

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 6 May 30, 2007

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| Fisheries under consideration: | Lower Columbia River- recreational Chinook John Day Pool- recreational white sturgeon |
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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 May 28 at Bonneville Dam totaled 65,354 adult and 16,157 jack spring Chinook.
- TAC met on May 21 and concluded that the run is tracking to meet the preseason forecast of 78,500 fish, with an approximate range between 76,000 and 81,000 fish (+/- 2,500 fish).

FISHERY UPDATES

Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam, in the area from Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge closed April 16 as scheduled with 5,641 kept and 1,235 released Chinook from 67,244 angler trips.
- The fishery reopened from Tongue/Rocky Point upstream to I-5 Bridge on May 16. Preliminary catch estimates for May 16-31 include 261 kept (and 122 released) spring Chinook from 7,600 angler trips.
- The recreational Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam closed effective May 4. The estimated catch includes 521 kept and 125 released from 3,000 angler trips.
- The sport fishery on the Snake River opened May 9 and is scheduled to remain open through June 30. Catch estimates through June 1 are projected to total 270 Chinook kept (and 40 released). The fishery is expected to continue without interruption.

Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fisheries

- Non-Indian recreational sturgeon fisheries in Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam) opened January 1 and continue until pool-specific catch guidelines are met. Catch guidelines are 700 for Bonneville Pool, 100 for the Dalles Pool and 165 for John Day Pool.
- Sturgeon catch in Bonneville Pool is estimated at 52 fish (7% of guideline) through April 30. The Dalles Pool closed effective March 29 with an estimated catch of 102 sturgeon (102% of guideline).
- Catch estimates for the John Day Pool include 138 sturgeon kept (84% of guideline) through May 27. Catches in May have been poor but effort is increasing rapidly.
- Catch projections indicate the John Day Pool guideline will be reached by Sunday, June 10.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

2007 Mainstem Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery

| Joint Staff Recommendation - Recreational Salmon Fishery Lower Columbia River | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rescind the May 31 closure date for Chinook retention | |
| Area: | Tongue Point/Rocky Point upstream to the I-5 Bridge. |
| Date: | May 16 – June 15 , 2007 |
| Catch Limits: | Oregon: Two adult salmon <u>or</u> steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. Washington: Two adult salmon <u>and</u> two steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. |
| Miscellaneous Regulations: | For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery upstream of the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line effective during February 15 through June 15, it is unlawful when fishing from vessels which are less than 30 feet in length, substantiated by Coast Guard documentation or Marine Board registration, to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released. |

- ✓ Anticipated Chinook handle for this area during June 1-15 is 250 fish per week, with 50% assumed to be of upriver origin.
- ✓ Based on the preseason forecast, the upriver impact associated with this fishery (June 1-15) is 0.032%, which would bring total non-Indian upriver spring Chinook impacts to 1.45%, or 96.8% of the 1.5% limit.
- ✓ Joint Staff believes the fishery below I-5 Bridge can continue through June 15 with minimal risk of exceeding the 1.5% impact limit.
- ✓ Staff also evaluated other additional fishing opportunities in the area from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam and the area from Bonneville to McNary Dam.
- ✓ Although some scenarios for additional fishing opportunity appear feasible, the potential for exceeding impacts exists if assumptions of handle, mark rates and/or run size are not met.
- ✓ The Joint staff will continue to track the run and recreational catch to ensure impacts are not exceeded.

| 2007 Non-Indian Upriver Spring Chinook Impacts | | | | | |
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| | | 77,500 | 78,500 | 80,000 | 85,000 |
| Allocation | | <i>Impacts used, including projected (SAFE, SR Sport)</i> | | | |
| Lower Columbia (below Bonn) | 0.641% | 0.576% | 0.568% | 0.558% | 0.525% |
| Bonn. to McNary Dam | 0.071% | 0.083% | 0.082% | 0.081% | 0.076% |
| Snake R/Wanapum | 0.143% | 0.143% | 0.143% | 0.140% | 0.132% |
| Sport Total | 0.855% | 0.802% | 0.794% | 0.779% | 0.733% |
| Commercial | 0.545% | 0.575% | 0.568% | 0.557% | 0.524% |
| SAFE | 0.100% | 0.060% | 0.059% | 0.058% | 0.055% |
| Commercial Total | 0.645% | 0.635% | 0.627% | 0.615% | 0.579% |
| Total Non-Indian Impacts | 1.50% | 1.44% | 1.42% | 1.39% | |
| | 2.00% | | | | 1.31% |
| Percent of Allocation | | 95.8% | 94.7% | 92.9% | 65.6% |
| LCR sport Jun 1-15 | | 0.032% | 0.032% | 0.031% | 0.029% |
| Through Jun 15 | | 97.9% | 96.8% | 95.0% | 67.1% |

Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fishery

| <i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i> |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Joint Staff recommends retention of sturgeon in John Day Pool be prohibited effective 11:59 PM Sunday June 10, 2007. |

- Catch-and-release angling is allowed during the remainder of the year except all sturgeon angling is prohibited from the Highway 395 Bridge upstream to McNary Dam during May 1-July 31.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff will continue to monitor the upriver spring Chinook run and will request a hearing to update the run and consider additional spring season opportunity if warranted.
- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 11 AM Thursday June 14 via teleconference to consider summer season commercial fishing periods for non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries.
- The Joint staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 10 AM Thursday July 26 to consider non-Indian fall season commercial fishing periods. Location yet to be determined.