

Creel Survey

March 2, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

March 15 is the last day to fish on Abernathy, Cedar (Clark Co.), Germany, Mill (Cowlitz Co.), Rock (Skamania Co.), and Salmon (Clark Co.) creeks and on the Coweeman, Elochoman, Grays, East Fork Lewis, South Fork Toutle, and Washougal rivers.

Cowlitz River – 12 boat anglers kept 8 steelhead. 21 bank anglers kept 3 steelhead and released one.

During three days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator, last week Tacoma Power recovered:

- 19 winter-run steelhead

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:

- Four winter-run steelhead to the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton;
- Two steelhead adults into the Cispus River above Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 5,060 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 2.

Wind River and Drano Lake open for salmon fishing March 16 with a daily limit two hatchery chinook, or two hatchery steelhead, or one of each.

Lower Columbia from the I-5 Bridge downstream – We have yet to sample our first spring Chinook of the year.

With the nice weather and the prospect of catching a prized spring Chinook, effort was fairly high this past weekend with nearly 100 boats and 200 bank anglers counted during Saturday Feb. 28 flight count.

Bonneville Pool – No effort was observed for steelhead.

The Dalles Pool – Light effort for steelhead.

John Day Pool – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

Above Bonneville Dam: Open daily from March 16 through May 6 to boat and bank anglers between the Tower Island powerlines (six miles below The Dalles Dam) and the Washington/Oregon state line, 17 miles above McNary Dam. Bank anglers can also fish from Bonneville Dam upriver to the Tower Island powerlines during that time. As below the dam, the adult daily catch limit will be two hatchery salmon or steelhead in combination, of which **no more than one may be a chinook.**

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Effort is light during the current catch-and-release fishery with just a single boat counted last Saturday.

Bonneville Pool – Closed for sturgeon retention until further notice. Catch-and-release angling is allowed.

An estimated 149 (13.6%) of the 1,100 fish guideline was taken during the winter season. Fishery managers will meet again in March or April to set dates for the summer retention season.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Bank anglers are catching some legals in The Dalles Pool while boat anglers are catching some in John Day Pool.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – No effort was observed for either specie.

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

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged nearly 2 walleye per rod when including fish released. Not a lot to report for bass.

Trout

Recent plants of 2 pound rainbows in SW WA waters. No report on angling success.

Lake/Pond	Date	Species	Number	Fish per Pound	Hatchery
<u>LK SACAJAWEA (COWL)</u>					
Feb 24, 2015		Rainbow	170	0.49	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
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<u>HORSESHOE LK (COWL)</u>					
Feb 24, 2015		Rainbow	170	0.49	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
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Kress Lake near Kalama – Last week 8 Kalama Hatchery adult steelhead went into Kress Lake. No report on angling success.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	1-Feb	8-Feb	15-Feb	22-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	107	0	8	20	14					149	13.5%	Feb. 22	1,100
The Dalles	20									20	20.0%	Feb. 1	100
John Day	40									40	8.0%	Feb. 1	500

¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention effective March 1. Dates for a potential summer fishery will be considered later.

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	22	12	1							35	Mar. 1
The Dalles	10	4	0							14	Mar. 1
John Day	6	6	0							12	Mar. 1

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 23 - March 1, 2015

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	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool	48	20				2	31	78	263	2	3	1	33	35
The Dalles Pool	19	2	1			3	3	7	10				11	14
John Day Pool	32	2				3	11	26	12	2		1	9	12
Total	99	24	1			8	45	111	285	4	3	2	53	61
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2015 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	2		1				1	1					2	2
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead			1										2	
John Day Pool	24			1		5							1	6
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead				1		5							1	6
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool						5	10	21	1	21			112	117
John Day Pool							29	61	23	83			265	265
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2015 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool														
John Day Pool									1					

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	112%	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.29	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	76%	32%	79%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.50	0.33	1.05	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	1.00	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	86%	108%	185%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.29	0.04	1.74	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.04	1.36	none

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
3/2/2015

9:30 AM

Month/Week	Salmonid										# Boats	Boat Anglers	Chinook				Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Other
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other	Kept			Released Adults	Released Jacks					
Bonneville	1		CLOSED	CLOSED															
Camas/Washougal	2		CLOSED	CLOSED															
	3																		
Vancouver	4	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Woodland	5	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kalama	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cowlitz	7																		
Longview	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Cathlamet	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
private boats/bank charter	10																		
Total	10	39	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Sturgeon

	Sec.	Bank	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals	# Boats	Boat	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals	
		Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Kept		Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Kept		
Bonneville	1					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED						CLOSED	
	3					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Vancouver	4					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Woodland	5					CLOSED						CLOSED	
Kalama	6					CLOSED						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		0	0	0	0	CLOSED		0	0	0	0	0	CLOSED

Walleye

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