

Creel Survey

May 31, 2011

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Salmon/Steelhead

Elochoman River from mouth to West Fork and Grays River from mouth to South Fork and West Fork from mouth to hatchery intake/footbridge – Under permanent rules, open to fishing for hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June (June 4th this year).

The entire South Fork Toutle River and the Green River from the mouth to the 2800 Road Bridge – Will open to fishing for hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June as outlined in the 2011/2012 Sportfishing Rules Pamphlet. Beginning June 4th, bait may be used. All tributaries to the South Fork Toutle and Green rivers will remain closed to all fishing.

Cowlitz River – Producing some spring chinook and steelhead.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 218 spring chinook adults, 102 jacks, 30 winter-run steelhead and 38 summer-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 22 spring chinook adults, 52 jacks and two winter-run steelhead into the upper Cowlitz River at Lake Scanewa and 46 spring Chinook adults and 39 jacks into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 8,730 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 31. Water visibility is eight feet.

Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir) – Opens to fishing for hatchery spring chinook and hatchery rainbows tomorrow (June 1).

Kalama and Lewis rivers – Anglers are catching some steelhead. Both rivers are now closed for spring chinook.

East Fork Lewis River from the mouth to 400 feet below Horseshoe Falls (except closures around various falls) and the Washougal River from the mouth to Salmon Falls Bridge – Under permanent rules these areas will be open to fishing with bait for hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June (June 4th this year).

Wind River – The coffer dam area is probably the best for spring chinook though some fish are being caught throughout the system. High flows make for difficult fishing at milepost 7. A total of 254 spring chinook had returned to Carson National Fish Hatchery as of May 30.

Drano Lake – Boat anglers continue to catch some spring chinook. **Anglers should note the Wednesday closures have been extended through all of June.**

Klickitat River – Bank anglers from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream are catching a mixture of adult and jack spring chinook and summer run steelhead.

Under permanent rules, the Klickitat River from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream will open 7 days per week beginning June 1. The salmon daily limit will be 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults. Two hatchery steelhead may also be retained. Release wild chinook.

The section from 400 feet upstream from # 5 fishway upstream to boundary markers below the Klickitat Salmon Hatchery will open to fishing for hatchery chinook jacks and hatchery steelhead beginning June 1 under permanent rules. Again, release wild chinook.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – We sampled 892 salmonid anglers (including 61 boats) with 33 adult and 44 jack spring chinook and 27 steelhead. 22 (67%) of the adult and 39 (89%) of the jacks were kept as were 21 (78%) of the steelhead. All of the adults and all but one of the jacks sampled were upriver origin based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

On the Saturday May 28 effort flight count, there were 89 salmonid boats and 549 bank anglers observed.

Bonneville Pool – Light effort and catch.

The Dalles Pool – For May 28-29, an estimated 114 angler trips produced 8 adult and 61 jack chinook kept.

John Day Pool – From Paul Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco WA - Estimated harvest in the John Day Pool for May 28-30 is 22 adult hatchery chinook and 56 hatchery jacks. An additional 11 wild adult and 11 wild jacks were caught and released. Catch was light. Water is turbid and the flows are high, at or approaching 500,000 cfs. Effort was moderate with 71 boats on the water on Saturday along with 44 bank anglers.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia from the Navigation Marker 82 line downstream – No sturgeon creel data from the estuary is currently available. We sampled some legals kept by boat anglers in the Camas, Longview, and Cathlamet areas.

Sturgeon retention was allowed from the mouth upstream to the sturgeon spawning sanctuary boundary (navigation marker 82 line) on Saturday. There were 84 private boats and 5 charters plus 8 bank anglers counted during the effort flight count that day. About two-thirds of the private boats were found from the Wauna powerlines downstream.

The Dalles Pool – No effort observed for sturgeon last week.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly 8 walleye and bass per rod last week.

Shad

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Bank anglers just below Bonneville Dam and boat anglers in the Woodland area are catching some shad. Effort is light with about a dozen bank anglers and just a couple boats counted during the Saturday flight.

The 1,565 shad counted at Bonneville Dam through May 30 is the lowest in nearly three decades. In 1984, just 364 fish had been counted by that date. Some years over a half million shad had been counted by this time.

Trout

Plants of rainbow trout last week:

Kidney Lake near North Bonneville – 3,000 catchables

Little Klickitat River – 1,080 catchables (juveniles only within the Goldendale city limits)

Maryhill Pond (Klickitat County) – 634 catchables

Spearfish Lake near Dallesport – 4,10 catchables and 145 three pound brood stock

Horsethief Lake near Lyle – 8,009 catchables and 145 three pound brood stock

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 22	
The Dalles ²	11	1	5	5	3					25	May 22	
John Day	37	10	29	15						91	May 22	

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 23 - 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						18							198	216
The Dalles Pool						11			2				14	25
John Day Pool						20							71	91
Total						49			2				283	332

Salmonids															Jacks Kept	
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	Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool													2	2		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead													2	2		
The Dalles Pool	16			1		80	2	5					32	112	8	15
Chinook				1		70							24	94	8	15
Coho																
Steelhead						10							8	18		
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	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool													5	5
The Dalles Pool		48				5	4	11	14	73			958	963
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	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool		7				9	1	2	6	10			14	23
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)	none	21%	49%	41%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	0.43	12.27	11.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.43	6.64	5.00
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

