

Creel Survey

February 14, 2010

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 35 bank anglers kept 2 steelhead; 6 boat anglers had no catch.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 38 winter-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator. During the week Tacoma Power employees released twelve winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton and ten winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,090 cubic feet per second on Tuesday, February 16. Water visibility is nine feet.

Lower Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream – 2 boats/4 anglers near Vancouver had no catch.

A Compact/Joint State Hearing is scheduled for February 18 to consider the 2010 mainstem Columbia recreational spring salmon seasons and modifications to the March-December 2010 lower Columbia mainstem sturgeon recreational fisheries.

Bonneville Pool – No effort for salmonids.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged over 1.5 steelhead per rod. Bank anglers were also catching some fish. Two-thirds of the fish caught were wild and had to be released.

John Day Pool – Boat and bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia from the Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam – 3 boats/4 anglers near Vancouver had no catch as did 2 bank anglers just below Bonneville Dam.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers averaged nearly 0.7 fish per rod when including fish released. Bank anglers averaged one kept/released per every dozen rods. Saturday Feb. 20 is the last day sturgeon may be kept from Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam (including tributaries) for the year.

The Dalles Pool – Slow for legal size fish.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals; slow from the bank.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – Light effort for walleye and no catch was observed. No effort observed for bass.

The Dalles Pool – The few boat anglers sampled averaged 2 walleye kept per rod. Some walleye were also caught by bank anglers. No effort observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged 0.4 walleye kept per rod. Boat anglers were also catching some bass. No bank anglers were found in the sample.

Trout

Kress Lake near Kalama – Planted with 20 surplus hatchery adult winter steelhead averaging 10 pounds each Feb. 8. No report on angling success.

Klineline Pond and Battleground Lake – Both were planted with 1,500 half-pound rainbows Feb. 8. No report on angling success.

Smelt

Cowlitz River – Lower numbers of smelt were confirmed caught during last Saturday's (Feb. 13) sport fishery. If you were around the Kelso Bridge, had waders and a long-handle pole plus a good back and a few hours, some fishers were able to get up to a few pounds of smelt. Most of the dips were zeros with an occasional ones and twos. Most of the fish caught were smaller, mature males.

Open only Saturdays Feb. 20 and 27 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Daily and possession limit 10 pounds (about ¼ of a five-gallon bucket) per person.

Mainstem Columbia from the mouth to Bonneville Dam – No reports on any sport dipping success. Through March 31, open 7 days/week, 24-hours/day. Daily and possession limit 10 pounds per person.

All other Washington Columbia River tributaries – Remain closed.

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	70										Feb. 14
The Dalles	20	3										Feb. 14
John Day	4	12										Feb. 14

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 ¹

February 8 - 14, 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	62	43	1	4	1	15	22	60	297	6	35	1	89	104
The Dalles Pool	40	2				6	11	24	37				17	23
John Day Pool	25						34	66	28		3	3	16	16
Total	127	45	1	4	1	21	67	150	362	6	38	4	122	143

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	4			1		5	6	11		12	3	2	26	31		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead				1		5				12	3	2	26	31		
John Day Pool	14		1			4	3	5		2	1		7	11		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			1			4				2	1		7	11		

Walleye

Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2010 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool					1	1			2
The Dalles Pool	4		1	1	4	8		16	23
John Day Pool					17	41		16	25

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					1	2	2	3	3

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 6-week average)	171%	none	67%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	3.18	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.32	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 6-week average)	110%	106%	206%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.61	1.20	1.42	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.27	1.42	none
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	168%	165%	319%	600%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.37	0.21	0.39	2.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	0.05	0.39	1.50