

Creel Survey

February 13, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Washougal River – 52 bank anglers kept 2 hatchery steelhead and released 4 wild fish. 23 boat anglers kept 5 and released 7 hatchery steelhead and 8 wild fish. Some wild fish in the teens have been caught and released.

Lower Columbia mainstem from the I-5 Bridge downstream – Still looking to sample our first spring Chinook of the year. Salmonid effort is increasing with 61 boats and 140 bank anglers counted during the Saturday Feb. 11 effort flight count.

Bonneville Pool – No salmonid anglers were sampled.

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged a steelhead per rod. Bank anglers were also catching some steelhead. Half the catch were hatchery fish.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged ½ steelhead per rod when including fish released. Bank anglers were also catching some steelhead. Only wild fish (that were released) were found in the sample.

Hatchery winter run steelhead returns to date compared to the same time last year:

In general, hatchery returns are higher than last year from the Cowlitz downstream but lower from the Kalama to the Washougal. In specific:

<u>River</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Grays	426	324
Elochoman	1,453	266
Cowlitz	2,189	1,630
Kalama	558	663
Lewis	1,724	2,673
Washougal	370	430

This year's steelhead counts (329) at Bonneville Dam through Feb. 6, 2012 are less than half the recent 10-year average (694). No more Chinook have been counted at the dam since the adult and jack on Jan. 25.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – One boat had a few legals kept from the Camas/Washougal area which was almost as many as the total estimated catch (4) for the entire lower river in January. Last month's catch was the lowest for January since at least 1977.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers kept a legal sturgeon per every 9 rods. Bank anglers also caught some legal size fish. Through Feb. 12, an estimated 916 (46%) of the 2,000 fish guideline had been taken. Remains open for retention through Friday Feb. 17.

The Dalles Pool – Slow for legal size fish. Through January, an estimated 27 (9%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals; slow from the bank. Through January, an estimated 75 (15%) of the 500 fish guideline had been taken.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – The handful of boat anglers sampled averaged 2.6 walleye kept/released per rod. No effort was observed for bass.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some walleye. No effort was observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, about one out of every five boat anglers had caught a walleye. No effort was observed for bass.

Trout

Sacajawea Lake in Longview – 5,000 catchable size and 160 five pound and 17 ten pound were released here Feb. 2 and Jan. 31, respectively. No report on angling success.

Kress Lake near Kalama – In addition to 14 hatchery winter steelhead, 5,011 catchable size rainbows were released here Feb. 3. No report on angling success.

Klineline Pond – In addition to the 1,000 half pound rainbows planted Feb. 7, another 5,197 catchable size rainbows were released here the day before. No report on angling success.

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	85							916	45.8%	Feb. 12	2,000
The Dalles	27									27	9.0%	Jan. 31	300
John Day	75									75	15.0%	Jan. 31	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		
Bonneville ³	66	7	10							83	Feb. 12
The Dalles	5	0	0							5	Feb. 12
John Day	9	3	2							14	Feb. 12

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.
February 6-12 bank was 31% and boat was 11.2% 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

February 6 - 12, 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	85	8		1		4	23	81	95	1	9	1	79	83
The Dalles Pool	20	3				3	10	18	16				2	5
John Day Pool	30						29	38			2	1	14	14
Total	135	11		1		7	62	137	111	1	11	2	95	102

Reservoir	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	Combined Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week	Jacks Kept Cum
Salmonids																
Bonneville Pool																
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead																
The Dalles Pool	20		1	1		8	9	22		11	9	2	33	41		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			1	1		8				11	9	2	33	41		
John Day Pool	14		1				2	12		6						
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			1							6						

Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept
Walleye									
Bonneville Pool					3	5	4	9	18
The Dalles Pool	2				2	4	1		4
John Day Pool					25	52	1	10	19

Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept
Bass									
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 6-week average)	144%	none	300%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.69	none	2.60	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	none	1.80	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	84%	155%	133%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.50	0.57	0.17	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.24	none	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	88%	318%	427%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.04	0.27	0.21	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	none	0.19	none

9:00 AM

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Chinook								# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook		Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead		Other
		Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Kept			Rel.						
Bonneville	1		Closed	Closed								Closed	Closed					
Camas/Washougal	2		Closed	Closed								Closed	Closed					
	3																	
Vancouver	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Woodland	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Kalama	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Cowlitz	7																	
Longview	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
Cathlamet	9																	
private boats/bank charter	10																	
Total		7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sturgeon

Month/Week	Sec.	Chinook					# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sturgeon				
		Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept			Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	
Bonneville	1	2	0	0	0	0							
Camas/Washougal	2	2	0	0	0	0	3	5	6	0	0	3	
	3						3	5	0	0	0	0	
Vancouver	4												
Woodland	5												
Kalama	6												
Cowlitz	7												
Longview	8												
Cathlamet	9												
Cathlamet	10												
Total		4	0	0	0	0	6	10	6	0	0	3	

Shad

Month/Week	Sec.	Chinook			# Boats	Boat		
		Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.		Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2							
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Walleye

Month/Week	Sec.	Chinook			# Boats	Boat		
		Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.		Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2							
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		0	0	0	0	0	0	0