

Creel Survey

January 5, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Note: A Compact/Joint State Hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Wednesday January 27, 2016 at the Washington State School for the Blind (2214 East 13th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661).

The purpose of this meeting is to review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider commercial and recreational fishing seasons in the Columbia River and Select Areas, including:

- 2016 Recreational spring salmon fisheries
- 2016 Select Area winter/summer commercial salmon fisheries
- 2016 Non-Indian commercial winter/spring commercial salmon fishing plan
- 2016 Recreational tributary smelt fisheries
- 2016 Non-Indian commercial mainstem smelt fisheries
- 2016 Recreational Sturgeon fisheries – above Bonneville
- 2016 Treaty winter seasons

Washington Bonneville Pool tributary spring Chinook forecasts (to the mouth of the tributaries):

	2015 Forecast	2015 Actual Return	2016 Forecast
Wind	4,800	7,100	6,500
Drano Lake	7,800	17,600	9,800
Klickitat	2,700	2,800	1,600

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success is currently available.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 90 coho adults, 33 jacks and 15 winter run steelhead during four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 23 coho adults, 17 jacks and 13 winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton. They also released three coho adults, four coho jacks and one winter-run steelhead adult into Lake Scanewa at Cowlitz Falls Dam.

Twelve coho jacks were released into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

Of the 3,300 summer-run steelhead that have been recycled during the 2015 season, a total of 1,683 (51%) have been accounted for through December 18.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 14,500 cubic feet per second on Monday, January 4.

Coweeman River – 12 bank anglers released 6 wild steelhead.

Kalama River – 81 bank anglers kept 4 hatchery steelhead and released 4 wild steelhead.

East Fork Lewis River – 21 bank anglers kept 1 hatchery steelhead and released 2 wild steelhead.

Bonneville and John Day pools – Little to no effort or catch.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some summer run steelhead.

Lower Hanford Reach steelhead fishery – From Paul A. Hoffarth, WDFW District 4 Fish Biologist in Pasco - WDFW staff estimates that 1,151 anglers fished for steelhead in the Hanford Reach (Hwy. 395 to Hanford) in December. WDFW technicians interviewed 314 anglers with 66 steelhead.

Based on the sampling data, an estimated 306 steelhead were caught in December, 215 harvested. Catch and harvest this December was slightly lower than last year’s catch (344) in December but the 2015 catch and harvest was well above the five-year average (catch=182, harvest=132). So far this season, 3,885 anglers have fished for steelhead in the Hanford Reach catching 1,061 steelhead and harvesting 793 hatchery steelhead.

Anglers fishing in the Columbia River near Ringold Springs Hatchery averaged 15.2 hours per steelhead during the month of December. Boat anglers had the best catch per hour at just over 10 hours of fishing per steelhead. 88% of the steelhead landed have been clipped hatchery origin steelhead.

Similar to prior years, the fishery is spotty with a few good days intermixed with some very slow days.

Sturgeon

Bonneville Pool – Boat anglers averaged a legal kept per every 13.25 rods last week. No legals were reported caught off the bank.

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just under a legal per every other rod. No legals were reported caught off the bank.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged a legal kept per every 5 rods. Bank anglers reported no catch.

Walleye and Bass

Bonneville Pool – No effort observed for either specie.

The Dalles and John Day pools – Light effort for walleye and no effort for bass. Boat anglers in John Day Pool caught some walleye.

Trout

Recent plants of catchable size and brood stock rainbows averaging 5-10 pounds each. No report on angling success.

Lake/Pond	Date	Species	Number	Fish per Pound	Hatchery	Notes
• <u>BATTLE GROUND LK (CLAR)</u>						
	Dec 29, 2015	Rainbow	128	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY	
	Dec 29, 2015	Rainbow	1,500	2.7	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY	
	Dec 21, 2015	Rainbow	4,000	2.5	VANCOUVER HATCHERY	
• <u>FORT BORST PRK LK (LEWI)</u>						
	Dec 22, 2015	Rainbow	1,500	2.4	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY	
• <u>HORSESHOE LK (COWL)</u>						
	Dec 28, 2015	Rainbow	25	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY	

Dec 28, 2015	Rainbow	75	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 28, 2015	Rainbow	1,139	2.35	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 28, 2015	Rainbow	1,261	2.7	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• <u>ICE HOUSE LK (SKAM)</u>				
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	13	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	17	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• <u>KLINELINE PD (CLAR)</u>				
Dec 22, 2015	Rainbow	2,000	2.5	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
Dec 21, 2015	Rainbow	36	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 21, 2015	Rainbow	64	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 21, 2015	Rainbow	1,500	2.4	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	2,000	2.6	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
• <u>LACAMAS LK (CLAR)</u>				
Dec 21, 2015	Rainbow	1,000	2.5	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	7,000	2.6	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
• <u>LTL ASH LK (SKAM)</u>				
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	12	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	18	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• <u>MARYHILL PD (KLIC)</u>				
Dec 15, 2015	Rainbow	500	2.4	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• <u>ROWLAND LK (KLIC)</u>				
Dec 23, 2015	Rainbow	3,000	2.4	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	48	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	71	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• <u>SPEARFISH LK (KLIC)</u>				
Dec 23, 2015	Rainbow	2,400	2.4	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
• <u>TUNNEL LK (SKAM)</u>				
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	20	0.1	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY
Dec 07, 2015	Rainbow	30	0.2	GOLDENDALE HATCHERY

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	3-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines: ¹
Bonneville ²													1,100
The Dalles													100
John Day													500

¹ Guidelines for 2016 have not been finalized yet. Until then, 2015 guidelines are in effect.
² Due to the short season in Bonneville Pool, we will be providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis.

Harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	3-Jan	10-Jan	17-Jan	24-Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Totals:	%	As of
Bonneville	4									4		Jan. 3
The Dalles	11									11		Jan. 3
John Day	5									5		Jan. 3

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

January 1 - 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	18	9			1		15	53	123		4	2	4	4
The Dalles Pool	18	14					11	39	86	5	11	11	11	11
John Day Pool	23						8	24	18		5	4	5	5
Total	59	23			1		34	116	227	5	20	17	20	20
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							1	2		1	1		1	1
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead										1	1		1	
John Day Pool	3													
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
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													
John Day Pool							1	2		5			5	5
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 Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (# of angler trips)	71	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.96	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (# of angler trips)	57	2	1	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	2.23	1.00	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.19	0.50	none	none
John Day	Effort (# of angler trips)	47	3	2	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.57	none	2.50	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.11	none	2.50	none