

# Creel Survey

March 29, 2011

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## Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – No report on angling success. Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 284 winter-run steelhead and one spring Chinook salmon during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 37 steelhead and one spring Chinook adult into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek, and they released seven winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, Washington.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 6,000 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 28. A flow increase to promote downstream migration of juvenile salmonid outmigrants in the Cowlitz River will occur during the week. Water visibility is four feet.

**Kalama River** – 26 bank anglers kept 2 steelhead and released 3. Four boat anglers kept 1 steelhead.

**Lewis River** – 7 bank anglers near the salmon hatchery had no catch.

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Overall catches improved from Cathlamet to Longview but have since slowed in the Vancouver area.

Last week we sampled 3,967 anglers (including 1,327 boats) with 336 chinook and 26 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept/released per every 9.4 rods based on mainly completed trips. Bank anglers did better for steelhead than chinook.

Two hundred sixty-one (78%) of the Chinook caught were kept. We sampled 183 (70%) of the fish kept. One hundred sixty-nine (92%) were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

Sixteen (62%) of the steelhead caught were kept.

**The Dalles Pool** – Bank anglers are catching some chinook and steelhead.

**John Day Pool** – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

## Sturgeon

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Some of the best fishing of the season for keepers from Camas to Kalama.

**The Dalles Pool** – Bank anglers are catching some legal.

**John Day Pool** – Fishing has improved for bank and boat anglers.

## Walleye

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers averaged 1.5 walleye per rod when including fish released. Fishing for bass was slow for the small number of boat anglers sampled.

**John Day Pool** – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged ½ walleye per rod. No effort was observed for bass.

## Trout

**Klineline Pond** – 76 bank anglers kept 63 rainbows and 49 browns plus released 185 rainbows/browns last week. Planted with 6,160 rainbows and 3,000 browns.

**Horseshoe Lake in Woodland** – Planted with 10,082 catchable size rainbows March 21-22. No reports on angling success.

| Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates: |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  | Totals: | %     | As of   | Guidelines: |
|-------------------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|---------|-------|---------|-------------|
|                                     | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |  |         |       |         |             |
| Bonneville <sup>1</sup>             | 1040 | 587 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  | 1,627   | 81.4% | Feb. 28 | 2,000       |
| The Dalles                          | 65   | 6   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  | 71      | 23.7% | Feb. 28 | 300         |
| John Day                            | 187  | 90  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  | 277     | 55.4% | Feb. 28 | 500         |

  

| Current month sampled sturgeon kept: |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  |     |        |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|--------|
|                                      | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |  |     |        |
| Bonneville <sup>1</sup>              | 145 | 71  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  | 216 | Mar.27 |
| The Dalles                           | 11  | 1   | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |     |  | 14  | Mar.27 |
| John Day                             | 37  | 10  | 27  |     |     |     |     |     |     |  | 74  | Mar.27 |

<sup>1</sup> Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention Feb 18.

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 <sup>1</sup>

March 21 - 27, 2011

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

| Sturgeon        |              |      |         |          |           |                   |       |              |      |         |          |           |                   | Combined |          |
|-----------------|--------------|------|---------|----------|-----------|-------------------|-------|--------------|------|---------|----------|-----------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| 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 | Leg Kept | Leg Kept |
| Bonneville Pool |              |      |         |          |           | 18                |       |              |      |         |          |           | 198               | 216      |          |
| The Dalles Pool | 24           | 3    |         | 1        |           | 4                 | 8     | 18           | 26   |         |          |           | 10                | 14       |          |
| John Day Pool   | 86           | 6    |         | 3        |           | 13                | 34    | 81           | 29   | 1       | 18       | 1         | 61                | 74       |          |
| Total           | 110          | 9    |         | 4        |           | 35                | 42    | 99           | 55   | 1       | 18       | 1         | 269               | 304      |          |

  

| Salmonids       |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         |                   | Jacks Kept | Week     | Cum      |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------------------|-------|--------------|-----------|----------|----------|---------|-------------------|------------|----------|----------|
| 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 | Leg Kept   | Leg Kept | Leg Kept |
| Bonneville Pool |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         | 2                 | 2          |          |          |
| Chinook         |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         |                   |            |          |          |
| Coho            |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         |                   |            |          |          |
| Steelhead       |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         | 2                 | 2          |          |          |
| The Dalles Pool | 35           |           | 2        | 2        |         | 12                |       |              |           |          |          |         | 8                 | 20         |          |          |
| Chinook         |              |           | 1        | 2        |         | 2                 |       |              |           |          |          |         |                   | 2          |          |          |
| Coho            |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         |                   |            |          |          |
| Steelhead       |              |           | 1        |          |         | 10                |       |              |           |          |          |         | 8                 | 18         |          |          |
| John Day Pool   | 14           |           |          | 1        |         | 7                 |       |              |           |          |          |         | 8                 | 15         |          |          |
| Chinook         |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         |                   |            |          |          |
| Coho            |              |           |          |          |         |                   |       |              |           |          |          |         |                   |            |          |          |
| Steelhead       |              |           |          | 1        |         | 7                 |       |              |           |          |          |         | 8                 | 15         |          |          |

  

| Walleye         |              |     |          |  |  |                   |       |              |     |          |  |  |                   |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|----------|--|--|-------------------|-------|--------------|-----|----------|--|--|-------------------|
| Reservoir       | Bank Anglers | Rel | Leg Kept |  |  | 2011 Cum Leg Kept | Boats | Boat Anglers | Rel | Leg Kept |  |  | 2011 Cum Leg Kept |
| Bonneville Pool |              |     |          |  |  |                   |       |              |     |          |  |  | 5                 |
| The Dalles Pool | 1            |     |          |  |  | 1                 | 36    | 83           | 18  | 107      |  |  | 187               |
| John Day Pool   |              |     |          |  |  |                   | 63    | 131          | 27  | 34       |  |  | 171               |

  

| Bass            |              |     |          |  |  |                   |       |              |     |          |  |  |                   |
|-----------------|--------------|-----|----------|--|--|-------------------|-------|--------------|-----|----------|--|--|-------------------|
| Reservoir       | Bank Anglers | Rel | Leg Kept |  |  | 2011 Cum Leg Kept | Boats | Boat Anglers | Rel | Leg Kept |  |  | 2011 Cum Leg Kept |
| Bonneville Pool |              |     |          |  |  |                   |       |              |     |          |  |  |                   |
| The Dalles Pool |              |     |          |  |  |                   | 4     | 8            |     |          |  |  |                   |
| John Day Pool   |              |     |          |  |  |                   |       |              |     |          |  |  | 1                 |

<sup>1</sup> 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) | 117%     | 236%      | 309%    | 600% |
|            | Catch Per Unit Effort        | 0.71     | 0.11      | 1.49    | none |
|            | Harvest Per Unit Effort      | 0.02     | 0.06      | 1.27    | none |
| John Day   | Effort (% of 6-week average) | 214%     | 168%      | 218%    | none |
|            | Catch Per Unit Effort        | 0.35     | 0.07      | 0.47    | none |
|            | Harvest Per Unit Effort      | 0.13     | 0.07      | 0.26    | none |

