

Creel Survey

March 8, 2010

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 18 boat anglers kept 8 steelhead and released one. 19 bank anglers kept 1 steelhead.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 132 winter-run steelhead, one spring Chinook adult and one cutthroat trout during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator. During the week Tacoma Power employees released 14 winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton and 28 winter-run steelhead and one spring Chinook adult into Lake Scanewa behind Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,050 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 8. Water visibility is ten feet.

Lewis River – On the North Fork, 13 bank anglers kept 1 steelhead. 2 boat anglers had no catch. Flows below Merwin Dam were 2,735 cfs today, less than one-half of the long term mean of 6,130 cfs for this date.

Wind River from mouth (boundary line/markers) to 400 feet below Shipherd Falls and Drano Lake open to fishing for hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead beginning next Tuesday March 16. However, only 8 chinook crossed Bonneville Dam from January 1 through March 5. Expect fishing to be slow until more fish pass the dam.

The anti-snag rule has been rescinded during the spring season on the Wind River from the Burlington-Northern Railroad Bridge downstream and at Drano Lake.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 1,013 boat anglers (471 boats) with 31 chinook and 3 steelhead. In addition, we sampled 324 bank anglers with 0 chinook and 3 steelhead. Overall, 87% of the Chinook and 83% of the steelhead caught were kept. Of the 26 chinook sampled, 81% were lower river stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

Effort was high with nearly 800 boats and 500 bank anglers counted during last Saturday's March 6 flight.

From Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge, fishing for hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead, and shad is closed on Tuesdays through March 30. From the I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam, fishing for hatchery salmon, hatchery steelhead, and shad is closed for one day, Tuesday March 9. From March 15-April 3, the section from the I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam will be open only Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

The Dalles Pool – Including steelhead released, boat anglers averaged just over a fish per rod while one in three bank anglers had caught a fish. However, over two-thirds of the steelhead caught were wild and had to be released.

Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam opens to fishing for hatchery chinook, hatchery steelhead, and shad beginning March 16. Daily salmonid limit will be 6 fish (hatchery chinook or hatchery steelhead), of which no more than 2 may be hatchery adult chinook or hatchery steelhead or one of each.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Boat anglers in the gorge and near the mouth of the Cowlitz were catching some legals; slow elsewhere.

Effort remains fairly light with 72 boats and 56 bank anglers counted during last Saturday's flight.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals; slow fishing from the bank. Through February, an estimated 121 fish (40.3%) of the guideline had been taken.

Sturgeon may be retained daily until The Dalles Pool guideline is met. The daily limit is 1 fish, minimum size 43" fork length and maximum size 54" fork length.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat and bank anglers averaged just over a walleye per rod when including fish released. No effort was observed for bass.

Trout

Kress Lake near Kalama – Planted with 12 surplus hatchery winter steelhead averaging ten pounds each March 1.

Battleground Lake – Planted with 3,000 rainbows averaging over one-half pound each March 8.

Klineline Pond – 59 bank anglers kept 79 rainbows. All the fish were caught on bait by anglers fishing in the swimming area. Planted with 1,500 rainbows averaging over one-half pounds each March 1.

Lacamas Lake near Camas – Planted with 4,200 rainbows averaging over one-half pound each March 1.

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	34								121	40.3%	Feb. 28	300
John Day	41	118								159	96.4%	Feb. 28	165

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep				
Bonneville	34	103								137		Feb. 20 ¹	
The Dalles	20	6	1							27		Mar. 7	
John Day	4	27								31		Feb. 28 ¹	

¹ Pool closed to sturgeon retention.

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 summary¹

March 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						15							122	137	
The Dalles Pool	23					6	13	27	35		1	1	21	27	
John Day Pool													31	31	
Total	23					21	13	27	35		1	1	174	195	

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	19		6			7	5	11		7	6		33	40	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead			6			7				7	6		33	40	
John Day Pool						4							7	11	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead						4							7	11	

Walleye															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													3	3	
The Dalles Pool	5	2	2			4	11	23	6	21			61	65	
John Day Pool													38	38	

Bass															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2010 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool															
John Day Pool													3	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)	88%	145%	165%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.74	0.63	1.11	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	0.20	0.82	none
John Day	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

Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

03/08/2010

noon

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook		Steelhead			Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook		Steelhead			Other
				Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.					Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	
Bonneville	1	42	0	0	0	1	0	0										
Camas/Washougal	2																	
	3																	
Vancouver	4	58	0	0	0	1	0	0										
Woodland	5	97	0	0	0	0	0	0										
Kalama	6	40	0	0	0	0	0	0										
Cowlitz	7																	
Longview	8	32	0	0	0	0	0	0										
Cathlamet	9	55	0	0	0	0	1	0										
private boats/bank charter	10																	
Total		324	0	0	0	2	1	0		471	1013	27	0	4	0	3	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	8	1	0	0	0	7	14	3	0	2	1
	3						3	6	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4						2	3	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0
Kalama	6	1	0	0	0	0	5	9	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7						3	9	43	0	0	1
Longview	8						3	7	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet charter	9											
Cathlamet	10											
Total		14	1	0	0	0	24	49	48	0	2	2

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