

Creel Survey

March 3, 2014

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 18 boat anglers kept 1 steelhead. 58 bank anglers kept 3 steelhead and released 1.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered one spring Chinook salmon, 45 winter-run steelhead and one coho salmon during four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released twelve steelhead and one coho salmon into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, and they released the spring Chinook salmon into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 8,510 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 3. Water visibility is nine feet.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – We have yet to sample our first spring Chinook of the season.

Bonneville and John Day pools – Little to no salmonid effort.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching steelhead though most of the fish were wild and had to be released.

Hanford Reach - Another slow month for steelhead fishing in the Hanford Reach. Anglers caught eight hatchery steelhead and no wild steelhead this past month. Fishing is usually slow during the winter months but the 2014 February catch was the lowest for any month over the past 10 years. The good news is March is typically one of the highest catch months of the fishery.

For the fishery, October through February, 659 steelhead have been caught and 321 hatchery steelhead harvested. 45% (298) of the steelhead encountered in the fishery have been unclipped.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Light effort during the current catch-and-release fishery.

Bonneville Pool – Bank and boat anglers are catching some legals. Retention is scheduled to be allowed through Sunday March 9.

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and catches.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – Light effort for walleye; no effort observed for bass.

The Dalles Pool – Bank and boat anglers are catching walleye. No effort observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just over 2 walleye per rod. Again, no effort observed for bass.

Trout

Recent plants of half-pound rainbows (no report on angling success):

Klineline Pond – 1,500 fish on Feb. 26;

Battle Ground Lake – 1,500 fish on Feb. 24

Smelt

Cowlitz River – 10 pound limits were the general rule Saturday March 1 (last scheduled fishery). Some limits were achieved in as little as a single dip.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb 1-16	23-Feb	28-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:	
Bonneville ¹	163	18							181	16.5%	Feb. 23	1,100	
The Dalles	12								12	4.0%	31-Jan	300	
John Day	10								10	2.0%	31-Jan	500	

¹ 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	Feb 1-16	23-Feb	28-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun					
Bonneville	58	11		3					72		Mar. 2		
The Dalles	4								4		Mar. 2		
John Day	3	2	2	1					8		Mar. 2		

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 24 - March 2, 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	25	13	1			7	15	35	192	1	3	1	65	72	
The Dalles Pool	8	1					2	5	3			1	4	4	
John Day Pool	2					4	15	36	11		1		4	8	
Total	35	14	1			11	32	76	206	1	4	2	73	84	

Salmonids																
Reservoir	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	Jacks Kept Cum
Bonneville Pool	1															
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead																
The Dalles Pool	4		5	1		1							5	6		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead			5	1		1							5	6		
John Day Pool													4	4		
Chinook																
Coho																
Steelhead													4	4		

Walleye															
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2014 Cum Leg Kept		
Bonneville Pool							1	1							
The Dalles Pool	1		2			5	3	9		3			9	14	
John Day Pool							9	13	5	24			67	67	

Bass															
Reservoir	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)	122%	600%	75%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	3.52	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.05	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	70%	83%	136%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.38	1.50	0.50	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.25	0.50	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	92%	none	153%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.32	none	2.23	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	none	1.85	none

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
3/3/2014

10:45 AM

Salmonid

Month/Week	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook		Steelhead			Other	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Chinook		Steelhead			Other
				Jacks	Adults	Kept	Rel.	Jacks					Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.		
Bonneville	1																	
Camas/Washougal	2																	
	3								10	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Kalama	6	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7																	
Longview	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9								1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10																	
Total		57	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	85	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

Sturgeon

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

Walleye

Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept	Rel.
Bonneville	1						
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