

Creel Survey

March 7, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmonid/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching some late winter run steelhead.

Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 56 winter-run steelhead, one spring Chinook adult and one cutthroat trout during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator. During the past week Tacoma Power employees released the spring Chinook adult and 24 steelhead into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek, and seven winter-run steelhead and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 6,640 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 7. A required weekly flow increase to approximately 8,000 cubic feet per second is scheduled for 12-hours on Tuesday, March 8 to promote downstream migration of juvenile salmonid outmigrants in the Cowlitz River. Water visibility is three feet.

Lewis River – Light effort and catches.

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

Wind River and Drano Lake are scheduled to open for spring chinook March 16 with a limit of two chinook per day. Expect fishing to be slow at first with only 17 fish across Bonneville Dam through March 4.

Lower Columbia mainstem from Bonneville Dam downstream – Effort is increasing but success decreased last week. There were close to 500 salmonid boats and 300 bank anglers counted during last Saturday's (March 5) effort flight count.

Last week (excluding Monday Feb. 28) we sampled 1,233 anglers (including 428 boats) with 56 chinook and 4 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept/released per every 17.8 rods based on mainly completed trips. Most of the catch was sampled in the Vancouver area. There was one lucky bank angler out of the 255 sampled that had caught a spring Chinook.

Forty-five (80%) of the Chinook caught were kept. 96% of the Chinook kept were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

The Dalles Pool – No salmonid anglers were sampled last week.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching steelhead.

Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border – Effective March 16 through April 24, open to fishing for hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead, and shad. Bank fishing only from Bonneville Dam to Tower Island powerlines located about 6 miles below The Dalles Dam. Up to 2 adult Chinook or steelhead or one of each may be retained per day. Only hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead may be retained.

Expect fishing to be slow at first with only 17 fish across Bonneville Dam through March 4.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - One lucky boat angler in the Vancouver area had caught a legal size fish. The majority of the sturgeon effort (nearly 400 boats) was found in the Willamette River during last Saturday's effort flight count.

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and no catch was observed.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged about a walleye per boat. Little to no effort for bass in any of the three pools.

Trout

Klineline Pond – Slow for trout.

Plants of rainbows in SW Washington waters since March 1:

- Lake Sacajawea in Longview – 4,311 catchable size fish March 1.
- Battleground Lake – 3,209 catchable size fish March 2.
- Lacamas Lake near Camas – 4,000 over half-pound fish March 1.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	1040									1,040	52.0%	Jan. 31	2,000
The Dalles	65									65	21.7%	Jan. 31	300
John Day	187									187	37.4%	Jan. 31	500

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	As of
Bonneville ¹	145	71								216	Feb. 18
The Dalles	11	1								12	Mar. 6
John Day	37	10	2							49	Mar. 6

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 summary ¹

February 28 - March 6, 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						18							198	216
The Dalles Pool	8					2	1	2					10	12
John Day Pool	23	1				10	33	62	14		2	1	39	49
Total	31	1				30	34	64	14		2	1	247	277

Salmonids

Reservoir	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	Cum
Bonneville Pool													2	2		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead													2	2		
The Dalles Pool						9							8	17		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead						9							8	17		
John Day Pool	1					5	2	4		6	2	2	8	13		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead						5				6	2	2	8	13		

Walleye

Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2011 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool					2			2	2
The Dalles Pool				1	6	7	3	4	33
John Day Pool					20	40	4	18	80

Bass

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

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	600%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 6-week average)	31%	none	81%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	1.00	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	0.57	none
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	100%	52%	189%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.21	2.00	0.55	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	0.40	0.45	none

Lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
 03/07/2011
 noon

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead			Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook			Steelhead		
				Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Jacks					Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other	
March 1-6	1	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bonneville	2	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Camas/Washougal	3									202	477	37	0	8	0	1	0	0	
Vancouver	4	96	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	133	298	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	
Woodland	5	59	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	55	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kalama	6	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cowlitz	7									2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longview	8	32	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	29	62	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	
Cathlamet	9	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
private boats/bank charter	10									2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Total	10	255	1	0	0	0	1	2	0	428	978	44	0	11	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											
	3	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1
Vancouver	4						4	8	18	0	0	0
Woodland	5	2	0	0	0	0	2	4	6	0	0	0
Kalama	6						6	11	3	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7						2	6	1	0	0	0
Longview	8	1	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9											
charter	10											
Cathlamet	10											
Total	10	4	0	0	0	0	17	37	28	0	0	1

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	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Washington lower Columbia tributaries salmonid sport sampling summaries - March 1-6.

Area	Bank <u>Anglers</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		Other	Boat <u>Anglers</u>	Chinook Kept		Chinook Rel.		Steelhead		Other
		<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>			<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>			
Cowlitz River	23	0	0	0	0	1	3	2 cutts rel.	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lewis River mainstem	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0								
North Fork	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - March 1-6

<u>Area</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Catch</u>
Klinline Pond	17 bank	with no catch.