

## Creel Survey

April 11, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – 147 boat anglers kept 107 steelhead and 9 adult spring Chinook and released 1 steelhead. 176 bank anglers kept 23 steelhead and 11 adult spring Chinook and released 1 steelhead. Most of the fish were sampled from the trout hatchery to the barrier dam.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 621 winter run steelhead and 1,230 spring Chinook adults, 25 spring Chinook jacks during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 29 winter-run steelhead adults into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 567 spring Chinook, eight spring Chinook jacks, and six winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, and 518 spring Chinook adults, eight jacks, and 24 winter-run steelhead adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 10,300 cubic feet per second on Monday, April 11. Visibility is five feet.

**Kalama River** – No report on angling success currently available. Though still very early for the Kalama, through April 9 a total of 3 hatchery spring Chinook have returned to the hatchery. The hatchery escapement goal is 400 fish.

**Lewis River** – No report on steelhead angling success. Through still very early for the Lewis, 8 hatchery and 1 wild adult spring Chinook have returned to the facilities through April 9. The hatchery escapement goal is 1,300 fish.

Flows below Merwin Dam were 6,800-7,100 cfs last week.

**Wind River** – 7 boat anglers had no catch.

**Drano Lake** – 4 bank anglers and 19 boat anglers had no catch. A couple fish reported caught here last week.

**Bonneville Pool** – Bank anglers at the mouth of Drano are just beginning to catch a spring Chinook or two.

**The Dalles Pool** – Anglers are catching a few spring Chinook and steelhead.

**John Day Pool** – Same here - anglers are just starting to catch a few spring Chinook.

### Sturgeon

**The Dalles Pool** – Slow for legal size fish. Through March, an estimated 82 (82%) of the 100 fish guideline had been taken.

**John Day Pool** – Bank and boat anglers are catching some legal. Boat anglers had the best success with a legal kept/released per every 4 rods. An estimated 71 (14.2%) of the 500 guideline had been taken through March.

### Walleye and Bass

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers averaged almost 2 walleye per rod when including fish released. The couple bass boat anglers sampled averaged 10 fish each.

**John Day Pool** – When including fish released, boat anglers averaged over 3 walleye and 15 bass per rod. The few bank anglers sampled also did well on walleye.

**Trout**

Recent plants of catchable size rainbows into SW WA waters. No report on angling success.

| Lake/Pond   | Date         | Species | Number | Fish per Pound | Hatchery            |
|---|--------------|---------|--------|----------------|---------------------|
| <a href="#">BATTLE GROUND LK (CLAR)</a><br><i>Clark County - Region 5</i> | Apr 04, 2016 | Rainbow | 2,048  | 2.4            | GOLDENDALE HATCHERY |
| <a href="#">LACAMAS LK (CLAR)</a><br>Clark County - Region 5              | Apr 04, 2016 | Rainbow | 6,000  | 2              | VANCOUVER HATCHERY  |
| <a href="#">ICE HOUSE LK (SKAM)</a><br>Skamania County - Region 5         | Apr 05, 2016 | Rainbow | 1,167  | 2.1            | GOLDENDALE HATCHERY |
| <a href="#">LTL ASH LK (SKAM)</a><br>Skamania County - Region 5           | Apr 05, 2016 | Rainbow | 1,000  | 2.1            | GOLDENDALE HATCHERY |
| <a href="#">TUNNEL LK (SKAM)</a><br>Skamania County - Region 5            | Apr 06, 2016 | Rainbow | 2,000  | 2.42           | GOLDENDALE HATCHERY |

| Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates: |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |       |         |             |  |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-------|---------|-------------|--|
|                                     | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Totals: | %     | As of   | Guidelines: |  |
| Bonneville <sup>1</sup>             | 113 | 44  | --- |     |     |     |     |     | 157     | 48.3% | Mar. 31 | 325         |  |
| The Dalles                          | 49  | 19  | 14  |     |     |     |     |     | 82      | 82.0% | Mar. 31 | 100         |  |
| John Day                            | 26  | 17  | 28  |     |     |     |     |     | 71      | 14.2% | Mar. 31 | 500         |  |

<sup>1</sup> 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. 10 |  |  |
| The Dalles                           | 26  | 11  | 3   | 0   |     |     |     |     | 40 |  | Apr. 10 |  |  |
| John Day                             | 10  | 4   | 7   | 9   |     |     |     |     | 30 |  | Apr. 10 |  |  |

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

## WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary <sup>1</sup>

April 4 - 10, 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   |
| <b>Bonneville Pool</b> |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
| The Dalles Pool        | 15           |           |          |          |           | 1                 | 2     | 8            | 7         |          |          |           | 63                | 63                  |
| John Day Pool          | 15           | 11        |          | 1        |           | 1                 | 19    | 47           | 54        | 8        | 4        | 4         | 34                | 35                  |
| Total                  | 30           | 11        |          | 1        |           | 2                 | 21    | 55           | 61        | 8        | 4        | 4         | 136               | 138                 |
| <b>Salmonids</b>       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
|                        | 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 |
| <b>Bonneville Pool</b> |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
| Chinook                | 5            |           |          | 1        |           | 1                 |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   | 1                   |
| Coho                   |              |           |          | 1        |           | 1                 |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   | 1                   |
| Steelhead              |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
| <b>The Dalles Pool</b> |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
| Chinook                | 37           |           | 1        |          |           | 2                 |       |              |           | 1        |          |           | 8                 | 10                  |
| Coho                   |              |           | 1        |          |           | 1                 |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   | 1                   |
| Steelhead              |              |           |          |          |           | 1                 |       |              |           | 1        |          |           | 8                 | 9                   |
| <b>John Day Pool</b>   |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
| Chinook                | 39           |           |          | 1        |           | 3                 |       |              |           |          |          |           | 2                 | 5                   |
| Coho                   |              |           |          | 1        |           | 1                 |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   | 1                   |
| Steelhead              |              |           |          |          |           | 2                 |       |              |           |          |          |           | 2                 | 4                   |
| <b>Walleye</b>         |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
|                        | Bank Anglers | Rel       | Leg Kept |          |           | 2016 Cum Leg Kept | Boats | Boat Anglers | Rel       | Leg Kept |          |           | 2016 Cum Leg Kept |                     |
| <b>Bonneville Pool</b> |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
| The Dalles Pool        | 2            |           |          |          |           | 12                | 10    | 22           | 4         | 37       |          |           | 1900              | 1912                |
| John Day Pool          | 3            | 11        | 15       |          |           | 16                | 67    | 147          | 156       | 308      |          |           | 1386              | 1402                |
| <b>Bass</b>            |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
|                        | Bank Anglers | Rel       | Leg Kept |          |           | 2016 Cum Leg Kept | Boats | Boat Anglers | Rel       | Leg Kept |          |           | 2016 Cum Leg Kept |                     |
| <b>Bonneville Pool</b> |              |           |          |          |           |                   |       |              |           |          |          |           |                   |                     |
| The Dalles Pool        | 1            |           | 1        |          |           | 1                 | 1     | 2            | 8         | 12       |          |           | 48                | 49                  |
| John Day Pool          |              |           |          |          |           |                   | 12    | 19           | 169       | 24       |          |           | 83                | 83                  |

<sup>1</sup> 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) | 70%      | 281%      | 31%     | 86%   |
|            | Catch Per Unit Effort             | 0.30     | 0.05      | 1.71    | 7.00  |
|            | Harvest Per Unit Effort           | none     | none      | 1.54    | 4.33  |
| John Day   | Effort (as a % of 6-week average) | 101%     | 304%      | 107%    | 143%  |
|            | Catch Per Unit Effort             | 1.32     | 0.03      | 3.27    | 10.16 |
|            | Harvest Per Unit Effort           | 0.08     | 0.03      | 2.15    | 1.26  |