

Creel Survey

August 1, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmonid

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success. Last week Tacoma Power recovered 39 spring chinook adults, 38 jacks, 66 mini-jacks, 669 summer-run steelhead, one sea-run cutthroat trout and one sockeye during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released four spring chinook adults, 34 jacks, and two mini-jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at the Lake Scanewa Day Use Park and one sockeye and one sea-run cutthroat trout at the Barrier Dam boat launch.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,070 cubic feet per second on Monday morning, August 1. Water visibility is 13 feet.

Lewis River – On the mainstem Lewis, 11 boat anglers released 2 steelhead. On the North Fork, 11 bank anglers kept 2 steelhead and 2 boat anglers kept 1 steelhead.

Hatchery summer run steelhead returns to Washington lower Columbia facilities, with the exception of Skamania Hatchery on the Washougal, continue to be down from the same point last year:

River	2010	2011
Cowlitz	5,298	3,030
Kalama	1,776	462
Lewis	5,310	1,568
Washougal	1,354	1,702

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled almost 3,000 salmonid anglers (including 250 boats) with 13 adult and 14 jack summer chinook, 1,309 steelhead, no sockeye, and maybe 1 pink (at least that's what the angler thought it was and it may have been). Half the jacks were kept as were 56% of the steelhead. All of the adult chinook were released as required.

For the month of July, Washington alone sampled almost 2,900 steelhead kept/released. Just over half the fish were kept.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem from the mouth upstream to Wauna powerlines – The catch-and-keep fishery in the estuary ended with a bang for boat anglers. Nearly all the charter boat anglers kept their one fish daily limit and private boat anglers averaged a legal kept/released per every 2.6 rods. If an angler caught a fish, there was about a 40% chance it was of legal size.

Lower Columbia mainstem from the Wauna powerlines upstream to the Navigation Marker 82 line – We sampled legals kept by bank and boat anglers from Kalama to Longview. Slow elsewhere.

The entire mainstem Columbia from the mouth to Chief Joseph Dam is now catch-and-release only. Only the area from the Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam will re-open for catch-and-keep fishing. In that area, white sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only beginning October 8.

Shad

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – No shad anglers were sampled.

Walleye and Bass

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Some walleye were kept by boat anglers in the Camas/Washougal to Vancouver area.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged over 3 walleye and 10 bass per rod when including fish released. Bank anglers are catching some bass.

Trout

- **Swift Power Canal** – Planted with 1,700 rainbows averaging five pounds each and 1,416 averaging 1.5 pounds each on July 18.
- **Council Lake (Skamania County)** – Planted with 5,892 catchable size rainbows July 27.
- **Takhlakh Lake (Skamania County)** – Planted with 4,003 catchable size rainbows and 192 averaging three pounds each July 19-26.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	1052	608					681			2,341	117.1%	Jul. 24	2,000
The Dalles ²	65	6	16	27	24	3	81			222	74.0%	Jul. 24	300
John Day	187	90	163	92						532	106.4%	Jul. 24	500

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep				
Bonneville ¹	145	71					51			267		Jul. 29	
The Dalles ²	11	1	5	5	3	1	12			38		Jul. 29	
John Day ³	37	10	29	15						91		Jul. 29	

¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention Feb 19. Re-opened June 30-July 2 and July 7-8. Closed July 9. January and February estimates for Bonneville Pool have been updated from initial in-season estimates.

² John Day Pool closed to sturgeon retention April 10.

³ The Dalles Pool closed to sturgeon retention July 29.

Harvest estimates are updated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

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July 25 - 29, 2011

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool						33							234	267	
The Dalles Pool	20	19			2	18	6	15	32			1	20	38	
John Day Pool						20							71	91	
Total	20	19			2	71	6	15	32			1	325	396	

Salmonids															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool													2	2	
Chinook															
Coho													2	2	
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	63		9	5		133	2	6					32	165	63
Chinook						111							24	135	63
Coho															
Steelhead			9	5		22							8	30	
John Day Pool						7							8	15	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead						7							8	15	

Walleye															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool													5	5	
The Dalles Pool						7	10	22	2	69			1438	1445	
John Day Pool													179	179	

Bass															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool						1							23	24	
The Dalles Pool	4	4	5			54	2	5	32	19			76	130	
John Day Pool													2	2	

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 6-week average)	82%	115%	111%	90%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.54	0.20	3.23	6.67
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.07	3.14	2.67
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none

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Month/Week	Salmonid											# Boats	Chinook											Other
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Sockeye Kept	Sockeye Rel.	Other		Boats	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Sockeye Kept	Sockeye Rel.		
July 25-31	1	397	CLOSED	1	6	2	129	179	CLOSED	0	0	5	16	CLOSED	0	0	0	4	12	CLOSED	0	0		
Bonneville	2	86	CLOSED	1	0	0	4	4	CLOSED	0	0	32	68	CLOSED	0	0	0	7	10	CLOSED	0	0		
Camas/Washougal	3		CLOSED						CLOSED					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Vancouver	4	347	CLOSED	2	0	0	99	64	CLOSED	0	0	29	67	CLOSED	0	0	0	11	6	CLOSED	0	0		
Woodland	5	342	CLOSED	1	0	3	60	61	CLOSED	0	0	18	50	CLOSED	0	0	0	19	17	CLOSED	0	0		
Kalama	6	515	CLOSED	2	4	0	110	91	CLOSED	0	0	45	106	CLOSED	0	1	0	32	33	CLOSED	0	0		
Cowlitz	7		CLOSED						CLOSED					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Longview	8	588	CLOSED	0	0	0	129	52	CLOSED	0	1 pink rel?	93	196	CLOSED	0	2	2	61	22	CLOSED	0	0		
Cathlamet	9	103	CLOSED	0	0	0	18	13	CLOSED	0	0	21	41	CLOSED	0	0	0	16	6	CLOSED	0	0		
private boats/bank charter	10	47	CLOSED	0	0	0	15	8	CLOSED	0	0	12	27	CLOSED	0	0	0	21	12	CLOSED	0	0		
	10		CLOSED						CLOSED					CLOSED						CLOSED				
Total		2425	CLOSED	7	10	5	564	472	CLOSED	0	1 pink rel?	250	555	CLOSED	0	3	2	167	106	CLOSED	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					3	8	5	0	3	0
Camas/Washougal	2	8	4	0	0	0	10	27	22	1	3	0
Vancouver	4	4	4	0	0	0	6	12	15	0	1	0
Woodland	5	11	0	0	0	0	2	6	1	0	0	0
Kalama	6	7	0	0	0	0	4	9	16	0	1	3
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8	26	17	0	0	2	26	59	67	0	0	3
Cathlamet	9						3	6	1	0	0	0
Cathlamet	10	4	4	0	0	0	3	6	8	0	0	0
Total		60	29	0	0	2	57	133	135	1	8	6

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

Preliminary WDFW sturgeon sport sampling summaries for below Wauna July 25-31.

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July 25-31

Sturgeon

		<u># Boats</u>	<u># Anglers</u>	<u>Sublegals Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Rel.</u>	<u>Oversize Rel.</u>	<u>Legals Kept</u>	<u>Green Rel.</u>
Ports of Chinook/Ilwaco	Private	173	496	195	12	71	185	
	Charter	16	160	128	14	58	152	
Knappton/Deep River	Private	123	393	304	1	21	143	4
Chinook-Knappton	Bank		49	0	0	0	0	0