

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 6 June 5, 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 run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. The spring management timeframe is January 1 through June 15. The listed portion of this run will be used to determine impacts to spring and summer Chinook stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- The upriver spring Chinook count through June 4 at Bonneville Dam totaled 100,584 spring Chinook. On June 5, TAC updated the adult upriver spring Chinook forecast to 120,000 fish to the river mouth, which exceeds the preseason expectation of 88,400 fish.
- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31. These Chinook are not listed under the ESA and the population is considered healthy.

FISHERIES UPDATE

2006 Mainstem Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery

- Commercial fishing was put on hold in mid-March until upriver run size updates were available, commercial fishing resumed in mid-May.

2006 Winter/Spring Commercial Fisheries Harvest				
Date	Obs'd Mark			Ave # of Del.
	Rate	Chinook	Sturgeon	
Winter	89%	39	288	
Feb 23-24	100%	28	20	21
Mar 2-3	94%	212	16	66
Mar 7-8, 9-10	88%	380	25	68
Mar 14-15	78%	374	27	91
May 16, 18-19	75%	1,249	470	75
May 23-24, 25-26	70%	775	764	84
May 29-30, Jun 1-2	46%	1,249	201	75
Total		4,306	1,811	

- Actual landings of 1,811 white sturgeon during winter-spring commercial fisheries slightly exceeded the 1,800 fish guideline. Summer commercial fisheries will be managed for a harvest guideline of 500 fish.
- Chinook catch increased and mark rates decreased during this last week. When combined with the decreased upriver run size prediction, the result was a higher than anticipated impact rate for the two most recent fishing periods.

2006 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River from Tongue Point upstream to Bonneville Dam is currently open through June 15 for the retention of adipose fin-clipped Chinook. The fishery was closed during April 14 and May 16, and re-opened May 17 to include the area between I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam.
- Chinook totals include 6,064 fish harvested through May 31, with an estimated additional harvest of 250 fish between June 1 and June 15, for a season total of 6,314 Chinook kept.
- Sport fisheries from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam closed May 1 and reopened May 13 for the retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook. Sport catch in Zone 6 has tapered off, with an estimated kept catch of 500 Chinook through May 28.
- The Snake River in the vicinity of Little Goose Dam opened for hatchery Chinook retention May 17th and is ongoing and expected to remain within management guidelines.
- The ongoing sport fisheries are below impact guidelines and are expected to remain open through June 15 without further management action.
- From June 16-July 31, retention of non-fin clipped Chinook will be allowed from the Rocky/Tongue Point line upstream to Priest Rapids Dam with a two fish bag limit.

2006 Mainstem Upriver Spring Chinook ESA Impact summary

- Non-Indian fisheries are managed for a 2.00% impact limit for upriver run sizes of 82,000 fish or more.
- The non-Indian impacts are allocated 57% to sport fisheries and 43% to commercial fisheries.
- Sport fishery impacts, including projections through June 15, total 0.694%, or 61% of the 1.14% sport allocation.
- Commercial fishery impacts, including projected SAFE impacts total 0.945% or 110% of the 0.86% commercial allocation. Willamette hatchery impacts total 84% of the commercial allocation.
- Combined projected impacts total 1.64%, or 82% of the 2.00% total impact allocated to non-Indian fisheries.

FUTURE HEARINGS

Staff recommends a hearing be scheduled to consider commercial summer Chinook fishing periods at 10:00 AM on Thursday June 15 at the WDFW office located at 2108 Grand Boulevard, Vancouver, Washington 98661.