

## **Creel Survey**

**February 8, 2010**

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### **Salmon/Steelhead**

**Cowlitz River** – 33 bank anglers kept 5 steelhead and released 2. Sixteen boat anglers kept 4 steelhead and released 1. The steelhead were caught at Blue Creek. The anglers who permanently use a wheelchair are doing really well at the outfall structure at the Cowlitz Trout Hatchery.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 42 winter-run steelhead and two coho adults during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator. During the week Tacoma Power employees released six winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton and eleven winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa behind Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,850 cubic feet per second on Monday, February 8. Water visibility is ten feet.

**Lower Columbia from the mouth to the I-5 Bridge** – Near Kalama 6 bank anglers as well as 3 boats/5 anglers had no catch. With the spring like weather and reports of a few spring Chinook being caught, effort increased last weekend with 53 boats and nearly 100 bank anglers counted during the Saturday Feb. 6 flight.

**Bonneville Pool** – No effort observed for steelhead.

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers averaged over 2 steelhead per rod while bank anglers averaged one per every 2 rods. However, over three-quarters of the fish caught were wild and had to be released.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers averaged over a steelhead per rod. Bank anglers were also catching some fish. Nearly two-thirds of the fish caught were hatchery fish.

### **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia from the Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam** – 5 boats/10 anglers near Kalama kept 2 legals and released 11 sublegals. Near Woodland 3 boats/7 anglers had no catch. During the Saturday Feb. 6 flight, sixty six boats and 27 bank anglers were counted.

**Lower Columbia from the mouth to Bonneville Dam** – In January 2010, an estimated 1,750 angler trips produced a measly 25 keepers.

**Bonneville Pool** – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just under a legal per rod. Bank anglers are also catching some legals. Through January 2010, an estimated 390 (28%) of the 1,400 fish guideline had been taken.

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers caught some legals; fishing from the bank was slow. An estimated 87 (29%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken through January 2010.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers averaged a legal per every 9 anglers when including fish released. Fishing from the bank was slow. Through January 2010, an estimated 41 (25%) of the 165 fish guideline had been taken.

### **Walleye and Bass**

**Bonneville Pool** – No effort was observed for either species.

**The Dalles and John Day pools** – Boat anglers in both pools averaged better than a walleye kept/released per every 3 rods. No effort was observed for bass.

## **Trout**

**Mayfield Lake** – Good catches of trout.

**Silver Lake near Castle Rock** – No report on angling success. Planted with 1,811 catchable size rainbows Feb. 1.

**Kress Lake near Kalama** – High effort and good catches.

**Horseshoe Lake near Woodland** – Low effort but excellent catches. Some anglers were catching their limits in under an hour. Planted with 2,150 catchable size rainbows Feb. 2.

**Battleground Lake** – Average effort but low catch. Only a few of the steelhead were reported caught. Planted with 35 cutthroats averaging 1.5 pounds each Feb. 3.

**Lacamas and Vancouver lakes** – No effort.

## **Smelt**

**Cowlitz sport** – Last Saturday was a bust with no smelt observed caught. No smelt were reported caught during last Wednesday's or last night's commercial fisheries.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Guidelines:	%	As of
Bonneville	390									1,400	28%	Jan. 31
The Dalles	87									300	29%	Jan. 31
John Day	41									165	25%	Jan. 31

  

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep			
Bonneville	34	31										Feb. 7
The Dalles	20	3										Feb. 7
John Day	4	9										Feb. 7

Harvest estimates are updated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

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

February 1 - 7, 2010

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	2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2010 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool	33	21		1		11	20	57	170	18	30	2	54	65
The Dalles Pool	16	1				6	14	31	58		3		17	23
John Day Pool	38	1					44	98	33	2	9	2	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>101</b>

  

Salmonids																
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2010 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool																
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead																
The Dalles Pool	12		7			4	7	18		28	11		23	27		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			7			4				28	11		23	27		
John Day Pool	9		1	1		4	4	7		3	6		6	10		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			1	1		4				3	6		6	10		

  

Walleye														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													2	2
The Dalles Pool							5	11		4			7	7
John Day Pool							14	27	2	9			9	9

  

Bass														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool														
John Day Pool														

<sup>1</sup> Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 6-week average)	176%	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.69	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.34	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 6-week average)	88%	222%	287%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.32	1.53	0.36	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	0.37	0.36	none
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	349%	192%	450%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.35	0.69	0.41	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.07	0.44	0.33	none