

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 11 April 4, 2007

Purpose: Spring Chinook stock status update and recreational fisheries review

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2007 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 25, 2007)

STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook count through April 3 at Bonneville Dam totaled 94 spring Chinook. Passage to date is ahead of 2005 and 2006 but well behind the recent 10-year average of 6,400 adult spring Chinook. Based on the recent 10-year average, about 3% of the run has passed by April 3.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 26 fish as of April 2.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Based on the upriver run size of 78,500 fish, the non-Indian ESA impact limit is 1.5% of the run. Recreational fisheries are allocated 57% (0.855%) of this limit.
- The 2007 spring Chinook season for sport fisheries above and below Bonneville Dam were adopted at the January 25, 2007 hearing. The fishery was extended beyond the permanent March 31 closure date in specific areas as described below.

Fishery	Allocation
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	0.577%
Above Bonneville Dam	0.193%
Total (Includes 10% buffer)	0.770%

FISHERY UPDATES

2007 Lower Willamette River Recreational Fishery

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year.
- Through March 25, both effort and catch rates are tracking slightly ahead of 2005 and 2006; even though water conditions during much of March were less than ideal.

2007 Mainstem Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River is currently scheduled to be open for retention of spring Chinook between Buoy 10 and the I-5 Bridge through April 15 and through April 30 in specified areas above Bonneville Dam (Bonneville to McNary Dam excluding salmon angling from a boat and from the Washington shore between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island power lines). The area between I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam is closed.
- Through March 31, the recreational catch is estimated to include 1,169 kept (and 338 released) spring Chinook from 33,662 angler trips. Upriver stock comprised 49.4% of the total catch based on VSI.
- Preseason expectations for March included a catch (kept + released) of around 2,000 Chinook, with upriver stock comprising about 41% of the catch.
- In-season impacts from the lower Columbia River sport fishery through March 31 are estimated at 0.094%; or 16% of the 0.577% guideline set aside for the fishery.
- Although March catch rates were less than anticipated based on past years, the upriver stock composition of the catch was greater than expected. The net result is that March impacts are comparable to preseason expectations.
- During April 1-8, the recreational fishery is projected to handle about 2,000 spring Chinook in 11,500 angler trips. Upriver stock proportion is expected to be about 55%.
- Based on projected catch rates and cumulative impacts to date, the sport fishery appears to be tracking similar to management expectations.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Joint State hearing be scheduled for 2:00 PM Wednesday, April 11, 2007 via teleconference to review the ongoing recreational fishery.