

Creel Survey

March 19, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success. 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 wild winter-run steelhead at the Day Use in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and 15 wild steelhead 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.

Kalama River – 3 bank anglers kept 1 steelhead and released 3.

Wind River and Drano Lake – No effort as the water has been high and turbid and the fish counts low.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 1,263 salmonid anglers (including 423 boats) with 42 spring Chinook and 5 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept/released per every 24.6 rods based on mainly completed trips. Bank anglers only kept one chinook and released two others based on primarily incomplete trips.

34 (81%) of the Chinook caught were kept. We sampled 31 (91%) of the Chinook kept. 28 (90%) of the Chinook sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

Interestingly, other than effort last week's results mirrored the same time last year. From March 14-20, 2011: "Overall we sampled more anglers but catch rates were worse than the previous week. We sampled our first Chinook of the season at Cathlamet and Kalama. Last week we sampled 2,656 anglers (including 946 boats) with 116 chinook and 5 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept/released per every 19.4 rods based on mainly completed trips. Almost all of the catch was sampled from the Lewis upstream. There was one lucky bank angler out of the 447 sampled that had kept a spring Chinook."

Reminder – The mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam is closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad March 20, March 27, and April 3, 2012.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

John Day Pool – No salmonids were sampled last week.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – We did not sample any legals last week.

The Dalles Pool – No legals were sampled there last week.

John Day pool – Bank anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged 1.6 walleye kept per rod. No effort was observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged over a walleye per rod when including fish released. Some bass are also being caught.

Trout

Klinline Pond and Lacamas Lake – Planted with 2,450 and 3,000 half pound browns yesterday (March 19), respectively. No report on angling success.

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. 18
The Dalles	5	0	1						6	Mar. 18
John Day	9	9	8						26	Mar. 18

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 12 - 18, 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						4							82	86
The Dalles Pool	13	4				4	1	2					2	6
John Day Pool	22	2		1		4	7	16	2			1	22	26
Total	35	6		1		12	8	18	2			1	106	118

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	Jacks Kept Cum
Bonneville Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	9		1			10							33	43	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead			1			10							33	43	
John Day Pool	11												1	1	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead													1	1	

Walleye	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool									27
The Dalles Pool					11	22		36	74
John Day Pool					20	38	11	33	170

Bass	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept	2012 Cum Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool									1
The Dalles Pool									
John Day Pool							1		2

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

	Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none

