

Creel Survey

October 20, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Lower portions of Abernathy, Cedar (North Fork Lewis tributary), Coal, Germany, Mill (Cowlitz Co.) creeks and the Coweeman River – Re-open to fishing for hatchery steelhead and other game fish November 1.

Elochoman River – No report on angling success. Oct. 31 is the last day of night closure, anti-snagging rule, and stationary gear restrictions.

Green River (Cowlitz Co.) from mouth to 400 feet below Toutle Hatchery intake, Tilton River from the mouth to the West Fork and Cowlitz River from posted PUD sign on Peters Rd. to the mouth of the Ohanapecosh and Muddy Fork – No report on angling success. Oct. 31 is the last day of the night closure and anti-snagging rule.

Cowlitz River – Boat anglers near the mouth are catching some coho though the rest of the river was slow. Bank anglers at the barrier dam are catching fall Chinook and summer run steelhead near the trout hatchery. The majority of the Chinook were wild or dark and were released.

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

- 1,226 fall Chinook adults, 78 jacks, 743 coho adults, 753 jacks, 122 summer-run steelhead, 11 cutthroat trout, two pink salmon and one sockeye.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 708 fall Chinook adults, 38 jacks, 334 coho adults, 569 jacks and two cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton;
- 417 fall Chinook adults, 40 jacks, 50 coho adults and 105 jacks into the Cowlitz River at Skate Creek Bridge in Packwood;
- 37 coho adults and 65 jacks into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellowjacket Creek in Randle.
- Two pink salmon and one sockeye were released downstream at the Barrier Dam Boat Launch.

River flows below Mayfield Dam are approximately 3,590 cubic feet per second on Monday, Oct. 19, 2015.

Lake Scanewa drawdown update –Tacoma Power is building a fish collector at Lewis County PUD's Cowlitz Falls Dam. As part of the construction activities, Lake Scanewa is drawn down to original river levels. **The reservoir is scheduled to begin refilling on Oct. 22.**

Kalama River – Effort and catch is increasing. Most of the fish sampled were summer run steelhead along with some fall Chinook and coho.

Oct. 31 is the last day of the night closure, anti-snagging, and fly fishing only rules on the lower river.

East Fork Lewis – Little to no effort for steelhead.

Lewis River including North Fork Lewis – Anglers are catching some fall Chinook, coho, and summer run steelhead.

Colvin Creek to the overhead powerlines below Merwin Dam remains open to fishing through Saturday October 31. It will re-open for salmon and hatchery steelhead Dec. 16.

Washougal River – Bank anglers are catching some fall Chinook.

Oct. 31 is the last day of the anti-snagging rule. In addition, night fishing will be allowed from the Mt. Norway Bridge upstream to the Salmon Falls Bridge.

Lower Wind River – No report on angling success. **Oct. 31 is the last day to fish for salmon.**

Drano Lake – Boat bank and boat anglers are catching some fall Chinook. Boat anglers averaged 1.5 fish per rod when including fish released.

White Salmon River – No report on angling success. **Oct. 31 is the last day to fish from the county road below the powerhouse upstream.**

Klickitat River – Bank anglers are catching fall Chinook in the lower river while some coho were caught by boat anglers near the mouth.

Yakima River (From Paul A. Hoffarth, District 4 Fish Biologist, WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Pasco WA) - It was another good week of fishing in the lower Yakima River this past week. WDFW staff interviewed 192 anglers with 85 adult chinook and 1 jack. An estimated 888 anglers fished for salmon in the Yakima River harvesting 411 adult fall chinook and 5 jacks. Anglers averaged 6.3 hours of fishing per chinook. This season, 1,427 adult chinook, 54 jacks, and 9 coho have been harvested from 4,537 angler trips.

This fishery will close on Thursday, October 22.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Still good numbers of fall Chinook are being caught from the Cowlitz River upstream. Best success was in the Woodland area where boat anglers averaged near ½ Chinook per rod.

Effort is holding up with just over 200 boats and nearly 100 bank anglers observed during last Saturday's effort flight count.

Oct. 31 is the last day of the 2015 creel census program. The program will resume in February 2016.

Under permanent rules, closed to fishing for salmon from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam effective November 1.

Bonneville Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly a fall Chinook per rod. Last Saturday morning, 35 boats were tallied of the mouth of the Klickitat and 20 off the White Salmon River.

Hanford Reach (From Paul A. Hoffarth) – The number of anglers fishing for fall chinook in the Hanford Reach dropped off a bit this past week but the fishing got even better. Harvest for the week was estimated at 5,679 fall chinook (5,556 adults and 123 jacks). WDFW estimates there were 5,242 anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach this past week. To date, 31,029 adult chinook and 1,421 jacks have been harvested in the Hanford Reach by the 45,305 anglers.

Overall, anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach average 2.9 chinook per boat, 5.4 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 54 chinook were harvested off the bank.

WDFW staff interviewed 1,621 anglers from 654 boats and 178 bank anglers fishing for fall chinook in the Hanford Reach.

The in-season run update (Oct 15) for the Hanford Reach continues to predict a record escapement of over 200,000 adult chinook.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Some legals were released by boat anglers in the Kalama area.

Walleye

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Including fish released, boat anglers in the Camas/Washougal area averaged nearly 1.5 fish per rod.

Trout

Blue, Horsethief, Packwood, Walupt, and Willame lakes and Lewis River Power Canal – No report on angling success. **October 31 is the last day to fish for the year.**

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
 Oct. 19

3:00 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. 12-18	1	52	23	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Bonneville	2													32	60	13	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Camas/Washougal	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Vancouver	4	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	105	27	3	0	1	1	1	1	0	0		
Woodland	5	46	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	58	166	75	6	5	0	11	1	4	0	0		
Kalama	6	105	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	34	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0		
Cowlitz	7													14	30	3	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0		
Longview	8	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	26	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0		
Cathlamet	9																									
private boats/bank charter	10																									
Total	10	246	37	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	192	430	125	9	8	1	16	5	10	0	1		

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

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

