

Creel Survey

March 12, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

South Fork Toutle River from mouth to 4100 Road Bridge – Effective March 16, closed to all fishing.

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success is currently available.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 109 winter-run steelhead during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 20 winter-run steelhead at the Day Use in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and 15 into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,300 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 12. Water visibility is eight feet.

2011-2012 Upstream totals

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	2,758	0	115	0	146	0	0	0	38
10-Mar	109	0	15	0	20	0	0	0	0

Kalama River – 13 bank anglers kept 2 hatchery steelhead and released 1 hatchery and 1 wild fish. 4 boat anglers kept 1 spring chinook.

North Fork Lewis River – 8 bank anglers had no catch.

Washougal River – 35 bank anglers kept 2 hatchery steelhead and released 1 wild fish. 10 boat anglers kept 1 hatchery steelhead and released 1 hatchery and 7 wild fish. **Thursday March 15 is the last day to fish for steelhead. Mt. Norway Bridge downstream re-opens April 16 under selective gear rules (no bait).**

Anglers should also 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, and East Fork Lewis rivers.**

Wind River – From mouth (buoy line/markers) upstream to 400 feet below Shipherd Falls opens to fishing for hatchery spring chinook and hatchery steelhead March 16.

Drano Lake – Also opens to fishing for hatchery chinook and hatchery steelhead March 16.

Expect fishing to start slowly at Wind and Drano as only 7 adult chinook had been counted at Bonneville Dam through March 9.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Last week we sampled 1,755 salmonid anglers (including 639 boats) with 69 spring Chinook and 10 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept/released per every 20 rods based on mainly completed trips. Bank anglers only released one wild chinook based on primarily incomplete trips; however they are catching some steelhead.

52 (75%) of the Chinook caught were kept. 76% of the Chinook we sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI). Half the steelhead caught were kept.

Reminder – The entire lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam will be closed to all fishing for salmonids Tuesday March 20, March 27, and April 3.

The Dalles Pool – Anglers are catching some steelhead though most of the fish were wild and had to be released.

John Day Pool – No steelhead were sampled last week.

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

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Some legals were caught by boat anglers from Kalama upstream. Fishing is slow from the bank.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some legals. No legals were sampled from boat anglers.

Through February, an estimated 27(9%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals. Fishing is slow from the bank.

An estimated 138 (28%) of the 500 fish guideline had been taken through February.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged over 1.5 walleye per rod when including fish released. No effort was observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly a walleye per rod. They were also catching some bass. Little to no bank fishing effort.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

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

¹ 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.

² 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	Mar. 11
The Dalles	5	0	1						6	Mar. 11
John Day	9	9	7						25	Mar. 11

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 5 - 11, 2012

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

Sturgeon														Jacks Kept		
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	Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool						4							82	86		
The Dalles Pool	20	2		1		4	7	17	19				2	6		
John Day Pool	32	2				3	26	70	12		2		22	25		
Total	52	4		1		11	33	87	31		2		106	117		
Salmonids														Jacks Kept		
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	Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool																
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead																
The Dalles Pool	6		5	1		10	1	4		2			33	43		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			5	1		10				2			33	43		
John Day Pool	10						1	2					1	1		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead													1	1		
Walleye														Jacks Kept		
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool													27	27		
The Dalles Pool	2						5	9	8	6			38	38		
John Day Pool							31	67	15	42			137	137		
Bass														Jacks Kept		
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool													1	1		
The Dalles Pool																
John Day Pool	1									2			2	2		

¹ 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)	97%	45%	87%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.59	0.80	1.27	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	0.10	0.55	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	129%	89%	129%	600%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.16	none	0.85	2.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	0.63	2.00

