

## Creel Survey

April 30, 2013

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – Anglers are catching some spring Chinook and steelhead throughout the river. **Anglers should note the south side of the river from Mill Creek to the Barrier Dam is closed to all fishing from May 1 through June 15 per permanent regulations.**

Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery spring Chinook return as of April 27 is 370 adults including 14 wild origin. Hatchery escapement goal is 1,644 adults.

Cowlitz River flow ranged between 6,000 and 14,000 cfs last week.

**Cowlitz Falls Reservoir (Lake Scanewa) (Lewis County):** Effective May 1, salmon season open year round.

**Kalama River** – Overall, effort is light for steelhead. As of April 19, a couple wild summer run steelhead had returned to Kalama Falls Hatchery.

Kalama Falls Hatchery spring Chinook return as of April 27 is 1 wild adult. The hatchery escapement goal is about 400 adults. Remains closed to fishing for spring Chinook.

**Kalama River (Cowlitz County) from 1,000 feet above the fishway at the upper salmon hatchery upstream to Summers Creek:** Effective May 1, anglers may retain up to 2 hatchery steelhead.

**Lewis River** – Effort for steelhead is very light. 4 hatchery summer run steelhead had returned to Merwin Dam trap as of April 15.

Spring Chinook returns to traps on the Lewis as of April 29 is 2 hatchery adults. The hatchery escapement goal is about 1,300 adults. Remains closed to fishing for spring Chinook.

River flow was about 6,000 cfs last week.

**Washougal River** – Anglers are catching some steelhead.

**Wind River** – Effort and catch is beginning to build. High count for the week was 37 boats. An estimated 660 angler trips produced 115 adult Chinook kept last week.

**Anti-snagging rule will be in effect from the Burlington-Northern Railroad Bridge upstream beginning May 1. When the anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.**

**Wind River from 400 feet below Shipherd Falls upstream, including all tributaries** – Until further notice, closed to all fishing.

**Drano Lake** – Effort and catch is also beginning to build here too. About 60 boats were observed last Saturday. Catch rates were nearly identical to the Wind.

**Klickitat River** – Light effort and only a single steelhead was sampled last week. No reports of spring Chinook caught.

**Bonneville Pool** – Bank anglers just outside Drano are catching some spring Chinook.

**The Dalles Pool** – Effort and catch is increasing. Bank and boat anglers are catching spring Chinook.

**John Day Pool** – Bank anglers are catching some spring Chinook; slow for boat anglers.

**The Technical Advisory Committee(TAC)** met today but did not provide an upriver spring Chinook run update. Counts total 24,300 adult Chinook at Bonneville Dam through April 28. By this date at Bonneville Dam, passage is about 20% complete based on the 5-year average and about 25% complete based on the 10-year average.

TAC will continue to meet weekly to review the progress of the upriver spring Chinook run. The next scheduled TAC meeting is Monday May 6.

## Sturgeon

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Effort remains light with <100 boats even on a Saturday.

**Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries from Buoy 10 to the Wauna powerlines including all adjacent Washington tributaries** – White sturgeon may be retained daily through April 30. The daily limit is 1 fish. Through April the minimum size is 38" fork length and maximum size is 54" fork length. Catch-and-release only May 1-10. White sturgeon may also be retained daily May 11 through June 30 at which time the minimum size will be 41" minimum fork length and maximum size 54" fork length.

Effective through April 30, angling is prohibited from a line between the upstream end of Sand Island, located east of Rooster Rock State Park, to a marker on the Oregon shore downstream to a line between the lower end of Sand Island and a marker on the Oregon shore.

All fishing for sturgeon will be closed from May 1 through Aug. 31 in the sturgeon sanctuary from Bonneville Dam downstream 9 miles to a line crossing the Columbia River from navigation Marker 82 on the Oregon shore westerly to the boundary marker on the Washington shore upstream of Fir Point.

**The Dalles Pool** – Slow for legal size fish. Under permanent rules to protect spawning fish, closed to fishing for sturgeon from John Day Dam downstream 2.4 miles to the west end of the grain silo at Rufus, Oregon May 1-July 31.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers are catching some legals; slow for legal size fish from the bank.

**Under permanent rules to protect spawning fish, closed to fishing for sturgeon from McNary Dam downstream 1.5 miles to Hwy. 82 (Hwy. 395) Bridge May 1-July 31.**

## Walleye and Bass

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers averaged a walleye per every 3.5 rods and 3 bass per rod. Bank anglers are catching some bass.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers did well for bass with over 8 fish kept/released per rod. Fishing for walleye was slower.

## Trout

**2013 Opening Day creel results** – Region 5, John Weinheimer April 27, 2013

County	Lake	# Anglers checked	# Fish kept	# Fish released	Average fish caught/angler	fish kept/angler	Highlights
Lewis	Plummer	23	24	41	2.83	1.04	Breezy, cloudy, low turnout, biggest trout 18"
Lewis	Carlisle	37	75	446	14.08	2.03	Anglers happy and having fun. Cool, overcast, no rain. 3 broodstock and 5 triploids checked. Bait and lures working equally well. Coho not a problem
Lewis	Fort Borst Park Pond	59 kids (juvenile only)	91		1.54		Kids having a good time. 17.75" biggest trout
	Mineral Lake	67	171	95	3.97	2.55	18 broodstock , 14 triploids, and some brown trout checked. Overcast. Largest fish checked was about 10 lbs.
Skamania	Kidney Lake	45	141	15	3.47	3.13	Warm and sunny, bite best at daylight. Moving tackle worked best rather than still fishing.
Skamania	Swift Reservoir	25	109	13	4.88	4.36	Chilly start, high clouds, very happy anglers, very nice rainbows, only 11 landlocked Coho
Klickitat	Spearfish Lake	35	151	12	4.66	4.31	Warm, sunny, calm until 10:00 am, then very windy. 3 broodstock , 10 triploids, and 138 catchables checked. Powerbait, worms, marshmallows, spinners and spoons all were working well.
Klickitat	Rowland Lake	51	162	225	7.59	3.18	6 broodstock, largest about 7 lbs, 43 triploids checked, Bite best early.
Klickitat	Horsethief Lake	51	115	19	2.63	2.25	5 broodstock checked. By about 8:40 am very windy. Sunny and warm, beautiful.

**Fort Borst Park Pond (Lewis County):** Effective May 1, open to all licensed anglers until further notice. Two poles may be used with a Two-Pole Endorsement.

**Year round waters on Saturday (these are not completed trips):**

- **Kress Lake near Kalama** – 53 anglers w/114 kept and 18 released.
- **Horseshoe Lake in Woodland** – 18 anglers w/23 kept and 7 released.
- **Battleground Lake** – 42 anglers w/51 kept and 4 released.

**Merwin Lake (Reservoir) (Clark/Cowlitz County):** Effective May 1, kokanee limit is 10. Kokanee do not count as part of the trout daily limit.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:							Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun			Feb. 11 <sup>2</sup>	
Bonneville <sup>1</sup>	102	233	---				335	30.5%	Mar. 31	1,100
The Dalles	9	32	13				54	18.0%	Mar. 31	300
John Day	35	36	61				132	26.4%	Mar. 31	500

<sup>1</sup> Due to the short season 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 Pool closed to retention effective February 11, with a balance of 765 sturgeon allocated for a summer retention season.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:								
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
Bonneville	28	64	---				92	28-Apr
The Dalles	2	5	6	1			14	28-Apr
John Day	6	13	22	12			53	28-Apr

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

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

April 22 - 28, 2013

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	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool						4							88	92	
The Dalles Pool	22	5			2	1	3	11	23				13	14	
John Day Pool	14	7				4	13	27	10		2	1	49	53	
Total	36	12			2	9	16	38	33		2	1	150	159	
Salmonids															
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool	48			12										13	
Chinook				12										13	
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	331		5	23		37	10	23		1	6		8	45	1 2
Chinook			5	23		34				1	6		6	40	1 2
Coho															
Steelhead						3							2	5	
John Day Pool	35		1	3		6	11	26					6	12	
Chinook			1	3		5								5	
Coho															
Steelhead						1							6	7	
Walleye															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool													5	5	
The Dalles Pool	4					12	11	28		8			116	128	
John Day Pool							8	14		1			93	93	
Bass															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool		2	22			22	2	5	7	8			10	32	
John Day Pool	1						12	24	188	5			40	40	

<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	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)	89%	373%	105%	375%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.91	0.10	0.25	7.80
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.08	0.25	6.00
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	52%	244%	36%	227%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.49	0.07	0.07	7.72
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.05	0.05	0.07	0.20

