

## Creel Survey

June 8, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

**FYI – The 2015-2016 Washington Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet is scheduled to go to the print vendor tomorrow (June 10). Expect numerous changes for the lower Columbia tributaries. Those changes will take effect July 1.**

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – No report on angling success. Effective June 16, bank anglers may fish the south side of the river from Mill Creek to 400 feet or the posted markers below the barrier dam.

During five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator last week, Tacoma Power recovered six winter-run steelhead, 967 spring Chinook salmon, 251 jacks and 66 summer steelhead.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 798 spring Chinook and 215 jacks, and one winter steelhead into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 3,670 cubic feet per second on Monday, June 8. (81 year median is 6,490 cfs). Water visibility is 12 feet.

The forecasted return of 11,200 adult spring Chinook are expected to return to the Cowlitz River in 2015. Return as of **6/8/15** is **13,333** hatchery adults and 127 natural origin.

**A screw trap to collect data from out-migrating juvenile salmonids was installed on the lower Cowlitz last month and is now operational. This trap will operate year around with most of the fish work taking place during the night. Attached are a Q & A, photo of the trap, and an example of the signs posted at the boat launches.**

**Kalama River** – Bank anglers are catching some spring Chinook and steelhead.

**East Fork Lewis River** – Light effort and steelhead catch.

**North Fork Lewis River** – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead. Remains closed for Chinook.

An estimated 1,100 adult spring Chinook are expected to return to the Lewis River in 2015. The hatchery escapement goal is about 1,300 adults. Return as of **6/7/15** is **518** hatchery adults and 19 natural origin.

Discharge at Ariel Dam are approximately 2,370 cubic feet per second on Tuesday June 9 (91 year median is 3,500 cfs).

**Washougal River** – Effort is light but bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

**Wind River and Drano Lake** – Effort is light. No catch was observed.

An estimated 4,800 adult spring Chinook are expected to return to Wind River in 2015. Hatchery escapement goal is 1,500. There are an estimated 2,383 Chinook in the Carson National Fish Hatchery holding ponds.

**Klickitat River** – Some adult spring Chinook are being caught in the upper river. No fish were checked from boat anglers.

Hatchery return as of **6/8/15** is **737** adults. The hatchery escapement goal is 500 fish.

Discharge near Pitt is approximately 992 cubic feet per second on Tuesday June 9 (88 year median is 2,100 cfs).

**Yakima River** – From Paul Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco, WA: Spring chinook counts in the Yakima River dropped off this week. Only 53 chinook (34 adult, 19 jacks) passed the Prosser Diversion between June 1-7. Yakima River flows declined to less than 2,000 cfs this past week.

WDFW staff interviewed two anglers fishing for salmon during the past week (June 1-7). No Chinook were reported. An estimated 52 adult chinook (23 hatchery & 29 wild) have been caught in the fishery this year. The fishery in the lower Yakima River will remain open through June 15.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – The adult Chinook mark rate went down though the Visual Stock Identification (VSI) remained the same, steelhead catch went up and the hatchery percentage remains high, and we checked our first couple sockeye(which were released) of the year.

Last week we sampled 1,072 salmonid anglers (including 199 boats) with 80 adult and 4 jack spring Chinook, 39 steelhead, and 2 sockeye. 42 (52%) of the adult Chinook were kept. We sampled 39 (93%) of the adult Chinook kept. 34 (87%) of the adult Chinook were upriver origin based on VSI. 35 (90%) of the steelhead were kept.

**During June 1-7, anglers on the lower Columbia made 8,826 trips and caught 1,091 adult Chinook (581 kept and 510 released), 369 summer steelhead (308 kept and 61 released) and 7 sockeye (released). Based on preliminary VSI sampling, upriver spring Chinook comprised 85% of the kept catch.**

**The U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided an in-season run update of 282,000 adult upriver Chinook to the Columbia River. The pre-season forecast was 232,500. The spring management period continues through June 15.**

**Summer Chinook** –The 2015 forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 73,000 adults to the Columbia River mouth. The overall return is expected to include 44,900 Age-4 fish (62%) and 26,600 Age-5 fish (36%). If accurate, this projection would represent the 6th highest return since 1980 and 114% of the average return observed over the past decade.

**Sockeye** – The 2015 forecast for the Columbia River sockeye run is for a strong return of 394,000 adults to the Columbia River which includes 106,700 Wenatchee, 285,500 Okanogan, and 1,800 Snake River stocks. The forecast is 160% the 2005–2014 average return of 194,600 fish. The Wenatchee component is forecasted to be well over the escapement objective of 23,000 fish. The Okanogan component, which has shown an impressive increase in run strength since 2008, is expected to continue this positive trend. Although the Snake River component represents a small proportion of the total run, a return of 1,800 fish would be 152% of the recent 10-year average return. Minor returns to the Yakima and Deschutes rivers are also expected.

**Mainstem Columbia from Megler-Astoria Bridge upstream to the Hwy. 395 Bridge in Pasco – Effective June 16, the salmonid daily limit will be 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Up to 2 of the adults may be hatchery adult Chinook or sockeye. Release all wild Chinook. Below Bonneville Dam, hatchery adult Chinook and sockeye may only be retained through July 6.**

**The Dalles Pool** – Effort is light though some spring Chinook are being caught.

**John Day Pool** – Bank anglers are doing a little better for spring Chinook than boat anglers.

## **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia mainstem from Marker 82 downstream** – Catch-and-release sturgeon fishing was very good from Camas to Longview.

**Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam including adjoining tributaries** – Currently closed for sturgeon retention. Catch-and-release angling is allowed, EXCEPT closed for sturgeon fishing within the sanctuary. Summer season scheduled for three 3-day open periods as follows:

Open :       Friday June 19 through Sunday June 21  
               Friday June 26 through Sunday June 28  
               Friday July 3 through Sunday July 5

Allowable Catch:       White sturgeon between 38-inches and 54-inches fork length.

Sanctuary:       Angling for sturgeon prohibited through July 31 from 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.

**Walleye, Bass, and Channel Catfish**

**Yakima River** - Fishing for smallmouth bass and channel catfish continues to be good. Staff interviewed 127 anglers that reported 111 smallmouth bass (1/2 hour per bass) and 15 channel catfish caught.

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers continue to catch walleye while bank anglers are catching some bass.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers averaged nearly 2 walleye and just over 1.5 bass per rod when including fish released. Through June 7, just over 3,000 walleye have been sampled from John Day Pool.

**Trout**

**Recent plants of rainbows and browns. No report on angling success.**

<a href="#"><u>KLINELINE PD (CLAR)</u></a> <i>Clark County - Region 5</i>	Jun 01, 2015	Rainbow	24	0.29	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>KLINELINE PD (CLAR)</u></a> <i>Clark County - Region 5</i>	Jun 01, 2015	Rainbow	1,330	2.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>BOWMAN CR 30.0068</u></a> <i>Klickitat County - Region 5</i>	Jun 02, 2015	Rainbow	1,000	2.15	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>MINERAL LK (LEWI)</u></a> <i>Lewis County - Region 5</i>	Jun 02, 2015	Brown Trout	2,438	2.8	MOSSYROCK HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>ROWLAND LK (KLIC)</u></a> <i>Klickitat County - Region 5</i>	Jun 02, 2015	Rainbow	2,000	2.15	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>RAINEY CR 26.0651</u></a> <i>Lewis County - Region 5</i>	Jun 03, 2015	Rainbow	2,500	2.5	MOSSYROCK HATCHERY

**Shad**

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** - Fishing for shad remains relatively slow but was a little better just below the dam yesterday. Last week we sampled 257 shad anglers (including 26 boats) with 301 kept and 36 released.

Bonneville Dam passage through June 8 totals 559,600 shad. Recent daily counts are around 50,000 fish per day. On average, we should be nearing the peak.

**John Day Pool** – 23 boats/58 anglers kept 76 shad and released 12.

June 1 - 7, 2015

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.  
 Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

<b>Sturgeon</b>																
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						9							16	25		
John Day Pool	1					6	4	10	3		2	4	64	70		
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>					<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>130</b>		
<b>Salmonids</b>																
Reservoir	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	Combined Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Jacks Kept Cum
Bonneville Pool																
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead																
The Dalles Pool	7			1		24	1	3					26	51		2
Chinook				1		22							24	47		2
Coho																
Steelhead						2							2	4		
John Day Pool	48		7	11		62	33	75			2		76	138		4
Chinook			7	11		57					2		75	132		4
Coho																
Steelhead						5							1	6		
<b>Walleye</b>																
Reservoir	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	4	8	2	8			826	834		
John Day Pool						9	46	98	25	164			2996	3005		
<b>Bass</b>																
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept			
Bonneville Pool																
The Dalles Pool	2		2			2							41	43		
John Day Pool						1	7	20	30	1			221	222		

<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)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	31%	22%	10%	6%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.82	0.28	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.18	0.28	none	none

River Section	Boats	Anglers	Adult Spring Chinook Kept			CHS Rel'd	Sok kept	Sok Rel	Sts Kept	StS Rel
			Lower R	Upper R	Total					
1	317	865	7	103	110	150	0	0	0	0
2	607	1396	29	72	101	61	0	0	0	7
3	86	188	1	7	8	4	0	0	0	0
4	245	436	1	8	9	27	0	0	0	0
5	215	454	1	7	8	8	0	0	8	0
6	125	276	1	8	9	0	0	0	4	0
7	162	359	0	0	0	12	0	0	23	0
8	293	629	2	8	10	7	0	7	56	7
9	155	450	2	13	15	37	0	0	37	0
10 priv.	167	297	4	24	28	9	0	0	9	0
10 chart.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Boat Total</b>	<b>2372</b>	<b>5350</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>14</b>

## June 2015 In-season Spring Chinook Catch Estimate 1/

River Section	OR Bank	Anglers	Lower R Chs	Upper R Chs	Total Chs	CHS Rel'd	Sok kept	Sok Rel	Sts Kept	StS Rel
1		186	0	50	50	21	0	0	0	0
2		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4		112	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5		14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6		7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7		301	11	17	28	5	0	0	5	5
8		163	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
9		92	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10		113	6	9	15	0	0	0	7	15
<b>OR Bk Total</b>		<b>998</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>27</b>

## June 2015 In-season Spring Chinook Catch Estimate 1/

River Section	Wa Bank	Anglers	Lower R Chs	Upper R Chs	Total Chs	CHS Rel'd	Sok kept	Sok Rel	Sts Kept	StS Rel
1		591	9	140	149	132	0	0	0	0
2		48	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3		30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4		396	3	5	8	8	0	0	4	4
5		332	0	0	0	20	0	0	5	0
6		302	11	17	28	9	0	0	0	0
7		15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8		495	2	3	5	0	0	0	75	11
9		173	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	5
10		96	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	0
<b>WA Bk Total</b>		<b>2478</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>20</b>

## Season Totals

	Adult Spring Chinook Kept					CHS Rel'd	Sok kept	Sok Rel	Sts Kept	StS Rel
	Anglers	Lower R	Upper R	Total						
June inseason 1-7	8826	90	491	581	510	0	7	308	61	
Feb-April 16 Final	96566	3137	10294	13431	2120	0	0	438	532	
May 2,3,9 & 16-31 Prelim	36989	777	3770	4547	1740	0	4	209	27	
<b>Grand Total (Prelim.)</b>	<b>142381</b>	<b>4004</b>	<b>14555</b>	<b>18559</b>	<b>4370</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>620</b>	
June above Kelley Point	3314	46	372	418	368	0	0	0	7	
June below Kelley Point	5512	44	119	163	142	0	7	308	54	

# COWLITZ RIVER FISH COLLECTOR Q&A

**Q. What is that large vessel tied off downstream from the Burlington Northern railroad bridge?**

A. It's a fish collector owned by Tacoma Power and operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. It's 40 feet long and weighs 22,000 pounds!

**Q. What is it used for?**

A. Research; specifically a lower Cowlitz River monitoring study. The collector catches juvenile fish as they migrate downstream. We do genetic analysis on the fish to determine how many are natural origin juvenile fall Chinook, then release them back into the river. We'll take that number and look at it in proportion to how many adult fall Chinook are going out. The results of this natural origin population size research will tell us how large of a hatchery program we can operate.

**Q. Why do you need to do this research?**

A. Tacoma Power operates its Cowlitz fisheries and hatcheries according to rules and regulations set forth in a federally required plan. Part of this plan includes monitoring and evaluation studies, such as this research we're doing using the collector.

**Q. Why is there a trailer on shore next to it?**

A. The technicians and biologists doing the research stay in the trailer in order to provide round-the-clock coverage for the collector.

**Q. Has there ever been a fish collector on the Cowlitz before?**

A. No – this is the first, although other rivers in Washington have (or have had) fish collectors.

**Q. Can I get an up-close look at it?**

A. No – it's for authorized personnel only. Please be careful and leave plenty of clearance as you navigate around it.

**Q. I'm passionate about fish issues. How can I get involved?**

A. We host a series of public meetings every year - join us and make your voice heard. Also, send your contact information to [cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org) and we'll send you updates about what's happening around Cowlitz fish issues. Visit [tacomapower.com](http://tacomapower.com) for more information.





# NOTICE

## Watch for Cowlitz River fish collector

The large vessel tied off downstream from the Burlington Northern railroad bridge is a fish collector owned by Tacoma Power and operated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The collector is for authorized personnel only. Please be careful and leave plenty of clearance as you navigate around it.

We are using the collector for a juvenile fall Chinook monitoring study.

Visit [tacomapower.com](http://tacomapower.com) or email [cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:cowlitz@cityoftacoma.org) for more information.

