

Creel Survey

January 29, 2013

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Reminder:

Columbia River Compact/Joint State hearing

A hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday January 30, 2013 at the Sheraton Portland Airport Hotel (8235 Northeast Airport Way Portland, Oregon). The purpose of this hearing is to review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian commercial and recreational fishing seasons in the Columbia River and Select Areas, including:

- 2013 recreational spring salmon fisheries.
- 2013 Select Area winter-summer commercial fisheries.
- 2013 Non-Indian commercial winter/spring commercial salmon fishing plan.

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 13 bank anglers had no catch. 8 boat anglers kept 1 steelhead.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 12 winter-run steelhead and five coho adults during four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

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

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,750 cubic feet per second on Monday, January 28. Water visibility is 11 feet.

Lower end of Blue and Mill creeks, tributaries to the Cowlitz River – Thursday Jan. 31 is the last day to fish in the current two month season.

Washougal River – 39 bank anglers kept 6 steelhead and released 1 hatchery and 2 wild fish. 23 boat anglers released 8 hatchery and 1 wild steelhead.

Klickitat River from the Fisher Hill Bridge downstream – Thursday Jan. 31 is the last day to fish for salmon until spring.

Bonneville and The Dalles pools – Boat anglers averaged about a legal kept per about every 7 rods. Fishing was slow from the bank.

John Day Pool – Light effort and no steelhead catch was observed.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – 3 bank anglers just below Bonneville Dam had no catch. In Vancouver 2 boats/4 anglers released 2 sublegals; Woodland 2 boats/3 anglers had no catch; Kalama 3 boats/6 anglers released 2 sublegals.

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers averaged about a legal kept per every 9 rods. Fishing was slow from the bank.

Through Jan. 20, an estimated 71 (6%) of the 1,150 winter guideline had been taken.

The status of the fishery, scheduled to be open for retention through Feb. 10, will be reviewed at a Joint Washington-Oregon public hearing scheduled for Jan. 30. Fishery managers will meet again in May to set dates for the summer retention season.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers are catching some fish, especially in The Dalles Pool where 30% of the anglers took home a legal size fish.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville and The Dalles pools – Little to no effort was observed.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some walleye. No effort was observed for bass.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	6-Jan ³	13-Jan ⁴	20-Jan	27-Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines: ¹
Bonneville ²	2	39	30							71	3.6%	Jan. 20	2,000
The Dalles													300
John Day													500

¹ Guidelines for 2013 have not been finalized yet.
² Due to the high effort and harvest in Bonneville Pool, we will be providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis.
³ In Bonneville Pool, 2 kept fish were observed by enforcement.
⁴ Adjusted estimate.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	06-Jan	13-Jan	20-Jan	27-Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	As of
Bonneville	0	10	7	4						21	Jan. 28
The Dalles	1	1		3						5	Jan. 28
John Day	3	1	1	1						6	Jan. 28

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

January 21 - 27, 2013

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

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

Sturgeon														Combined Leg Kept	
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	17	1					6	37	25		4		21	21	
The Dalles Pool						1	4	10	24		3		4	5	
John Day Pool	29						16	39	7		1		6	6	
Total	46	1				1	26	86	56		8		31	32	
Salmonids														Jacks Kept	
	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	
Bonneville Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
John Day Pool	6					1	1	2					2	3	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead						1							2	3	
Walleye															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2013 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool							1	1					2	2	
The Dalles Pool						1							2	3	
John Day Pool							7	13	2	2			7	7	
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 Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

	Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 4-week average)	57%	none	67%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.56	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.07	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 4-week average)	25%	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.70	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.30	none	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 4-week average)	78%	91%	217%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.12	none	0.31
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.01	none	0.15