

Creel Survey

March 26, 2012

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – Anglers are catching steelhead and some spring Chinook throughout the river though most of the catch was from the trout hatchery area.

Last week Tacoma Power recovered 385 winter-run steelhead and one spring Chinook adult during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 45 winter-run steelhead at the Day Use Park in Lake Scanewa above Cowlitz Falls Dam and 27 steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 8,390 cubic feet per second on Monday, March 26. Water visibility is seven feet.

Kalama River – Bank anglers are catching some steelhead.

Lewis River (including North Fork) – Light effort and catch.

Wind River and Drano Lake – Still no effort.

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - Last week we sampled 2,940 salmonid anglers (including 955 boats) with 160 spring Chinook and 27 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged a Chinook kept/released per every 14.6 rods based on mainly completed trips while bank anglers averaged one per every 74 rods based on primarily incomplete trips.

134 (84%) of the Chinook caught were kept. We sampled 89 (66%) of the Chinook kept. 79 (89%) of the Chinook sampled were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI).

17 (63%) of the steelhead caught were kept.

Quite a few more salmonid anglers out with the nice weather. During the Saturday March 24 effort flight count, over 1,200 boats and nearly 900 bank anglers were tallied.

The Dalles Pool – Anglers are catching some wild steelhead that have to be released.

John Day Pool – Slow fishing for bank anglers.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam - We sampled only 1 legal kept from the 66 anglers interviewed last week. Effort remains light with only 27 boats and 15 bank anglers found during the Saturday March 24 effort flight count.

The Dalles Pool – No legals were sampled there last week.

John Day Pool – Bank and boat anglers are catching some legals.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Boat anglers averaged 1.7 walleye per rod when including fish released. Fishing from the shore is slow for walleye and bass.

John Day Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged just over a walleye per every other rod. Boat anglers are also catching some bass.

Trout

Horseshoe Lake in Woodland – Planted with 3,016 catchable size browns on March 20. No report on angling success.

Klineline Pond – 32 bank anglers kept 2 brown trout. Best success was by anglers using Power Bait in the swimming area.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	812	128	closed						940	47.0%	Feb. 17 ²	2,000
The Dalles	27	0							27	9.0%	Feb. 29	300
John Day	75	63							138	27.6%	Feb. 29	500

¹ Due to the high effort and harvest in Bonneville Pool, we are providing weekly harvest estimates. We will continue to provide harvest estimates for the other pools on a monthly basis.

² Bonneville Reservoir closed to sturgeon retention effective February 18. It will re-open during the summer to finish the guideline.

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

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:

	08-Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug		
Bonneville	66	20	closed						86	Mar. 25
The Dalles	5	0	1						6	Mar. 25
John Day	9	9	18						36	Mar. 25

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

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

March 19 - 25, 2012

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	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool						4							82	86
The Dalles Pool	60	9				4	14	30	32				2	6
John Day Pool	100	19		8	4	12	17	38	16		2	2	24	36
Total	160	28		8	4	20	31	68	48		2	2	108	128
Salmonids														
	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2012 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool														
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead														
The Dalles Pool	19		4			10	1	2		7		2	33	43
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead			4			10				7		2	33	43
John Day Pool	17												1	1
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead													1	1
Walleye														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool	4						27	60	3	97				
John Day Pool							33	56	13	22				
Bass														
	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2012 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													1	1
The Dalles Pool	1													
John Day Pool							2	3	6				2	2

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)	228%	147%	272%	600%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.46	0.62	1.56	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	1.52	none
John Day	Effort (as a % of 6-week average)	156%	132%	100%	450%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.37	none	0.63	2.00
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.07	none	0.39	none

Washington Southwest Washington lakes sport sampling summaries - March 19-25.

Klineline Pond - 32 bank anglers with 2 brown trout kept.