

Creel Survey

February 18, 2014

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Salmon/Steelhead

Deep River from the mouth to town bridge – From March 1 through June 15, the daily limit for salmon may not include more than one hatchery adult Chinook during those days when the adjacent waters of the mainstem Columbia River are open to retention of spring Chinook.

Coal Creek (near Longview) – Feb. 28 is the last day to fish for steelhead and other game fish below the falls.

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success. Last week Tacoma Power recovered five coho salmon adults and three winter-run steelhead during five 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 adults into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, and they released three coho adults into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,290 cubic feet per second on Tuesday, February 18. Water visibility is six feet.

Washougal River – 6 boat anglers kept 2 hatchery steelhead and released 2 hatchery and 5 wild steelhead. 9 bank anglers released 1 steelhead.

Mainstem Columbia from Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge – Open to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead through April 7 (except closed Tuesdays March 25 and April 1). Through February, anglers may retain up to two hatchery adult chinook salmon per day. Effective March 1, the adult salmonid limit will be 2 fish of which no more than one may be a hatchery Chinook.

Mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam – Effective March 1 through April 7 (except closed Tuesdays March 25 and April 1), open to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead. No boats from Beacon Rock upstream. The adult salmonid limit will be 2 fish of which no more than one may be a hatchery Chinook.

Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools – Little to no effort or catch for steelhead.

Hanford Reach - Fishing activity is light and the catch is even lighter in the Hanford Reach steelhead sport fishery in February. WDFW staff have interviewed 26 anglers (15 bank, 11 boat) in February with no catch. There is hope on the horizon as some of the highest catch and harvest for this fishery is typically in March.

Sturgeon

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers averaged a legal kept per about every 6 rods. Slow for legal size fish from the bank.

Through Feb. 9, an estimated 172 (15.6%) of the 1,100 fish guideline had been taken. Catch-and-release only until further notice.

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and no legals were sampled last week.

John Day Pool – Bank anglers are catching some legals. Slow for boat anglers.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville and The Dalles pools – Light effort for walleye and no catch was observed.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged about ½ walleye per rod.

Trout

Battle Ground Lake – Planted with 1,500 nearly half-pound rainbows Feb. 12. No report on angling success.

Smelt

Cowlitz River – More dippers out last Saturday but still no catch.

Open Saturdays only 6 AM to noon through March 1. Dip nets may be used from the bank only. Daily limit 10 pounds per person (about ¼ of a five-gallon bucket). Possession limit is equal to one daily limit.

Mainstem Columbia water temp was 37 degrees; Cowlitz 43 degrees. Smelt prefer water temps around 42 degrees.

The mainstem Columbia and all other Washington Columbia River tributaries remain closed.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines: ¹
Bonneville ²	163	9								172	15.6%	Feb. 9	1,100
The Dalles	12									12	4.0%	31-Jan	300
John Day	10									10	2.0%	31-Jan	500

¹ Guidelines for 2014 have not been finalized yet.
² Due to the short season 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.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:													
	Jan	2-Feb	9-Feb	16-Feb	23-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun				
Bonneville	58	4		7						69		Feb. 16	
The Dalles	4									4		Feb. 16	
John Day	3	1		1						5		Feb. 16	

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 10 - 16, 2014

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	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool	44	32				7	16	44	164		7		62	69	
The Dalles Pool	11	1					2	4					4	4	
John Day Pool	38	2		1		2	11	23	2			1	3	5	
Total	93	35		1		9	29	71	166		7	1	69	78	
Salmonids															
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2014 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool										2			5	5	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead										2			5	5	
John Day Pool	1						1	2					4	4	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead													4	4	
Walleye															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool							2	3							
The Dalles Pool	1					3	1	3						3	
John Day Pool							7	13	1	5			39	39	
Bass															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 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 6-week average)	83%	none	225%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.31	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.08	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	80%	none	171%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.07	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	149%	106%	236%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.10	none	0.46	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	0.38	none