

Creel Survey

April 20, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Spring Chinook are mainly being caught at the barrier dam and steelhead near the trout hatchery. However, fish are also being caught in the lower river.

During five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator, last week Tacoma Power recovered:

- 579 winter-run steelhead, 848 spring Chinook salmon, and 31 jacks

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- 37 winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton;
- 21 steelhead and one adult spring Chinook into the Cispus River above Yellow Jacket Creek;
- Two steelhead plus 779 adult and 18 jack spring Chinook into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 4,120 cubic feet per second on Monday April 20.

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 well renovation begins April 20

Tacoma Power will begin renovating five Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery wells on Monday April 20 leading to temporary closures of some informal parking areas typically used by anglers.

Construction will take place along the entrance road to the Barrier Dam boat launch. The temporary parking closures will occur during trench digging between April 20 and mid-May. Between April 20 and July 31, there will be general construction activity in the area and flaggers directing traffic.

Updates will be posted at tacomapower.com. People can also call the Cowlitz River Project at (360) 985-2222 with questions.

Lewis River – No report on angling success. Remains closed to fishing for spring Chinook.

North Fork Lewis River from Johnson Creek (located downstream from Lewis River Salmon Hatchery) upstream to Merwin Dam – During the month of May, closed to all fishing.

Wind River – Spring Chinook are being caught by boat anglers at the mouth. In addition, occasionally some spring Chinook are being caught by bank anglers in the gorge.

Effective May 1 through June 30, from the mouth to the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge each angler aboard a vessel may deploy SALMON/STEELHEAD angling gear until the daily SALMON/STEELHEAD limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved. In addition, anglers with a Two-Pole Endorsement may fish for salmon and steelhead with two poles during the same period.

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

Wind River from 100 feet above Shipherd Falls upstream to boundary markers approximately 800

yards downstream from Carson National Fish Hatchery (except closed 400 feet below to 100 feet above the Coffey Dam) – From May 1 through June 30, the salmon and steelhead daily limit will be a total of 2 chinook or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Unmarked chinook may be retained in this section of the Wind. Night closure and anti-snagging rule will be in effect. Only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

Drano Lake – Bank and boat anglers are catching some spring Chinook.

Effective May 1 through June 30, each angler aboard a vessel may deploy SALMON/STEELHEAD angling gear until the daily SALMON/STEELHEAD limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved. In addition, anglers with a Two-Pole Endorsement may fish for salmon and steelhead with two poles during the same period.

Klickitat River – Light effort and no catch was observed.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Now closed to fishing for Chinook, steelhead, and shad.

Last Thursday we sampled 1,249 salmonid anglers (including 376 boats) with 473 adult and 5 jack spring Chinook but no steelhead. 406 (86%) of the adult Chinook were kept. We sampled 274 (67%) of the adult Chinook kept. 242 (88%) of the adult Chinook were upriver origin based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

Effort was heavy last Thursday with nearly 2,000 boats and just over 900 bank anglers counted during the flight.

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 July 6 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 July 6 for hatchery adult summer Chinook and sockeye.

Bonneville Pool – Effort and spring Chinook catch is beginning to increase.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Effort and spring Chinook catches are increasing.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Little to no effort during the current catch-and-release only fishery.

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.

Bonneville Pool – Currently catch-and-release fishing only.

Angling for sturgeon will be prohibited from May 1 through July 31 between The Dalles Dam downstream 1.8 miles to a line from the east (upstream) dock at the Port of The Dalles boat ramp straight across to a marker on the Washington shore.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

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 and from McNary Dam downstream 1.5 miles to Hwy. 82 (Hwy. 395) Bridge May 1 through July 31.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers average over 2 walleye and 4.5 bass per rod.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged nearly 4 walleye and 5 bass per rod when including fish released.

Crappie

Silver lake near Castle Rock – Reported to be good for crappie. Minimum size 9”, daily limit 10.

Trout

Recent plants of trout into SW WA waters. No report on angling success.

Lake/Pond	Date	Species	Number	Fish per Pound	Hatchery
• HORSESHOE LK (COWL)					
Apr 14, 2015	Rainbow	3,443	2.5		MOSSYROCK HATCHERY
• ICE HOUSE LK (SKAM)					
Apr 14, 2015	Rainbow	850	2.15		GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• KRESS LK (COWL)					
Apr 15, 2015	Rainbow	2,350	2.1		GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Apr 14, 2015	Rainbow	1,080	2.5		MOSSYROCK HATCHERY The week before last, 2 Early Winter stock and 46 Kalama Integrated stock hatchery steelhead were transferred to Kress Lake.
• MERRILL LK (COWL)					
Apr 13, 2015	Brown Trout	2,000	2.8		VANCOUVER HATCHERY (Fly fishing only; catch-and-release only)

Swift Reservoir – Will not open until the first Saturday in June, as noted in the fishing pamphlet. The later opening is designed to protect downstream migrating salmon and steelhead smolts, which are part of an ongoing reintroduction program under re-licensing agreements with PacifiCorp.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	107	46	2							155	14.1%	Mar. 31	1,100
The Dalles	20	14	5							39	39.0%	Mar. 31	100
John Day	40	28	33							101	20.2%	Mar. 31	500

¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention effective March 1. Dates for a potential summer fishery will be considered later.

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	22	12	1							35		Apr. 19	
The Dalles	10	4	1	3						18		Apr. 19	
John Day	6	6	8	11						31		Apr. 19	

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 13 - 19, 2015

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	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool						2							33	35
The Dalles Pool	15	6				4	4	7	14	1	1	1	14	18
John Day Pool	1					4	16	41	27		6	10	27	31
Total	16	6				10	20	48	41	1	7	11	74	84
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool	50			10		10								
Chinook				10		10								
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	71		2	1		5	9	20		1			2	7
Chinook			2	1		3				1				3
Coho														
Steelhead						2							2	4
John Day Pool	118		1	4		11	37	80		1	1		2	13
Chinook			1	4		6				1	1		1	7
Coho														
Steelhead						5							1	6
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool						8	8	18	2	39			693	701
John Day Pool						9	57	131	43	459			1416	1425
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool							3	6	14	13			21	21
John Day Pool							15	27	124	9			15	15

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)	77%	270%	41%	164%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.05	0.04	2.28	4.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.05	0.01	2.17	2.17
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	121%	368%	174%	377%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.02	0.04	3.83	4.93
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.14	0.03	3.50	0.33

