

Creel Survey

January 31, 2010

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success is currently available. Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 44 winter-run steelhead, five coho adults and one jack during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator. During the week Tacoma Power employees released five winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton and eleven winter-run steelhead and one coho jack into Lake Scanewa behind Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 7,850 cubic feet per second on Monday, February 1. Water visibility is ten feet.

Salmon Creek (Clark County) – High effort but no steelhead were caught.

Bonneville Pool - No effort was observed.

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, bank and boat anglers averaged 1.5 and 1.0 steelhead per rod, respectively. However, 70% of the fish caught were wild that had to be released.

John Day Pool – Generally light effort and no catch was observed for walleye. No effort observed for bass.

Ringold – From Paul Hoffarth, Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco: Weather in the Tri-cities was warmer than usual for much of January. Angler effort and harvest picked up. An estimated 417 steelhead were caught in January but only 169 of the steelhead were harvested. The number of unmarked steelhead in the fishery increased this year and in January 190 of these unmarked steelhead were caught and released. Based on the percentage of adipose absent steelhead returning to the Ringold Hatchery, 86 of the 190 steelhead caught were hatchery origin but the percentage was likely much higher as these fish are returned to the fishery and the adipose clipped steelhead are retained.

The January 2010 catch and harvest was higher than any of the past six years and the remainder of the fishery should follow this pattern of slightly above normal catch and harvest. Boat anglers averaged 8.3 hours per fish in December with bank anglers a bit behind at roughly 12 hours of angling per steelhead.

For the season, 3,675 steelhead have been caught with 2,432 harvested. An estimated 242 wild steelhead (6.6% of the catch) have been caught and released during the fishery through January.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia from the Wauna powerlines to Bonneville Dam – 5 bank anglers near Longview had no catch. 6 boats/16 anglers in the Kalama area released 7 sublegals. 5 boats/8 anglers around Vancouver released 1 sublegal.

Bonneville Pool – Slower last week with boat anglers averaging a legal per every 9 rods. No legal size fish were observed caught by bank anglers.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers are catching some legals; slow from the bank.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville and The Dalles pools – The few boat anglers sampled had kept some walleye. No effort observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Light effort and no catch was observed.

Trout

Klineline Pond – 106 bank anglers kept 123 catchable size and 10 brood stock rainbows and released 106 catchable size and 3 brooders. Planted with 4,500 catchables up to 1/2 pound each Jan. 25 and 27.

Silver Lake near Castle Rock – No effort.

Lake Sacajawea in Longview – No report on angling effort or success. Planted with 3,027 catchable size rainbows Jan. 26.

Kress Lake near Kalama – Good effort and good catches of rainbows.

Horseshoe Lake in Woodland – No effort.

Battleground Lake – Average effort but no catch. Planted with 1,500 catchable size rainbows and 150 surplus hatchery adult steelhead averaging nearly 8 pounds each Jan. 25.

Vancouver Lake – Low effort and no catch.

Lacamas Lake near Camas – Average effort; some rainbows are being caught.

Spearfish Lake near Dallesport – Planted with 37 brood stock rainbows averaging 4 pounds each Jan. 25.

Rowland Lake near Lyle – Planted with 60 brood stock rainbows averaging 4 pounds each Jan. 25.

Smelt

Lower Columbia mainstem – Commercial smelt fishers have landed a total of about 2,702 lbs so far this January 2010, with the bulk of the landings coming from Thursday January 21st (nearly 2,000 lbs). Success dropped this past week with a total of about 261 lbs landed during Week 5 (January 25th and 28th fishing periods). No smelt were landed during December 2009.

Conditions are just right with water temps in the lower river being at/or just over 41 F. Mainstem commercial seasons were set for Mondays and Thursdays from 7am to 2pm (7 hours) each week from January through March.

Through March 31, mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam sport dipping is open 7 days/week, 24-hours /day. Daily and possession limit 10 pounds per person.

Washington tributaries – There were confirmed reports of smelt in the lower Grays the middle of last week and the lower Cowlitz last Friday. However, there were little signs of bird activity on the lower portions of both rivers yesterday. In addition, there were few seals in the mainstem Columbia near Longview.

Cowlitz River – Open only Saturdays Feb. 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Daily and possession limit 10 pounds per person.

All other Washington Columbia River tributaries remain closed.

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

January 25 - 31, 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	23	3				10	14	36	113		4	2	24	34
The Dalles Pool	30	1				6	14	34	45		2		14	20
John Day Pool	10						14	28	21	1	3	1	3	3
Total	63	4				16	42	98	179	1	9	3	41	57

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	8		8	4		4	8	19		14	5		12	16		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			8	4		4				14	5		12	16		
John Day Pool	7					3								3		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead						3								3		

Walleye

Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2010 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool					1	2		2	2
The Dalles Pool					3	8		1	3
John Day Pool					3	7			

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 Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 5-week average)	137%	none	125%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.07	none	1.00	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.07	none	1.00	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 5-week average)	118%	265%	333%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.75	1.15	0.13	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	0.33	0.13	none
John Day	Effort (% of 5-week average)	194%	103%	389%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.68	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.08	none	none	none

BANK		Monday 25-Jan		Tuesday 26-Jan		Wednesday 27-Jan		Thursday 28-Jan		Friday 29-Jan		Saturday 30-Jan		Sunday 31-Jan	
Section	Area	No. Caught	No. Rods												
1	Bonneville	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
2	Troutdale	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
3	Portland	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
4	Sauvie Island	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
5	St. Helens	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
6	Goble	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
7	Rainier	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
8	Longview	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													
9	Westport	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd													

BOAT		Monday 25-Jan		Tuesday 26-Jan		Wednesday 27-Jan		Thursday 28-Jan		Friday 29-Jan		Saturday 30-Jan		Sunday 31-Jan	
Section	Area	No. Caught	No. Boats	No. Caught	No. Boats	No. Caught	No. Boats								
1	Bonneville	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
2	Troutdale	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
3	Portland	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		0 Sturgeon 0 Salmon/Sthd 0 Walleye	6 1	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
4	Sauvie Island	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		0 Sturgeon 0 Salmon/Sthd 0 Walleye	12	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
5	St. Helens	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		0 Sturgeon 0 Salmon/Sthd 0 Walleye	15 1	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
6	Goble/Kalama	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		1 Sturgeon 0 Salmon/Sthd 0 Walleye	14 2	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
7	Rainier	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		0 Sturgeon 0 Salmon/Sthd 0 Walleye	7	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
8	Clatskanie	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		0 Sturgeon 0 Salmon/Sthd 0 Walleye	4 1	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									
9	Westport	Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye		Sturgeon Salmon/Sthd Walleye									

Salmon/Sthd = adults and jacks, kept and released fish

Sturgeon = legal size kept and released fish

Walleye = kept and released fish