

## Creel Survey

September 28, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – Still not much change from the past couple weeks other than more wild Chinook (which must be released) are appearing in the catch. Only about 20% of the Chinook caught were hatchery fish.

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

- 203 summer-run steelhead, 17 spring Chinook adults, one jack, 1,040 fall Chinook adults, 95 jacks, 137 coho adults, 75 jacks and 12 cutthroat trout.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 17 spring Chinook adults and eight coho adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek;
- 147 fall Chinook adults, 20 jacks, 18 coho adults, two jacks and eight spring Chinook adults at the Franklin Bridge in Packwood;
- 465 fall Chinook adults, 63 jacks, with 111 coho adults, 72 jacks and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 3,050 cubic feet per second on Monday, September 28.

**Lewis River** – Boat anglers are catching some fall Chinook while bank anglers are mostly catching steelhead. Flow below Merwin Dam are currently 886 cfs, about 40% of the long-term mean of 2,230 cfs for this date.

**Wind River** – Effort and catch is light.

**Drano Lake** – Boat anglers averaged nearly 1.5 adult Chinook per rod when including fish released. Some coho and a few steelhead are also being caught.

**Buoy 10** – Hatchery coho catches have slowed in recent days.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** - Last week we sampled 615 salmonid anglers (including 203 boats) with 265 adult and 12 jack fall Chinook, 7 adult coho, and 2 steelhead. Overall, 241 (91%) of the adult Chinook were kept. Below the mouth of the Lewis, 11 adult fall Chinook were released.

Four (57%) of the adult coho were kept. Both of the steelhead were released.

**New:** Weekly effort and catch estimates for the lower Columbia mainstem sport fishery are now posted on the WDFW website at [http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/creel/columbia\\_river/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/creel/columbia_river/).

**Bonneville Pool** – Boat anglers continue catching fall Chinook at the mouth of the tributaries.

**Hanford Reach** – From Paul A. Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco - It was another good week for salmon fishing in the Hanford Reach. Harvest for the week was estimated at 5,993 fall Chinook (5,706 adults and 288 jacks. So far this season 13,778 adult Chinook and 715 jacks have been harvested.

Fish were harvested throughout the Hanford Reach with the best catch per boat at White Bluffs and Ringold at just over 2 fish per boat. Vernita was running about 1.6 chinook per boat. Overall, anglers averaged better than 1.5 Chinook per boat, 10 hours per fish. Bank angling at the Ringold Springs Access area picked up with 71 Chinook harvested this past week.

WDFW estimates there were 9,115 anglers fishing in the Hanford Reach this past week (3,500+ boats). WDFW staff interviewed 2,561 anglers from 1,025 boats and 207 bank anglers.

The in-season run update (Sept. 23) for the Hanford Reach is 195,620 adult Chinook based on the long term mean (152,517 based on the 2014 return).

## **Trout**

**Goose Lake** – Planted with 2,332 cutthroats averaging a pound each on Sept. 21. No report on angling success.

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary  
9/28/2015

3:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid													# Boats	Chinook						Coho			Steelhead	Rel.	Other
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other		Boats	Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other									
Bonneville	1	60	16	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	20	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Camas/Washougal	2													22	45	10	0	2	1	0	0	0	0			
Vancouver	3	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	39	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0			
Woodland	4	68	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	136	312	178	7	11	1	3	0	2	0			
Kalama	5	3	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			CLOSED	CLOSED									
Cowlitz	6	17	CLOSED	CLOSED	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	3	6	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Longview	7	5	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	CLOSED	CLOSED	6	0	0	0	0	0			
Cathlamet	8												0	8	16	CLOSED	CLOSED	4	0	0	0	0	0			
private boats/bank charter	9															CLOSED	CLOSED									
	10															CLOSED	CLOSED									
	10															CLOSED	CLOSED									
<b>Total</b>		173	41	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	203	442	200	7	23	2	4	0	2	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					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED						CLOSED	
	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	
	10					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED						CLOSED	
<b>Total</b>		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							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	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 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	
21-Sep	8	22		15	
22-Sep	21	49		25	
23-Sep	1	1		2	
24-Sep	5	12		2	
25-Sep	12	25		2	
26-Sep	16	38		10	
27-Sep	22	53		5	
28-Sep					
29-Sep					
30-Sep					

