

Creel Survey

January 24, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Last week Tacoma Power recovered 601 coho adults, five jacks and 120 winter-run steelhead during four days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 370 coho adults, two jacks and 21 winter-run steelhead into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek and 52 coho adults, one jack and nine winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam will rise to approximately 16,900 cubic feet per second on Monday, January 24. Water visibility is one foot.

Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools – Light effort and no steelhead were found in the creel.

From Paul Hoffarth, Washington Dept of Fish & Wildlife District 4 Fish Biologist:

Lower Reach (Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco to old Hanford town site): An estimated 118 steelhead were caught and 96 steelhead were harvested in January. Anglers are averaging 1 steelhead for each 17 hours of fishing. Boat anglers have fared just slightly better than the shore anglers. A total of 1,128 steelhead have been caught this season and 785 steelhead have been harvested. WDFW staff has sampled 26% of the estimated angler effort in this fishery. Catch and harvest numbers are well below the 2008 and 2009 fisheries but similar to those of 2004-07.

Upper Reach (Vernita Bridge to Priest Rapids Dam): On December 8, WDFW opened the Columbia River from the Hwy. 24 Bridge (Vernita Bridge) to Priest Rapids Dam for the retention of hatchery steelhead. This is the first time this area has been open in the winter for steelhead in many years. For the month of January, 90 steelhead have been caught and 46 hatchery steelhead have been harvested. Angler effort has been relatively light. Very few anglers are fishing from shore for steelhead. For those who venture out fishing has been very good with boat anglers averaging 1 steelhead for each 5 hours of fishing. An estimated 236 steelhead have been caught in this fishery with 50 hatchery steelhead harvested through January 23.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – We sampled 3 bank anglers just below Bonneville Dam that had no catch.

Bonneville Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged a legal per every 2 rods while bank anglers averaged one per every 5.8 rods.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged a legal per every 4 rods. Slow for legal size fish from the bank.

John Day Pool – Boat and bank anglers averaged a legal per about every 10 rods.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville and The Dalles pools – No walleye or bass anglers were found in the creel.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged almost a walleye per rod. Light effort and no catch observed for bass.

Trout

Klineline Pond – 13 bank anglers kept 3 rainbows.

Carlisle Lake near Onalaska – Planted with 60 eight pounders Jan. 19.

Silver Lake near Castle Rock – Planted with 3,001 catchable size rainbows Jan. 18.

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

January 17 - 23, 2011

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	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool	87	36	2	13		13	45	138	196	6	63		74	87
The Dalles Pool	11	7			2	2	4	12	9		3	2	7	9
John Day Pool	98	13		9		9	48	105	29		11		15	24
Total	196	56	2	22	2	24	97	255	234	6	77	2	96	120

Salmonids	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Jacks Kept Cum
Bonneville Pool							1	2					2	2		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead													2	2		
The Dalles Pool						6	1	1						6		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead						6								6		
John Day Pool	3						1	2					5	5		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead													5	5		

Walleye	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2011 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool									
The Dalles Pool									
John Day Pool					6	12		11	13

Bass	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2011 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool									
The Dalles Pool									
John Day Pool	1								

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 4-week average)	300%	200%	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.40	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.34	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 4-week average)	35%	10%	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.00	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.13	none	none	none
John Day	Effort (% of 4-week average)	174%	71%	218%	400%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.31	none	0.92	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.10	none	0.92	none