

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4 May 22, 2006

Fisheries under consideration: Columbia River Commercial Fishery

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 21 at Bonneville Dam totaled 93,973 spring Chinook. On May 22, TAC updated the adult upriver spring Chinook forecast to 125,000 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.
- Seven commercial fishing periods have been conducted in the area below Kelley Point with 8-inch gear between February 23 - May 19, 2006.

2006 Winter/Spring Commercial Fisheries Harvest				
Date	Season	Chinook	Sturgeon	# of Del.
Winter	Jan-Feb	39	288	
Feb 23-24	noon-6AM	28	20	21
Mar 2-3	noon-noon	212	16	66
Mar 7-8	6AM-6AM	173	12	69
Mar 9-10	noon-6AM	207	13	66
Mar 14-15	noon-6AM	374	27	91
May 16	2PM-Midnite	615	195	78
May 18-19	7PM-7AM	652	247	71
		2,300	816	

- Mainstem commercial landings to date total 2,293 Chinook and 803 sturgeon. Of the 1,800 sturgeon set aside for winter and spring fisheries, 997 remain available for harvest.
- Commercial impacts including SAFE projections total 0.329% (38% of 0.86% commercial guideline). Recreational impacts total 0.70% (61% of 1.14% sport guideline) through May 15, which includes projected impacts associated with fisheries above Bonneville Dam. No sport update is currently available however catches have been relatively low below Bonneville Dam due to high flows and declining abundance.
- Combined impacts total 1.03%, or 51% of the 2.00% limit.

<i>Mainstem Columbia River Commercial Salmon Fishery Recommendation</i>	
Season:	7 PM Tuesday May 23 through 7 AM Wednesday May 24, 2006 (12 hours) 7 PM Thursday May 25 through 7 AM Friday May 26, 2006 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomin-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B and Sandy River
Gear:	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction. Use of monofilament nets is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of fifteen 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.
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	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.
	Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

<i>Commercial Shad Fishery</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the on-going commercial shad fishery on the evenings when commercial salmon periods are in place in the areas within 2S.

- ✓ Chinook abundance is decreasing as fish migrate into the terminal areas and upriver above Bonneville Dam. Effort is shrinking as interest shifts to Alaskan waters.
- ✓ Estimated catch for both nights below Kelley Point is 1,200 spring Chinook. Additional catch above Kelley Point is 600 Chinook.
- ✓ Estimated upriver impacts to-date would total 0.756% or a total of 88% of the commercial allocation. Willamette impacts would total 77%.
- ✓ Increasing the area to include all of Zones 1-5 would increase catch of upriver fish. Stock comp in the area above Kelley Point would be 100% upriver and mark rate would be 65%.
- ✓ Modeling suggests that a total of 2,200 Chinook remain available for harvest, limited by the Willamette allocation. With a 100% of the Willamette allowance taken, only 66% of the upriver limit will have been reached.
- ✓ Increasing the boundary to include the area above Kelley Point allows access to the upriver stock and poses little risk of exceeding the upriver impact allocated to the commercial fishery.
- ✓ This extension in area also poses little risk in curtailing the fishery below Kelley point in harvesting the Willamette hatchery fish allocated to the commercial fishery.

FUTURE HEARINGS

Staff recommends a hearing via teleconference at 1:00 pm on Tuesday May 30