

Creel Survey

May 6, 2013

Contributed by Joe Hymer

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Some spring Chinook are being caught. Catch is scattered throughout the river. Anglers should note the south side of the river from Mill Creek to the Barrier Dam is closed to all fishing through mid June per permanent regulations.

Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery spring Chinook return as of May 4 is **456** adults including **16** wild origin (last year 563 hatchery and 11 wild adult spring Chinook had returned by this time). Hatchery escapement goal is 1,644 adults. River flow ranged between 8,000 and 9,000 cfs last week.

Kalama River – Light effort. Some steelhead are being caught. Remains closed to fishing for spring Chinook.

Kalama Falls Hatchery spring Chinook return as of May 4 is **3** adults including **1** wild origin (same as this time last year). The hatchery escapement goal is about 400 adults.

Lewis River – Light effort for steelhead. Remains closed to fishing for spring Chinook.

Return to the Lewis River traps as of May 4 is **5** adults including **0** wild origin (no fish had returned at this time last year). The hatchery escapement goal is about 1,300 adults. River flow ranged from about 6,500 to 9,000 cfs last week.

Washougal River – Bank anglers are catching a few steelhead.

Wind River – Boat anglers averaged about an adult Chinook kept per every 5 rods. A few jacks are also appearing in the catch.

From the Carson National Fish Hatchery Facebook page: Our ladder has been open for four days but no fish yet. Last year, our first adults did not arrive until May 19. The address is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Carson-National-Fish-Hatchery/333394436733714>.

Drano Lake – Boat and bank anglers averaged about an adult Chinook kept per every 7 rods.

From the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery Facebook page (May 2): We have approximately 1,380 springers in our holding pond so come see them! They look beautiful with some mighty large ones in there. The address is <https://www.facebook.com/LittleWhiteSalmonNFH?ref=hl>. This year's escapement goal is 1,000 fish.

In comparison, only 6 adults and 2 jacks had returned to the hatchery by this time last year.

Klickitat River – Bank anglers below Fisher Hill Bridge are catching some spring Chinook.

From Joe Zendt, Yakama Nation Fisheries Biologist - Through May 2 there had been 10 spring Chinook adults (all ad-clipped hatchery fish) at the Lyle Falls adult trap on the lower Klickitat. We are in process of transitioning to the newly operating adult trap facility, and our web site likely won't be updated until the full data entry station is completed there (in 2-3 weeks). Once that is fully operational there should be near real-time updates to the website.

Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to I-5 Bridge – Currently closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad. Scheduled to reopen May 16 for hatchery steelhead, hatchery Chinook jacks, and shad. Scheduled to be open June 16 through June 30 for hatchery adult summer Chinook and sockeye.

I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam – Currently closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad. Scheduled to reopen May 16 for shad and June 16 for hatchery steelhead, hatchery summer Chinook, and sockeye. Scheduled to be open June 16 through June 30 for hatchery adult summer Chinook and sockeye.

Bonneville Dam to Washington/Oregon border – Currently closed to fishing for salmon and steelhead. Scheduled to reopen June 16 for hatchery steelhead, hatchery summer Chinook, and sockeye.

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today but did not provide a run update. Counts total 49,300 adult Chinook at Bonneville Dam through May 5. By this date at Bonneville Dam, passage is about 39% complete based on the 5-year average and about 44% 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 13.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Boat anglers are catching some legals in the Vancouver and Kalama areas. Boat angling effort increased with nearly 150 counted during last Saturday's effort flight count.

Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries from Buoy 10 to the Wauna powerlines including all adjacent Washington tributaries – White sturgeon may be retained daily May 11 through June 30. Minimum size will be 41" minimum fork length and maximum size 54" fork length. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted on non-retention days.

Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam including all adjacent Washington tributaries (excluding sturgeon spawning sanctuary described below) – White sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only through June 15 and October 19 through December 31. Daily limit is 1 fish. Minimum fork length is 38" and maximum fork length 54". Catch-and-release fishing is permitted on non-retention days.

All fishing for sturgeon is closed 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 and John Day pools – Slow for legal size fish. Existing sturgeon spawning sanctuaries below John Day and McNary dams are in effect through July.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles and John Day pools – Bank and boat anglers are catching some bass in John Day Pool. Not much to report on walleye success in either pool.

Trout

Plummer Lake near Centralia – Planted with 1,000 catchable size rainbows last week. No report on angling success.

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

¹ 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.

² 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	05-May
The Dalles	2	5	6	1			14	05-May
John Day	6	13	22	12			53	05-May

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 29 - May 5, 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	8	9				1	1	2	17				13	14	
John Day Pool	3					4	8	14				1	49	53	
Total	11	9				9	9	16	17			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	Jacks Kept Cum
Bonneville Pool	93			25										3	
Chinook				25										3	
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	171		6	19		56	12	22		4	6		14	70	6 8
Chinook			6	19		53				4	6		12	65	6 8
Coho															
Steelhead						3							2	5	
John Day Pool	35		4	3		9	32	67		5	6		12	21	2 4
Chinook			4	3		8				5	6		6	14	2 4
Coho															
Steelhead						1							6	7	
Walleye															
Reservoir	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						12	1	3					116	128	
John Day Pool	1						3	5					93	93	
Bass															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool						22			1				10	32	
John Day Pool	16	3	7			7	1	2		5			45	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)	35%	155%	14%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.60	0.18	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.13	none	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	24%	250%	20%	137%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.06	0.18	none	0.83
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.09	none	0.67

12:15 PM

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Chinook				Steelhead			# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook			Steelhead		
			Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other	Kept Adults			Released Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other		
Bonneville	1	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Camas/Washougal	2	CLOSED								CLOSED							
	3	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Vancouver	4	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Woodland	5	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Kalama	6	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Cowlitz	7	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Longview	8	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Cathlamet	9	CLOSED								CLOSED							
private boats/bank charter	10	CLOSED								CLOSED							
	10	CLOSED								CLOSED							
Total		CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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
Camas/Washougal	2	3	1	0	0	0						
	3	1	0	0	0	0						
Vancouver	4						5	10	37	0	0	6
Woodland	5											
Kalama	6	1	0	0	0	0	6	11	31	0	0	3
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8											
Cathlamet	9											
	10											
Deep River + Knappton boats	10											
Cathlamet	10											
Total		5	1	0	0	0	11	21	68	0	0	9

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

