

Creel Survey

May 5, 2014

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – More spring Chinook are being caught than steelhead now.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 605 winter-run steelhead, five summer-run steelhead, 136 spring Chinook adults and 26 jacks during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released five steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 44 spring Chinook adults and 13 jacks into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, and 34 spring Chinook adults and seven jacks into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,800 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 5. Water visibility is nine feet.

Kalama River – Anglers are catching about the same number of spring Chinook (which have to be released) as steelhead.

For the Kalama, forecast return of 500. Return as of **5/2/14** is **21** adults including **3** wild origin. The hatchery escapement goal is about 400 adults.

Lewis River – Effort and catch is light.

For the Lewis, forecast return of 1,100. Return as of **5/4/14** is **150** adults including **3** wild origin. River flow ranged between about 7,000 & 9,000 cfs the past week. The hatchery escapement goal is about 1,300 adults.

Wind River – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged an adult spring Chinook caught per every 3.6 rods last week.

From the Carson National Fish Hatchery Facebook Page @ <https://www.facebook.com/CarsonNationalFishHatchery>: Our fish ladder has been open for three days and no fish yet. We usually get our first adult sometime during the second week of May. So far 124 of our PIT tagged fish have come over Bonneville. Here is the link you can use to see how many fish have come over: http://www.cbr.washington.edu/dart/query/pitadult_obsyr_detail

Drano Lake – Boat anglers averaged an adult Chinook kept per every 4.4 rods last week. Bank anglers were also doing well at times.

From the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/LittleWhiteSalmonNFH?ref=hl>: Happy Monday! As of this morning, 191 spring Chinook have returned home to Little White Salmon NFH. We've got several more to collect before we've met our (1,000 fish) escapement goal.

Klickitat River – Not a lot of effort but bank anglers from Fisher Hill Bridge downstream averaged an adult Chinook kept per every about every 3 anglers last week.

Yakima River - The lower Yakima River (below Prosser) opened for spring Chinook fishing on Saturday, May 3. This weekend WDFW staff interviewed 37 anglers, 10 fishing for salmon and 27 fishing for channel catfish and bass. No salmon were harvested. Fishing for channel catfish and bass was slow.

Bonneville Pool – One of every 3 bank anglers just outside Drano Lake had kept an adult Chinook when sampled last week.

The Dalles Pool – Last week boat anglers averaged an adult Chinook kept/released per every 2 rods while bank anglers averaged one per every 3 rods.

John Day Pool – Both boat and bank anglers averaged an adult Chinook per every 5 rods when including fish released last week.

Bonneville Dam to the WA/OR state line – Scheduled to remain open for hatchery spring Chinook and hatchery steelhead through Friday May 9.

A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday May 6 at 10:00 a.m. via teleconference.

The purpose of this hearing is to review spring Chinook stock status and non-Indian fisheries.

Sturgeon

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and catch.

John Day Pool – Bank and boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – When including fish released, boat anglers averaged over 5 bass and nearly 2 walleye per rod last week.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged about ½ walleye kept/released per rod while the few bass anglers sampled released over 7 bass per rod.

Trout

Recent plants of catchable size rainbows:

[LK SACAJAWEA \(COWL\)](#)

Apr 30, 2014	Rainbow	3,417	2.26	Goldendale Hatchery
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Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	163	27	51	---						241	21.9%	Mar. 31	1,100
The Dalles	12		35							47	15.7%	Mar. 31	300
John Day	10	14	133							157	31.4%	Mar. 31	500

¹ Due to the short season in Bonneville Pool, we will be providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis. Bonneville Pool was closed to retention January 20-31 and February 18-23.
The winter fishery in Bonneville Pool closed to retention effective March 10. The fishery is scheduled to re-open June 13-14 and June 20-21 to catch the remainder of the guideline.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
Bonneville	58	14	13	---						85	May 4
The Dalles	4		12	3						19	May 4
John Day	3	5	42	19						69	May 4

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 28 - May 4, 2014

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	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool						14							71	85	
The Dalles Pool	5	1				3			1				16	19	
John Day Pool	6	5		2	2	19	9	19	5	3	5	2	50	69	
Total	11	6		2	2	36	9	19	6	3	5	2	137	173	
Salmonids															
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Jacks Kept Cum
Bonneville Pool	258		2	78										5	
Chinook			2	78										5	
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	261		32	55		68	15	35		4	14		30	98	4
Chinook			31	55		67				4	14		25	92	4
Coho															
Steelhead			1			1							5	6	
John Day Pool	72		7	7		21	46	106		7	16		25	46	1
Chinook			7	7		21				6	16		21	42	1
Coho															
Steelhead										1			4	4	
Walleye															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool						7	5	15	9	16			306	313	
John Day Pool							5	12	4	2			133	133	
Bass															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool	5						6	10	42	9			13	13	
John Day Pool							2	4	30						

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)	17%	285%	66%	265%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.40	0.35	1.67	3.40
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.23	1.07	0.60
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	45%	253%	51%	67%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.96	0.21	0.50	7.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.28	0.13	0.17	none

