

Creel Survey

May 14, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Spring Chinook are primarily being caught between the hatcheries but can be also found in the lower river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 236 winter-run steelhead, 229 spring Chinook adults, 13 jacks and 56 summer-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 104 spring Chinook adults, ten jacks, and 9 winter-run steelhead at the Day Use Park in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, five spring Chinook adults and three winter-run steelhead into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek, and 19 spring Chinook adults and two winter-run steelhead into the upper Cowlitz River at Packwood.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 9,440 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 14. Water visibility is 11 feet.

Kalama River – Some spring Chinook and steelhead are being caught.

Lewis River – Effort and catches are light. Flows below Merwin Dam are currently 5,510 cfs., about half of what they were a week ago.

Washougal River – Producing some summer run steelhead though a lot of fish are reported being lost.

Wind River – Effort and catches have been heavy. Including fish released, boat anglers at the mouth averaged better than an adult per every 3 rods. Some fish are also being caught in the gorge. Peak boat count for the week was 138.

Through May 6 there were an estimated 2,919 boat anglers trips with 256 Chinook kept and 6 released. With the increased fishing area at the mouth and the need to monitor any increase of catch of non-Carson fish, the weekly creel sampling and in-season effort/catch estimates are being provided by using the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Fees.

As of this morning, no fish had reached Carson National Fish Hatchery.

Drano Lake – Boat anglers averaged an adult Chinook kept/released per every 4 rods while bank anglers averaged one per every 3 rods.

As of this morning, a total of 6 adults and 23 jacks had returned to Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery.

Klickitat River – Effort and catches are increasing. Bank anglers from Fish Hill Bridge (River Mile 2) downstream averaged an adult Chinook per every 3 rods when including fish released.

Flows at Pitt are currently 3,440 cfs., which is higher than the long term mean for this date (2,510 cfs).

Lower Columbia mainstem from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge – Will open as scheduled beginning May 16 for hatchery steelhead, hatchery Chinook jacks, and sockeye.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Sturgeon effort is increasing on the mainstem Columbia with 119 boats and 56 bank anglers counted during last Saturday's (May 12) effort flight count. Included in the count were a couple dozen private boats and 3 charters on the retention opener below the Wauna powerlines. No report on how the boats did in the estuary; not much to report for catch for above Wauna.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some legals. Through April, an estimated 62 (20.7%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken.

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

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat and bank anglers are catching some walleye and bass.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat and bank anglers averaged nearly 10 and 8 bass kept/released per rod, respectively. Boat anglers were also catching some walleye.

Trout

Mayfield Lake – 65,000 catchable size rainbows are scheduled to be planted from May through August.

Shad

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – **Will open as scheduled beginning May 16.** However, with only a half dozen fish counted at Bonneville Dam and fairly high water, expect fishing to be slow on the opener.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	812	128	closed	closed	closed				940	47.0%	Feb. 17 ²	2,000
The Dalles	27	0	20	15					62	20.7%	Apr. 30	300
John Day	75	63	50	145					333	66.6%	Apr. 30	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 June 15-16 and June 22-23 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	closed	closed				86	May 13
The Dalles	5	0	1	3	2				11	May 13
John Day	9	9	19	28	1				66	May 13

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

May 7 - 13, 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	37	19		1	1	8	3	7	13				3	11	
John Day Pool	6					17	9	15	15		1		49	66	
Total	43	19		1	1	29	12	22	28		1		134	163	
Salmonids															
	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						40							42	82	1
Chinook						30							8	38	1
Coho															
Steelhead						10							34	44	
John Day Pool						12							1	13	
Chinook						11								11	
Coho															
Steelhead						1							1	2	
Walleye															
	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			2				1			350	352	
John Day Pool							4	6		2			245	245	
Bass															
	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	6		4			8	2	4		2			17	25	
John Day Pool	3	15	7			8	5	9	67	20			44	52	

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)	99%	none	none	158%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.77	none	none	0.60
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	none	0.60
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	24%	none	18%	77%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.76	none	0.33	9.08
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.05	none	0.33	2.25

9:00 AM

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead			Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead			Other	
				Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Jacks					Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other			
Bonneville	1	CLOSED									CLOSED	CLOSED									
Camas/Washougal	2	CLOSED									CLOSED	CLOSED									
	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	0		CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	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
Camas/Washougal	2											
	3						1	2	1	0	0	0
Vancouver	4						1	2	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	2	0	0	0	0						
Kalama	6						3	5	5	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8	2	0	0	0	0						
Cathlamet	9											
Ilwaco - Knappton	10	5	0	0	0	0						
Cathlamet	10											
Total		9	0	0	0	0	5	9	6	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		0	0	0	0	0	0	

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - May 7-13.

No report.