

**JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 15  
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
April 14, 2004**

**Purpose:** To review salmon stock status, the ongoing recreational fishery, and the Select Area commercial fisheries; and to consider modifications to the sports fishery on the mainstem Columbia River.

**2004 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***Non-Indian Upriver Impact Allocation***

- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed to limit impacts to listed upriver spring chinook to  $\leq 2\%$  in 2004. Non-Indian impacts are allocated 60% for sport fisheries (1.2%) and 40% for commercial fisheries (0.8%).
- Non-Indian commercial fisheries are being managed for an overall 0.8% upriver impact with 0.2% reserved for Select Areas and as a management buffer. The mainstem upriver impact through the March 29-30 fishing period is estimated to be 0.518%, which is 86% of the 0.6% impact reserved for this fishery.
- The Columbia River sport fishery allocation includes fisheries above McNary Dam (Snake River sport/Wanapum tribal) and the sport fishery from Bonneville to McNary Dam which are expected to impact 0.2% and 0.1% of the listed upriver spring chinook, respectively.
- Joint Staff recommends a management buffer of 0.1% for sport fisheries from Bonneville to McNary with the remaining 0.8% reserved for the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam.

**STOCK STATUS**

- The preseason spring chinook run size forecasts include returns of 360,700 upriver stock (94% 4-year old) and 109,400 Willamette stock to the Columbia River mouth.
- Counts of spring chinook at Bonneville Dam through April 13 are 10,934 adults and 2 jacks. These counts are improved since last week but are still below the average for this date. The run still appears to be consistent with a late run time.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock. The average 50% passage day at Bonneville Dam is April 26.

**FISHERY UPDATES**

***Non-Indian Sport Fisheries***

***2004 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan***

- ✓ Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April 1-May 15.
- ✓ Fishery checkpoints will be used to monitor progress towards adopted upriver spring chinook impact guideline and modify ongoing fishery.
- ✓ Modifications to ongoing fishery will occur in the following order:
  - 1) Reduce fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam to less than seven days per week.
  - 2) Eliminate fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam completely.
  - 3) Reduce fishery below the I-5 Bridge to less than seven days per week.
  - 4) Eliminate fishery below the I-5 Bridge completely.
- ✓ Manage the fishery above Bonneville Dam to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery below the I-5 Bridge.

- The mainstem Columbia River is scheduled to be open for adipose fin-clipped salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad angling from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to McNary Dam (excluding salmon angling from a boat and from the Washington shore between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island power lines) during January 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15 below I-5 Bridge, and during March 16 through May 15 above I-5 Bridge.
- Fishing was generally slow during February and March with catch rates of one fish per 12 boat anglers. Catch rates increased after April 1. Overall catch rates have been excellent with a total April catch rate of 0.26 fish per boat angler.
- Impacts to upriver spring chinook in the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam totaled 0.301% through April 11, 2004. This represents 25% of the total sport fishery impact (1.2%), and 37.6% of the portion of the impact (0.8%) that is reserved for the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam. The impact for the fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam has been 0.114% through April 11, which is about 45% of the total impact for April.

<i>Catch and Effort During the 2004 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Below Bonneville Dam</i>					
Time Period	Angler Trips	Total Catch	Kept Catch	Upriver Stock	
				%	Impact
February	9,500	80	50	43	0.001%
March	44,576	3,341	2,614	54	0.051%
April 1-11 (total)	51,858	11,642	9,065	77	0.249%
<i>April 1-11 above The I-5 Bridge<sup>1</sup></i>	<u>12,938</u>	<u>4,117</u>	<u>3,339</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>0.114%</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>105,901</b>	<b>15,062</b>	<b>11,727</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>0.301%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Also included in the April total.

- The projected sport catch under current regulations for the period of April 12-18 is 11,000 fish, with a total upriver handle of about 8,900, 4,000 of which would be above the I-5 Bridge. This catch would increase the total impact to 0.54%. This would take the mainstem fishery below Bonneville Dam to 67.5% of the allocated 0.8% impact for this fishery.

### **Select Area Fisheries**

- Winter fisheries in Youngs Bay and Blind Slough on April 12 landed a total of 597 spring chinook. The catch was 2.3% upriver in Youngs Bay and 0.7% upriver in Blind Slough. The total SAFE fisheries upriver impact is 0.024%, which is 24% of the 0.1% SAFE impact allocation or 12% of the 0.2% SAFE impact rate and management buffer.

### **Combined Fisheries Impacts**

- A summary of all non-Indian mainstem fisheries below Bonneville Dam is provided in the table below.

<i>Spring Chinook Catch and Impacts Summary for 2004</i>				
Fishery	Total Handle	Kept Catch		Upriver Impact
		Total	Upriver	
Commercial Demonstration Fishery	18,576	13,546	5,475	0.518%
Select Area Commercial through April 12	1,929	1,929	88	0.024%
Below Bonneville Sport through April 11	15,062	11,727	8,371	0.301%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,567</b>	<b>27,202</b>	<b>13,934</b>	<b>0.843%</b>

## FISHERY RECOMENDATIONS

### *Below Bonneville Spring Chinook Sport Fishery*

<i>Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is recommending the following modification to the sports fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam:</li><li>• Effective 12:01 am Friday April 16, the fishery would be closed to angling for salmon, steelhead and shad three days per week, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.</li><li>• No changes to the sport fishery below the I-5 Bridge are proposed.</li></ul>

### *Select Area Commercial Fisheries*

<i>Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is recommending no modifications to the SAFE fishery in the lower Columbia River.</li></ul>

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Wednesday April 21 at 1PM by telephone to review stock status and the on-going sport fishery.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
April 14, 2004