

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 13 April 19, 2006

Purpose: Update on upriver spring Chinook stock status and fisheries review

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 18 at Bonneville Dam totaled 248 spring Chinook. The preseason forecast is 88,400 upriver spring Chinook at the river mouth.
- Based on the recent 10-year average, 23% of the run has passed by April 18. Late-timed runs are typically 11% complete by April 18. Passage in 2005 was less than 2% complete by this date and peaked on May 5.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 179 fish as of April 18 compared to 813 Chinook through the same date in 2005.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock. The TAC will meet late next week to review the stock status of upriver spring Chinook.

FISHERY UPDATES

- Recreational fishing in the mainstem Columbia River closed for spring Chinook retention below I-5 effective April 14. The area from I-5 to Bonneville Dam remained closed in 2006. The area from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam (excluding salmon angling from a boat and from the Washington shore between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island power lines) is scheduled to remain open through April 30.
- The recreational catch below I-5 is estimated to include 5,500 kept (and 1,130 released) spring Chinook from 63,000 angler trips. Upriver stock comprised 62% of the total catch.
- Commercial fishing was put on hold in mid-March. Landings totaled 1,030 Chinook (180 released) comprised of 28% upriver stock.
- SAFE fisheries have landed an estimated 890 Chinook through April 17. Upriver stock comprised 2% of the total catch. Spring season SAFE commercial fisheries are scheduled to continue through mid June, and remain open year-round for recreational fishing.

FUTURE HEARINGS

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor spring Chinook runs and will provide weekly updates with additional Joint State hearings scheduled as necessary.