

Creel Survey

March 16, 2015

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Today's Bonus Factoids:

- The 247 adult spring Chinook counted at Bonneville Dam through March 15 is the highest total through that date since 2003 (4,335).
- Last year, just 6 adult spring Chinook had been counted at Bonneville Dam through March 15. The recent 10-year average is 30 fish.
- An adult coho was caught at the Deep River Select Area Fishery on March 12-13. The fish also had a coded-wire tag (to be read later).
- To date, 27 spring Chinook have been caught at the Deep River Select Area Fishery. Just 7 fish had been caught through this time last year.
- Last year we had not sampled a spring Chinook kept by this time.
- Last week we sampled a summer run steelhead caught in the lower Columbia mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam
- With this low snowpack, Enforcement has already observed campers at Walput Lake (Lewis Co.), located at 3,930 feet elevation.

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success is currently available.

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

- 135 winter-run steelhead
- During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:
- 15 winter-run steelhead to the Tilton River at Gust Backstory Park in Morton.
- Ten steelhead adults into the Cistus River above Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 4,770 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 16.

Kalama River – 23 bank anglers kept **2 spring Chinook** and 2 steelhead. 13 boat anglers released 1 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) for hatchery steelhead.

Washougal River – The entire river is currently closed to all fishing. Mt. Norway Bridge downstream re-opens April 16 under selective gear rules (no bait) for hatchery steelhead.

Rock Creek (Skamania Co.) – Closed to all fishing until the first Saturday in June (June 6 this year).

Wind River – Daily limit is 2 Chinook or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release wild Chinook downstream of Shipherd Falls. Night closure is in effect through June.

From the mouth to the Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge, the Two Pole Endorsement for salmon and steelhead and boat limits will be in effect in May and June. From the Burlington Northern Bridge upstream, the anti-snagging rule will be in effect in May and June. When the anti-snagging rule is in effect, only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

Above Shipherd Falls opens for Chinook and hatchery steelhead beginning May 1.

Wind River forecast is for 4,800 adult spring Chinook in 2015. Last year's actual return was 4,000.

Drano Lake – Daily limit is 2 hatchery Chinook or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release wild Chinook.

Night closure is in effect through June. Closed Wednesdays from second Wednesdays in April through June. The Two Pole Endorsement for salmon and steelhead and boat limits will be in effect in May and June. From April 16 through June 30, the area west of a line projected from the easternmost pillar of the Highway 14 Bridge to a posted marker on the north shore will be open to bank fishing only.

Drano Lake forecast is for 7,800 adult spring Chinook in 2015. Last year's actual return was 8,700.

2015 North of Falcon Sport Proposals – One of the Washington Columbia River tributary sport proposals is to allow barbed hooks at Wind River and Drano Lake during the spring Chinook fisheries. To comment on that proposal another others, see <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/northfalcon/>

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 907 salmonid anglers (including 302 boats) with 62 adult and 1 jack spring Chinook and 13 steelhead. 51 (82%) of the adult Chinook were kept. 35 (69%) of the 51 adult Chinook were upriver origin based on Visual Stock identification (VSI). 8 (62%) of the steelhead caught were kept.

Reminder – The mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam will be closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad March 24, March 31, and April 7, 2015.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Light effort and steelhead catch.

Bonneville Dam to Washington/Oregon Border – Through May 6, open to fishing for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead. Bank fishing only from Bonneville Dam to Tower Island power lines located about 6 miles below The Dalles Dam. The salmonid limit is 6 fish of which no more than 2 may be adults and only 1 may be an adult Chinook. Release wild Chinook and wild steelhead.

Sturgeon

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged nearly 3 walleye per rod when including fish released. Bank anglers also caught some walleye. Light effort and no catch was observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly a walleye per rod. Bank anglers also caught some walleye. Boat anglers caught some bass though effort was light.

Trout

No trout plants reported in the Region last week.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep							
Bonneville ¹	107	46	2									155	14.1%	Mar. 1	1,100	
The Dalles	20	14										34	34.0%	Feb. 28	100	
John Day	40	28										68	13.6%	Feb. 28	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. 15
The Dalles	10	4	1							15	Mar. 15
John Day	6	6	2							14	Mar. 15

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 9 - 15, 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						2							33	35
The Dalles Pool	33	2				3	11	23	31		1		12	15
John Day Pool	19	4		1		4	13	35	2		1	1	10	14
Total	52	6		1		9	24	58	33		2	1	55	64
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	3												2	2
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead													2	2
John Day Pool	4		1			5	1	2					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	6		3			8	23	59	16	148			315	323
John Day Pool	9		3			8	30	58	15	36			363	371
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	1												2	2
John Day Pool							1		9	1			3	3

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)	154%	51%	165%	300%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.61	none	2.57	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	2.32	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	78%	36%	104%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.17	0.17	0.81	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.04	none	0.58	none

