

# OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3 May 18, 2006

**Fisheries under consideration:** Columbia River Commercial Fishery

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 16 at Bonneville Dam totaled 79,121 spring Chinook. On May 15, TAC updated the adult upriver spring Chinook forecast to 100,000 fish to the river mouth, which exceeds the preseason expectation of 88,400 fish.
- For run sizes of 82,000 fish and greater, non-Indian fisheries are managed at a 2.0% impact limit for ESA-listed upriver spring Chinook.
- A commercial fishing period was conducted May 16 (2 PM and Midnight) in the area below Kelley Point with 8-inch gear. Landings from this period are estimated at 608 Chinook and 180 sturgeon. Upriver Chinook comprised 14.3% of the catch based on VSI.

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		
Test	14-May	4.25	12	18	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	25	2.1	0.8	2.8	9	2	7	0	12%	84%
Full Fleet	15-May	8-9	35	23	1	0	8	7	0	1	1	1	42	1.2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	38%	78%

\*ALL DATA IS PRELIMINARY. Only fish observed are reported. Catch from drifts made prior to on-board monitoring are not included.

- Mainstem commercial landings to date total 1,641 Chinook and 556 sturgeon. Of the 1,800 sturgeon set aside for winter and spring fisheries, 1,244 remain available for harvest.
- Based on the 100,000 run size, commercial impacts including SAFE projections total 0.299% (33% of 0.86% commercial guideline). Estimated recreational impacts total 0.70% (61% of 1.14% sport guideline) through May 15, which includes projected impacts associated with fisheries above Bonneville Dam.
- Combined impacts total 1.00%, or 50% of the 2.00% limit.

<b>Mainstem Columbia River Commercial Salmon Fishery Recommendation</b>	
<b>Season:</b>	7 PM Thursday May 18 through 7 AM Friday May 19, 2006 (12 hours)
<b>Area:</b>	Zones 1-4, upstream to Kelley Point.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Grays River, Elokomina-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.
<b>Gear:</b>	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction. Use of monofilament nets is allowed.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of eight sturgeon total (white or green) may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The sturgeon possession/sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries. The maximum green sturgeon size limit is 60 inches.
<b>Participants:</b>	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	Include those adopted at the January 26, 2006 Compact: Requires use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, net length restrictions and lighted buoys. Cooperation of vessel operators to allow state monitors onboard to observe and collect data is also required.
	<b>Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.</b>

- ✓ Estimated catch for this fishing period is 1,200 spring Chinook.
- ✓ Estimated upriver impacts to-date would total 0.423% or a total of 49% of the commercial allocation. Willamette impacts would total 62%.
- ✓ Additional opportunity in the area above Kelley Point was researched in earnest. Stock composition in that area would be 100% upriver Chinook and an estimated 65% (preseason) mark rate. With the current forecast of 100,000 upriver fish, an estimated effort of 10-15 boats and a 700 fish catch; modeling indicates 99% of the total commercial allocation would be used by adding a 6-hour fishery in this area.
- ✓ In contrast, with the low percent of upriver fish in the area below Kelley Point, an additional 1,700 Chinook could be harvested without risk of exceeding the upriver commercial allocation. In this scenario the Willamette impact limit would be reached before the upriver impact limit. This modeling was based on a 78% mark rate and a 25% upriver component.
- ✓ Maintaining the Kelley Point boundary will allow for additional fishing opportunity to access hatchery Willamette Chinook and sturgeon.

### **FUTURE HEARINGS**

Staff recommends a hearing at 2:00 pm on Monday May 22, via teleconference.