

Creel Survey

February 24, 2014

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 17 bank anglers with no catch.

Washougal River – 12 boat anglers with 1 hatchery steelhead kept and 3 hatchery and 6 wild fish released. 20 bank anglers with 2 hatchery steelhead released.

Lower mainstem Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream – We sampled 103 salmonid anglers (including 26 boats) with no catch.

Just over 100 bank anglers and 45 boats were counted during last Saturday's effort flight count. Most of the boat effort was observed in the Vancouver area.

A few spring Chinook have been caught in the Youngs Bay SAFE commercial fishery.

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

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Only a couple sturgeon anglers were observed during the current catch-and-release fishery.

Bonneville Pool – Reopens for sturgeon retention starting today (Feb. 24) and runs through March 9.

The Dalles Pool – Slow for legal size fish.

John Day Pool – Bank anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers are catching some walleye. No effort was observed for bass.

Smelt

Lower mainstem Columbia – 60 pounds of smelt were caught in last Thursday's commercial opener. **Today's commercial catches have reportedly increased significantly (possibly thousands of pounds per boat)!**

Water temperature during last Thursday's larval sampling were 7.0 C (44.6 F) in the Cowlitz River, and 6.5 C (43.7 F) in the Columbia River. This is good for smelt movement. On the other hand, the flows are up, the rivers very muddy, and lots of debris. That could delay smelt migration.

A few cormorants and about 4 seals were spotted in the lower Cowlitz River at Gerhardt Gardens Park last week. There were no gulls sighted. A few birds were sighted at near Cathlamet on Saturday.

Cowlitz River – No smelt were reported caught during last Saturday's opener. Sat. March 1 is the last day scheduled to be open for sport dipping.

Mainstem Columbia and all other Washington tributaries – Closed to sport fishing for smelt.

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		9						181	16.5%	Feb. 16	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. Bonneville Pool was closed to retention January 20-31 and February 18-23.

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. 23	
The Dalles	4									4		Feb. 23	
John Day	3	1		1	2					7		Feb. 23	

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 17 - 23, 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	14	3				7	1	5	6				62	69	
The Dalles Pool	22	4					4	9	10			1	4	4	
John Day Pool	37	12	1	2		4	10	13				1	3	7	
Total	73	19	1	2		11	15	27	16			2	69	80	
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	Jacks Kept Week	Jacks Kept Cum
Bonneville Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	1						1	1					5	5	
Chinook															
Coho													5	5	
Steelhead															
John Day Pool													4	4	
Chinook															
Coho													4	4	
Steelhead															
Walleye															
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool															
The Dalles Pool						3	11	24		6			6	9	
John Day Pool							8	17		4			43	43	
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)	20%	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.47	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	139%	46%	400%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.48	none	0.25	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	0.25	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	110%	none	208%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.32	none	0.24	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	0.24	none

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

2/24/2014

10:45 AM

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Chinook				Steelhead			Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook			Steelhead			Other
			Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Kept				Rel.	Kept	Released Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	
Bonneville	1		CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED													
Camas/Washougal	2		CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED													
	3																		
Vancouver	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7																		
Longview	8	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9																		
private boats/bank charter	10																		
Total		50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	53	0	0	0	0	0	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											CLOSED
	3											CLOSED
Vancouver	4											CLOSED
Woodland	5						1	4	6	1	0	CLOSED
Kalama	6											CLOSED
Cowlitz	7											CLOSED
Longview	8											CLOSED
Cathlamet	9											CLOSED
	10											CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton boats	10											CLOSED
Cathlamet	10											CLOSED
Total		0	0	0	0	CLOSED	1	4	6	1	0	CLOSED

Walleye

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