

## Creel Survey

September 21, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – About the same report as last week - 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. Just over half the Chinook were wild and had to be released.

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

- 306 summer-run steelhead, 73 spring Chinook adults, seven jacks, 707 fall Chinook adults, 71 jacks, 94 coho adults, 18 jacks and 18 cutthroat trout.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 73 spring Chinook adults and six jacks, 17 coho adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.
- 403 fall Chinook adults, 71 jacks, with 77 coho adults, 18 jacks and five cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 2,540 cubic feet per second on Monday, September 21. Water visibility is 16 feet.

**Lewis River** – Bank anglers are catching some coho and summer run steelhead around the salmon hatchery.

**Drano Lake** – Boat anglers are doing well for fall Chinook and a few summer run steelhead.

**Effective October 1, anglers may fish for SALMON and STEELHEAD with two poles with a Two-Pole Endorsement and each angler aboard a vessel may deploy SALMON and STEELHEAD angling gear until the daily limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved. Barbed hooks will be allowed October 1 through December 31.**

**The lake will be closed to all fishing from 6 pm Tuesdays to 6 pm Wednesdays in October.**

**Yakima River** – From Paul A. Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco, WA - The salmon fishery in the lower Yakima River picked up a bit this past week. WDFW staff interviewed 114 anglers with 19 adult chinook and 2 jacks. An estimated 532 anglers fished for salmon in the Yakima River harvesting 95 adult fall chinook and 18 jacks. So far this season 137 adult chinook, 18 jacks, and 3 coho have been harvested.

Low numbers of salmon are passing through the Prosser Diversion at this time and flows are running very low at ~700cfs.

**Buoy 10** – Slight improvement in the coho catches the past couple days.

**Effective October 1, the salmonid daily limit increases to 6 fish of which 2 may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Salmon minimum size is 12 inches. Any Chinook, adipose fin clipped or not, may be retained. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho.**

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – During the first 6 days of the no Chinook retention below the Lewis:

We sampled 833 salmonid anglers (including 189 boats) with 335 adult and 17 jack fall Chinook, 4 adult coho, and 9 steelhead. Overall, 310 (93%) of the adult Chinook were kept. Below the mouth of the Lewis, 20 adult fall Chinook caught were released.

Three (75%) of the adult coho and three (33%) of the steelhead were kept.

**Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the Warrior Rock line** –Effective October 1 any Chinook, adipose fin clipped or not, may be retained. Adult daily limit is 2 fish. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho.

**Bonneville Pool** – Boat anglers are doing well for fall Chinook at the mouth of the Klickitat though effort has been heavy. Last Saturday morning, 105 boats were counted there.

**Hanford Reach** – From Paul A. Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco, WA - It was another good week for salmon fishing in the Hanford Reach. Harvest for the week was estimated at 5,022 fall chinook, 4,768 adults and 254 jacks. We continue to set new records this year for the numbers of fish harvested each week. This weeks' numbers just slightly edged out last years' numbers.

WDFW estimates there were 7,700 anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach this past week (1,800+ boats). WDFW staff interviewed 1,837 anglers from 735 boats and 75 bank anglers.

Fish were harvested throughout the Hanford Reach with the best catch per effort at Ringold (2.3 fish/boat), followed closely by White Bluffs and Vernita. Overall, anglers averaged better than 1.5 fish per boat. Bank anglers at the Ringold Springs Access area harvested 23 adult chinook.

Fish continue to move into the Hanford Reach in good numbers with more than 20,000 adult chinook per day counted at Bonneville this past week and 10,000+ over McNary each day.

## **Walleye**

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

## **Trout**

**Mineral Lake** – No report on angling success. September 30 is the last day to fish for the year.





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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

Almost 60,000 Chinook have been kept/released, a new record.

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	
15-Sep	6	19		2	
16-Sep	1	10		1	Charters.
16-Sep	4	7		0	Private boats.
17-Sep	9	13		3	
18-Sep					No sampling.
19-Sep	18	38		20	
20-Sep	20	53		27	