

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 15 May 3, 2006

Purpose: Update on upriver spring Chinook stock status and fisheries review
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STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 2 at Bonneville Dam totaled 12,055 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 yesterday to review the stock status of upriver spring Chinook and concluded there is not enough information and too much uncertainty at this time to accurately estimate the run size numerically since counts at Bonneville Dam are just starting to increase. TAC believes the run is late and likely less than the preseason forecast of 88,400 at the river mouth. TAC will meet again on Monday, May 8 to review the upriver Chinook run.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 4,352 fish as of April 27. Daily counts are increasing and 50% passage is typically in mid-May.

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, and will revert back to permanent regulations. Chinook catch is projected to be less than 20 fish from this fishery.
- 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.
- Commercial shad fishing is scheduled to open in the 2S area beginning May 15.
- SAFE commercial fisheries have landed an estimated 2,474 Chinook through May 2 including 52 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

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor spring Chinook runs and will provide weekly updates with additional Compact/Joint State hearings scheduled as necessary.