

## Creel Survey

March 21, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – 101 boat anglers kept 51 steelhead and 4 adult spring Chinook plus released 1 steelhead. 66 bank anglers kept 7 steelhead and 5 adult spring Chinook. Steelhead were mainly caught around the trout hatchery while spring Chinook were caught more throughout the river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 277 winter run steelhead and 77 spring Chinook adults and one spring Chinook jack during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 21 winter-run steelhead adults into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 40 spring Chinook, one spring Chinook jack and one winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and 29 winter-run steelhead adults and 28 spring Chinook adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 8,630 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 21.

Through mid-March, ~100 hatchery adult spring Chinook have returned to the salmon hatchery. Last year only 3 of the 17,400 fish had counted at the hatchery by this time.

A short enforcement patrol last weekend showed that barbless hook compliance on boats is not good. Numerous tickets were issued for barbed hook and for fail to record. Several verbal warnings were given as well.

**BONUS FACTOID** – Some adult spring Chinook with Coded Wire Tags originating from Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery have been recently recovered from the mainstem Columbia sport fishery in the Vancouver area. This is a relatively common occurrence when the lower Cowlitz gets high and turbid. After a while the fish usually head back downriver and return to the Cowlitz.

**Wind River** – No effort was observed at the mouth last weekend. **Anglers are reminded Wind River from the Hwy. 14 Bridge upstream is closed to all fishing through March.**

**Drano Lake** – 2 boat anglers had no catch.

**Please note:** At Wind River and Drano Lake, boat launch passes are no longer available at the boat ramps at either site.

### Parking/Launch Fees

Users are required to pay a fee to park or launch at Wind River and Drano Lake Boat Launch sites. Fees are as follows:

### Annual Passes

Annual Passes can be purchased at the following locations:

- Main St. Convenience Store: Stevenson, WA
- Home Valley Grocery: Home Valley, WA
- Bridgemart: Bingen: WA
- Courthouse Annex: Stevenson, WA

- Hegewald Center: Stevenson, WA
- Wind River Market: Carson, WA

<b>Date of Purchase</b>	<b>Resident Fee</b>	<b>Non-Resident Fee</b>
<i>January 1 - June 30</i>	\$10.00	\$75.00
<i>July 1 - September 30</i>	\$10.00	\$55.00
<i>October 1 - December 31</i>	\$10.00	\$35.00
3-Day		\$12.50
Daily Launch Fee	\$5.00	\$5.00
Guide Service Annual Pass	\$350.00	\$350.00

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Last week we sampled 1,566 salmonid anglers (including 562 boats) with 59 adult and 2 jack spring Chinook and 5 steelhead. All the Chinook were caught by boat anglers while bank anglers caught the steelhead.

49 of the 59 (83%) adult spring Chinook were kept. 62% of the fish sampled were lower river stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

2 of the 5 (40%) of the steelhead were kept.

**Reminder – The mainstem Columbia below Bonneville Dam will be closed to fishing for salmon, steelhead, and shad March 29 and April 5, 2016.**

**Bonneville Pool** – No effort was observed last weekend.

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

## **Sturgeon**

**Lower Columbia mainstem** – Light effort during the current catch-and-release fishery.

**The Dalles Pool** – No legals were found in the sample last week.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers are catching a few legals.

## **Walleye and Bass**

**The Dalles Pool** – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged 2.7 walleye per rod. A few bass were also incidentally caught.

**John Day Pool** – Boat anglers averaged 1.7 walleye and 6.4 bass kept/released per rod. Bank anglers also caught some 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="#"><u>BATTLE GROUND LK (CLAR)</u></a> <i>Clark County - Region 5</i>	Mar 14, 2016	Rainbow	2,000	2.25	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>BATTLE GROUND LK (CLAR)</u></a> <i>Clark County - Region 5</i>	Mar 15, 2016	Rainbow	2,000	1.9	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>KLINELINE PD (CLAR)</u></a> <i>Clark County - Region 5</i>	Mar 15, 2016	Rainbow	2,000	2	VANCOUVER HATCHERY
<a href="#"><u>LEROY BURNS PD (WAHK)</u></a> <i>Wahkiakum County - Region 5</i>	Mar 15, 2016	Rainbow	3,000	2.5	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%	Feb. 29	325	
The Dalles	49	19							68	68.0%	Feb. 29	100	
John Day	26	17							43	8.6%	Feb. 29	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		Mar. 20		
The Dalles	26	11	2						39		Mar. 20		
John Day	10	4	5						19		Mar. 20		

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

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

March 14 - 20, 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													63	63
The Dalles Pool	10					1	1	4	15				38	39
John Day Pool	18						18	49	27		1	1	19	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>42</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>121</b>
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	2					1							8	9
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						1							8	9
John Day Pool	5					2							2	4
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						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						12	27	59	23	137			1586	1598
John Day Pool	5		1			1	72	139	88	142			556	557
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									2				17	17
John Day Pool	1						11	25	145	14			22	22

<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)	23%	34%	55%	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	1.07	none	2.71	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	2.32	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	112%	73%	143%	473%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.43	none	1.60	6.12
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.01	none	0.99	0.54

