

Creel Survey

March 18, 2013

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 37 bank anglers kept 1 and released 3 steelhead. 49 boat anglers kept 10 and released 2 steelhead.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 261 winter-run steelhead, one spring Chinook salmon (**the first one this year**), and one cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 30 steelhead and one spring Chinook salmon into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam at the Day Use Site, and 72 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 18. Water visibility is eleven feet.

East Fork Lewis River – The entire river is currently closed to all fishing. From the top boat ramp at Lewisville Park downstream re-opens April 16 under selective gear rules (no bait).

Kalama River – 3 bank anglers had no catch. Closed for spring Chinook.

Washougal River – 53 bank anglers kept 2 hatchery and released 3 wild steelhead. 13 boat anglers kept 3 hatchery and released 2 hatchery and 7 wild steelhead.

The entire river is currently closed to all fishing. Mt. Norway Bridge downstream re-opens April 16 under selective gear rules (no bait).

Wind River from mouth (boundary line markers) to 400 feet below Shipherd Falls – Closed to all fishing through March 31. Effective April 1, daily limit will be 1 hatchery spring Chinook or 1 hatchery steelhead. Two poles will not be allowed. However, the 2012 expanded fishing area at the mouth will be used as the lower boundary for this year's fishery.

Wind River from 400 feet below Shipherd Falls upstream, including all tributaries – Until further notice, closed to all fishing.

Drano Lake – Only a single boat observed there yesterday.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 2,348 salmonid anglers (including 914 boats) with 82 adult and 1 jack spring Chinook and 5 steelhead. 69 (84%) of the adult Chinook and all of the steelhead caught were kept. All but one of the adult Chinook were caught by boat anglers. Fishing success improved in the Cathlamet area as the week progressed. 47 (76%) of the 62 adult Chinook sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification.

Catch rates were similar to the same time the past two years. From March 12-18, 2012 we sampled 1,263 salmonid anglers (including 423 boats) with 42 spring Chinook and 5 steelhead. From March 14-20, 2011 we sampled 2,656 anglers (including 946 boats) with 116 chinook and 5 steelhead.

Reminder – The mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam will be closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad March 26 and April 2, 2013.

Bonneville Pool – No effort was observed here.

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and no catch was observed there last week.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some steelhead. No catch was observed from the bank.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 41 sturgeon anglers (including 14 boats) with nary a sublegal, legal, or oversize caught.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers caught some legals.

Walleye and Bass

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 3 walleye anglers (including 1 boat) with no fish kept or released.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers in both pools averaged around a walleye kept/released per every 4 rods last week. Bank anglers are also catching some walleye in The Dalles Pool. Boat anglers are catching some bass in John Day Pool.

Eulachon (Columbia River smelt) – Enforcement reports a strong run came into the Cowlitz last Friday morning. The river was black with smelt on both sides from the mouth to the Toutle River. **Fishing for eulachon, an ESA listed species, is CLOSED STATEWIDE (including all marine and freshwater areas).**

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:							Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun				
Bonneville ¹	102	233	---				335	30.5%	Feb. 11 ²	1,100
The Dalles	9	32					41	13.7%	Feb. 28	300
John Day	35	36					71	14.2%	Feb. 28	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. 17
The Dalles	2	5	5				12	Mar. 17
John Day	6	13	11				30	Mar. 17

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 11 - 17, 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	4	1				1	11	30	93		3	2	11	12
John Day Pool	27				2	1	26	56	11		2	1	29	30
Total	31	1			2	6	37	86	104		5	3	128	134
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					3							2	5
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						3							2	5
John Day Pool	7					1	1	2		2	1		6	7
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						1				2	1		6	7
Walleye														
Reservoir	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	1		1			10	15	32		9			50	60
John Day Pool							31	60	6	8			51	51
Bass														
Reservoir	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
John Day Pool							3	4	6	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)	71%	29%	150%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.91	none	0.30	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.09	none	0.30	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	91%	66%	135%	114%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.19	0.33	0.23	1.75
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	0.11	0.13	0.25

noon

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Chinook				Steelhead			Other	# Boats	Chinook				Steelhead			Other
			Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Kept Adults			Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.			
Bonneville	1	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	79	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	236	550	21	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	107	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	149	293	11	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	77	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78	162	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	143	318	6	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									3	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	76	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	190	391	6	0	1	1	3	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	36	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62	123	13	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Total		388	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	914	1960	68	0	13	1	4	0	0	0

Sturgeon

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept
Camas/Washougal	2						2	4	0	0	0	0
	3						1	1	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	2	0	0	0	0						
Kalama	6						6	11	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7											
Longview	8	4	0	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9											
Deep River + Knappton boats	10											
Cathlamet	10											
Total		13	0	0	0	0	14	28	0	0	0	0

Walleye

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Camas/Washougal	2							
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6				1	2	0	0
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
Total		1	0	0	1	2	0	0