

## Creel Survey

May 23, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

A Joint State Hearing is scheduled for today Tuesday May 24, 2016 at 2:00 PM via teleconference to consider the lower river recreational salmon fishery and the sturgeon recreational fishery in John Day Pool.

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Grays River from mouth to South Fork and West Fork from mouth to hatchery intake/footbridge** – Under permanent rules, open to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June (June 4th this year). Fish were recently spotted in the mainstem Grays.

**Elochoman River from the mouth to the Elochoman Hatchery Bridge, Green River from the mouth to 400' below the water intake at the upper end of the hatchery and South Fork Toutle River from the mouth to the 4700 Road Bridge** – Scheduled to open for hatchery steelhead the last Saturday in May (May 28 this year). In addition, stray hatchery spring Chinook may be retained on the Elochoman. Selective gear rules apply during these early fisheries which run through June 3rd.

**Cowlitz River** – Spring Chinook are being caught throughout the river and a few more summer run steelhead are appearing in the creel.

Last week Tacoma Power employees recovered 743 spring Chinook adults, 168 jacks, 79 winter-run steelhead, and 34 summer-run steelhead during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week, Tacoma Power employees released 251 spring Chinook adults and 90 spring Chinook jacks into Lake Scanewa located above Cowlitz Falls Dam, 136 spring Chinook adults, 25 jacks and six winter-run steelhead into the Cispus River upstream of the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek near Randle, and 116 spring Chinook adults, 35 spring Chinook jacks and two winter-run steelhead at Franklin Bridge in Packwood, and four winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,210 cubic feet per second on Monday, May 23.

**From the Lexington (Sparks) Road Bridge upstream to 400 feet or boundary markers below the barrier dam** – From June 1 through July 31, barbed hooks will be allowed for salmon, steelhead, and cutthroats.

**Blue Creek from mouth to posted sign above rearing pond outlet (Lewis Co.) (Cowlitz River tributary)** – Effect June 1, the trout daily limit is 5 fish. Up to 3 may be hatchery steelhead. Release wild cutthroats. Night closure and anti-snagging rules will be in effect. Open to all anglers.

**Kalama River** – Anglers are still catching some spring Chinook and steelhead. Effective the first Sat. in June, no minimum size for hatchery trout.

**East Fork Lewis River** – Light effort and no steelhead were observed in the creel.

**East Fork Lewis River from the mouth to 400 feet below Horseshoe Falls (except closures around various falls) and the Washougal River from the mouth to Salmon Falls Bridge** – Under permanent rules these areas will be open to fishing with bait for hatchery steelhead beginning the first Saturday in June.

**Lewis River including North Fork** – Little to no effort for steelhead.

**North Fork Lewis River from Johnson Creek (located downstream from Lewis River Salmon Hatchery) upstream to**

**overhead powerlines below Merwin Dam** –On June 1st this section will reopen to hatchery steelhead but will remain closed for Chinook.

**Wind River** – Effort and catches have dropped way off. Over the past weekend, almost 200 fish returned to Carson National Fish Hatchery raising the total return to nearly 500 fish. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,500.

**Drano Lake** – Boat anglers are still catching some spring Chinook. A few summer run steelhead are also appearing in the catch.

**Klickitat River** – Bank anglers below the Fisher Hill Bridge are catching some spring Chinook though a lot of the fish were jacks.

Through May 23, a total of 7 adult spring Chinook have returned to the Klickitat Salmon Hatchery.

**Klickitat River from the mouth (Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge) upstream the Fisher Hill Bridge and from 400 feet upstream from #5 fishway upstream to boundary markers below the Klickitat Salmon Hatchery** – Effective June 1, open to fishing 7 days per week. Daily limit 6 hatchery Chinook of which 2 may be adults. In addition, up to 3 hatchery steelhead may be retained.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Not much effort during the hatchery steelhead and hatchery jack Chinook season though increasing numbers of summer run steelhead are being caught. During the first four days of the jack Chinook and steelhead season (May 16-19) from the I-5 Bridge to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line we sampled 73 salmonid anglers (including 10 boats) with 10 steelhead. All but one of the steelhead were kept. We did not check any Chinook kept or released.

During the recent 3 day Chinook (including adults) and steelhead season (May 20-22) from Bonneville Dam to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line we sampled 979 salmonid anglers (including 179 boats) with 99 adult and 11 jack spring Chinook and 26 steelhead.

70 (71%) of the adult Chinook were kept. Based on Visual Stock Identification, 55 (93%) of the fish sampled were upriver stock. All but one of the steelhead were kept.

Last week on the lower Columbia, including catch made during the summer steelhead fishery below I-5, anglers made 6,982 trips and caught 699 adult Chinook (410 kept and 289 released) and 230 summer steelhead (220 kept and 10 released). Based on VSI sampling, upriver spring Chinook comprised 85% of the kept catch.

Through May 22 there have been an estimated 101,000 angler trips with 10,923 adult Chinook kept and 2,258 released. See attached file.

## **Sturgeon**

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers averaged a legal kept per about every 4 rods last week.

## **Walleye and Bass**

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Boat anglers are catching some walleye in the Woodland area.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers averaged over 3.5 walleye and over 22.5 bass kept/released per rod.

## **Trout**

Tacoma Power released 4,000 rainbow trout into Mayfield Lake last week. 72,000 fish are scheduled to be planted there from April through August.

Next week, Tacoma Power will release 4,000 rainbow trout into Swofford Pond located outside Mossyrock and 800 rainbow trout into South Lewis County Park Pond located in Toledo.

**Lake Scanewa (Cowlitz Falls Reservoir)** – Scheduled to be planted with 20,000 catchable size rainbows from June through August.

**Swift Reservoir** – Opens to fishing for hatchery rainbow trout and landlocked salmon the first Sat. in June. Scheduled to be planted with 45,000 catchable size adipose clipped rainbows.

**Goose Lake** - We are planning to start planting the lake with catchable size trout including 6,000 cutthroat and 1,500 browns this week.

There is almost no snow on the road to the lake from Trout Lake. We did not encounter any drifts. The road is rough near the lake due to minor flood damage. The lake is full but the boat ramp has some big trees across it so not for a boat trailer.

We drove a little ways past the lake on the 60 road towards Carson but encountered snow just past the lake. We did not check the road from Willard.

Several streams will open to fishing May 28, the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Catchable size rainbows will be planted. They include Canyon Creek in Clark County (5,500 fish); the upper Little White Salmon River in Skamania County (3,000); and Spring Creek in Klickitat County (3,000). Due to recovery efforts of the Oregon spotted frog, Outlet and Bird creeks in Klickitat County will not be stocked this year.

## **Shad**

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Effort and catches are increasing. Bank and boat anglers just below Bonneville Dam plus bank anglers at the Steamboat Landing Dock in Washougal and boat anglers in the Longview area are catching some shad.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:										Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug					
Bonneville <sup>1</sup>	113	44	---	---	---	---	---	---		157	48.3%	Apr. 30	325
The Dalles <sup>2</sup>	49	19	14	14	---	---	---	---		96	96.0%	Apr. 30	100
John Day	26	17	28	164						235	47.0%	Apr. 30	500

<sup>1</sup> Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention effective February 8. It will re-open June 18 and July 1 to catch the rest of the guideline.

<sup>2</sup> The Dalles Pool closed to sturgeon retention effective April 30.

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	May. 22
The Dalles	26	11	3	2	---	---	---	---	42	May. 22
John Day	10	4	7	28	24				73	May. 22

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

## WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary <sup>1</sup>

May 16 - 22, 2016

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

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

Sturgeon														Combined	
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	Leg Kept	Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool													63	63	
The Dalles Pool						1							41	42	
John Day Pool	5	2				1	19	55	50	1	13	9	72	73	
Total	5	2				2	19	55	50	1	13	9	176	178	
Salmonids														Jacks Kept Week	Jacks Rel Week
Reservoir	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	Leg Kept	Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool						30							37	67	10
Chinook						29							29	58	10
Coho															
Steelhead						1							8	9	
John Day Pool						20							30	50	6
Chinook						18							28	46	6
Coho															
Steelhead						2							2	4	
Walleye															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept				Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept				2016 Cum Leg Kept	2016 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool						14							2216	2230	
John Day Pool						25	53	118	169	262			2254	2279	
Bass															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept				Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept				2016 Cum Leg Kept	2016 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool						2							126	128	
John Day Pool							11	22	419	77			413	413	

<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)	134%	none	131%	71%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.25	none	3.65	22.55
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.22	none	2.22	3.50

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary  
5/23/2016

4:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid									#	Boat	Chinook						
	Bank	Kept	Chinook			Steelhead			Kept			Boat	Kept	Released		Steelhead		
May 20-22 2016	Sec.	Anglers	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other	Boats	Anglers	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other
Bonneville	1	288	39	7	16	3	0	0	0	6	12	3	0	1	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	10	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	19	36	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	43	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	65	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	46	97	9	0	3	0	0	0	7
Woodland	5	73	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	17	36	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	60	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									3	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Longview	8	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	111	7	0	2	0	14	0	0
Cathlamet	9	28	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	8	17	1	0	0	0	3	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10	10	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	11	2	0	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Total</b>		608	45	8	18	3	6	1	0	179	371	25	0	11	0	19	0	10

	Sec.	Bank	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals	#	Boat	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals
Bonneville	1											CLOSED
Camas/Washougal	2											CLOSED
	3											CLOSED
Vancouver	4	2	1	1	0	CLOSED						CLOSED
Woodland	5					CLOSED						CLOSED
Kalama	6					CLOSED						CLOSED
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED						CLOSED
Longview	8					CLOSED						CLOSED
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED						CLOSED
	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED						CLOSED
<b>Total</b>		2	1	1	0	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0	CLOSED

	Sec.	Bank	Kept	Rel.	#	Boat	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1	60	51	0		2	5	40
Camas/Washougal	2	11	9	0				
	3							
Vancouver	4					1	2	0
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8					2	4	52
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
<b>Total</b>		71	60	0		5	11	92

	Sec.	Bank	Kept	Rel.	#	Boat	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2	1	0	0		1	1	0
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5					2	5	12
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
<b>Total</b>		1	0	0		3	6	12

Washington lower Columbia tributaries salmonid sport sampling summaries - May 16-22.

Area	Bank <u>Rods</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		<u>Other</u>	Boat <u>Rods</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		<u>Other</u>
		<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>			<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>			
Cowlitz River	189	23	11	0	0	3	0	12 sturg. rel.	69	14	0	0	0	1	2	0
East Fork Lewis River	9	CLOSED	CLOSED	0	0	0	0	0		CLOSED	CLOSED					
Kalama River	92	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	19	1	0	0	0	2	1	0
Wind River (mouth)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wind River (gorge)	17	1	0	1	0	0	0	0								
Drano Lake	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	140	15	2	0	0	2	0	0
Klickitat River	44	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

River Section	Boats	Anglers	Adult Spring Chinook Kept			CHS Rel'd	STS Kept	STS Rel
			Lower R	Upper R	Total			
1	217	539	3	49	52	82	0	0
2	1066	2231	3	61	64	89	0	0
3	612	1371	2	44	46	44	0	3
4	764	1622	20	70	90	37	0	0
5	369	917	7	24	31	31	0	0
6	353	846	5	19	24	24	19	5
7	240	567	4	13	17	13	35	4
8	618	1259	10	36	46	10	78	3
9	252	587	9	31	40	40	17	3
10 priv.	278	611	12	43	55	14	14	0
10 chart.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Boat Total</b>	<b>4769</b>	<b>10550</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>18</b>

May 13-15, and 20-22, 2016 In-season Spring Chinook Catch Estimate 1/

River Section	OR Bank	Anglers	Adult Spring Chinook Kept			CHS Rel'd	STS Kept	STS Rel
			Lower R Chs	Upper R Chs	Total Chs			
1		387	12	57	69	45	4	0
2		23	0	0	0	0	0	0
3		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4		372	0	0	0	10	0	0
5		143	0	0	0	0	0	0
6		9	0	0	0	0	0	0
7		447	7	7	14	14	29	7
8		500	0	0	0	0	73	0
9		161	3	3	6	0	6	0
10		26	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>OR Bk Total</b>		<b>2068</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>7</b>

May 13-15, and 20-22, 2016 In-season Spring Chinook Catch Estimate 1/

River Section	Wa Bank	Anglers	Adult Spring Chinook Kept			CHS Rel'd	STS Kept	STS Rel
			Lower R Chs	Upper R Chs	Total Chs			
1		1242	0	232	232	119	3	0
2		41	0	0	0	12	0	0
3		113	0	0	0	0	0	0
4		251	2	5	7	0	7	0
5		275	1	2	3	0	12	3
6		317	2	5	7	0	7	0
7		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8		339	0	0	0	0	18	0
9		125	2	4	6	0	9	0
10		53	0	0	0	0	5	0
<b>WA Bk Total</b>		<b>2756</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>3</b>

Season Totals

	Anglers	Adult Spring Chinook Kept			CHS Rel'd	Sthd Kept	Sthd Rel
		Lower R	Upper R	Total			
May 13-22 Preliminary	15374	104	705	809	584	336	28
Feb-Apr 8 Prelim	85626	2789	7325	10114	1674	523	373
<b>Grand Total (Prelim.)</b>	<b>101000</b>	<b>2893</b>	<b>8030</b>	<b>10923</b>	<b>2258</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>401</b>
May above KP	5947	20	443	463	391	7	3