

Creel Survey

February 28, 2010

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Abernathy, Cedar (Clark Co.), Germany, Mill (Cowlitz Co.), Rock (Skamania Co.), Salmon (Clark Co.) creeks and Coweeman, Elochoman, Grays, East Fork Lewis, and Washougal rivers – March 15 is the last day to fish for steelhead.

Cowlitz River – 18 bank anglers kept 1 steelhead.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 47 winter-run steelhead and one spring chinook adult 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.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,150 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 1. Water visibility is nine feet.

Wind River and Drano Lake - The lower Wind and Drano Lake will open as scheduled Tuesday March 16. The daily limit will be the same as last year - 2 hatchery chinook or hatchery steelhead or one of each. The upper Wind will open May 1. Expect slow fishing until the fish begin crossing Bonneville Dam in larger numbers.

Lower Columbia mainstem from the I-5 Bridge downstream - Boat anglers below the mouth of the Willamette are catching a few spring Chinook. The three fish we sampled from there were all lower river stock based upon Visual Stock identification.

Just over 300 boats and nearly 250 bank anglers were counted during last Saturday (Feb. 27) flight. The boat count was twice as large as last year. The bank angle count was similar to last year.

Water conditions are good – 110,200 cfs., 43 degrees, and 7 feet of visibility at Bonneville Dam yesterday. The only thing missing is spring Chinook – only 3 fish had been counted through Feb. 26 and those were from early January.

The Dalles Pool – Bank and boat anglers are catching steelhead.

John Day Pool – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead. Light effort and no catch observed from boats.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Effort and catch continues to be low. No legals were found in the sample. Around 50 boats and 50 bank anglers were counted during the flight.

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

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some walleye. No catch observed from the bank. No effort observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged a bass per rod and a walleye per every three rods when including fish released.No effort observed from the bank.

Trout

Kress Lake near Kalama – No report on angling success.Planted with 16 surplus hatchery adult winter run steelhead averaging ten pounds each Feb. 22.

Klineline Pond – 26 bank anglers kept 42 rainbows and released 5.Planted with 2,300 half-pound rainbows Feb. 22.

Battleground Lake – Planted with 1,000 half-pound rainbows Feb. 22.No report on angling success.

Smelt

Cowlitz River – No smelt observed or reported caught last Saturday (Feb. 27).It was the last day the Cowlitz was open to fishing for smelt.

Mainstem Columbia from the mouth to Bonneville Dam – Through March 31, open 7 days/week, 24-hours /day.Daily and possession limit 10 pounds per person.

All other Washington rivers – Closed to fishing for eulachon smelt

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville	390	1005								1,395	99.6%	Feb. 20	1,400
The Dalles	87									87	29.0%	Jan. 31	300
John Day	41									41	24.8%	Jan. 31	165

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep		
Bonneville	34	103								137	Feb. 20
The Dalles	20	6								26	Feb. 28
John Day	4	27								31	Feb. 28

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 22 - 28, 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						15							122	137
The Dalles Pool	27	1				6	6	11	4			1	20	26
John Day Pool	25						44	99	35		5		31	31
Total	52	1				21	50	110	39		5	1	173	194

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	7			1	1	7	4	4		3			27	34		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead				1	1	7				3			27	34		
John Day Pool	16		1			4	3	7					7	11		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			1			4							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									3
The Dalles Pool	4			2	5	10	1	5	40
John Day Pool					17	36		12	38

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					2	4	5		3

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% 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 (% of 6-week average)	71%	69%	111%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.16	0.45	0.43	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.09	0.36	none
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	141%	145%	157%	400%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.32	0.04	0.33	1.25
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	0.33	none

Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

03/01/2010

noon

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Chinook			Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook			Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Other	
			Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults						Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults				Released Jacks
Bonneville	1		CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED					CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED			
Camas/Washougal	2		CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED					CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED			
	3							13	29		0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Vancouver	4							15	34		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	14	0	0	0	0	0	19	50	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	16	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7							2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9																
private boats/bank charter	10																
Total		19	0	0	0	0	0	71	171	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	

Sturgeon

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept
Camas/Washougal	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0
	3											
Vancouver	4											
Woodland	5											
Kalama	6						2	6	1	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8											
Cathlamet	9											
charter	10											
Cathlamet	10											
Total		16	0	0	0	0	5	13	1	0	0	0

Walleye

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Camas/Washougal	2							
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0