

## Creel Survey

March 28, 2016

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

### Salmon/Steelhead

**Cowlitz River** – 93 boat anglers kept 83 steelhead and 9 adult spring Chinook and released 5 steelhead. 97 bank anglers kept 16 steelhead and 10 adult spring Chinook and released 1 steelhead. Most of the steelhead catch was around the trout hatchery while spring Chinook were caught throughout the river.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 312 winter run steelhead and 196 spring Chinook adults and two spring Chinook jacks during five days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 46 winter-run steelhead adults into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton, 176 spring Chinook, two spring Chinook jacks, and 11 winter-run steelhead into Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam, and 19 winter-run steelhead adults into the Cispus River near the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 8,710 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 28.

**Kalama River** – From Steve Gray, WDFW Region 5 Biologist in charge of the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement creel sampling projects on several Washington lower Columbia River tributaries – Bank and boat anglers are catching some steelhead and spring Chinook (see attached file).

**North Fork Lewis** – 2 bank anglers had no steelhead catch. Overall light effort. Fishing for salmon remains closed.

**Wind River and Drano Lake** – Little to no effort.

**Klickitat River from mouth (Burlington Northern Railroad Bridge) to upstream Fisher Hill Bridge** – Effective April 2 through May 30, will be open to fishing on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays only. The hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead daily limit will be a total of 2 fish.

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Effort and catch are ramping up. There were nearly 1,500 boats on the river last Saturday (March 26) during the effort flight count. About 45% of the boats were tallied in the Vancouver area. Nearly 50 boats were observed in the Multnomah to Horsetails falls area.

Last week we sampled 2,575 salmonid anglers (including 915 boats) with 219 adult and 2 jack spring Chinook and 14 steelhead.

193 (88%) of the adult spring Chinook were kept. 94 (53%) of the 179 fish sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI). 12 of the 14 (86%) of the steelhead were kept.

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

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

### Sturgeon

**Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam** – Boat anglers in the Vancouver area are releasing some legals.

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

## Walleye and Bass

**The Dalles Pool** – A little slower for boat anglers but still good with an average of 1.5 walleye kept/released per rod. Anglers were also incidentally catching some bass.

**John Day Pool** – Was a little better with 1.77 walleye per rod when including fish released. At least one bass angler had a lot of action.

## Trout

Recent releases 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>HORSESHOE LK (COWL)</u></a> <i>Cowlitz County - Region 5</i>	Mar 23, 2016	Rainbow	2,840	2	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. 27		
The Dalles	26	11	3						40		Mar. 27		
John Day	10	4	6						20		Mar. 27		

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

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

March 21 - 27, 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
<b>Bonneville Pool</b>														
The Dalles Pool	10					1	15	41	28		1	2	63	63
John Day Pool	5	1					5	11	7		1		20	20
Total	15	1				1	20	52	35		2	2	122	123
<b>Salmonids</b>														
	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
<b>Bonneville Pool</b>														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	4					1							8	9
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						1							8	9
John Day Pool	3					2							2	4
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						2							2	4
<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	1					12	33	93	6	134			1720	1732
John Day Pool	4					1	39	86	31	121			677	678
<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	2									6	5		22	22
John Day Pool							1	1	45	1			23	23

<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)	103%	92%	84%	150%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.61	none	1.49	5.50
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.02	none	1.43	2.50
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	30%	51%	81%	18%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.56	none	1.69	46.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.06	none	1.34	1.00

Preliminary Washington lower Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary  
3/28/2016

4:30 PM

Month/Week	Salmonid									[REDACTED]	Chinook								
	Sec.	Bank Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Other		# Boats	Boat Anglers	Kept Adults	Released Jacks	Released Adults	Released Jacks	Steelhead Kept	Steelhead Rel.	Other
March 21-27, 2016	1	81	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Bonneville	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Camas/Washougal	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	234	27	0	5	0	0	0	0	
Vancouver	4	96	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	189	415	34	0	8	0	0	0	0	
Woodland	5	135	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	107	265	23	0	3	0	0	0	0	
Kalama	6	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	148	375	27	0	3	0	0	0	0	
Cowlitz	7	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	19	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Longview	8									209	448	17	0	0	0	6	2	0	
Cathlamet	9	114	3	0	1	0	3	0	0	8	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
private boats/bank charter	10	17	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	122	265	50	2	2	0	1	0	0	
<b>Total</b>	10	502	10	0	5	0	5	0	0	915	2073	183	2	21	0	7	2	0	

**Sturgeon**

	Sec.	Bank	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals	[REDACTED]	#	Boat	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals
		Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Kept		Boats	Anglers	Rel.	Rel.	Rel.	Kept
Bonneville	1					CLOSED							CLOSED
Camas/Washougal	2					CLOSED							CLOSED
	3					CLOSED	1	5	20	5	0	0	CLOSED
Vancouver	4					CLOSED							CLOSED
Woodland	5					CLOSED							CLOSED
Kalama	6					CLOSED	1	3	2	0	0	0	CLOSED
Cowlitz	7					CLOSED							CLOSED
Longview	8					CLOSED							CLOSED
Cathlamet	9					CLOSED							CLOSED
	10					CLOSED							CLOSED
Deep River + Knappton boats	10					CLOSED							CLOSED
Cathlamet	10					CLOSED							CLOSED
<b>Total</b>		0	0	0	0	CLOSED	2	8	22	5	0	0	CLOSED

**Walleye**

	Sec.	Bank	Kept	Rel.	[REDACTED]	#	Boat	Kept	Rel.
		Anglers				Boats	Anglers		
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	0

Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Creel Summary

		Stat Week 13-14			3/21/2016 Through 3/27/2016		
River	Bank Anglers	Steelhead			Adult Spring Chinook		
		HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released	HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released
Coweeman Lewis, EF Kalama	a b 21	1	0	2	1	0	0
Bank Total							

		Stat Week 13-14			3/21/2016 Through 3/27/2016		
River	Boat Anglers	Steelhead			Adult Spring Chinook		
		HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released	HOR Kept	HOR Released	NOR Released
Coweeman Lewis, EF Kalama	a b 27	5	0	3	1	0	0
Boat Total							

**Totals**

<b>Coweeman</b>	a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lewis, EF</b>	b	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Kalama</b>		48	6	0	5	2	0	0

a - closed by permanent rule until first Saturday in June

b - below lewisville park boat ramp, closed by permanent rule March 16 - April 15; above lewisville park boat ramp, closed by permanent rule March 16 - First Saturday in June

HOR - Hatchery origin

NOR - Natural origin