

Creel Survey

September 14, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching a mix of fall Chinook, coho, summer run steelhead, and sea-run cutthroats. Chinook are mainly being caught through the river, coho in the lower river, and steelhead and sea-run cutthroats around the trout hatchery.

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

- 227 summer-run steelhead, 83 spring Chinook adults, four jacks, 17 mini-jacks, 270 fall Chinook adults, 20 jacks, nine coho adults, seven jacks and six cutthroat trout.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 82 spring Chinook adults and four jacks, two fall Chinook adults, two coho adults and one jack into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.
- 202 fall Chinook adults, 11 jacks, with seven coho adults and six jacks into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.
- 47 spring Chinook mini-jacks were released into Riffe Lake at Mossyrock Park.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 2,540 cubic feet per second on Tuesday, September 14. Water visibility is 14 feet.

Lewis River – Bank anglers are catching some fall Chinook, coho, and summer run steelhead. Starting tomorrow (Sept. 16) any Chinook, adipose fin clipped or not, may be retained.

Wind River – At the mouth, light effort and catch. The upper river will open as scheduled for catch-and-release steelhead angling beginning tomorrow (Sept. 16). Selective gear rules will be in effect.

Drano Lake – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged a fish per rod. Fall Chinook, summer run steelhead, and a few coho are being caught. Half the steelhead caught were hatchery fish. Through December 31, when the anti-snagging rule is in effect fish must be hooked inside the mouth.

Yakima River – From Paul A. Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist, Pasco - This past week WDFW staff interviewed 63 anglers with 4 adult chinook and a coho. An estimated 405 anglers fished for salmon in the Yakima River this past week and harvested 21 adult fall chinook and 3 coho.

Salmon are trickling through the Prosser Diversion at this time with less than 20 chinook per day passing upstream. Flows are very low in the lower Yakima River at just over 600cfs. We will likely need some rain to improve the flows and bring the fish in.

Buoy 10 – Fishing is relatively slow for coho. The closure just outside Young's Bay is lifted beginning tomorrow (Sept. 16).

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – From Sept. 8-14 (including the mark selective Chinook sport fishery below the Lewis) we sampled 1,620 salmonid anglers (including 473 boats) with 770 adult and 11 jack fall Chinook, 1 adult and 1 jack coho, and 1 steelhead. Overall, 378 (49%) of the adult Chinook were kept. Below the mouth of the Lewis, 150 of the 540 (28%) of adult fall Chinook caught were kept.

From the Lewis River downstream, closed to Chinook retention until October 1.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers are primarily catching fall Chinook along with some steelhead. Through October 15, when the anti-snagging rule is in effect fish must be hooked inside the mouth.

Hanford Reach – From Paul A. Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist, Pasco - The number of anglers and the numbers of salmon harvested in the Hanford Reach sport fishery set new records this past week. WDFW estimates 1,739 boats (4,154 anglers) fished the Hanford Reach with a harvest of 2,348 adult chinook and 104 jacks. This was a new record for harvest for the second week in September and was more than double the previous record set last year.

WDFW staff interviewed 1,166 anglers from 517 boats and 76 bank anglers fishing for fall chinook in the Hanford Reach. Anglers averaged better than 1.5 fish per boat for the week with many areas reporting better than 2 adult chinook per boat by the latter half of the week. Bank anglers at the Ringold Springs Access area harvested 28 adult chinook this week.

Fish were harvested throughout the Hanford Reach with the best catch per effort at Vernita (2.0 fish/boat), followed closely by White Bluffs and Ringold. Fish continue to pour through the dams with over 257,000 adult fall chinook counted at Bonneville this past week (~36,000 per day) and 81,000+ over McNary (~11,000 per day).

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – We did not sample any sturgeon anglers last week.

Walleye

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

Trout

Goose Lake near Carson – From John Weinheimer WDFW District 9 Fish Biologist Region 5 – Vancouver - Through next week, Goose Lake is being planted with rainbows, browns, and cutthroats. The browns will be quite small but will grow. We had to plant them way early because of water shortages at our facilities. The cutts are a beautiful size! In addition, several hundred rainbows from a kid's derby held at Carson National Fish Hatchery this past weekend will be put into the lake sometime this week. These are nice fish too!



The boat ramp does not make it to the water and the water is shallow beyond (see photo attached). I recommend small boats (remember it's electric motors only).

This is a very popular fishery until snow blocks the roads. See more about Goose Lake at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/washington/942/>.

4:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid											Chinook											Coho											Steakhead											Other											Bank											Not CWT											Not PIT										
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steakhead Kept	Rel.	Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steakhead Kept	Rel.	Other	# sampled	DNA	CWT	PIT	Not CWT Sampled	PIT Sampled	# sampled	DNA	CWT	PIT	Not CWT Sampled	PIT Sampled																																																		
Bonneville	1	30	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	41	14	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	21	1	0	2	12	12	0	0	3	5																																																			
Bonneville	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	37	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																																	
Camas/Washougal	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	122	258	115	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	23	1	0	22	37	84	84	1	0	33	64																																																		
Vancouver	4	216	43	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	105	14	0	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	2	2	7	7	1	0	7	12																																																		
Woodland	5	22	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	71	177	43	1	88	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	9	0	0	4	7	42	42	4	0	2	12																																																		
Kalama	6	154	13	0	88	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	22	48	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																																		
Cowlitz	7													112	220	37	1	63	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	2	36	36	9	0	2	9																																																		
Longview	8	54	3	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	3	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																																			
Cathlamet	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	41	14	0	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0																																																		
private boats/bank charter	10																																																																																							
Total	10	487	85	2	103	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	426	931	246	5	225	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	56	2	0	31	60	198	198	18	0	53	114																																																		

Month/Week	Surgeon											
	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
Camas/Washougal	3					CLOSED						CLOSED
Vancouver	4					CLOSED						CLOSED
Woodland	5					CLOSED						CLOSED
Kalama	6					CLOSED						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	0	0	0	0	0	CLOSED

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

Washington lower Columbia tributaries plus Bonneville and The Dalles pools salmonid sport sampling summaries - Sept. 7-13.

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	70	12	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	10	0	5 cutts	27	26	0	16	0	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	
Lewis River	24	1	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	7	0	0													
Wind River													2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Drano Lake													40	19	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	9	9	0	
Bonneville Pool													18	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	

Washington Buoy 10 Creel Sampling Summaries - 2015

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.

Chinook catch through August 23 is the 3rd highest on record since at least 1982 (record 42,100 fish in 1987).

Actual catch last week (Aug. 17-23) was much higher than projected and likely the highest on record for a single week (nearly 18,300 Chinook kept).

Through August 26, an estimated 35,200 Chinook have been caught (including handling mortalities). It is now the 2nd highest catch on record since at least 1982.

Through Sept. 7, an estimated 40,000 Chinook and 35,000 coho have been caught (including handling mortalities).

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	
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					No sampling. Chinook must be adipose fin clipped to be retained.
25-Aug	117	344	128	156	
26-Aug	126	365	101	139	
27-Aug	94	260	61	151	
28-Aug					No sampling.
29-Aug					No effort (windy). All Chinook must be released through Sept. 30.
30-Aug	71	230		140	
31-Aug	23	72		51	
1-Sep	24	73		46	Private boats.
1-Sep	9	55		68	Charters.
2-Sep					No sampling.
3-Sep	44	99		69	
4-Sep	57	147		70	
5-Sep	73	181		85	
6-Sep	75	212		56	
7-Sep	40	98		23	
8-Sep	9	18		4	
9-Sep	24	53		12	
10-Sep	63	136		40	
11-Sep					No sampling.
12-Sep	45	114		14	
13-Sep	34	96		27	
14-Sep	19	47		7	