

Creel Survey

February 8, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 31 bank anglers kept **1 adult spring Chinook** and 2 winter run steelhead plus released 1 steelhead. 4 boat anglers kept 1 winter run steelhead. Steelhead were caught from the trout hatchery downstream; the spring Chinook was caught in the lower river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered three coho adults, three jacks, 14 winter run steelhead and one cutthroat trout during three days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator. There was a two day maintenance shutdown for the fish ladder at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released three coho adults, four winter-run steelhead adults and one cutthroat trout into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. They also released two winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa at Cowlitz Falls Dam.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 12,100 cubic feet per second on Monday, February 8. Water visibility is four feet.

Lower Columbia mainstem from the I-5 Bridge downstream – Effort and catches are light. 4 bank anglers and 1 boat/2 anglers had no catch. A handful of boats and 57 bank anglers were counted on the Tues. Feb. 2 effort flight count.

Bonneville Pool – No effort observed for steelhead.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Boat anglers are catching some steelhead though the majority of the fish were wild and had to be released.

From a fish counter at Bonneville Dam: The first springer has rolled through Bonneville Dam. It came through on 2/4 during the 16:00 hour and was about 30" long, chrome and wild.

Sturgeon

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers averaged a legal kept per about every 8 rods last week. Starting today (Feb. 8), closed for retention until further notice.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals. Through January, an estimated 49 (49%) of the 100 fish annual guideline had been taken.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legals; fishing is slow from the bank. An estimated 26 (5.2%) of the 500 fish annual guideline had been taken through January.

Walleye

Bonneville Pool – No effort was observed for either specie.

The Dalles Pool – Both boat and bank anglers are catching good numbers of walleye. No effort was observed for bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged almost a walleye kept/released per rod. Other than an incidental fish, no effort was observed for bass.

Trout

Recent releases of catchable size rainbows. No report on angling success.

Lake/Pond	Date	Species	Number	Fish per Pound	Hatchery	Notes
• BATTLE GROUND LK (CLAR)	Feb 01, 2016	Rainbow	3,000	2.1	VANCOUVER HATCHERY	
• KLINELINE PD (CLAR)	Feb 01, 2016	Rainbow	1,800	2.1	VANCOUVER HATCHERY	

Smelt

Cowlitz River – Success was lower than last year but effort was similar during last Saturday’s fishery on the Cowlitz. Success depended upon the location in which you were fishing with some of the best catches in the Lexington to Camelot area with 1-5 pounds per dip. Below and above this area the average was 0-10 fish per dip. Lots of fishers still got their 10 pound limits. Instantaneous effort counts showed around 3,000 fishers at one time on the river.

Catches were a mixture of males and females of various sizes including some smaller fish. Fish spawning condition ranged from green to spent.

No other seasons are currently planned for the Cowlitz. Fishing for eulachon (Columbia River smelt) is also closed in all other waters in the state of Washington.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	113								113	34.8%	Jan. 31	325
The Dalles	49								49	49.0%	Jan. 31	100
John Day	26								26	5.2%	Jan. 31	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	Feb. 7
The Dalles	26	3							29	Feb. 7
John Day	10	1							11	Feb. 7

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

February 1 - 7, 2016

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers.

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

Sturgeon														Combined	
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	Leg Kept	Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool	43	22					39	98	310		12	2	63	63	
The Dalles Pool	18	1				1	13	29	50		3	4	28	29	
John Day Pool	12						22	48	6		1	2	11	11	
Total	73	23				1	74	175	366		16	8	102	103	
Salmonids														Jacks Kept	
	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	Week	Cum
Bonneville Pool															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	6						1	2		7	1		8	8	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead										7	1		8	8	
John Day Pool	5						3	5		1			1	1	
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead										1			1	1	
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	1		3			9	11	27		39			121	130	
John Day Pool							21	41	19	17			40	40	
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															
John Day Pool									1						

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	124%	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.45	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.09	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	96%	133%	280%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.23	1.00	1.50	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	0.13	1.50	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	106%	94%	181%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.15	0.10	0.88	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	0.41	none