

# OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 5 May 30, 2006

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

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 27 at Bonneville Dam totaled 94,647 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.
- Nine commercial fishing periods have been conducted during February 23- May 26 with an 8-inch gear minimum. The two most recent fishing periods included all of Zones 1-5.

2006 Winter/Spring Commercial Fisheries Harvest				
Date	Season	Chinook	Sturgeon	# of Del.
<b>Winter</b>	Jan-Feb	39	288	
<b>Feb 23-24</b>	noon-6AM	28	20	21
<b>Mar 2-3</b>	noon-noon	212	16	66
<b>Mar 7-8</b>	6AM-6AM	173	12	69
<b>Mar 9-10</b>	noon-6AM	207	13	66
<b>Mar 14-15</b>	noon-6AM	374	27	91
<b>May 16</b>	2PM-Midnight	615	195	78
<b>May 18-19</b>	7PM-7AM	634	275	71
<b>May 23-24</b>	7PM-7AM	422	502	89
<b>May 25-26</b>	7PM-7AM	347	251	78
		3,051	1,599	

- Of the 1,800 sturgeon set aside for winter and spring fisheries, 201 remain available for harvest. The preseason protocol provided for transferring a maximum of 300 fish remaining from the winter-spring allocation to the summer allocation (500) for a maximum of 800 fish.
- Commercial impacts including SAFE projections total 0.530 % (62% of 0.86% commercial guideline). Willamette hatchery impacts total 59% of the commercial allocation.
- Recreational impacts total 0.637% (56% of 1.14% sport guideline) through May 25, which includes projected impacts associated with fisheries above Bonneville Dam.
- The sport fishery below Bonneville Dam is expected to continue through June 15 without exceeding the impact allocation designated for that fishery.
- Combined non-Indian impacts total 1.17%, or 58% of the 2.00% ESA limit.

<b><i>Mainstem Columbia River Commercial Salmon Fishery Recommendation</i></b>	
<b>Season:</b>	7 PM Tuesday May 30 through 7 AM Wednesday May 31, 2006 (12 hours) 7 PM Thursday June 1 through 7 AM Friday June 2, 2006 (12 hours)
<b>Area:</b>	Zones 1-5
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Grays River, Elokomin-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B and Sandy River
<b>Gear:</b>	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction. Shad nets are not allowed on board a vessel participating in the above fishery.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of three 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>

<b><i>SAFE fishery modification</i></b>
Modify the on-going fisheries in Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Deep River to prohibit the retention of <b>non</b> -adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook effective 7:00 PM Tuesday May 30 through Midnight Saturday June 3, 2006.

<b><i>Commercial Shad Fishery</i></b>
Modify the on-going 2S Shad fishery to prohibit salmon nets on the shad vessel when both shad and salmon fisheries are open. Salmon retention remains prohibited during shad fisheries.

- ✓ Estimated catch for both periods is 800 Chinook, with an estimated 10% of the Chinook catch occurring above Kelley Point.
- ✓ Estimated commercial upriver impacts would total 0.693% or a total of 81% of the commercial allocation. Willamette hatchery impacts total 71% of the commercial allocation.

### **FUTURE HEARINGS**

Staff recommends a hearing via teleconference at 2:00 pm on Monday June 5.