

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1 May 11, 2006

<i>Purpose:</i> Update on upriver spring Chinook stock status and fisheries review
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STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 10 at Bonneville Dam totaled 51,834 spring Chinook. Based on the recent 10-year average, 50% of the run has passed by April 27. Late-timed runs are typically 50% complete by May 5.
- The TAC met Monday May 8 to review the stock status of upriver spring Chinook and updated the run to a range between 65,000 and 88,400 (preseason forecast). TAC will meet again on Monday May 15 to review the upriver Chinook run.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 10,770 adults as of May 4. The 50% passage date is typically in mid-May; however counts have started to decline since the peak count of 1,434 observed on April 28.

FISHERY UPDATES

- The recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam, in the area from Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge, closed April 14. The recreational catch is estimated at 5,497 kept (and 1,132 released) spring Chinook from 63,008 angler trips. The upriver component of the catch is 3,156 kept and 812 released fish. Total upriver sport take is estimated at 3,237 fish.
- The Columbia River from Rocky Point/Tongue point up to the I-5 Bridge is scheduled to open for Chinook jacks and steelhead May 16 under permanent regulations. The Columbia River also opens May 16 for shad angling below Bonneville Dam.
- The recreational Chinook fishery above Bonneville Dam closed May 1. **The fishery is scheduled to reopen effective 12:01AM Saturday May 13 based on current in-season run size projection and improved passage at Bonneville Dam.**
- Commercial fishing was put on hold in mid-March. Landings totaled 1,033 Chinook (177 released). The upriver component of the catch is 227 kept and 106 released. Total upriver commercial take is estimated at 269 fish. **Test fishing will be conducted Sunday May 14, with the possibility of a fishing period as early as Tuesday morning May 16.**
- Commercial shad fishing is scheduled to open in the 2S area beginning May 15.
- SAFE commercial fisheries have landed an estimated 2,850 Chinook through May 5 including 59 upriver spring Chinook. Fisheries are scheduled to continue through mid-June in Blind/Knappa Slough and Deep River and through July in Youngs Bay.
- SAFE recreational fisheries are open year-round although spring Chinook harvest in 2006 has been low.

FUTURE HEARINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 3:00 PM Monday May 15 to review spring Chinook stock status and consider commercial seasons below Bonneville Dam.