

Creel Survey

September 17, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

North Fork Toutle River – Bank anglers are catching some fall Chinook and coho.

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching a mix of fall Chinook, coho, summer run steelhead, and sea run cutthroats.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 6,407 fall Chinook adults, 61 jacks, 60 spring Chinook adults, two jacks, 29 coho adults, ten jacks, 95 summer-run steelhead, and four cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 176 fall Chinook adults, 31 jacks, 46 spring Chinook adults, one jack, one coho adult, five jacks, and one cutthroat trout into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek and 73 fall Chinook adults, 15 jacks, 12 spring Chinook adults, one jack, and three coho adults into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood. A total of 315 fall Chinook adults, 13 jacks, 12 coho adults and three jacks were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton during the week.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 4,870 cubic feet per second on Monday, September 17. Water visibility is 15 feet.

Kalama River – Anglers are catching some fall Chinook.

Lewis River – North Fork anglers are primarily catching fall Chinook and coho jacks. Any Chinook, adipose fin clipped or not, may now be retained on the North Fork Lewis.

Flows at Merwin Dam are 1,340 cfs today, about two-thirds of the long-term mean (2,070 cfs) for this date.

Washougal River – Anglers are catching some fall Chinook.

Wind River – Effort is light at the mouth with only a handful of boats counted there last Saturday morning.

Drano Lake – Boat anglers are catching fall Chinook, summer run steelhead, and a few coho. Anglers with a Two Pole Endorsement may use two poles here. Only a couple boats were spotted off the mouth last Saturday morning.

White Salmon River – Most of the effort is outside the mouth where anglers are catching some fall Chinook. About 20 boats were observed off the mouth last Saturday morning.

Klickitat River – Effort and catch is building. Bank anglers below Fisher Hill Bridge averaged a fall Chinook per rod during a couple checks last week. Last Saturday morning, approximately 40 vehicles were parked below the bridge.

Buoy 10 – Boat anglers continue to catch some coho though fishing would be rated slow to fair.

Preseason catch expectations were 13,900 Chinook and 9,200 coho. Catch (plus release mortalities) through September 9 includes 19,300 Chinook and 7,400 coho.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 2,115 salmonid anglers (including 682 boats) with 723 adult and 115 jack fall Chinook, 16 steelhead, 16 adult and 1 jack coho, and 1 cutthroat. Overall, 426 (59%) of the adult Chinook, 10 (63%) of the steelhead, and 6 (38%) of the adult coho were kept.

In the Mark Selective Chinook Fishery from the Warrior Rock line downstream to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line, 98 (25%) of the 390 adult Chinook were kept. All the adult Chinook released were reported to be wild fish.

All Chinook must be released from the Warrior Rock line downstream through September.

Almost 1,200 salmonid boats and just over 400 bank anglers were counted during last Saturday's effort flight count. The count was very similar to the same time last year.

Preliminary kept catch through September 16 totals **21,800 adult Chinook**, 800 coho, and 5,100 steelhead from **115,000 angler trips**. The preliminary total catch expectation for the fishery (August 1 – December 31) is around 29,000 Chinook and 1,500 hatchery coho.

The 2011 mainstem fishery produced 143,343 angler trips with catches of 28,169 adult fall Chinook. The angler trip total and Chinook catch were the highest on record. Will we have new records? Stay tuned.

Bonneville Pool – Fall Chinook and some coho are being caught at the mouth of the Klickitat River. Effort is increasing with 30 boats tallied there last Saturday morning.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last Saturday, only a handful of sturgeon anglers were found in the current catch-and-release only fishery.

Walleye

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – A half dozen walleye boats were counted from Camas/Washougal upstream last Saturday. Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just over 2 walleye per rod last week.

Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

09/17/2012

10:30 AM

Month/Week Sept. 10-16	Salmonid													# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook						Coho						Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Other
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Other			Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.					
Bonneville	1	65	10	11	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	25	66	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Camas/Washougal	2	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	57	104	18	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1						
	3	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	41	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Vancouver	4	263	50	20	1	2	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	316	702	225	37	4	1	0	0	0	1	0						
Woodland	5	88	3	2	25	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	40	73	11	1	37	1	0	0	0	0	0						
Kalama	6	162	19	3	73	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	131	22	6	52	2	0	0	2	0	0						
Cowlitz	7													37	78	12	0	20	8	1	0	2	0	0						
Longview	8	54	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	104	220	28	6	83	2	4	0	6	1	1						
Cathlamet	9	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	35	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
private boats/bank charter	10													4	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0						
Total	10	660	83	37	100	8	0	0	0	0	8	4	0	682	1455	343	56	197	14	6	0	10	1	2	2					

Month/Week Sept. 10-16	Sturgeon													# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	Other						
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	Other																			
Bonneville	1																									
Camas/Washougal	2																									
	3																									
Vancouver	4																									
Woodland	5																									
Kalama	6							1	1	1	0	0	CLOSED													
Cowlitz	7																									
Longview	8							1	2	2	1	0	CLOSED													
Cathlamet	9																									
Cathlamet	10																									
Chinook - Knappton bank	10																									
Knappton-Deep River ramps	10																									
Total	10	0	0	0	0	CLOSED		2	3	3	1	0	CLOSED													

Month/Week Sept. 10-16	Walleye							
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2				8	10	14	7
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total	10	0	0	0	8	10	14	7

Area	Bank # Rods	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead		Other	Boat # Rods	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Coho Kept		Coho Rel.		Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Other
		Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.			Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks			
North Fork Toutle River	14	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Cowlitz River	146	8	2	10	2	8	2	0	2	3	0	5 cutts	92	33	3	18	0	0	1	7	1	1	0	0
Kalama River	24	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Lewis River mainstem	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Fork	34	2	1	3	4	0	13	0	0	1	0	0	19	4	1	20	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
Washougal River	38	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Wind River													3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drano Lake													49	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	1	0
White Salmon River	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0												
Klickitat River	25	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bonneville Pool													63	29	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0

Washington Buoy 10 Creel Sampling Summaries - 2012

Preseason catch expectations: 13,900 chinook and 8,000 coho

Aug. 1-Sept. 3: Daily limit 2 SALMON or hatchery STEELHEAD or one of each.
Only 1 may be a CHINOOK. Release all SALMON except CHINOOK and hatchery COHO.
CHINOOK minimum size 24"; COHO 16".

Sept. 4-30: Daily limit 2 hatchery COHO or hatchery STEELHEAD or one of each.
Release all SALMON other than hatchery COHO.
COHO minimum size 16".

Update - Aug. 28

CWT data is complete through August 22. The preliminary data indicates LRH stock represents around 19% of the catch compared to 28% expected. The projected catch (kept plus release mortalities) for August 27-September 3 is 8,700 Chinook, bringing the season total to 24,000 Chinook. CWT data indicates additional fish are available for harvest due to the low LRH catch observed to date. When combined with expected savings from the ongoing ocean recreational fishery, the Buoy 10 fishery should be able to continue through September 3 without modification.

Date	Number of Boats	Number of Anglers	Chinook Kept	Coho Kept	Comments
01-Aug	12	23	2	1	Opening Day
02-Aug	2	5	0	0	
03-Aug	29	69	7	3	
04-Aug	38	90	16	3	
05-Aug	41	109	9	2	
06-Aug	19	52	3	1	
07-Aug	4	10	1	0	
08-Aug	39	85	8	6	
09-Aug	28	59	9	4	
10-Aug	56	158	59	10	186 private and 2 charter boats were observed during effort flight count.
10-Aug					North Jetty - No effort.
11-Aug	113	315	115	9	
12-Aug	134	379	130	16	Private boats
12-Aug	11	111	10	2	Charters
13-Aug	91	246	84	8	Private boats
13-Aug	6	55	17	0	Charters
14-Aug	No Sample				Estimated total thru 8/14: 8,689 angler trips with 2,823 chinook and 258 coho.
15-Aug	57	145	52	3	
16-Aug	41	116	13	3	
16-Aug					North Jetty - No effort.
17-Aug	141	386	69	8	Private boats
17-Aug	2	21	0	0	Charters
18-Aug	120	359	83	15	
19-Aug	103	285	62	15	An estimated 45% of the allocated 13,900 chinook had been caught through Aug. 19.
20-Aug	84	235	65	17	Private boats
20-Aug	1	14	2	4	Charter
21-Aug	60	168	58	21	
22-Aug					No sampling.
23-Aug	118	342	102	29	
24-Aug	57	166	44	9	Private boats
24-Aug	1	5	3	0	Charters
25-Aug	166	480	165	60	Private boats. Approximately 1,400 boats counted during flight.
25-Aug	3	33	2	1	Charters
26-Aug	122	354	67	37	The estimated catch (including release mortalities) through August 26 includes 15,300 Chinook and
27-Aug	53	147	21	16	Private boats
27-Aug	7	65	9	4	Charters
28-Aug					No sampling.
28-Aug					See update highlighted in yellow at top of page.
29-Aug	84	215	48	32	
30-Aug	79	193	36	30	
31-Aug	55	144	34	23	
01-Sep	107	307	69	68	
02-Sep	77	226	33	36	
03-Sep	74	183	29	35	
04-Sep	18	49	0	10	Effective Sept. 4, chinook have to be released below Tongue Point but can be kept above.
05-Sep	16	34	2	14	
06-Sep	24	57	2	13	
06-Sep					North Jetty - No effort.
07-Sep	14	36	6	10	
08-Sep	48	134	18	69	
09-Sep	28	80	22	27	Private boats
09-Sep	3	38	1	40	Charters
10-Sep	29	67	3	24	Private boats. Hatchery chinook may be kept above Tongue Point Sept. 10-16.
10-Sep	1	9	0	6	Charters
11-Sep	17	34	1	6	
12-Sep	6	15	2	3	Private boats
12-Sep	1	10	0	5	Charters
13-Sep	14	28	0	3	
14-Sep	16	33	0	4	
15-Sep	23	59	0	13	Private boats
15-Sep	1	13	0	5	Charter
16-Sep	30	74	0	17	