

Creel Survey

May 9, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Spring chinook are being caught primarily in the lower river and at the barrier dam. About half the catch were jacks.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 593 winter-run steelhead, nine summer-run steelhead, 17 spring chinook adults and 16 jacks during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 30 winter-run steelhead and four spring chinook salmon into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and seven winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 11,200 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 9. Water visibility is eight feet.

Kalama River – Anglers are catching a mix of adult and jack spring chinook and winter and summer run steelhead. The first hatchery couple hatchery summer run steelhead of the year returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery trap last week and a couple spring Chinook (also the first of the year) could be in the trap today.

Lewis River – Some spring chinook are being caught around the salmon hatchery and at the mouth. 15 hatchery summer run steelhead (the first of the year) returned to the Merwin Dam trap last week. Flows below Merwin Dam are currently 7,580 cfs. which is over 1.5 times higher than the long term mean for this date.

Washougal River – Anglers are catching a few hatchery steelhead.

Wind River – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly 2/3 fish per rod, an outstanding catch rate for spring chinook. Effort has been heavy. A sea lion has been reported at the mouth of the Wind.

Drano Lake – Boat anglers are averaging nearly 2/3 spring chinook kept/released per rod here too. Bank anglers are averaging a fish per about every 3 rods. Effort has been heavy with 160 boats counted here last Saturday May 7.

Klickitat River – Bank anglers on the lower river are catching some spring chinook and summer run steelhead. Flows at Pitt are currently 2,563 cfs. which is slightly higher than the long term mean for this date. Flows are expected to rise in the next couple days.

Yakima River – From Paul Hoffarth, District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco: WDFW staff conducted a creel survey on the lower Yakima River on Sunday May 8. Only one angler was fishing for salmon. The angler was taking advantage of the two-pole endorsement that was listed as a provision of this fishery. No fish were reported caught. All other anglers were fishing for smallmouth bass.

Bonneville Pool – Excellent for spring chinook just outside the mouth of Drano where bank anglers averaged a fish per rod based mainly on completed trips. Bank anglers at Cascade Locks are also catching some fish though a sea lion is causing some problems there too.

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, bank and boat anglers averaged just under ½ spring chinook per rod.

John Day Pool – Anglers had a good weekend of spring chinook fishing. An estimated 476 adult hatchery spring chinook were harvested in the John Day Pool (Lake Umatilla) this past weekend and 58 wild adult chinook were caught and released.

Reminder – Anglers may fish for hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead from the Tower Island power lines in Bonneville Pool upstream to the Oregon and Washington border, plus the Washington bank between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines located approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam, through tomorrow May 10.

Ringold – From Paul Hoffarth: The Ringold area "Bank Only" sport fishery for spring Chinook opened May 1. Angler effort remained low during the week with less than 6 anglers per hour fishing for salmon. WDFW staff interviewed 23 anglers fishing for salmon this past week. One hatchery and two wild fish were reported caught. Based on the effort an estimated 4 hatchery adult chinook were harvested and 6 wild adult chinook were released for the week. No other fish were reported in the catch. No chinook have entered the Ringold Hatchery trap to date.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Boat anglers caught some legals around Camas/Washougal and Kalama. Effort was light with just 67 boats and 17 bank anglers counted during the Saturday May 7 effort flight count.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals. Through April, an estimated 114 (38%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken.

John Day Pool – 1 boats (4 anglers) with no catch. (Catch & Release Only!)

Walleye and Bass

Lacamas Lake – An angler brought in a 7 pound+ largemouth bass from Lacamas to the Region 5 office last week.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged nearly 4 walleye kept/released per rod. Bank anglers are catching some bass.

John Day Pool – 3 boats (6 anglers) fishing for walleye had 3 walleye and 3 bass.

Trout

Lake Sacajawea in Longview – Planted with 3,039 catchable size rainbows May 3. No report on angling success.

Kress Lake near Kalama – Received 8 surplus hatchery adult winter steelhead averaging ten pounds each May 2. No report on angling success.

Little Ash Lake near Stevenson – Planted with 3,318 catchable size rainbows April 29. No report on angling success.

Tunnel Lake (just east of Drano Lake) – Planted with 4,013 catchable size rainbows April 29. No report on angling success.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:											Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep					
Bonneville ¹	1040	587									1,627	81.4%	Apr. 30	2,000
The Dalles ²	65	6	16	27							114	38.0%	Apr. 30	300
John Day	187	90	163								440	88.0%	Apr. 30	500

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep			
Bonneville ¹	145	71								216	May 1	
The Dalles ²	11	1	5	5						22	May 1	
John Day	37	10	29	15						91	May 1	

¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention Feb 19.
² John Day Pool closed to sturgeon retention April 10.

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

May 2 - 8, 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						18							198	216
The Dalles Pool	2					8	3	6	11	1			14	22
John Day Pool						20							71	91
Total	2					46	3	6	11	1			283	329

Salmonids														
	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	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool	66		1	55										3
Chinook			1	55										
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	37		1	16		70	17	39		3	13		29	99
Chinook			1	16		60				3	13		21	81
Coho														
Steelhead						10							8	18
John Day Pool	168		14	94			67	161		22	51			9
Chinook			14	94						22	51			
Coho														
Steelhead														

Walleye														
	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						3	8	14	10	45			744	747
John Day Pool													179	179

Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	2	4	1			7							1	8
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)	25%	62%	45%	71%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.50	0.43	3.93	2.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.38	3.21	0.50
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

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - May 2-8.

No report.