

## Creel Survey

February 29, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – 10 boat anglers kept 4 hatchery winter run steelhead and released 2. 39 bank anglers kept 3 hatchery winter run steelhead.

**Lower Columbia mainstem from the I-5 Bridge downstream** – Last week we sampled 276 salmonid anglers (including 67 boats) with 2 adult spring Chinook and 6 steelhead. Both of the adult spring Chinook and 4 of the 6 (67%) of the steelhead were kept.

**The Dalles and John Day pools** – Light effort and no catch observed for steelhead.

**Lower Hanford Reach Steelhead Fishery** – WDFW staff estimates that 838 anglers fished for steelhead in the Hanford Reach (Hwy. 395 to Hanford) in February. WDFW technicians interviewed 152 anglers with 52 steelhead. The majority of the steelhead were caught and harvested by the boat anglers. Fishing picked up in February and should continue to improve through the month of March.

Based on the sampling data, an estimated 285 steelhead were caught in February of which 204 hatchery steelhead were harvested. Catch and harvest this February was very similar to last year and well above the ten-year average (catch=168, harvest=103). This season, 5,255 anglers have fished for steelhead in the Hanford Reach catching 1,437 steelhead and harvesting 1,044 hatchery steelhead.

Anglers fishing in the Columbia River near Ringold Springs Hatchery averaged 10.7 hours per steelhead during the month of February. Boat anglers had the best catch per hour at 8.3 hours of fishing per steelhead. 85% of the steelhead landed have been clipped hatchery origin steelhead.

### Sturgeon

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – We sampled 4 sturgeon anglers (including 1 boat) with 2 sublegals released.

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

### Walleye and Bass

**The Dalles Pool** – Boat anglers averaged over 2.5 walleye kept/released per rod. Bank anglers also caught some walleye while boat anglers also caught some bass.

**John Day Pool** – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly 1.5 walleye per rod. The few boat anglers sampled fishing for bass averaged a half-dozen fish per rod when including fish released.

### Trout

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

## **Smelt**

**Lower Columbia mainstem** – The 2016 Columbia River commercial smelt fishery went two days per week from Feb. 1 - 25 and has now concluded. Pounds landed dropped off almost completely during the last week of the fishery. Total pounds for 2016 ended up at approximately 4,755 (as compared to 16,546 last year and 18,558 in 2014).

**All waters in the state of Washington are closed to sport fishing for Columbia River smelt (eulachon).**

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%	Feb. 7	325
The Dalles	49								49	49.0%	Jan. 31	100
John Day	26								26	5.2%	Jan. 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	Feb. 28
The Dalles	26	11							37	Feb. 28
John Day	10	4							14	Feb. 28

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

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

February 22 - 28, 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
<b>Bonneville Pool</b>														63	63
The Dalles Pool	23	10				1	15	35	71		1	1	36		37
John Day Pool	22	1					17	40	20		2	4	14		14
Total	45	11				1	32	75	91		3	5	113		114
<b>Salmonids</b>														Jacks Kept	Week Cum
	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		
<b>Bonneville Pool</b>															
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead															
The Dalles Pool	2					1	1	1					8		9
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead						1							8		9
John Day Pool	5												2		2
Chinook															
Coho															
Steelhead													2		2
<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		1			12	66	152	60	327			949		961
John Day Pool	1						65	147	138	77			182		182
<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	3		4			6		6
John Day Pool							2	3	15	3			3		3

<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)	82%	51%	215%	180%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.43	none	2.52	1.33
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	2.13	1.33
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	105%	59%	250%	600%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.44	none	1.45	6.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	none	0.52	1.00

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary

2/29/2016

10:30 AM

**Salmonid**

Month/Week	Sec.	Chinook								Other	# Boats	Chinook							
		Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Kept Adults			Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Rel.	Other		
Bonneville	1		CLOSED	CLOSED															
Camas/Washougal	2		CLOSED	CLOSED															
	3																		
Vancouver	4	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Woodland	5	51	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	54	2	0	0	0	0	4	1	23	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Cathlamet	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0										
private boats/bank charter	10																		
<b>Total</b>	10	157	2	0	0	0	0	4	1	67	119	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

**Sturgeon**

Month/Week	Sec.	Sturgeon						# Boats	Sturgeon					
		Bank Anglers	Sublegals Rel.	Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept	Sublegals Rel.		Legals Rel.	Oversize Rel.	Legals Kept			
Bonneville	1					CLOSED								CLOSED
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED								CLOSED
	3					CLOSED								CLOSED
Vancouver	4					CLOSED	1	2	2	0	0			CLOSED
Woodland	5	2	0	0	0	CLOSED								CLOSED
Kalama	6					CLOSED								CLOSED
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED								CLOSED
Longview	8					CLOSED								CLOSED
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED								CLOSED
	10					CLOSED								CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton	10					CLOSED								CLOSED
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED								CLOSED
<b>Total</b>		2	0	0	0	CLOSED	1	2	2	0	0			CLOSED

**Walleye**

Month/Week	Sec.	Walleye				# Boats	Walleye	
		Bank Anglers	Kept	Rel.	Kept		Rel.	
Bonneville	1							
Camas/Washougal	2							
	3							
Vancouver	4							
Woodland	5							
Kalama	6							
Cowlitz	7							
Longview	8							
Cathlamet	9							
Chinook/Elochoman	10							
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	0	0	