

Creel Survey

April 25, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Spring Chinook now make up half the catch with the majority of the fish sampled between the hatcheries.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 610 winter run steelhead, one summer-run steelhead, 1,291 spring Chinook adults and 58 spring Chinook jacks during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 23 winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 475 spring Chinook, 30 spring Chinook jacks and three winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, 378 spring Chinook adults, 12 jacks and 39 winter-run steelhead adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek and 236 spring Chinook adults and 14 jacks at Skate Creek Bridge in Packwood.

Tacoma Power also released 4,000 rainbow trout into Swofford Pond near Mossyrock.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,250 cubic feet per second on Monday, April 25. Visibility is eight feet.

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.

Lewis River – Light effort for steelhead around the hatchery.

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.

Except for the Lewis, hatchery adult spring Chinook returns to Washington lower river tributaries are higher than the same time last year. Both the Cowlitz and Kalama are tracking ahead of what would be expected at this time based on the preseason forecasts.

<u>River</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	
Cowlitz	4,294	2,655	
Kalama	17	3	Kalama stock
Lewis	31	48	

Wind River and Drano Lake – Catch rates are nearly identical at both locations with a Chinook kept per about every 6 rods. At the same time last year it was a fish per every 2 to 3 rods.

Wind River – Beginning May 1, anti-snagging rule will be in effect from the Hwy. 14 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.

Wind River (mouth to Hwy. 14 Bridge) and Drano Lake - 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 though the river was beginning to clear around the middle of last week.

Bonneville Pool – Bank anglers at the mouth of Drano Lake are catching some spring Chinook.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some spring Chinook but still pretty slow overall.

John Day Pool – Both bank and boat anglers are catching a few spring Chinook.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – No report on success 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 – No report on success during the current catch-and-release only fishery. **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 Pool – 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 May 1 through July 31.**

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals. **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 through July 31.**

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged nearly 4 walleye and 19 bass kept/released per rod.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged over 3 walleye and nearly 8 bass per rod. Bank anglers are also catching some walleye.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:	
Bonneville ¹	113	44	---						157	48.3%	Mar. 31	325	
The Dalles	49	19	14						82	82.0%	Mar. 31	100	
John Day	26	17	28						71	14.2%	Mar. 31	500	

¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention effective February 8. 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					
Bonneville	51	12	---	---					63		Apr. 24		
The Dalles	26	11	3	2					42		Apr. 24		
John Day	10	4	7	23					44		Apr. 24		

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 18 - 24, 2016

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	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	8	1				1	3	10	37	1	2	1	41	42
John Day Pool	5	2			1	1	10	20	27		3	1	43	44
Total	13	3			1	2	13	30	64	1	5	2	147	149
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook				7										
Coho				7										
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool														
Chinook	97		1	2		7	9	13					8	15
Coho			1	2		6								6
Steelhead						1							8	9
John Day Pool														
Chinook	49		2			3	7	11			1		5	8
Coho			1			1					1		3	4
Steelhead			1			2							2	4
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	1					14	15	34	27	107			2141	2155
John Day Pool	1		4			23	36	66	96	124			1711	1734
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	3					1	4	4	55	20			94	95
John Day Pool	1						11	24	145	45			134	134

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)	72%	263%	62%	117%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.33	0.03	3.83	10.71
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.11	0.02	3.06	2.86
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	45%	188%	48%	104%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.36	0.05	3.34	7.60
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.12	0.02	1.91	1.80

