



## 2003 Spring Fishery Management Fact Sheet January 14, 2003

### 2002 Returns and 2003 Forecasts

Columbia River Returns			
<i>Stock Group</i>	<i>2002 Forecast</i>	<i>2002 Actual</i>	<i>2003 Forecast</i>
Upriver	333,700	295,100	145,400
Willamette	73,800	121,700	109,800
Sandy	4,300	7,000	4,800
Cowlitz	3,100	3,700	4,900
Kalama	1,600	2,800	3,600
Lewis	2,000	2,000	2,300
<i>Total</i>	<i>418,500</i>	<i>432,300</i>	<i>271,000</i>
Wild Winter Steelhead	-----	33,900*	TBD

\* Spawner escapement

- ❖ Upriver run is 76% age-4 fish - later returning - sport fishery target - mark rate is expected to be >50%.
- ❖ Willamette run is 81% age-5 fish - early returning - commercial fishery target - mark rate is about 80%.
- ❖ *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee will develop a preseason forecast for wild winter steelhead.

## **Review of 2002 Spring Chinook Fisheries**

### Sport Fisheries

- ❖ Sport fishery open from the mouth upstream to McNary Dam, except closed from Bonneville Dam to the Tower Island power lines. Open dates were January 1 (March 16 above I-5 Bridge) through May 15 except closed in lower river from April 29 to May 4.
- ❖ Upriver impacts allocated to sport fishery allocated were 1.02%.
- ❖ Lower Columbia fishery resulted in 175,100 angler trips with catches of 20,500 chinook kept and 14,000 chinook released. Preseason catch expectations were 21,000 chinook kept and 20,000 chinook released.
- ❖ From Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam a total of 8,000 angler trips produced 1,150 chinook kept and 875 released.
- ❖ The lower Willamette River fishery had 89,400 angler trips with 10,500 spring chinook kept and 3,200 released.

### Commercial Fishery

- ❖ Commercial fishery occurred during February 25 through March 27. Upriver impacts to commercial fishery allocated 0.68%.
- ❖ Commercial chinook landings totaled 14,800 chinook kept and 15,000 chinook released as compared to preseason expectations of 19,500 chinook kept and 14,000 released.
- ❖ Steelhead handle in the commercial fishery exceeded preseason expectations with 20,900 steelhead handled, of which 12,400 were unmarked.
- ❖ TAC is finalizing their analysis concerning steelhead impacts from the commercial fishery and will provide a report by the end of January.
- ❖ SAFE fisheries landed 10,900 spring chinook.

## **Outlook for 2003**

### **Management Guidelines**

- ❖ Interim Management Agreement provides for 2% impacts to non-Indian fisheries on listed upriver spring chinook.
- ❖ Non-Indian impacts of 2% are allocated 1.7% for lower river fisheries and 0.3% for fisheries above McNary Dam and as a fishery management buffer.
- ❖ Based on the preseason forecasts for Willamette and Upriver spring chinook and the allocation matrix, the 1.7% Upriver spring chinook

- impacts allocated to non-Indian fisheries below McNary will be divided 65% (1.11 impact rate) sport and 35% (0.59 impact rate) commercial.
- ❖ The Willamette FMEP limits impacts to wild Willamette spring chinook to less than 15% and requires that all unmarked Willamette spring chinook be released in freshwater fisheries.
  - ❖ Steelhead impacts in mainstem Columbia River non-Indian fisheries will be managed to 2% or less on listed wild steelhead.

### **Fishery Expectations - Sport**

- ❖ Sport fishery should occur from January 1 through May 15, from mouth upstream to the Oregon/Washington border above McNary Dam (except closed from Bonneville Dam to Tower Island power lines), two chinook bag limit and selective fishing regulations in effect. Upriver impacts should be sufficient to provide for a full fishery.
- ❖ Willamette Hatchery spring chinook allocation of 41,000 fish (70% of harvestable surplus) to lower Columbia, Willamette, and Clackamas River fisheries.

### **Fishery Expectations - Commercial**

- ❖ Willamette hatchery spring chinook allocation of 17,500 fish (30% of harvestable surplus).
- ❖ Large mesh gear (8-inch minimum) may be used early in the fishery (beginning late February).
  - Will reduce steelhead handle significantly.
  - Will target Willamette stock – large age-5 component, early returning, high mark rate.
  - Will require use of recovery boxes, short drifts, short nets.
- ❖ Tangle net mesh size is 4 ¼ inch maximum.
- ❖ Excluder panels, weedlines, and droppers will be allowed to reduce steelhead handle.
- ❖ Reduce fishing days in mid to late March when steelhead abundance is high. This may require fishery to extend past March.
- ❖ No night fishing expected. Limited night fishing could occur later in the season.
- ❖ Full monitoring program by WDFW/ODFW will be in place.
- ❖ Recommending that Deep River open for spring chinook in 2003. WDFW is proposing the commercial fishing area to include the area

downstream of the Hwy 4 Bridge. Commission will meet on February 7-8 to decide.

### **Management Parameters**

- ❖ Use 8-inch mesh when mark rate is high.
- ❖ The use of tangle nets will be initiated when mark rate drops or impacts escalate.
- ❖ Manage fishery for <2% impact rate to wild winter steelhead, based on preseason run forecast (TAC to provide).
- ❖ Data collected from on-board monitoring program will be tallied daily to estimate numbers of non-target fish released (steelhead, unmarked chinook).
- ❖ Daily catch estimates and preseason run size forecasts will be used in conjunction with agreed mortality rates to determine cumulative impacts on listed stocks.
- ❖ Data will be posted weekly on department's web sites.
- ❖ Manage sport and commercial fisheries prior to late April to less than the spring chinook impacts that are allocated. The upriver spring chinook run will be updated in late April.