

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 10 Columbia River Compact March 27, 2006

Fisheries under Consideration:	Non-Indian Spring Chinook Commercial Salmon
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STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook count through March 20 at Bonneville Dam totaled 4 spring Chinook. Passage is less than that of recent years.
- Willamette spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 8 Chinook as of March 22. Passage is less than that of recent years.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock.

FISHERY UPDATES

2006 Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River is currently scheduled to remain open for adipose fin-clipped salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and shad angling from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to I-5 Bridge through April 19.
- During March 1-26, the estimated handle of spring Chinook from the mouth upstream to the I-5 Bridge is 953 kept and 215 released fish with 40% upriver in the combined catch. This compares to 1,700 kept and 536 released (46% upriver kept) during March 1-31, 2005.

2006 Lower Willamette River Recreational Fishery

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year.
- Catch estimates through March 19 include 188 spring Chinook kept for 7,991 angler trips or a catch rate of 0.0235.

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

- Five fishing periods have occurred between February 23 and March 15. All fishing periods were restricted to Zones 1-4 up to Kelley Point and imposed a minimum mesh size restriction of 8-inches.

<i>Chinook and Steelhead Handle During the 2006 Winter Fishery</i>										
Fishing Period	Gear	Del	Chinook Kept			Chinook Released			Sthd Handle	
			Kept	Upriver Stock	L River Stock	Total Rel	Upriver Stock	L River Stock	Wild Winter	White Sturgeon
Sturgeon Season	9"	74	39	0	39	5	0	5	0	288
Feb 23-24 (24 hr) + Mar 2-3 (24 hr)	8"	87	240	21	219	14	4	10	14	36
Mar 7-8 (24 hr) + Mar 9-10 (18 hrs)	8"	124	380	69	311	54	27	27	18	25
Mar 14-15 (18 hr)	8"	91	374	137	237	104	74	30	21	27
Total		387	1,033	227	806	177	105	72	53	376

- Mainstem landings to date total 1,033 spring Chinook with a 27.4% average upriver stock component. The fishery has also handled an estimated 53 wild winter steelhead to date.
- Mainstem impacts to date are 0.149% for upriver Chinook and 0.099% for wild winter steelhead. These impacts represent 27% of the mainstem commercial upriver spring Chinook impact guideline and 5% of the non-Indian wild winter steelhead impact limit.
- Harvest rates on Willamette Hatchery fish are 22% of the 2,500 fish available to commercial fisheries.

2006 Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery -- Preliminary Observation Data																							
Fishery	Date	Mesh Size (Inches)	# Drifts	Lower R.			UpRiver			No VSI			Total Chinook	Ratio			Total Steelhead	Steelhead				Upriver Chinook	Marked Chinook
				Clipped	No Clip	Unk	Clipped	No Clip	Unk	Clipped	No Clip	Unk		Chinook/Drift	Sthd/Drift	Chinook /Sthd		Clipped	No Clip	Unk	DNA count		
Full Fleet	Feb 23-24	≥8	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.1	0.1	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	0%	100%
Test	Feb 28-29	4¼	13	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.5	0.9	0.5	12	6	6	0	6	33%	100%
Full Fleet	Mar 2-3	≥8	43	13	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	17	0.4	0.0	17.0	1	1	0	0	0	6%	94%
Test	Mar 5	4¼	14	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	0.5	0.4	1.4	5	3	2	0	1	14%	86%
Full Fleet	Mar 7-8	≥8	36	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	6	0.2	0.1	3.0	2	1	1	0	1	50%	67%
Full Fleet	Mar 9-10	≥8	33	16	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	18	0.5	0.0	18.0	1	1	0	0	0	6%	94%
Test	Mar 12	4¼	12	2	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	8	0.7	1.3	0.5	15	8	7	0	6	25%	50%
Full Fleet	Mar 14-15	≥8	34	11	4	0	6	1	0	1	0	0	23	0.7	0.1	5.8	4	3	1	0	1	32%	78%
Test	Mar 21-22	4¼	14	5	4	1	4	2	1	0	0	1	18	1.3	0.6	2.0	9	4	5	0	3	41%	60%
Test	Mar 26	4¼	12	4	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	11	0.9	0.1	11.0	1	1	0	0	0	45%	73%

2006 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- SAFE fisheries have landed an estimated 91 Chinook and three sturgeon through March 27. Landings include 61 Chinook from Youngs Bay and 30 Chinook from Blind Slough.
- Through March 27, the estimated upriver spring Chinook impacts for Select Area winter fisheries is 0.002%, or 2% of the 0.100% allocated to Select Areas.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Recommendation	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following additional fishing periods for the Blind Slough Winter Season:	
Winter Season:	7 PM Sunday April 2 to 7 AM Monday April 3 (12 hours). 7 PM Wednesday April 5 to 7 AM Thursday April 6 (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.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending modifications for the following previously adopted Youngs Bay fishing periods:	
Winter Season:	6 AM to 8 PM Thursday March 30 (14 hours)
	6 AM to 8 PM Monday April 3 (14 hours)
	6 AM to 8 PM Thursday April 6 (14 hours)
	6 AM to 8 PM Monday April 10 (14 hours)
	6 AM to 8 PM Thursday April 13 (14 hours)

- Additional low tide opportunity requested by industry.

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Season:	The staff is not recommending a fishing period at this time.

- Due to low catch rates in the test fishery and lack of passage at Bonneville Dam, several fishers have expressed concern with continued fishing at this time.
- Further fishing is not likely to occur until after a run update is available in late April.

NEXT COMPACT HEARING

The Joint Staff is not recommending any additional Compact hearings at this time.