

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

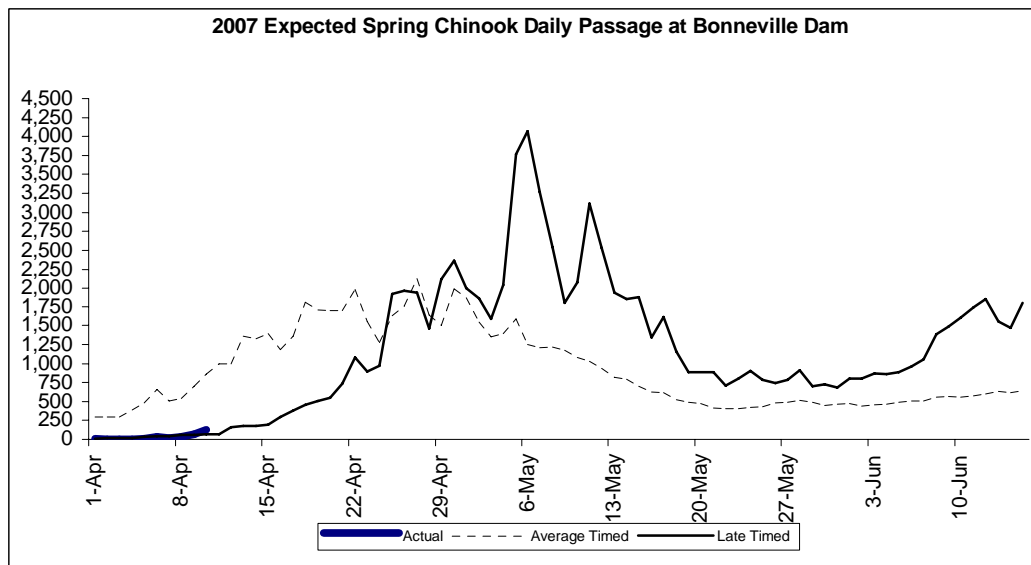
JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 12 April 11, 2007

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 10 at Bonneville Dam totaled 389 spring Chinook. Based on the recent 10-year average, about 8% of the run has passed by April 10.
- Passage to date is far below the 10-year average of 19,200 adult spring Chinook, and more comparable to 2005 and 2006, which were late timed runs with a cumulative passage of 450 fish through April 10. Late timed runs are less than 1% complete by April 10.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 60 fish as of April 6.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until at least late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock.



- The graph above illustrates the actual and expected daily passage over Bonneville Dam, considering the preseason expectation of 78,500 upriver fish. On April 10, based on average timing (10-year), about 800 fish would be expected to pass Bonneville Dam daily. For late timed runs, the daily passage is expected to be around 100 fish.

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, catch rates are tracking slightly ahead of 2005 and 2006 with comparable effort; 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.
- During March 31, the recreational catch is estimated to include 1,166 kept (and 338 released) spring Chinook from 33,644 angler trips. Upriver stock comprised 51.4% of the total catch based on CWT.
- During April 1-8, the estimated recreational fishery catch included 1,796 kept (and 397 released) spring Chinook from 19,330 angler trips. Upriver stock comprised 58.9% of the total catch based on VSI.
- Through April 8, cumulative recreational impacts for upriver spring Chinook are estimated at 0.265% or 46% of the guideline (0.577%).
- Catch projections for April 9-15 include a total catch of 3,800 Chinook (2,850 kept), with upriver stock increasing to 65% of the catch.
- Based on these assumptions, recreational impacts would be 0.581% through April 15; or 100% of the lower Columbia River recreational guideline.

Non-Treaty Indian Impacts

- Impacts to date total 0.853%, based on the total ESA limit of 1.5%. Projected total non-Indian ESA impacts including ongoing fisheries are expected to total 1.42% (95%) of the 1.50% limit.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Joint Staff recommends no changes to the ongoing recreational sport fisheries
 - Below I-5 Bridge is scheduled to remain open for Chinook retention through April 15, 2007.
 - Above Bonneville Dam is scheduled to remain open for Chinook retention through April 30, 2007.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends a Compact hearing be scheduled for 10:00 AM Tuesday, April 17, 2007 via teleconference to review ongoing Select Area fisheries.
- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor spring Chinook runs and will schedule additional Compact/Joint State hearings as necessary.