

Creel Survey

February 25, 2013

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Limited sampling last week revealed little to no effort in the upper river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 16 winter-run steelhead, three coho adults and one coho jack during four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released four steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam at the Day Use Site and two steelhead adults, two coho adults and two coho jacks into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 6,620 cubic feet per second on Monday, February 25. Water visibility is seven feet.

Washougal River – 30 bank anglers released 2 wild steelhead. 14 boat anglers kept 1 hatchery steelhead and released 6 wild fish.

Lower Columbia mainstem – We sampled our first spring Chinook and a summer run steelhead of the year last week!

About the same salmonid effort as the previous Saturday – 4 dozen boats and around 100 bank anglers.

Mainstem Columbia from Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge – Effective March 1 through April 5 (except closed Tuesdays March 26 and April 2), the hatchery adult Chinook daily limit is reduced to 1 fish.

Mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam – Effective March 1 through April 5 (except closed Tuesdays March 26 and April 2), open to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead. No fishing for salmonids from boats Beacon Rock upstream to the dam. The adult salmonid limit will be 2 fish of which no more than one may be a hatchery Chinook.

For those who may have missed it, the second spring Chinook of the year passed Bonneville Dam Feb. 20.

The Dalles Pool – No effort was observed for steelhead.

John Day Pool – Slow for steelhead from the bank.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Light effort and catch on the lower Columbia. Just 26 boats and a few bank anglers were counted during last Saturday's (Feb. 23) effort flight count.

Bonneville Pool – An estimated 335 (30.5%) of the 1,100 fish annual guideline were taken during the winter season. Currently catch-and-release only until a possible retention fishery in June.

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and catch.

John Day pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

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

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some walleye and bass.

Trout

Klineline Pond – 13 bank anglers kept 5 rainbows. Planted with 1,500 rainbows averaging 2/3 pound each Feb. 19.

Shad

Effective March 1 through May 15, 2013, the mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of shad **ONLY** during days and in areas open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:							Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun			Feb. 11 ²	
Bonneville ¹	102	233					335	30.5%	Jan. 31	1,100
The Dalles	9						9	3.0%	Jan. 31	300
John Day	35						35	7.0%	Jan. 31	500

¹ Due to the short season 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 Pool closed to retention effective February 11, with a balance of 765 sturgeon allocated for a summer retention season.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:								
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun		
Bonneville	28	64					92	Feb. 24
The Dalles	2	4					6	Feb. 24
John Day	6	11					17	Feb. 24

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 18 - 24, 2013

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	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool						4							88	92
The Dalles Pool	10					1							5	6
John Day Pool	12						17	36	14		3		17	17
Total	22					5	17	36	14		3		110	115
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2013 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool						2							1	3
Chinook														
Coho													1	3
Steelhead						2								
John Day Pool	9					1				1			5	6
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						1				1			5	6
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													5	5
The Dalles Pool	2		3			9	1	4					12	21
John Day Pool							13	31	1	6			32	32
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool														
John Day Pool							1	1	1					

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)	33%	none	129%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	0.50	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	0.50	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	52%	64%	122%	200%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.35	0.11	0.23	1.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	none	0.19	none

