

Creel Survey

May 7, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Best success for spring Chinook was near the salmon hatchery. Some steelhead were also caught, primarily between the hatcheries.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 515 winter-run steelhead, 123 spring Chinook adults, 14 jacks, and 30 summer-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

Through May 4, a total of 563 hatchery and 11 wild adult spring Chinook had returned to the salmon hatchery. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,463 adults. Last year at this time there were 61 hatchery and 2 wild adults.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,300 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 7. Water visibility is eight feet.

Kalama River – Anglers are catching some spring Chinook and steelhead.

Through May 2, a total of 3 hatchery and 1 wild adult spring Chinook had returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery. The hatchery escapement goal is 390 adults. No fish had returned by this time last year.

Lewis River – Some spring Chinook and steelhead are being caught on the lower river but effort and catch on the North Fork remains light. Some anglers, mainly in the mainstem Lewis from the railroad bridge to the mouth of the east fork, are using the new two pole endorsement.

No spring Chinook had returned to the traps through May 4; however river flows have been between 9,000 and 11,000 cfs. the last week and hatchery personnel have not been able to check the Merwin Dam trap since April 27. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,277 adults.

Wind River – Boat anglers at the mouth averaged a spring Chinook kept per every 8.4 rods. Nearly 100 boats were counted there yesterday (Sunday May 6) morning. Some anglers at the mouth are purchasing and using the new two pole endorsement.

Fish have already been counted at the Shiphord Falls trap and some have been reported caught at the coffer dam and in the lower gorge.

As of today, no fish had returned to Carson National Fish Hatchery. Daily fish counts can be found @ <http://www.fws.gov/gorgefish/carson/index.cfm>.

Drano Lake – Boat anglers averaged a spring Chinook kept per every 8.3 rods. 80 boats were counted there yesterday morning. High water has flooded the Social Security Beach ADA area.

Anglers that purchase a two pole endorsement may fish with two poles beginning May 12.

6 adults and 2 jacks had returned to Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery through today. Daily fish counts can be found @ <http://www.fws.gov/gorgefish/littlewhite/index.cfm>.

Klickitat River – River has cleared and flows have dropped. Light effort though some spring Chinook are being caught.

Mainstem Columbia from Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to I-5 Bridge – Closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad. Scheduled to reopen May 16 for hatchery steelhead, hatchery Chinook jacks, sockeye, and shad.

Mainstem Columbia from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam – Closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad. Scheduled to reopen May 16 for shad and June 16 for hatchery steelhead, hatchery chinook, and sockeye.

Mainstem Columbia from Bonneville Dam to the WA/OR border – Now closed for spring Chinook and hatchery steelhead. Scheduled to reopen June 16 for hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead, and sockeye.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Some legals were caught in the Vancouver and Kalama areas. From the Wauna powerlines downstream, white sturgeon may be retained daily from May 12 through July 8 (or until the quota is met). Daily limit will be 1 fish, min. size 41” fork length and max. 54” fork length.

The Dalles Pool – Not all the data is currently available.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals. Sturgeon may be retained through May 20.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some walleye. Not all the data is currently available.

John Day Pool – Anglers are catching some bass and walleye.

Trout

Recent plants of catchable size rainbows in SW Washington waters:

Siler Lake (Lewis County) – 1,200 fish May 1

Fort Borst Park Pond near Centralia – 3,000 fish April 30

Lake Sacajawea in Longview – 6,120 fish May 1

Battle Ground Lake – 2,981 fish May 2

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	May 6
The Dalles	5	0	1	3					9	May 6
John Day	9	9	19	28					65	May 6

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 30 - May 6, 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	3	3				6	1	1	2				3	9
John Day Pool	14	1				17	1	2	2	2		1	48	65
Total	17	4				27	2	3	4	2		1	133	160
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	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	126		2	6		36	5	12					40	76
Chinook			2	6		26							6	32
Coho														
Steelhead						10							34	44
John Day Pool	69		8	10		12	11	26					1	13
Chinook			8	10		11								11
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						1	1	3		4			347	348
John Day Pool							1	2		2			243	243
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													15	15
John Day Pool	1		1			1	1	2		2			24	25

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)	11%	146%	10%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.25	0.06	1.33	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.04	1.33	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	16%	432%	5%	22%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.38	0.19	1.00	1.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.11	1.00	1.00

Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

05/07/2012

noon

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook		Steelhead		Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook		Steelhead		Other	
				Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept					Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.		
May 1-6	1	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Bonneville	2	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Camas/Washougal	3	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Vancouver	4	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Woodland	5	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Kalama	6	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Cowlitz	7	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Longview	8	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Cathlamet	9	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
private boats/bank charter	10	CLOSED							CLOSED	CLOSED							
Total		CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	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	Other
Camas/Washougal	2						2	5	3	0	1	0	
	3						1	2	10	0	0	0	1 rel. 1 wild chin.
Vancouver	4						1	2	0	0	0	0	
Woodland	5												
Kalama	6						2	3	9	0	0	1	
Cowlitz	7												
Longview	8	2	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	
Cathlamet	9												
Cathlamet	10												
Total		2	0	0	0	0	9	17	22	0	1	2	rel. 1 wild chin.

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		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - April 30-May 6.

No report.