

Creel Survey

March 14, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – 132 boat anglers kept 85 hatchery winter run steelhead and released 1 wild fish. 64 bank anglers kept 5 hatchery adult spring Chinook and 10 hatchery winter run steelhead plus released 1 hatchery winter run steelhead. The spring Chinook were caught at the barrier dam while the steelhead were mainly caught around the trout hatchery though some fish were also caught downriver.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 346 winter run steelhead and 24 spring Chinook adults during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 71 winter-run steelhead adults into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 13 spring Chinook and three winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, and 33 winter-run steelhead adults and nine spring Chinook 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, March 14. Water visibility is four feet.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – Catches remained about the same as the previous week – that is until the lower river became turbid.

Last week we sampled 821 salmonid anglers (including 311 boats) with 29 adult spring Chinook and 3 steelhead. All but 2 (93%) of the adult spring Chinook were kept. 24 (89%) were lower river stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

The Dalles Pool – Light effort and no catch for steelhead.

John Day Pool – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam – The handful of boat anglers sampled from the Woodland area had released quite a few legal.

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legal; fishing is slow from the bank. Through February, an estimated 68 (68%) of the 100 fish guideline had been taken.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers are catching some legal; no legal size fish were sampled from the bank anglers. An estimated 43 (8.6%) of the 500 fish guideline had been taken through February.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged 3.3 walleye kept/released per rod. In addition, some bass were being caught.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged nearly 1.4 walleye per rod. Some bass were also being incidentally caught.

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		Mar. 13		
The Dalles	26	11	2						39		Mar. 13		
John Day	10	4	4						18		Mar. 13		

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 7 - 13, 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														
The Dalles Pool	22				1	1	2	8	3		1		63	63
John Day Pool	15	7					18	38	16		3	1	18	18
Total	37	7			1	1	20	46	19		4	1	119	120
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	6					1	1	2					8	9
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						1							8	9
John Day Pool	6			2	1	2							2	4
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead				2	1	2							2	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	3					12	31	77	29	226			1449	1461
John Day Pool	2						44	104	32	112			414	414
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	1	6								4	3		17	17
John Day Pool										4	2		8	8

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)	46%	117%	78%	86%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.17	none	3.19	13.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	none	2.83	3.00
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	91%	78%	127%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.51	0.50	1.36	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	0.33	1.06	none

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary
3/14/2016

2:00 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid			Chinook			Steelhead	Other		Chinook			Steelhead			Other	
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks	Released Adults	Jacks				Kept	Rel.	# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Jacks		Released Adults
March 7-13, 2016																	
Bonneville	1	19	0	0	1	0	0	0									
Camas/Washougal	2									2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3									7	16	1	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	20	0	0	0	0	0	0		50	110	1	0	1	0	0	0
Woodland	5	52	0	0	0	0	0	0		74	157	1	0	0	0	0	12
Kalama	6	21	0	0	0	0	0	0		44	94	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	36	0	0	0	0	1	1		74	146	6	0	0	0	1	0
Cathlamet	9	10	0	0	0	0	0	0		3	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10									56	124	18	0	0	0	0	0
Total		158	0	0	1	0	1	1		311	663	27	0	1	0	1	0

Sturgeon

	Sec.	Bank	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals	# Boats	Boat	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals
		Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Kept		Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Kept	
Bonneville	1											CLOSED
Camas/Washougal	2											CLOSED
	3											CLOSED
Vancouver	4											CLOSED
Woodland	5						2	5	27	13	0	CLOSED
Kalama	6											CLOSED
Cowlitz	7											CLOSED
Longview	8											CLOSED
Cathlamet	9											CLOSED
	10											CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton boats	10											CLOSED
Cathlamet	10											CLOSED
Total		0	0	0	0	CLOSED	2	5	27	13	0	CLOSED

Walleye

	Sec.	Bank	Kept	Rel.	# 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