

Creel Survey

March 17, 2014

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)



Salmon/Steelhead

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

Cowlitz River – 21 boat anglers kept 6 hatchery steelhead. 33 bank anglers kept 3 hatchery steelhead.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 156 winter-run steelhead, one spring Chinook and one cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 29 steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. One cutthroat trout was released into the upper Cowlitz River basin.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 14,300 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 17. Water visibility is seven feet.

Washougal River – During the last few days of the winter steelhead fishery, 14 bank anglers kept 1 hatchery steelhead and released 5 wild fish. 18 boat anglers released 16 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 – No report on the March 16 opener though with only a handful of spring Chinook over Bonneville, it would be expected effort and catch would be light.

Daily limit is 2 Chinook or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release wild Chinook downstream of Shipherd Falls.

The area from the mouth to the railroad bridge opened March 16, railroad bridge upstream to Shipherd Falls opens April 1 and above Shipherd Falls May 1. At the mouth, the Two Pole Endorsement for salmon and steelhead will be in effect in May and June.

Drano Lake – No report on the March 16 opener though with only a handful of spring Chinook over Bonneville, it would be expected effort and catch would be light. Daily limit is 2 hatchery Chinook or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release wild Chinook. The Two Pole Endorsement for salmon and steelhead will be in effect in May and June.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam - Last week we sampled over 200 boats and 200 bank anglers with 1 Chinook released. As of last week, we had not sampled our first spring Chinook kept of the season.

Effort has increased with nearly 300 boats and over 400 bank anglers tallied during last Saturday's effort flight count.

Reminder – The mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam will be closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad March 25 and April 1, 2014.

Bonneville Pool to John Day Pool – Light to no effort.

Hanford Reach - Fishing continues to be steady in the Ringold area steelhead sport fishery. This past week WDFW staff interviewed 40 anglers (20 bank, 20 boat) with 20 steelhead (all hatchery). Boat anglers averaged 8 hours per fish and bank anglers did slightly better at 6 hours per fish (1/2 a steelhead per angler).

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Not much effort during the current catch-and-release fishery but some fish are being caught by boat anglers in the Kalama area.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

John Day Pool- Boat and bank anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged over 2 walleye per rod. No effort observed for bass,

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some walleye and bass.

Trout

Leroy Burns Pond in Wahkiakum County – Planted with 2,500 catchable size rainbows March 1. No report on angling success.

Klineline Pond – Planted with 1,516 half-pound rainbows March 10. 9 bank anglers kept 4 rainbows. Fish were caught in the swimming area by anglers using Power Bait.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	163	27	51							241	21.9%	Mar. 10	1,100
The Dalles	12									12	4.0%	Feb. 28	300
John Day	10	14								24	4.8%	Feb. 28	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.
The winter fishery in Bonneville Pool closed to retention effective March 10. The fishery may re-open during the summer to catch the remainder of the guideline.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep				
Bonneville	58	14	13							85		Mar. 16	
The Dalles	4		4							8		Mar. 16	
John Day	3	5	13							21		Mar. 16	

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 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						14							71	85
The Dalles Pool	19					1	7	19	21		2		7	8
John Day Pool	47	11		3		9	27	51	24		7	1	12	21
Total	66	11		3		24	34	70	45		9	1	90	114

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	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool						1							5	6
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						1							5	6
John Day Pool	1												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														
The Dalles Pool	1					5	23	54	20	91			138	143
John Day Pool							23	39	3	1			90	90

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	2	6					

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)	148%	none	262%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.61	none	2.02	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.05	none	1.65	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	186%	120%	189%	600%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.47	none	0.10	3.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.10	none	0.03	none

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
3/19/2014

9:30 AM

Month/Week	Salmonid									# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook							
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Other			Kept	Released	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Other
Bonneville	1	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	[REDACTED]	12	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Camas/Washougal	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		43	104	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		79	148	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	66	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		15	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	74	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		17	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	23	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		31	58	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7										7	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cathlamet	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0										
private boats/bank charter	10																		
Total		240	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		208	424	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Month/Week	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	1	1	0	0	CLOSED	1	2	0	0	0	CLOSED	
Woodland	5					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Kalama	6	3	0	0	0	CLOSED	3	6	15	10	0	CLOSED	
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Longview	8					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED						CLOSED	
	10					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Total		4	1	0	0	CLOSED	4	8	15	10	0	CLOSED	

Month/Week	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	0