

Creel Survey

February 6, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 13 bank anglers kept 3 steelhead and released 2. Best success seems to be the ADA anglers near Blue Creek boat ramp. No boat anglers were interviewed.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 121 winter-run steelhead, three coho adults, and one cutthroat during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released one coho adult and 10 winter-run steelhead at the Lake Scanewa Day Use Site above Cowlitz Falls Dam and five winter-run steelhead and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 9,020 cubic feet per second on Monday, February 6.

2011 – 2012 Upstream totals

Fall Chinook Adults									
		Upstream Transportation							
Week Ending	Total Returns	Tilton River		Lake Scanewa		Cowlitz @ Packwood		Cispus River	
		Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural
Season to date	16,816	2,233	4,273	4,684	0	1,770	1	1,215	6
6-Feb	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coho Adults									
		Upstream Transportation							
Week Ending	Total Returns	Tilton River		Lake Scanewa		Cowlitz @ Packwood		Cispus River	
		Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural
Season to date	48,318	6,191	2,025	6,845	7,079	4,927	155	1,944	489
6-Feb	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Winter Steelhead Adults									
		Upstream Transportation							
Week Ending	Total Returns	Tilton River		Lake Scanewa		Cowlitz @ Packwood		Cispus River	
		Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural	Hatchery	Natural
Season to date	2,327	0	55	0	79	0	0	0	12
6-Feb	121	0	5	0	10	0	0	0	0

Washougal River – 53 bank anglers kept 3 steelhead and released 1 hatchery and 2 wild fish. 10 boat anglers kept 2 steelhead and released 5 wild fish.

Lower Columbia mainstem from Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge – We didn't sample any fish but staff did observe a springer caught off Caterpillar yesterday. Upriver four-year-old based on Visual Stock Identification.

Quite a few anglers were out prospecting last Saturday. 34 boats and 58 bank anglers were counted during the effort flight count on Feb. 4.

Bonneville Pool – No effort.

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly 2 steelhead per rod while bank anglers averaged one per every 4 rods. About half the fish were kept.

John Day Pool – No catch from the half dozen bank anglers sampled.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – No legals were checked last week.

Some anglers were out sturgeon fishing last Saturday too. 27 boats and 22 bank anglers were counted during the effort flight count.

Bonneville Pool – Fishing was slower last week with boat anglers averaging a legal kept per every 14 rods. Fishing from the bank was even slower.

Through February 5, an estimated 831 legals had been kept. The 2011 guideline was 2,000 fish. The guidelines for 2012 have not been finalized yet.

The Dalles Pool – No legals were sampled last week.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals; fishing was slow from the bank.

Fishery managers from Washington and Oregon are scheduled to assess sturgeon seasons in all three pools Feb. 7.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – The couple boat anglers sampled did well for walleye. No effort was observed for bass.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged a walleye per every 3 rods when including fish released. No effort was observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged about ½ walleye kept per rod. No effort was observed for bass.

Trout

Kress Lake near Kalama – 41 surplus adult hatchery winter steelhead were released there last week. No report on angling success.

Smelt

Lots of birds and seals observed around Cottonwood Island and Kalama on Saturday.

Fishing for **Columbia River smelt** will remain closed in both fresh and saltwater statewide. In 2010, the federal government declared eulachon a “threatened” species under the Endangered Species Act.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	05-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb	26-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines: ¹
Bonneville ²	812	19								831	41.6%	Feb. 5	2,000
The Dalles													300
John Day													500

¹ Guidelines for 2012 have not been finalized yet.

² 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.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	08-Jan	05-Feb	12-Feb	19-Feb	26-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	As of
Bonneville ³	66	7								73	Feb. 5
The Dalles	5	0								5	Feb. 5
John Day	9	3								12	Feb. 5

³ Bonneville weekly sample rate:

February 1-5 bank was 23.6% and boat was 30% of estimated angler trips sampled, with a total of 7 "sampler days", and 2 of 2 weekend/holiday days sampled.

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

January 30 - February 5, 2012

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	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool	56	4				3	39	97	171		7		70	73	
The Dalles Pool	41	3				3	7	19	4				2	5	
John Day Pool	17						17	35	3		3	1	12	12	
Total	114	7				6	63	151	178		10	1	84	90	
Salmonids															
	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	23		2	4		7	6	11		12	8		24	31	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead			2	4		7				12	8		24	31	
John Day Pool	6														
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
Walleye															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool							2	2		9			9	9	
The Dalles Pool							5	15	1	4			4	4	
John Day Pool							8	16		9			9	9	
Bass															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool															
John Day Pool															

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 5-week average)	146%	none	200%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.19	none	4.50	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.05	none	4.50	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 5-week average)	128%	140%	357%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.12	0.76	0.33	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.35	0.27	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 5-week average)	66%	130%	381%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.13	none	0.56	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	none	0.56	none