

January 16, 2019

Columbia River and Tributary Fishery Reports

Updates: Mainstem and tributary:

Salmon/Steelhead:

- Lower Columbia mainstem creel will resume February of 2019.
- Effective January 1, 2019, Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open for hatchery Chinook salmon; and hatchery steelhead is open from Buoy 10 upstream to OR/WA Border. See 2018-19 <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/> for retention details.
- **Grays River:** until further notice, from the mouth upstream to the mouth of the South Fork: release all Coho.
- **West Fork Grays River:** until further notice, from the mouth upstream: release all Coho.
- **Cowlitz River:** until further notice, from the mouth to the Barrier Dam including all lower Cowlitz tributaries, closed for Chinook retention. Until further notice, the closed waters section below the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery Barrier Dam is 400', at the posted markers.
- **Tilton River:** The closed-waters area at the fish release site at Gust Backstrom Park has been reduced to approximately 100 feet at the posted signs.
- **Washougal River, including Camas Slough:** until further notice, from the mouth to the bridge at Salmon Falls, closed for Chinook retention.

Sturgeon:

- White sturgeon retention is closed from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam including adjacent tributaries but remains open for catch and release fishing only.
- **Bonneville Pool:** Anglers may retain white sturgeon measuring 38-54 inches (fork length) between Bonneville Dam and The Dalles Dam until further notice. The current guideline is 325 fish, but this guideline is scheduled to be re-evaluated early next year.

- **The Dalles Pool:** Beginning January 7, 2019 closed to sturgeon retention. Catch and release fishing is allowed.
- **John Day Pool:** Anglers may retain white sturgeon measuring 43-54 inches (fork length) between John Day Dam and McNary Dam until the catch reaches the 105-fish guideline.

Sturgeon:

Bonneville Pool- 45 bank anglers released 1 sublegal sturgeon. 36 boats/102 rods kept 8 legal sturgeon and released 1 legal, 151 sublegal and 2 oversize sturgeon.

The Dalles Pool- Closed for retention. No report.

John Day Pool- 17 bank anglers had no catch. 27 boats/56 rods released 5 sublegal sturgeon.

Walleye:

Bonneville Pool- 1 boat/2 rods had no catch.

The Dalles Pool- No report.

John Day Pool- 11 boats/25 rods kept 12 walleye and released 1 walleye.

Salmon/Steelhead:

Columbia River Tributaries

Grays River – 4 bank anglers had no catch.

Elochoman River – 33 bank anglers kept 6 steelhead and released 1 steelhead. 1 boats/2 rods had no catch.

Abernathy Creek – 2 bank anglers had no catch.

Germany Creek – 7 bank anglers kept 1 steelhead.

Cowlitz River – I-5 Br downstream: 12 bank rods had no catch.

Above the I-5 Br: 3 bank rods had no catch.

Last week, Tacoma Power employees recovered two coho adults, 23 coho jacks and nine winter-run steelhead adults during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week, Tacoma Power released five coho jacks into Lake Scanewa in Randle.

Tacoma Power released two coho adults, 22 coho jacks and eight winter-run steelhead adults into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. They also released two coho jacks at the Franklin Bridge release site in Packwood.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 9,520 cubic feet per second on Monday, Jan. 14. Water visibility is 11 feet and the water temperature is 44.6 degrees F. River flows could change at any time so boaters and anglers should remain alert for this possibility.

East Fork Lewis River – 34 bank anglers had no catch. 2 boats/4 rods released 1 steelhead.

Salmon Creek – 34 bank anglers had no catch.

❖ **Tributaries not listed: Creel checks not conducted.**

Trout Plants and stocking schedules:

- <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/plants/weekly/search.php?orderby=StockDate>