

# Creel Survey

March 11, 2013

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

## Salmon/Steelhead

**Anglers should be aware 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, East Fork Lewis, and South Fork Toutle rivers.**

**Cowlitz River** – 26 bank anglers released 1 steelhead. 6 boat anglers had no catch.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 145 winter-run steelhead and one cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 23 steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam at the Day Use Site and 21 steelhead and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 8,080 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 11. Water visibility is eleven feet.

**Kalama River** – 4 bank and 3 boat anglers had no catch. Closed for Chinook.

**Washougal River** – 29 bank anglers kept 2 hatchery and released 3 wild steelhead. 11 boat anglers kept 3 and released 2 hatchery steelhead plus released 3 wild fish. Some summer steelhead are appearing in the catch.

**Friday March 15 is the last day to fish for winter steelhead. Mt. Norway Bridge downstream re-opens April 16 under selective gear rules (no bait).**

**Wind River** – Daily limit reduced from two to one fish. Lower river season delayed two weeks (April 1 opener) and two poles will not be allowed. The upper river will remain closed. The entire river will be closed March 16-31.

**Drano Lake** – Opens to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead March 16. Daily limit 2 hatchery Chinook, 2 hatchery steelhead, or one of each.

Expect fishing to start slowly as only 18 adult Chinook had been counted at Bonneville Dam through March 6.

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** - Last week we sampled 1,113 salmonid anglers (including 422 boats) with 38 spring Chinook and 5 steelhead. 30 (79%) of the Chinook and 4 (80%) of the steelhead caught were kept. All of the Chinook were caught by boat anglers. Bank anglers caught most of the steelhead. 23 (77%) of the Chinook sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification.

An estimated 46 Chinook were kept and 11 released from 4,850 angler trips in February.

**The Dalles Pool** – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

**John Day Pool** – Light effort and catch for steelhead.

**Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border** – Effective March 16 through May 5, 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. Barbless hooks are required to fish for salmon and steelhead.

## Sturgeon

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – We sampled 55 sturgeon anglers (including 11 boats) with no legals kept.

In February, an estimated 24 sturgeon were kept from nearly 1,700 angler trips.

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers are catching some legals. Through February, an estimated 41 (13.7%) of the 300 fish annual guideline had been taken.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers are catching some legals. An estimated 71 (14.2%) of the 500 fish annual guideline had been taken through February.

## Walleye and Bass

**Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam** – Some walleye anglers were sampled from Camas/Washougal upstream. A few fish were being caught.

**The Dalles Pool** – Including fish released, anglers averaged a walleye per boat. Little effort and catch was observed for bass.

**John Day Pool** – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged a bass per rod and a walleye per every 3 rods last week.

## Trout

**Lake Sacajawea** – Planted with 2,450 rainbows just over one-half pound each March 4. No report on angling success.

**Battleground Lake** – Planted with 3,000 half pound rainbows March 5. No report on angling success.

**Klineline Pond** – Planted with 1,500 half pound rainbows March 5. Last Saturday (March 9), 34 bank anglers kept 1 rainbow.

**Lacamas Lake** – Planted with 5,000 half pound rainbows March 4. No report on angling success.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:							Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun				
Bonneville <sup>1</sup>	102	233	---				335	30.5%	Feb. 11 <sup>2</sup>	1,100
The Dalles	9	32					41	13.7%	Feb. 28	300
John Day	35	36					71	14.2%	Feb. 28	500

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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	Mar. 10
The Dalles	2	5	2				9	Mar. 10
John Day	6	13	9				28	Mar. 10

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

### WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary <sup>1</sup>

March 4 - 10, 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	22	4				1	14	35	34		2	1	8	9
John Day Pool	20	1				1	29	66	30	1	8	3	27	28
Total	42	5				6	43	101	64	1	10	4	123	129
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	7		1		1	3							2	5
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead			1		1	3							2	5
John Day Pool	6					1							5	6
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						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						9	19	52	1	20			41	50
John Day Pool							23	43	10	6			43	43
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										1			1	1
John Day Pool							7	12	10					

<sup>1</sup> 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)	126%	75%	306%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.72	0.29	0.40	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	0.38	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	86%	40%	109%	424%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.50	none	0.37	0.83
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.09	none	0.14	none

Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

**Salmonid**

Sec.	Bank Anglers	Chinook			Released		Steelhead		Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook			Released		Steelhead		Other
		Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Jacks				Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.				
1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0											
2										13	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		143	318	13	0	5	0	0	0	0	
4	56	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		105	210	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	
5	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	1		49	96	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	
6	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		60	139	7	0	0	0	1	0	0	
7										1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
8	62	0	0	0	0	3	0	0		35	77	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
9	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
10										11	26	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>422</b>	<b>901</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**Sturgeon**

Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept
2						2	5	0	0	0	0
3	1	0	0	0	0						
4											
5	1	0	0	0	0						
6	2	0	0	0	0	6	17	14	0	0	0
7											
8	14	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0
9											
10											
10	2	0	0	0	0						
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Walleye**

Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
2				3	3	1	0
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>