

Creel Survey

May 16, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers on the lower river and in particular at the barrier dam are catching adult and jack spring chinook.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 213 winter-run steelhead, twelve summer-run steelhead, 177 spring chinook adults, and 97 jacks during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 20 winter-run steelhead, four spring chinook adults and 79 jacks into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and two winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,600 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 16. Water visibility is seven feet.

Kalama River – Some spring chinook and steelhead are being caught. Through May 13, a total of 9 adult spring chinook (including 3 unmarked fish) had returned to the trap at Kalama Falls Hatchery. The escapement goal is 400 fish for hatchery brood stock.

Lewis River – Light effort and catch. A total of 69 adult spring Chinook had entered the Merwin Dam trap as of May 13. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,300 fish.

Flows at Merwin Dam are 2,900 cfs today which is just over half the long-term mean of 4,850 cfs for this date.

Wind River – The mouth has slowed a bit since earlier in the week last week. Quite a few jacks in the catch.

Drano Lake – Same here, slowed a bit since earlier in the week last week and quite a few jacks around. Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery opened the ladder for just under a day last week and over 1,550 adults and 110 jacks entered the trap. The escapement goal is 1,000 fish.

Klickitat River – Spring chinook catches improved last week. Some steelhead were also found in the catch.

From Joe Zendt Fisheries Biologist Yakama Nation Fisheries Program - Lyle Falls adult trapping is still intermittent due to fishway improvement construction and high flows this week but there have been a handful of spring chinook adults (~50 or less) pass through the fishway. No reports of any returns to the hatchery yet.

Yakima River – From Paul Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco - WDFW staff interviewed anglers fishing the Yakima River three days during the past week. Only two anglers were fishing for salmon and they had no catch.

After nearly reaching historical daily high flows of 6,000 cfs for May 15, the river is expected to drop the next several days.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Lots of jacks and pretty good effort on yesterday's re-opener! We sampled 305 salmonid anglers (including 56 boats) with 27 adult and 65 jack spring chinook and 4 steelhead. 19 (70%) of the adult and 57 (88%) of the jacks were kept as were all of the steelhead.

We sampled 13 (68%) of the adult and 32 (56%) of the jacks and all of the steelhead kept. 10 (77%) of the adults and 30 (94%) of the jacks sampled were upriver origin based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

Despite the crummy weather, just over 400 boats and 466 bank anglers were counted during yesterday's flight.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today and upgraded the adult upriver run size to 217,000-237,000 fish returning to the mouth of the Columbia. The pre-season forecast was 198,400.

Flows at Bonneville Dam are expected to reach a whopping 525,000 cfs late tomorrow evening (see <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/station/flowplot/textPlot.cgi?id=BONO3&pe=QI>).

Ringold – From Paul Hoffarth - Fishing remains slow and flows are high. An estimated 9 adult hatchery and 2 hatchery jacks have been harvested from May 1 to 15. In addition 6 adult wild spring Chinook and 2 wild Chinook jacks have been caught and released.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – No sturgeon creel data is currently available.

Sturgeon retention was allowed from the mouth upstream to the sturgeon spawning sanctuary boundary (navigation marker 82 line) on Saturday May 15. There were almost 150 private boats and a couple charters plus 66 bank anglers counted during the Saturday flight. On Sunday when below Wauna was open for retention but catch and release only above, there were just 20 private boats and 1 charter and no bank anglers counted.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaging an impressive 5 walleye and 25 bass per rod!

Trout

Klineline Pond – 57 bank anglers kept 111 trout. Worms under a bobber produced good results.

Fort Borst Park Pond near Centralia (juvenile waters only) – Planted with 3,500 catchable size rainbows May 9. No report on angling success.

Battleground Lake – Planted with 4,550 catchable size rainbows May 10. No report on angling success.

Shad

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Opened to fishing for shad today (May 16). No report on angling success. Only a few dozen fish have crossed Bonneville Dam to date.

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	92							532	106.4%	Apr. 30	500
Current month sampled sturgeon kept:														
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep					
Bonneville ¹	145	71									216		May 15	
The Dalles ²	11	1	5	5	1						23		May 15	
John Day	37	10	29	15							91		May 15	
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 9 - 15, 2011

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

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

Sturgeon															Jacks Kept	
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	Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool						18							198	216		
The Dalles Pool	33	29		1		9	3	6	8				14	23		
John Day Pool						20							71	91		
Total	33	29		1		47	3	6	8				283	330		
Salmonids															Week	Cum
	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			
Bonneville Pool													2	2		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead													2	2		
The Dalles Pool	56		5	7		77	4	9		4	3		32	109	2	4
Chinook			5	7		67				4	3		24	91	2	4
Coho																
Steelhead						10							8	18		
John Day Pool						7							8	15		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead						7							8	15		
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	15	30	15	137			881	884		
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	3	1	1			8	2	3	72	3			4	12		
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)	122%	52%	113%	157%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.97	0.29	4.61	12.83
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	0.15	4.18	0.67
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

Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
 05/16/2011
 noon

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead			Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead		
				Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Jacks					Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other	
Bonneville	1	76	5	30	2	7	0	0	0										
Camas/Washougal	2	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	45	3	11	3	0	0	0	0	0
	3									5	15	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4									3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	23	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	9	21	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	22	1	1	0	0	0	0	0										
Cowlitz	7																		
Longview	8	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	51	3	2	2	1	3	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10																		
Total	10	164	7	39	2	7	1	0	0	56	141	12	18	6	1	3	0	0	0

Sturgeon

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept
Camas/Washougal	2											
	3											
Vancouver	4											
Woodland	5											
Kalama	6											
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8											
Cathlamet	9											
charter	10											
Cathlamet	10											
Total	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Walleye

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

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - May 9-15.

Klineline Pond 57 anglers with 111 fish.