
Lewis	1,040	1,736	Early stock.
Total	1,778	3,281	54%

Bonneville Dam counts of early stock adult and jack coho are also way down from the same time last year (thru Sept. 30):

Adults	26,917	181,514	15%
Jacks	3,594	10,254	35%

Even worse for late stock coho from Oct. 1-12:

Adults	2,618	36,435	7%
Jacks	496	2,518	20%

## Walleye

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Boat anglers in the Vancouver area caught some fish last week.

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary  
Oct. 13

2:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid													# Boats	Chinook						Coho			Steelhead	Rel.	Other
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other		Boats	Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Released Adults	Jacks			
Oct. 5-11	1	78	20	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bonneville	2													30	54	27	4	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	
Camas/Washougal	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Vancouver	4	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	69	163	85	6	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	
Woodland	5	16	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	22	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kalama	6	125	18	1	1	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	22	45	3	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	0	0	
Cowlitz	7													11	22	5	0	0	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	
Longview	8	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cathlamet	9																									
private boats/bank charter	10																									
<b>Total</b>	10	242	43	5	2	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	151	324	135	10	5	1	11	2	4	0	0	0	

Month/Week	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												
Camas/Washougal	2												
	3												
Vancouver	4												
Woodland	5												
Kalama	6												
Cowlitz	7												
Longview	8												
Cathlamet	9												
	10												
Deep River + Knappton boats	10												
Cathlamet	10												
<b>Total</b>	10	0	0	0	0	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	CLOSED	

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

Washington lower Columbia tributaries plus Bonneville and The Dalles pools salmonid sport sampling summaries - Oct. 5-11.

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	221	20	1	46	3	2	2	3	1	14	2	1 cutt rel.	93	11	0	19	0	16	2	7	0	1	0	0
Kalama River	33	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Fork Lewis River	4	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0		CLOSED	CLOSED			CLOSED	CLOSED					
Lewis River													1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washougal River	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Drano Lake													5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bonneville Pool													39	23	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2 sublegal sturgeon rel.