

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Joint State Hearing
June 28, 2007

Fisheries under Consideration:	Estuary Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery Recreational Summer Chinook Fishery – Bonneville to Priest Rapids SAFE (Youngs Bay) Commercial Fisheries
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Management guidelines, stock status and past fisheries are described in Summer Fact Sheet #1, dated June 14, 2007.

STOCK STATUS

- Bonneville Dam counts from June 16-26 total 12,599 Chinook, with a daily average passage of 1,145 fish and a peak count to date of 1,414 on June 21.
- Based on the 10-year average, the cumulative count through the same date is 17,862 fish with a daily average passage of 1,624 fish. The 10-year average run size was 51,270 (including harvest). Passage is typically 36% complete by June 26 and 50% complete around July 1.
- Chinook passage to date is tracking slightly less than expected, based on the preseason forecast and average-timed runs. TAC will meet Friday morning to update the summer Chinook and sockeye runs.

2007 SUMMER SEASON FISHERIES

Estuary Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery

- The recreational white sturgeon fishery downstream of the Wauna powerlines was scheduled for retention periods during January 1 – April 30 and May 12 - July 4. The preseason maximum harvest guideline of 16,000 fish was based on a 15,000 fish management target and a 1,000 fish management buffer. An additional 274 fish remain available for harvest in 2007 from the 2006 guideline for this area.
- The projected catch for this area through Saturday, June 30 is 16,349 fish, which represents 100.5% of the adjusted 2007 harvest guideline (16,274 fish).
- The catch projection through Sunday, July 1 is 17,097 fish (105% of adjusted guideline). The catch projection through Wednesday, July 4 would be 17,955 fish (110% of adjusted guideline).
- The June catch rate (0.38 kept/angler) in the estuary fishery is tracking similar to June 2006 (0.39/angler); however, effort is estimated to be 23% higher.
- In the area above Wauna (gorge fishery), sturgeon catch through May is tracking below expectations, compared to 2006. Catch is currently at 65% of last year, despite the liberal season of 2007. This fishery is open for retention through July, and reopens in October, when the majority of the total catch is harvested.

- Recreational white sturgeon harvest by area for 2003-2006 is summarized in the following table:

<i>Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Sport Harvest, 2003-2006</i>					
Area	2003	2004	2005	2003-05	2006
<u>LCR</u>					
Management target	30,000	27,000	28,800		27,000
Management buffer	2,000	1,800	0		1,800
No. remaining from guideline	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>+1,818</u>		<u>0</u>
Guideline	32,000	28,800	30,618	89,600	28,800
Harvest	<u>-31,932</u>	<u>-27,050</u>	<u>-29,802</u>	<u>-88,784</u>	<u>-24,271</u>
No. remaining from guideline	+ 68	+ 1,750	+ 816	+ 816	+4,529
<u>Below Wauna</u>					
Management target	18,000	15,000	16,000		15,000
No. remaining from guideline	0	0	<u>+ 1,818</u>		0
Management buffer	<u>+1,200</u>	<u>+1,000</u>	0		<u>1,000</u>
Guideline	19,200	16,000	17,818	51,200	16,000
Harvest	<u>-18,332</u>	<u>-15,050</u>	<u>-17,911</u>	<u>-51,293</u>	<u>-15,726</u>
No. remaining from guideline	+ 868	+ 950	- 93	-93	+274
<u>Above Wauna</u>					
Management target	12,000	12,000	12,800		12,000
Management buffer	<u>+800</u>	<u>+800</u>	0		<u>800</u>
Guideline	12,800	12,800	12,800	38,400	12,800
Harvest	<u>-13,600</u>	<u>-12,000</u>	<u>-11,891</u>	<u>-37,491</u>	<u>-8,545</u>
No. remaining from guideline	- 800	+ 800	+ 909	+909	+4,255

Bonneville Pool Recreational Sturgeon Fishery

- The Bonneville Pool opened for retention of sturgeon January 1, 2007 with a maximum harvest guideline of 700 fish.
- Catches were very slow through May but have increased in recent weeks. The estimated catch through June 24 is about 300 fish (45% of the guideline). The observed catch of 14 fish during this past week (June 18-24) equates to an estimated weekly catch of 93 fish.
- The Dalles Pool closed to retention effective March 29 with an estimated catch of 102 sturgeon (102% of the 100 fish guideline). The John Day Pool closed to retention effective June 11 with an estimated catch of 157 white sturgeon (95% of the 165 fish guideline).

Non-treaty Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- Non-selective summer Chinook recreational fisheries are scheduled from the Tongue Pt./Rocky Pt. line upstream to Bonneville Dam during June 16-30; from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam during June 16 – July 31; and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam during July 1 – October 15.

- Based on the preseason run size of 45,600 fish, an estimated 1,650 fish were available for harvest in sport fisheries occurring below Priest Rapids Dam (1,250 below Bonneville Dam and 400 from Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam).
- The estimated catch through June 24 below Bonneville Dam is 1,353 Chinook from 14,040 angler trips (0.1 Chinook/angler).
- The projected catch of 2,100 kept Chinook through Saturday, June 30 below Bonneville Dam exceeds the allocation for this area. The fishery will close as scheduled effective Sunday July 1.
- Catch and effort above Bonneville Dam has remained minimal, with an estimated 50 Chinook harvest between June 16 and June 24 in Zone 6. Catch during June from McNary Dam to Priest Rapids Dam is minimal, and picks up in July as fish migrate upstream. Projected total catch for the season is 200-300 Chinook.
- The recreational fishery above Priest Rapids Dam begins July 1 and was allocated 1,700 Chinook.

Non-treaty Commercial Summer Chinook Fishery

- Preseason allocations for this fishery include 1,650 Chinook and 500 white sturgeon.
- The first commercial fishing period took place 7 PM June 25 - 5 AM June 26 in Zones 1-5. Preliminary landings of 700 Chinook and 219 white sturgeon are within management expectations.
- Additional fishing periods are scheduled to occur the evenings of July 2 and July 9.

Select Area Commercial Summer Fishery

- Summer season SAFE fisheries were adopted at the January 25, 2007 Compact hearing. Fishing periods of 48-h/week in June and 30-h/week in July are scheduled in Youngs Bay from June 20 through July 26.
- A total of 400 white sturgeon have been allocated to Select Area commercial fisheries with 300 set aside for Winter/Spring/Summer fisheries.
- Combined white sturgeon landings in Select Area fisheries through June 27 total 239 fish.

Treaty Indian Commercial Summer Fishery

- Preseason allocation for this fishery includes 8,300 Chinook.
- A Zone 6 summer Chinook commercial fishery occurred from 6 AM Monday June 18 through 6 PM Wednesday June 20. Landings for this fishery are not yet available.
- Additional fishing periods are scheduled for 6 AM June 26 - 6 PM June 29 and 6 AM July 3 - 6 PM July 6.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Estuary White Sturgeon Recreational Fishery

- **Option 1:** Close the area downstream of the Wauna powerlines to retention of white sturgeon effective 12:00 midnight Sunday July 1, 2007.
 - **Option 2:** Close the area downstream of the Wauna powerlines to retention of white sturgeon effective 12:00 midnight Wednesday July 4, 2007, as previously scheduled.
- Catch projections under Option 1 will exceed the adjusted harvest guideline for this area by an estimated 825 fish (range 0-1,650). This option will most likely still result in the adjusted guideline being exceeded but reduces the effect on the 2008 season.
 - Catch projections under Option 2 will exceed the adjusted harvest guideline by an estimated 1,680 fish (range 770-2,590) and would require a shorter season in 2008 to remain within the 3-year harvest guideline for this area.

Summer Chinook Recreational Fishery – Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam

Close the area from Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam for the retention of Chinook effective 12:00 midnight Monday July 2, 2007.

- Catch projections indicate the 1,650 Chinook available to recreational fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam has been reached.
- Dam passage to date does not indicate the run will greatly exceed forecast to allow for additional harvestable fish.

Youngs Bay Select Area Summer Commercial Fishery

Modify the previously adopted summer season commercial fishing periods in the Youngs Bay as follows:

- 6 AM Wednesday July 4 through **6 AM Friday July 6** (additional 18 hours)
 - 6 AM Wednesday July 11 through **6 AM Friday July 13** (additional 18 hours)
 - 6 AM Wednesday July 18 through **6 AM Friday July 20** (additional 18 hours)
 - 6 AM Wednesday July 25 through **6 AM Friday July 27** (additional 18 hours)
 - All other area and gear regulations previously adopted at the January 25, 2007 hearing remain in effect.
- As requested by industry, the season modification provides additional opportunity to harvest early-returning Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook with minimal risk to non-local stocks.
 - Additional SAB harvest this early in the run is not expected to significantly reduce broodstock escapement.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff may request a hearing next week to review fisheries and stock status. Staff will continue to track the progress of the summer season and request additional hearings as needed.
- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 26, 2007 located at the Astoria Public Library, 450 10th Street in Astoria, Oregon to review stock status of fall Chinook and consider non-Indian fall mainstem and Select Area commercial fisheries.