

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 11 April 6, 2006

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian sport fisheries below Bonneville Dam
Select Area Commercial fisheries

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2006 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 26, 2006)

STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook count through April 5 at Bonneville Dam totaled 81 spring Chinook. Passage for this date is ahead of 2005 (54 fish) but far below the recent five year average of 15,314 adult spring Chinook.
- Based on the recent 5-year average, 6% of the run has passed by April 5th. Late-timed runs typically have 1%-2% passage complete by April 5th.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 32 fish as of April 5.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock.
- The table below summarizes past and current harvest rates of upriver spring Chinook in the recreational fishery through early/mid-April:

<i>Average Recreational (<BO) Handle Rate of Upriver Spring Chinook Run</i>				
Below I-5		Upriver Handle	Runsize	Rate
2002	17-Apr	7,594	295,100	0.0257
2003	12-Apr	8,547	208,900	0.0409
2004	11-Apr	6,190	193,400	0.0320
2005	10-Apr	2,483	106,900	0.0232
Ave				0.0305
2006	9-Apr	3,182	104,429	

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- The following plan for the 2006 recreational spring Chinook fishery was adopted at the January 26, 2006 Compact/Joint State Hearing:

<i>2006 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i>	
✓	Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April.
✓	Fishery checkpoints will be used to monitor progress towards the adopted upriver spring Chinook impact guideline and modify the ongoing fishery as needed.
✓	Increase opportunity in fisheries below Bonneville Dam if possible.
✓	Manage the fishery in the lower Columbia River to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery above Bonneville Dam.

- Allocations for the sport fisheries as adopted at the January 26, 2006 hearing are summarized below:

Fishery	Allocation
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	0.641%
Bonneville to McNary Dam	0.071%
Snake River Sport/Wanapum Tribal	0.143%
Total	0.86%

FISHERY UPDATES

2006 Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery

- 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 1st thru April 19 below I-5 Bridge, and during March 16 thru April 30 above I-5 Bridge.
- Total March catch rates are one fish per 11.8 boat anglers. Catch rates have improved since March 26.
- Through April 9, the recreational catch is projected to include 4,798 kept (and 956 released) spring Chinook in 53,810 angler trips. Upriver stock has comprised 56% of the total catch.
- The projected catch through April 12 would be 5,981 kept (and 1,162 released) spring Chinook.
- Total non-Indian fishery impacts are summarized below:

2006 Non-Indian Fishery Impact Scenario					
	Runsize				
Commercial	45,000	55,000	75,000	82,000	88,400
Commercial Allocation	0.430%	0.645%	0.645%	0.645%	0.645%
Mainstem Commercial	0.305%	0.249%	0.183%	0.167%	0.154%
SAFE Impacts (thru 4/5)	0.009%	0.007%	0.005%	0.005%	0.004%
Total Commercial Impacts	0.314%	0.256%	0.188%	0.172%	0.158%
Total Percent (of Commercial Allocation)	73%	40%	29%	27%	24%
Recreational					
	45,000	55,000	75,000	82,000	88,400
Below Bonn. Impacts (thru 4/2)	0.428%	0.641%	0.641%	0.641%	0.641%
Below Bonn. Impacts (Proj. April 3-9)	0.376%	0.308%	0.226%	0.207%	0.192%
Total Sport Impacts (thru April 9)	0.712%	0.583%	0.428%	0.391%	0.363%
Percent to Date (of Below Bonn Allocation)	166%	91%	67%	61%	57%
<i>Below Bonn -- April 9-12 (Projected)</i>	0.169%	0.138%	0.101%	0.093%	0.086%
Total Sport Impacts (thru April 12)	0.881%	0.721%	0.529%	0.484%	0.449%
Percent of Below Bonn Allocation)	206%	112%	83%	76%	70%
Combined					
	45,000	55,000	75,000	82,000	88,400
Total Non-treaty Allocation	1.00%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%	1.50%
Combined Impacts	1.026%	0.839%	0.616%	0.563%	0.521%
Percent of Total Allowable	103%	56%	41%	38%	35%
¹ Using 25% buffer					

2006 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- SAFE fisheries have landed an estimated 298 Chinook and six sturgeon through April 6 (no YB). Landings include 174 Chinook from Youngs Bay and 124 Chinook from Blind Slough.
- Through April 6, the estimated upriver spring Chinook impacts for Select Area winter fisheries is 0.006%, or 6% of the 0.100% allocated to Select Areas.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

2006 Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>
The Joint Staff is recommends no modifications to the ongoing recreational sport fishery.

- Based on the recent average recreational harvest rate of upriver spring Chinook, achieving the preseason run-size estimate is likely.
- This fishery poses limited risk of exceeding the below Bonneville recreational allocation and a very low risk of exceeding the total non-Indian allocation.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

<i>Recommendation</i>
The Joint Staff is recommending the following additional fishing periods for the Blind Slough Winter Season: Winter Season: 7 PM Sunday April 9 to 7 AM Monday April 10 (12 hours). 7 PM Wednesday April 12 to 7 AM Thursday April 13 (12 hours). Area: Blind Slough area only. Gear: A 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Allowable Sales: Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 green or white sturgeon in the aggregate may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) of the open fishing periods. The three sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries. Miscellaneous Regulations: Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Joint State/Compact hearing be scheduled for 2:00 PM Tuesday, April 11, 2006 via teleconference to review the ongoing recreational fishery and consider a closure effective Thursday (midnight) April 13.