

Creel Survey

April 9, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmonid/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Spring Chinook and winter run steelhead are being caught throughout the river though most of the steelhead are being caught around the trout hatchery.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 1,125 winter-run steelhead, 55 spring Chinook adults, four jacks, and one cutthroat trout during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 83 winter-run steelhead and 48 spring Chinook adults at the Day Use Park in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, four winter-run steelhead into the Cispus River, and four winter-run steelhead into the upper Cowlitz River in Packwood. A total of 65 winter-run steelhead were released into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton and one cutthroat trout was released in the upper Cowlitz River basin by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 7,800 cubic feet per second on Monday, April 9. Water visibility is nine feet.

Kalama River – River was high and turbid at times last week. **Through July, salmon daily limit is 6 hatchery Chinook. Only 1 adult may be retained.**

Lewis River – Some spring Chinook are being caught. **On the mainstem and North Fork Lewis, through July the salmon daily limit is 6 hatchery Chinook. Only 1 adult may be retained.**

East Fork Lewis from mouth to top boat ramp at Lewisville Park and Washougal River from mouth to Mt. Norway Bridge – Open to fishing for hatchery steelhead Monday April 16. Through the first Friday in June, selective gear rules are in effect; no bait may be used.

Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River – Little to no effort last week.

Beginning this week, Drano Lake is closed to all fishing on Wednesdays through June. In addition, bank fishing only west of a line projected from the eastern most pillar of the Hwy. 14 Bridge to a posted marker on the north shore beginning April 16.

FYI - We hope to get the new Wind River extended buoy line in place later this week.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – In the last four days we sampled 1,449 salmonid anglers (including 402 boats) with 84 adult and 1 jack spring Chinook and 18 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged an adult Chinook kept/released per every 12.7 rods based on mainly completed trips while bank anglers averaged one per every 42.2 rods based on primarily incomplete trips.

69 (82%) of the adult Chinook caught were kept. We sampled 51 (74%) of the Chinook kept. 43 (84%) of the Chinook sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI). The jack was a hatchery fish that was released.

14 (78%) of the steelhead caught were kept.

In comparison to previous years during this period, this year's catch rate is the lowest since at least 2000. Boat anglers averaged an adult chinook kept/released per every _ rods

<u>Year</u>	
2012	12.7
2011	10.5
2010	2.9
2009	5.9
2008	2.5
2007	4.1
2006	7.2
2005	6.4
2004	3.0
2003	5.6
2002	4.9
2001	4.6

The effort flight counts between last Saturday (April 7) and the same time last year are almost identical (728 v 721 boats and 867 v 849 bank).

A Joint State hearing is scheduled for noon Thursday April 12 to review the ongoing sport fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam. It's projected through April 13 the sport fishery will have caught 2,038 upriver fish (16%) of the current 12,700 fish allocation.

The Dalles Pool – One of the two dozen spring Chinook that had crossed The Dalles Dam was caught by a very lucky bank angler!

John Day Pool – Light effort and no catch was observed.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – We sampled a single legal kept by a boat angler in the Kalama area.

Effort flight counts are also similar to the same time last year (23 v 42 boats and 10 v 23 bank).

The Dalles Pool – No legals were sampled last week. Through March, an estimated 47 (15.7%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken.

John Day Pool – Bank and boat anglers are catching some legals. An estimated 188 (37.6%) of the 500 fish guideline had been taken through March.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged a walleye per rod. Boat anglers are also catching some bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged just over a walleye per every 3 rods and over 4.5 bass per rod when including fish released.

Trout

Klinline Pond fishing closure for kids fish-in event –

Effective dates:

- April 12 – 12:01 a.m., entire pond closed to public fishing
- April 13 – pond open to participants in the **Special Needs Kids Fishing Event**
- April 14 – pond open to **participants in the Kids Fish-In event**
- April 15 – pond reopens to the public

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	812	128	closed						940	47.0%	Feb. 17 ²	2,000
The Dalles	27	0	20						47	15.7%	Mar. 31	300
John Day	75	63	50						188	37.6%	Mar. 31	500

¹ Due to the high effort and harvest in Bonneville Pool, we are providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis.

² Bonneville Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective February 18. It will re-open during the summer to finish the guideline.

Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	08-Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		
Bonneville	66	20	closed						86	Apr. 8
The Dalles	5	0	1	0					6	Apr. 8
John Day	9	9	19	6					43	Apr. 8

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 2 - 8, 2012

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	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool						4							82	86		
The Dalles Pool	39	30				4	5	14	17				2	6		
John Day Pool	92	14	1	4	1	17	28	51	30	1	2	1	26	43		
Total	131	44	1	4	1	25	33	65	47	1	2	1	110	135		
Salmonids																
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool																
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead																
The Dalles Pool	23			1		11							33	44		
Chinook				1		1								1		
Coho																
Steelhead						10							33	43		
John Day Pool	2					1							1	2		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead						1							1	2		
Walleye																
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept			Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept					
Bonneville Pool				27							27					
The Dalles Pool	2			246			24	60	5	55	246			246		
John Day Pool				218			24	43	5	11	218			218		
Bass																
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept			Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept					
Bonneville Pool				1							1			1		
The Dalles Pool				2			1	2	5		2			2		
John Day Pool				2			9	17	78		2			2		

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % 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 (as a % of 6-week average)	131%	155%	173%	400%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.89	0.04	0.97	2.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.04	0.89	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	129%	19%	77%	486%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.38	none	0.37	4.59
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	0.26	none

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

No report.