

**JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 16  
Joint State Hearing  
April 21, 2004**

**Purpose:** To review salmon stock status and the ongoing recreational fishery.

**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.
- The Joint Staff also recommends a management buffer of 0.1% for sport fisheries 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 20 are 56,602 adults and 167 jacks. The run still appears to be consistent with a late run time.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on April 20 to review stock status and consider an in-season run size update. TAC provided the following comments:
  - ✓ The preseason forecast model is accurate and unbiased.
  - ✓ It is too early in the annual migration period to update the run.
  - ✓ The first significant numbers of fish have just been counted at the dam in recent days.
  - ✓ If the run is late timed, as we have seen in recent years, the preseason forecast is still within the expected range.
  - ✓ Very few age-5 fish were forecast to return in 2004, so it is not surprising to see weak dam counts during the early segment of the run.
  - ✓ TAC could not rule out the preseason forecast at this early date.
  - ✓ TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday April 26, 2004.

## FISHERY UPDATES

### *Non-Indian Sport Fisheries*

<i>2004 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i>	
✓	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: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduce fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam to less than seven days per week.</li> <li>2) Eliminate fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam completely.</li> <li>3) Reduce fishery below the I-5 Bridge to less than seven days per week.</li> <li>4) Eliminate fishery below the I-5 Bridge completely.</li> </ol>
✓	Manage the fishery above Bonneville Dam to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery below the 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 0.27 fish per boat angler. Catch rates from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam were 0.43 during April 1-18.
- Impacts to upriver spring chinook in the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam totaled 0.535% through April 18, 2004. This represents 45% of the total sport fishery impact (1.2%), and 67% 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 was 0.307% through April 18.

<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	9,467	79	48	43	0.001%
March	44,576	3,341	2,614	54	0.051%
April 1-18 (total)	78,385	21,428	16,542	81	0.483%
<i>April 1-18 above The I-5 Bridge<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>24,645</i>	<i>10,549</i>	<i>8,230</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.292%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>132,428</b>	<b>24,848</b>	<b>19,204</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0.535%</b>

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

- Last week a decision was made to reduce the fishery to 4 days/week in the area from I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam, effective April 22.
- The projected cumulative upriver impact through April 25 under the current regulations is 0.674% (84% of the 0.8% impact rate).
- Through April 18, a total of 148 chinook have been kept and 23 released in the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam. Total impacts are 0.005% (5% of the 0.1% expected impact rate).

### *Select Area Fisheries*

- The total SAFE fisheries upriver impact is 0.025%, which is 25% of the 0.1% SAFE impact allocation or 13% of the 0.2% impact reserved for Select Areas and as a 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	1,938	1,938	89	0.025%
<b>Total Commercial</b>	<b>20,514</b>	<b>15,475</b>	<b>5,564</b>	<b>0.543%</b>
Below Bonneville Sport through April 18	24,848	19,204	14,612	0.535%
<b>Total</b>	<b>45,362</b>	<b>34,679</b>	<b>20,176</b>	<b>1.078%</b>

**FISHERY RECOMENDATIONS**

***Below Bonneville Spring Chinook Sport Fishery***

- Option 1. Continue 4 day/week fishery from I-5 to Bonneville Dam and no change to fishery below the I-5 Bridge through April 30. Fishery expected to be closed effective May 1. Cumulative upriver impacts would be 0.773 (97% of 0.8% impact rate).
- Option 2. Close fishery from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam effective April 22 and no change to fishery below the I-5 Bridge through April 30. Fishery expected to be closed effective May 1. Cumulative upriver impacts would be 0.691 (86% of 0.8% impact rate).
- Option 3. Close fishery from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam effective April 22 and close fishery below the I-5 Bridge effective April 26. Cumulative upriver impacts would be 0.654 (82% of 0.8% impact rate).

<b>Recommendation</b>
The Joint staff recommends adoption of Option 2 as follows:  Close fishery from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam effective April 22 with no change to current fishery below the I-5 Bridge through April 30. Fishery expected to be closed effective May 1 but will be decided at the April 28 meeting.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Wednesday April 28 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 21, 2004