

# Creel Survey

April 2, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

## Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – Anglers are catching steelhead and some spring Chinook throughout the river but mostly around the trout hatchery.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 459 winter-run steelhead and one spring Chinook adult during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 45 winter-run steelhead and one spring Chinook adult at the Day Use Park in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and 29 steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 9,850 cubic feet per second on Monday, April 2.

**Kalama River** – Anglers are catching some steelhead.

**Lewis River** – No catch was sampled but a few spring Chinook have been reported caught.

**Wind River, Drano Lake, Klickitat River** – No effort. Drano Lake and has been turbid; Klickitat at flood stage. The Wind was high but green.

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – During the last week of March we sampled 2,021 salmonid anglers (including 660 boats) with 95 spring Chinook and 9 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept/released per every 17.9 rods based on mainly completed trips while bank anglers averaged one per every 53.4 rods based on primarily incomplete trips.

80 (84%) of the Chinook caught were kept. We sampled 51 (64%) of the Chinook kept. 44 (86%) of the Chinook sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

Not many anglers fishing in these high river flows. Just 276 boats and 439 bank anglers were counted during the Sunday April 1 effort flight count.

Some helpful sites for Columbia River and its tributaries flows and conditions: <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/rfc/>, <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/WA/nwis/current/?type=flow>, <http://columbia.loboviz.com/>, <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/river/station/flowplot/flowplot.cgi?BONO3>, <http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/stp/plot/stp.BONO3.Q1.txt>, [http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14211720](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=14211720), Port of Camas/Washougal web cam at <http://www.portcw.com/>, Port of Stevenson web cam <http://www.portofskamania.org/webcam.htm>,

**A Joint State Hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday April 5 to review sport catches and consider an immediate season extension if possible.**

**The Dalles and John Day pools** – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

## Sturgeon

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – We sampled some legals kept by boat anglers in the Kalama and Longview areas.

**The Dalles Pool** – Light effort and catch.

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

### **Walleye and Bass**

**The Dalles and John Day pools** – Boat anglers in The Dalles Pool averaged more than a walleye per rod when including fish released while those in John Day Pool averaged over ½ walleye per rod. No effort was observed for bass in either pool.



Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville <sup>1</sup>	812	128	closed						940	47.0%	Feb. 17 <sup>2</sup>	2,000
The Dalles	27	0							27	9.0%	Feb. 29	300
John Day	75	63							138	27.6%	Feb. 29	500

<sup>1</sup> Due to the high effort and harvest in Bonneville Pool, we are providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis.

<sup>2</sup> Bonneville Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective February 18. It will re-open during the summer to finish the guideline.

Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	08-Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		
Bonneville	66	20	closed						86	Apr. 1
The Dalles	5	0	1	0					6	Apr. 1
John Day	9	9	19	0					37	Apr. 1

Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

### WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary <sup>1</sup>

March 26 - April 1, 2012

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

<b>Sturgeon</b>															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool						4							82	86	
The Dalles Pool	14	4				4							2	6	
John Day Pool	66	10		1	1	13	9	22	4				24	37	
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4</b>				<b>108</b>	<b>129</b>	
<b>Salmonids</b>															
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept		Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	15		1			10							33	43	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead			1			10							33	43	
John Day Pool	8			1		1							1	2	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead				1		1							1	2	
<b>Walleye</b>															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool													27	27	
The Dalles Pool							7	20	8	20			191	191	
John Day Pool							15	27	2	15			207	207	
<b>Bass</b>															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool													1	1	
The Dalles Pool															
John Day Pool													2	2	

<sup>1</sup> Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % 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 (as a % of 6-week average)	41%	115%	76%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.29	0.07	1.40	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	1.00	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	93%	67%	51%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.18	0.13	0.63	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.01	0.13	0.56	none



Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - March 26-April 1.

No report.