

**Thursday – February 12, 2009**

## Conditions:

Recreational fishing last weekend was non-existent. The commercial fishery landed a couple hundred pounds today. Those fish were taken in the upper estuary. No seals or sea lions were spotted near the County Line Park or in the Cowlitz on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. No significant congregations of birds were reported, though some gulls have been observed diving in the wake of large vessels in the estuary. There has been an unconfirmed report of smelt in a minor tributary of the upper estuary. Cool water temperatures may be causing smelt to holdup in the estuary.

The flow at Castle Rock is at 8,040 cfs and slightly dropping (has been below the median daily discharge for the past two weeks). The river continues to clear (turbidity now 34 FNU). Last week, water temperatures dropped below 40°F (desirable for smelt). It remains marginal—39.1°F (4.0°C) in the Columbia River as of today.

Overall the sport fishing prospects for this coming weekend look poor.

## Catches:

### Columbia River:

Sport: There were no reports of smelt being dipped by sport fishers this season.

Commercial: Mainstem Columbia River landings totaled 241 pounds this past week (all landings on 12<sup>th</sup>). Season total increased slightly to 4,267-lbs.

### Cowlitz River:

Sport: There has been no activity since January 17<sup>th</sup>.

Commercial: Cumulative catch since January 3<sup>rd</sup> is 0-lbs.

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## Sport Seasons/Regulations:

Tributaries - Sport dipping is only allowed on the Cowlitz River, from 6 AM to 10 PM Saturdays through March 31<sup>st</sup>. The daily limit is 10 lbs per person per day. This is equivalent to ¼ of a 5-gallon bucket.

Mainstem Columbia River daily limit is 25 lbs per person per day and the fishery is open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

### Commercial Seasons:

Columbia River: 7-hour fishing periods on Mondays and Thursdays.

Cowlitz River: 6-hour fishing periods on Sunday and Wednesday nights.

Fishing Rule updates are also available by calling (360) 696-6211, then press \*1010

Here are some web sites that provide daily river data:

Cowlitz River water flow and levels: USGS Web site:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=14243000&PARAMeter\\_cd=00060.00065](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/wa/nwis/uv/?site_no=14243000&PARAMeter_cd=00060.00065)

Columbia River estuary water temperature: CORIE Web site:

<http://www.ccalmr.ogi.edu/CORIE/network/woody/>