

Creel Survey

March 30, 2015

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

A Joint State Hearing is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. April 8, 2015 via teleconference. The agenda will include the Lower Columbia River recreational fishery, a summer season recreational fishery for white sturgeon retention in Bonneville Pool, and consider regulations to permit only hand-casting from the bank of the Columbia River near the mouth of Drano Lake. The hearing may occur one day earlier (April 7) if necessary.

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 16 boat anglers kept 27 steelhead. 44 bank anglers kept 10 adult spring Chinook and 1 steelhead and released 2 steelhead. The steelhead were sampled at the trout hatchery; salmon at the barrier dam.

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

- 862 winter-run steelhead and 17 spring Chinook salmon.
- During the past week Tacoma Power employees released:
- 79 winter-run steelhead to the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton
- Six steelhead adults into the Cispus River above Yellow Jacket Creek
- 52 steelhead adults and 14 spring Chinook into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 4,070 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 30. Water visibility is 12 feet.

Kalama River – 19 bank anglers kept 2 steelhead and released 3 wild fish. 7 boat anglers released 3 wild steelhead.

Wind River – 2 anglers had no catch. 3 boats were counted here last Sunday morning.

The area from railroad bridge upstream to Shipherd Falls opens for hatchery spring Chinook and hatchery steelhead April 1. Above Shipherd Falls opens for Chinook and hatchery steelhead May 1.

Drano Lake – 3 bank and 2 boat anglers had no catch.

Under permanent rules, the lake is closed to all fishing Wednesdays from the second Wednesday in April (April 8 this year) through June.

Klickitat River – From April 1 through May 31, open to fishing for hatchery spring chinook and hatchery steelhead Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. The daily limit will be 2 hatchery Chinook or 2 hatchery steelhead or one of each.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Last week we sampled 3X as many fish for about a 1/3 more anglers than the previous week.

Last week we sampled 2,274 salmonid anglers (including 756 boats) with 224 adult spring Chinook and 14 steelhead. 202 (90%) of the adult Chinook were kept. We sampled 176 (87%) of the adult Chinook kept. 125 (71%) of the adult Chinook were upriver origin based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI). 10 (71%) of the steelhead caught were kept.

Bonneville Pool – 2 bank anglers had no catch. One bank angler was counted here last Sunday morning.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Light effort and no catch was observed.

Sturgeon

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

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and no legal size sturgeon were sampled.

John Day Pool – One in 4 boat anglers caught a legal size sturgeon when including fish released.

Walleye and Bass

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Light effort and no catch was observed.

The Dalles Pool – A little “slower” with “only” 2 walleye per rod for boat anglers. Bank anglers also caught some walleye. A few bass were caught by boat anglers.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are still averaging a walleye per rod. Some bass are also being caught.

Trout

No trout report planted in SW waters 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. 29
The Dalles	10	4	1							15	Mar. 29
John Day	6	6	8							20	Mar. 29

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 23 - 29, 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	13	1				3							12	15
John Day Pool	5					4	9	24	22	1	5	3	16	20
Total	18	1				9	9	24	22	1	5	3	61	70
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	8					2							2	4
Chinook						1								1
Coho														
Steelhead						1							2	3
John Day Pool	6					5							1	6
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						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	7	1				8	15	42	3	85			588	596
John Day Pool						8	17	34	11	22			462	470
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	3						2	4	1	3			7	7
John Day Pool	1	3											4	4

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)	40%	120%	110%	350%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.08	none	1.82	0.57
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	1.73	0.43
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	52%	39%	47%	67%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.07	none	0.97	3.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.17	none	0.65	none

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
3/30/2015

2:30 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid			Chinook			Steelhead	Other	[REDACTED]	# Boats	Chinook			Steelhead	Other			
	Bank	Kept	Released	Jacks	Adults	Jacks					Kept	Rel.	Kept			Released	Jacks	Kept
March 23-29	Sec.	Anglers	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other	Boats	Anglers	Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks	Kept	Rel.	Other
Bonneville	1	183	15	0	3	0	0	0	0	4	12	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	67	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	84	192	12	0	3	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160	337	22	0	5	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	81	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	105	262	26	0	2	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	96	225	20	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									6	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	172	0	0	0	0	9	3	0	162	336	49	0	4	0	1	0	0
Cathlamet	9	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	12	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95	213	49	0	3	0	0	0	0
Total	10	605	16	0	3	0	9	4	0	756	1669	186	0	19	0	1	0	0

Sturgeon

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

Walleye

	Sec.	Bank	Kept	Rel.	[REDACTED]	#	Boat	Kept	Rel.
		Anglers				Boats	Anglers		
Bonneville	1								
Camas/Washougal	2					1	2	0	0
	3								
Vancouver	4								
Woodland	5								
Kalama	6								
Cowlitz	7								
Longview	8								
Cathlamet	9								
Chinook/Elochoman	10								
Total		0	0	0	[REDACTED]	1	2	0	0