

February 26, 2019

Columbia River and Tributary Fishery Reports

Updates: Mainstem and tributary:

Salmon/Steelhead:

- Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open through Thursday February 28 for hatchery Chinook salmon; and hatchery steelhead is open from Buoy 10 upstream to OR/WA Border. See 2018-19 <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/> for retention details.
- **Warrior Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam: Effective March 1 through April 10;** Open for boat and bank fishing for adipose fin-clipped chinook, coho and steelhead from the Warrior Rock line to the Beacon Rock line, plus bank angling only from the Beacon Rock line upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.
- **Effective March 1 until further notice; Mainstem Columbia River waters downstream of the Warrior Rock line are closed to salmon, steelhead and shad fishing.**
 - See the 2018/2019 Washington Sport Fishing rules pamphlet for further mainstem Columbia River boundary line descriptions.
- **Above Bonneville Dam: Effective April 1 through May 5;** Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines (except for those waters closed under permanent regulations) are open to salmon and steelhead fishing.

Sturgeon:

- White sturgeon retention is closed from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam including adjacent tributaries and in The Dalles Pool but remains open for catch and release fishing only.
- Bonneville and John Day pools are open to the retention of white sturgeon until quotas are reached. See <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/> for size, daily, and annual bag limit.

Fishery Reports:

Salmon/Steelhead:

Lower Columbia mainstem from the I-5 Br. downstream – Water looks good for salmon fishing but only 31 boats and 68 bank rods were tallied during last Saturdays boat count.

Washington only creel checks:

- Sec 4 (Vancouver) bank – 9 salmonid anglers had no catch.
- Sec 5 (Woodland) bank – 9 salmonid anglers had no catch.
- Sec 5 boat – 1 boat/ 1 salmonid angler had no catch.
- Sec 6 (Kalama) bank – 2 salmonid anglers had no catch.

John Day Pool: 1 bank angler kept 1 steelhead and released 1 steelhead.

Sturgeon:

Bonneville Pool- 4 boats/8 anglers kept 1 legal sturgeon and released 29 sublegal sturgeon.

The Dalles Pool- Closed for retention. No report.

John Day Pool- 12 bank anglers had no catch. 10 boats/22 anglers kept 1 legal sturgeon.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:												
	Jan	3-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	258	---	---	---					258	51.6%	Feb. 17	500
The Dalles ²	78								78	57.8%	Feb. 3	135
John Day	---	4							4	3.8%	Feb. 3	105

¹ 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.

² The Dalles pool closed to retention effective January 7.

The Dalles and John Day harvest estimates are calculated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary.

Current month sampled sturgeon kept:												
	Jan	3-Feb	10-Feb	17-Feb	24-Feb	Mar	Apr	May				
Bonneville	54	---	---	---	1				55		Feb. 24	
The Dalles	33								33		Feb. 24	
John Day	---	1	---	---	1				2		Feb. 24	

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

Walleye:

Bonneville Pool- 2 boats/4 rods kept 3 walleye and released 3 walleye.

The Dalles Pool- No anglers sampled.

John Day Pool- 9 boats/22 rods kept 5 walleye and released 2 walleye.

Salmon/Steelhead:

Columbia River Tributaries

Grays River – 6 bank anglers had no catch.

Elochoman River – 3 bank anglers had no catch.

Abernathy Creek – 1 bank angler had no catch.

Germany Creek – 1 bank angler had no catch.

Cowlitz River – I-5 Br downstream: 65 bank rods kept 3 steelhead. 2 boats/6 rods had no catch.

Above the I-5 Br: 21 bank rods kept 1 steelhead. 19 boats/53 rods kept 12 steelhead and released 1 steelhead.

Last week, Tacoma Power employees recovered seven winter-run steelhead adults during four days of operations at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

All of the fish collected last week were held at the hatchery for broodstock needs.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 8,930 cubic feet per second on Monday, Feb. 25. Water visibility is 9 feet and the water temperature is 41.9 F. River flows could change at any time so boaters and anglers should remain alert for this possibility

East Fork Lewis River – 24 bank anglers released 4 steelhead.

Salmon Creek – 1 bank angler had no catch.

❖ **Tributaries not listed: Creel checks not conducted.**

Catchable Trout Plants: No report