

Creel Survey

April 4, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

A hearing is scheduled for Thursday April 7, 2016 at 2:00 PM via teleconference to consider non-Indian mainstem recreational salmon fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam and recreational sturgeon fisheries in Bonneville Pool.

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 155 boat anglers kept 132 steelhead and 15 adult spring Chinook plus released 4 steelhead. 153 bank anglers kept 20 steelhead and 18 adult spring Chinook. The trout hatchery area is still the best bet for steelhead; spring Chinook are being caught more throughout the river.

Under permanent rules, night closure and anti-snagging rule is in effect from Mill Creek upstream to the barrier dam through November. Only fish hooked inside the mouth may be retained.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 700 winter run steelhead and 900 spring Chinook adults, 27 spring Chinook jacks, and one cutthroat trout during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 62 winter-run steelhead adults and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 284 spring Chinook, seven spring Chinook jacks, and 18 winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and 496 spring Chinook adults, 19 jacks, and 34 winter-run steelhead adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 6,820 cubic feet per second on Monday, April 4.

East Fork Lewis from mouth to top boat ramp at Lewisville Park and Washougal River from mouth to Mt. Norway Bridge – Open to fishing for hatchery steelhead Saturday April 16. Through the first Friday in June, selective gear rules are in effect; no bait may be used.

Wind River – A few anglers are prospecting without much success. 2 boat anglers had no catch. The area from Hwy. 14 bridge upstream to 400 feet below Shipherd Falls is open for hatchery spring Chinook and hatchery steelhead. Above Shipherd Falls opens for Chinook and hatchery steelhead May 1.

Drano Lake – Light effort. 1 bank and 4 boat anglers had no catch. April 13 is the first of the scheduled Wednesday closures that run through June. Effective April 16 through June 30, bank fishing only west of a line projected from the easternmost pillar of the Hwy. 14 Bridge to a posted marker on the north shore.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Effort and catch continue to increase. There were just over 1,800 boats and nearly 600 bank anglers tallied during last Saturday's effort flight count.

During the first 3 days of April we sampled 2,228 salmonid anglers (including 759 boats) with 469 adult and 2 jack spring Chinook and 2 steelhead. 404 (86%) of the adult spring Chinook and both of the steelhead were kept. 79% of the fish sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

Sat. April 9 is currently the last day scheduled to be open to fishing.

Bonneville Pool – No effort was observed.

The Dalles Pool – A bank angler caught a hatchery adult spring Chinook there last week, the first fish to be found in the sample this year.

John Day Pool – Light effort though some steelhead were incidentally caught while fishing for other species.

Hanford Reach - WDFW staff estimates that 959 anglers fished for steelhead in the Hanford Reach (Hwy. 395 to Hanford town site) in March. WDFW technicians interviewed 122 anglers with 54 steelhead. The majority of the steelhead were caught and harvested by the boat anglers. Fishing picked up slightly in March but was slower in March than in many prior years, especially from the shore.

Based on the sampling data, an estimated 403 steelhead were caught in March with 325 hatchery steelhead harvested. This season, 6,214 anglers have fished for steelhead in the Hanford Reach catching 1,839 steelhead and harvesting 1,369 hatchery steelhead.

This fishery is now open for "bank fishing only" through April 15. The boundary area for the "bank fishery" is from the WDFW marker ¼ mile downstream of the Ringold irrigation wasteway outlet to the marker ½ mile upstream of Spring Creek. Boats are no longer permitted to fish for steelhead in the Hanford Reach.



Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – All the attention is on the spring Chinook fishery. There was little to no effort during the current catch-and-release fishery.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals. Light effort and catch from the bank.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are keeping and releasing some legals. Fishing is slow from the bank.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers kept/released over 2 walleye and nearly 5 bass per rod.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged over 2.5 walleye and 12 bass per rod when including fish released.

Trout

Recent plants of catchable size browns and rainbows. No report on angling success.

Lake/Pond	Date	Species	Number	Fish per Pound	Hatchery
<u>KLINELINE PD (CLAR)</u> <i>Clark County - Region 5</i>	Mar 28, 2016	Brown Trout	1,000	2.5	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
<u>LACAMAS LK (CLAR)</u> <i>Clark County - Region 5</i>	Mar 28, 2016	Brown Trout	4,000	2.5	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
<u>SILVER LK (COWL)</u> <i>Cowlitz County - Region 5</i>	Mar 30, 2016	Rainbow	3,888	2.8	MOSSYROCK HATCHERY

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:	
Bonneville ¹	113	44							157	48.3%	Feb. 29	325	
The Dalles	49	19							68	68.0%	Feb. 29	100	
John Day	26	17							43	8.6%	Feb. 29	500	

¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention effective February 8. 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					
Bonneville	51	12	---						63		Apr. 3		
The Dalles	26	11	3	0					40		Apr. 3		
John Day	10	4	7	9					30		Apr. 3		

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 28 - April 3, 2016

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	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool													63	63
The Dalles Pool	13	2				1	5	15	38	1			39	40
John Day Pool	18						33	84	81	4	10	9	30	30
Total	31	2				1	38	99	119	5	10	9	132	133
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2016 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	21			1		2	1	2					8	10
Chinook				1		1								1
Coho														
Steelhead						1							8	9
John Day Pool	14					2							3	2
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						2							3	2
														4
														4
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool						12	32	78	29	143			1863	1875
John Day Pool	1					1	111	237	198	401			1078	1079
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2016 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	7						4	7	20	14			36	36
John Day Pool							14	30	335	36			59	59

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)	72%	307%	78%	400%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.46	0.04	2.21	2.43
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	0.04	1.83	1.00
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	167%	195%	170%	281%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.02	0.21	2.52	12.37
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.10	none	1.68	1.20

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
4/4/2016

4:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid			Chinook			Steelhead	Other	[REDACTED]	# Boats	Chinook			Steelhead	Other			
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks					Kept	Rel.	Kept			Released Adults	Jacks	Kept
April 1-3, 2016																		
Bonneville	1	185	10	0	6	0	0	0	0	2	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	83	8	0	5	0	0	0	0
	3									96	238	42	0	12	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	71	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	141	365	63	0	7	1	0	0	0
Woodland	5	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	124	322	91	1	6	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	63	167	38	0	5	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									3	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	170	368	52	0	7	0	1	0	0
Cathlamet	9	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	77	23	0	1	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10									93	223	74	0	15	0	0	0	0
Total		371	10	0	6	0	1	0	0	759	1857	394	1	59	1	1	0	0

Sturgeon

	Sec.	Bank	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals	[REDACTED]	# 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.	[REDACTED]	# 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	0