

# Creel Survey

June 4, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

**Note:** Battle Ground Lake trout plants were all rainbows. The department's web site is wrong.

## Salmonid/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – Anglers are mainly catching spring Chinook, in particular around the salmon hatchery. Some steelhead are also being caught mainly between the hatcheries.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 598 spring Chinook adults, 81 jacks, 18 winter-run steelhead, and 115 summer-run steelhead during four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 212 spring Chinook adults, 36 jacks, and three winter-run steelhead at the Day Use Park in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, 170 spring Chinook adults, 30 jacks, and one winter-run steelhead into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek, and 74 spring Chinook adults and seven jacks into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 6,540 cubic feet per second on Monday, June 4. Water visibility is 12 feet.

### 2012 Upstream totals

Spring Chinook Adults		Upstream Transportation							
Week Ending	Total Returns	Tilton River		Lake Scanewa		Cowlitz @ Packwood		Cispus River	
		Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural
<b>Season to date</b>	<b>2,235</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>6</b>
2-Jun	598	0	0	221	24	78	3	172	4

**Kalama and Lewis rivers** – Light effort and catches. Kalama River is closed to fishing for spring Chinook.

**Washougal River** – Effort has increased now that the river is open for bait up to the Salmon Falls Bridge. Some summer run steelhead are being caught in the lower river. River flows have been low.

**Wind River and Drano Lake** – Effort and catch continues to decline. Some spring Chinook are being caught in the Wind gorge/coffer dam area.

**Klickitat River** – Bank anglers in the lower river are still catching some spring Chinook and summer run steelhead. Effort was light for hatchery steelhead/Chinook jacks in the upper river.

**Lower Columbia mainstem from the I-5 Bridge downstream** – During the first three days of June we sampled 273 salmonid anglers (including 11 boats) with 3 adult and 1 jack spring Chinook, 23 steelhead, and 1 sockeye. All of the adult spring Chinook and 2 of the steelhead were released.

Nearly 250 bank anglers and 60 boats fishing for salmonids were tallied during last Saturday's (June 2) effort flight count.

## Sturgeon

**Lower Columbia mainstem from the mouth to Marker 82** – During the first three days of June we sampled 107 sturgeon anglers (including 30 boats) with 15 legals kept. Catch was spread throughout the river.

225 private and 8 charter sturgeon boats were also observed during last Saturday's effort flight count with over a third of the private boats found in the estuary.

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat and bank anglers are catching some legals.

## Walleye and Bass

**The Dalles Pool** – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged over 1.5 walleye and 11 bass per rod. Bank anglers are also catching some bass.

## Trout

A variety of trout have been planted in SW WA lakes since mid May. Those include:

- **Kress Lake near Kalama** – 3,018 catchable size and 10 ten pound rainbows May 18;
- **Battle Ground Lake** – 2,232 eastern brook, 100 rainbow, and 2,792 tiger trout (all catchable size) May 23;
- **Lacamas Lake in Camas** – 2,000 two-third pound rainbows May 22;
- **Horsethief Lake near Lyle** – 4,277 catchable and 51 ten pound rainbows May 22.

## Shad

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Bank anglers just below Bonneville Dam averaged 10 shad per rod while those in the Washougal area averaged over 2.5 per rod based on mainly incomplete trips, respectively. Boat anglers between Longview and Woodland averaged between 3 and 10 shad kept/released per rod based on mainly completed trips.

Bank angling effort for shad is increasing with over 300 bank rods counted last Saturday of which almost all were from Camas/Washougal upstream.

The 22,613 shad counted at Bonneville Dam yesterday was the season high to date.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville <sup>1</sup>	812	128	closed	closed	closed	closed			940	47.0%	Feb. 17 <sup>2</sup>	2,000
The Dalles	27	0	20	15					62	20.7%	Apr. 30	300
John Day	75	63	50	145	138	closed			471	94.2%	Apr. 30 <sup>3</sup>	500

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Bonneville Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective February 18. It will re-open June 15-16 and June 22-23 to finish the guideline.

<sup>3</sup> John Day Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective May 21. The expansion for May is high because sample rate was low (bank was 6.5% and boat was 6.2% of estimated angler trips sampled, with a total of 11 "sampler days").

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		
Bonneville	66	20	closed	closed	closed	closed			86	Jun. 3
The Dalles	5	0	1	3	4	1			14	Jun. 3
John Day	9	10	18	28	6	closed			71	Jun. 3

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

### WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary <sup>1</sup>

May 28 - June 3, 2012

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon															Combined	
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	Leg Kept	Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool						4							82	86		
The Dalles Pool	33	21		2	3	10	2	7	17		1		4	14		
John Day Pool						17							54	71		
Total	33	21		2	3	31	2	7	17		1		140	171		
Salmonids															Jacks Kept	
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	Leg Kept	Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool																
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead																
The Dalles Pool						43							43	86	1	
Chinook						33							9	42	1	
Coho																
Steelhead						10							34	44		
John Day Pool						25							1	26		
Chinook						24								24		
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	15	33	2	48			447	449		
John Day Pool													278	278		
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		
The Dalles Pool	4	5	2			10	2	4	30	15			32	42		
John Day Pool						9							97	106		

<sup>1</sup> Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

	Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	115%	244%	178%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.10	1.52	6.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.08	1.45	2.13
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none

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Month/Week	Salmonid											# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Sockeye Kept	Rel.	Other
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Sockeye Kept	Rel.	Other				Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept					
Bonneville	1	CLOSED										CLOSED	CLOSED									
Camas/Washougal	2	CLOSED										CLOSED	CLOSED									
Vancouver	4	11	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			CLOSED								
Woodland	5	16	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kalama	6	8	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			3	6	CLOSED	0	2	0	0	0	
Cowlitz	7		CLOSED																			
Longview	8	85	CLOSED	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0			4	9	CLOSED	0	0	0	1	0	
Cathlamet	9	34	CLOSED	0	1	0	7	0	0	0	0											
private boats/bank charter	10	13	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			2	3	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	
	10		CLOSED																			
<b>Total</b>		167	CLOSED	0	1	0	12	0	0	0	0			10	19	CLOSED	0	2	0	1	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											
Camas/Washougal	2	3	0	0	0	0	3	7	4	0	0	0
Vancouver	4						1	2	2	0	0	0
Woodland	5											
Kalama	6	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	18	0	0	2
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8	2	1	0	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9	1	0	0	0	0						
Chinook - Knappton	10											
Cathlamet	10											
<b>Total</b>		7	1	0	0	0	7	15	28	0	0	2

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

Month/Week	Shad							
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1	59	582	0				
Camas/Washougal	2	20	53	0				
Vancouver	4	3	2	0				
Woodland	5				2	5	18	0
Kalama	6				4	7	68	0
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8				2	3	12	0
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
<b>Total</b>		82	637	0	8	15	98	0



Preliminary WDFW sturgeon sport sampling summaries for the Ports of Chinook and Ilwaco June 1-3.

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June 1-3

**Sturgeon**

		<u>#</u> <u>Boats</u>	<u>#</u> <u>Anglers</u>	<u>Sublegals</u> <u>Rel.</u>	<u>Legals</u> <u>Rel.</u>	<u>Oversize</u> <u>Rel.</u>	<u>Legals</u> <u>Kept</u>	<u>Green</u> <u>Rel.</u>
Ilwaco/Ft. Canby	Private	11	30	2	0	0	1	
	Charter	15	152	70	0	11	24	
Chinook	Private	9	28	1	0	2	2	