

Creel Survey

March 4, 2013

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Light effort and catch. 15 bank anglers had no catch. 4 boat anglers kept 1 hatchery steelhead.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 37 winter-run steelhead during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

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

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 6,580 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 4. Water visibility is nine feet.

Washougal River – 38 bank anglers released 4 wild steelhead. 13 boat anglers released 2 hatchery steelhead and 1 wild fish.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - During the first three days of March we sampled 760 salmonid anglers (including 270 boats) with 17 spring Chinook and 8 steelhead. 13 (76.5%) of the Chinook and 3 (37.5%) of the steelhead caught were kept. All but one of the Chinook were caught by boat anglers from Kalama to Vancouver. Bank anglers caught more steelhead than Chinook. The steelhead were caught from Vancouver downstream.

10 (76.9%) of the Chinook sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification.

Effort increased with the nicer weather, larger fishing area, and reports of a few more fish being caught. 280 boats and 355 bank anglers were found during the Saturday March 2 effort flight count.

The Dalles Pool – Boat and bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some steelhead. Fishing was slow from the bank.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – We sampled 43 sturgeon anglers (including 16 boats) with 2 legals kept. Boat anglers caught the legals in the Woodland to Kalama area.

Effort remains low but stable. 39 boats and 9 bank anglers were counted during last Saturday's effort flight count.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching a few legals. Fishing was slow from the bank.

John Day Pool – Boat and bank anglers are catching a few legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged ½ walleye per rod. No catch was observed from the bank and little effort was observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged a walleye per every 4.5 rods when including fish released. Little effort was observed for bass.

Smelt

Still lots of birds, seals, and sea lions in the lower Columbia but less concentrated this time. Last Saturday they were spread out from Wauna powerlines down to at least Rice Island, where the plane turned around. The heaviest concentration was from Price Island to Jim Crow, but they are on both the main channel side and the Clifton side of Tenasillahe.

Eulachon (Columbia River) Smelt

CLOSED STATEWIDE (including all marine and freshwater areas).

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	Mar. 3
The Dalles	2	5					7	Mar. 3
John Day	6	13	1				20	Mar. 3

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 25 - March 3, 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	27	2				1	15	37	47		1		6	7
John Day Pool	48			1		1	26	56	5		2		19	20
Total	75	2		1		6	41	93	52		3		113	119
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	5		2	1		3	3	6		3	1		2	5
Chinook														
Coho			2	1		3				3	1		2	5
Steelhead														
John Day Pool	16					1	1	4		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	3					9	11	19	1	9			21	30
John Day Pool							31	58	8	5			37	37
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							
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	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)	179%	135%	264%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.78	0.64	0.45	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	0.18	0.41	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	107%	129%	168%	240%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.08	0.05	0.22	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	none	0.09	none

