

Creel Survey

September 13, 2016, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

BONUS FACTOIDS – The estimated 1,179 steelhead kept from the lower Columbia mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam during August was the lowest for that month since 1983 when the fishery was closed.

The McNary escapement goal of 60,000 adult Chinook has been met for the 23rd year in a row.

Cowlitz River – 38 boat anglers kept 5 adult and 1 jack Chinook, 2 adult and 1 jack coho, 3 steelhead and released 8 adult Chinook. 107 bank anglers kept 4 adult and 1 jack Chinook, 4 steelhead, 2 adult coho and released 23 adult Chinook. Fish are mainly being caught between the hatcheries and at the mouth of the river.

Last week Tacoma Power employees recovered 371 fall Chinook adults, 24 jacks, 215 summer-run steelhead, 105 spring Chinook adults, 13 jacks, 12 mini-jacks, 83 coho adults, 36 jacks and seven cutthroat trout in four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week, Tacoma Power employees released 52 spring Chinook adults, eight spring Chinook jacks, eight coho adults and one coho jack into the Cispus River upstream of the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek near Randle, 41 spring Chinook adults, five spring Chinook jacks and four coho adults at Franklin Bridge in Packwood, and 250 fall Chinook adults, 19 jacks, seven coho adults, 27 coho jacks and five cutthroat trout into the Tilton River located at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

Since June 15, Tacoma Power employees have Floy-tagged and recycled 3,300 summer-run steelhead to the I-5 bridge boat launch. A total of 1,427 (43%) of the recycled steelhead have either been reported as harvested or returned back to the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 3,130 cubic feet per second on Monday Sept. 12. Visibility is at 11 feet and water temperature is 55 F.

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Creel Summary

BANK ANGLERS

River	Date Range	# Anglers	Steelhead			Adult Chinook		
			HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released	HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released
Coweeman	a NA							
Lewis, EF	b 9/6 - 9/11/16	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	9/6 - 9/11/16	58	0	0	0	1	2	1
Bank Total								

BOAT ANGLERS

River	Date Range	# Anglers	Steelhead			Adult Chinook		
			HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released	HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released
Coweeman	a NA							

Lewis, EF	b	9/6 - 9/11/16	0		0	0	0		0	0	0
Kalama		9/6 - 9/11/16	3		3	0	0		0	0	1
Boat Total											

Lewis River (including North Fork) – No report on angling success. Effective Sept. 24, wild Chinook may be retained.

Wind River – 7 boat anglers released 1 steelhead. The upper river above Shipherd Falls is scheduled to open for catch-and-release steelhead angling beginning Sept. 16. Selective gear rules will be in effect.

Drano Lake – 156 boat anglers kept 44 adult and 7 jack Chinook, 5 adult coho, 7 steelhead and released 5 adult and 1 jack Chinook and 10 steelhead.

Klickitat River – 17 boat anglers kept 2 adult Chinook. Lots of vehicles reported from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream but no report on angling success.

Buoy 10 – Not a whole lot of change – some Chinook and coho continue to be caught. Chinook must be released Sept. 15-30. Remains open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead. The closure just outside Young’s Bay is lifted beginning Sept. 16.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – During last weekend’s non-Mark Selective Fishery above the Warrior Rock line we sampled 454 salmonid anglers (including 170 boats) with 113 adult and 12 jack Chinook, 3 adult and 2 jack coho but no steelhead. All but 2 (98%) of the adult Chinook and two (67%) of the adult coho were kept.

During last weekend’s Mark Selective Fishery below the Warrior Rock line we sampled 351 salmonid anglers (including 81 boats) with 47 adult and 8 jack Chinook, 5 adult and 1 jack coho, and 2 steelhead. **Just 8 (17%) of the adult Chinook were kept.** One (50%) of the steelhead and all of the adult coho were kept.

From the Warrior Rock Line downstream – Beginning Sept. 15, closed to Chinook retention until October 1. Remains open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead.

Port of Kalama announces final steps to complete trail improvement project

The final steps to complete the Port of Kalama’s new parkway trails, landscaping and marina improvement will commence on Monday, September 12. In order to prepare for the final paving project, half of the marina parking will be closed from Monday, September 12th to 16th. While parking will be limited, the marina itself and boat launch will remain open during this time.

The paving project will close the entire marina parking lot and boat launch from Monday September 19th to 21st. Throughout construction, all passenger car lots adjacent to the Port Administrative Office will remain open as will additional truck and trailer parking to the south. Foot traffic to the marina will remain open as well.

The entire marina area will re-open to the public, Thursday, September 22nd. For more details, see <http://portofkalama.com/port-kalama-announces-final-steps-complete-trail-improvement-project/>.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers are catching fall Chinook at the mouths of Drano Lake and the White Salmon River.

Hanford Reach – Fall chinook harvest in the Hanford Reach area picked up this past week with boats averaging just over ½ a Chinook per boat. Best fishing was in the Vernita area at just over 1 Chinook per boat, followed by White Bluffs (0.9 fish/boat), Ringold (0.6 fish/boat), and Snyder (0.4 fish/boat).

WDFW staff interviewed anglers from 483 boats (1,068 boat anglers) and 37 bank anglers (Ringold access area) with a harvest of 254 adult Chinook and 33 jacks. Daily boat counts ranged from 119 to 438 boats. Through September 11, an estimated 1,228 adult chinook and 164 jacks have been harvested from 7,332 angler trips.

Counts of fall Chinook through McNary topped 10,000 fish per day on September 11 and 12. The fishing should continue to improve over the coming weeks.

Sturgeon and Walleye

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last weekend we sampled 2 sturgeon anglers (1 boat) with 3 legals released and 5 walleye anglers (2 boats) with no catch.

Washington Buoy 10 Creel Sampling Summaries - 2016

Buoy 10 – Open for Chinook through September 14. Two salmonid daily limit, only one of which may be a Chinook and/or hatchery steelhead. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho. Barbless hooks required.

From September 15-30, Chinook retention is closed. Daily limit will be 2 hatchery coho or 1 hatchery coho and 1 hatchery steelhead. Barbless hooks required.

Chinook minimum length is 24 inches; coho 16 inches.

Boat anglers should be aware of Oregon’s sport fishing closure at the mouth of Young’s Bay that runs from August 1 through September 15.

North Jetty – Open 7 days per week when Marine Area 1 or Buoy 10 areas are open for salmon. The daily limit and minimum size restrictions follow the most liberal regulations of Single point barbless hooks required for salmon and steelhead. A saltwater or combination license is required to fish from the North Jetty.

From Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam - From August 1 through December 31, only one hatchery steelhead may be kept.

From Buoy 10 upstream to the Oregon/Washington border – From August 1 through December 31, each angler aboard a vessel may deploy recreational salmon/steelhead gear until the daily salmonid limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.

Date	Number of Boats	Number of Anglers	Chinook Kept	Coho Kept	Comments
1-Aug	58	137	4	0	Opening day. For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
2-Aug	17	44	0	1	
3-Aug	21	46	1	4	
4-Aug	36	87	4	0	
5-Aug	37	102	10	0	
6-Aug	81	234	24	0	
7-Aug	22	60	6	0	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
8-Aug	35	96	9	0	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
9-Aug	33	96	22	0	
10-Aug	66	178	20	4	
11-Aug	22	77	10	0	
12-Aug	43	103	16	2	
13-Aug	137	399	70	8	
14-Aug	111	313	23	3	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
15-Aug	85	261	34	8	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
16-Aug	104	291	42	10	
17-Aug					No sampling.
18-Aug	38	117	11	1	
19-Aug	54	146	14	6	
20-Aug	122	368	28	7	
21-Aug	89	276	16	10	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
22-Aug					For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained. No sampling.
23-Aug	51	141	19	13	Catch through August 23 includes about 10,200 Chinook and 1,600 Coho from 56,900 angler trips.
24-Aug	54	138	49	20	
25-Aug	97	280	85	48	
26-Aug	85	233	72	40	
27-Aug	81	251	32	29	
28-Aug	126	362	23	50	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
29-Aug	66	157	18	30	For Chinook, only adipose or left ventral fin clipped fish may be retained.
29-Aug					Catch through August 29 includes 15,186 Chinook and 3,922 Coho from 74,753 angler trips.
30-Aug	106	274	24	60	Private boats
30-Aug	4	32	2	15	Charters
31-Aug	53	142	14	26	
1-Sep	48	124	22	47	Private boats
1-Sep	1	7	1	4	Charters
2-Sep	58	134	16	44	
3-Sep	130	358	24	51	Private boats
3-Sep	2	19	0	5	Charters
4-Sep	125	333	18	79	Private boats
4-Sep	2	15	0	13	Charters
5-Sep	60	147	12	32	Private boats
5-Sep	1	9	0	4	Charters
6-Sep	14	26	1	7	
7-Sep					No sampling.
8-Sep	25	56	0	15	Private boats
8-Sep	1	11	1	5	Charters
9-Sep	10	12	3	2	
10-Sep	73	179	4	48	
11-Sep	50	117	4	36	
12-Sep					No sampling.
13-Sep					No sampling.
14-Sep					