

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 8
April 6, 2009

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i>	Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Deep River Select Area Commercial Fishery
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- Bonneville Dam passage of spring Chinook through April 5 totals 336 adults.
- Columbia River water temperatures in March were lower than normal, averaging 41 °F compared to the 10-yr average of 44 °F. Flow averaged 138 kcfs in March, which is 82% of the 10-year average of 169 kcfs. Spill at Bonneville begins on April 10. Water clarity during March averaged 5.5 feet, which is higher than the 10-year average of 5.1 feet.
- In summary, the river is cool and clear, with less than average flow.

Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery - Update

- The recreational fishery downstream of Hayden Island is currently open 3 days per week (Thu-Sat) and is scheduled to remain open through April 18. The area from Hayden Island upstream to Bonneville Dam is open 4 days per week (Wed-Sat) and is scheduled to remain open through April 22.
- Total catch and effort expectations (pre-update) include 23,300 Chinook handled from 149,000 angler trips. Preseason catch and effort expectations through March below Bonneville Dam totaled 4,700 Chinook handled and 63,000 angler trips.
- Actual catch and effort through March below Bonneville Dam totaled 4,875 Chinook handled (3,940 kept and 935 released) from 59,600 angler trips. Effort was high through March, but catch rates (0.08 per trip) were less than those observed during March 2008 (0.14 per trip). Through March, winter steelhead catch included 186 fish kept and 114 fish released.
- Impacts to upriver spring Chinook through March total 0.142% compared to the 0.726% available to conduct the scheduled fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam prior to a run-update.
- The effort count on Saturday April 4 totaled 3,275 boats from Buoy 10 up to Bonneville Dam. This count breaks the previous record (3,233 boats) set in 2001. Effort is expected to remain very high. Catch rates during April 1-4 were improved over the previous week.
- Staff will continue to provide updates as the recreational fishery progresses.

Columbia River Commercial Fishery

- Preseason catch expectations for the mainstem commercial fishery (pre-update) total 7,700 Chinook handled (5,800 kept and 1,900 released).
- A 10-hour (1p-11p) fishing period occurred on Sunday March 29. Preliminary data includes 370 spring Chinook (62 released) and 6 white sturgeon landed from 71 deliveries. Steelhead handle included 9 unmarked fish.
- Upriver impacts in the mainstem commercial fishery through March 29 total 0.022% compared to the 0.378% available to conduct mainstem commercial fisheries prior to a run-update.

- Test fishing was initiated March 9 in the lower river to index Chinook abundance and has also occurred prior to potential fishing periods in Zones 4-5.

2009 Spring Chinook Commercial fishery - - PRELIMINARY Observation Data																							
Fishery	Date	Mesh size (inches)	Drifts	Zones	Lower R.			UpRiver			No VSI			Total Chinook	Ratio			Steelhead			Chinook Mark Rate		
					Clipped	No Clip	Unknown	Clipped	No Clip	Unknown	Clipped	No Clip	Unknown		Chinook/Drift	Chinook / Steelhead	Steelhead/Drift	Total Steelhead	Clipped	No Clip		Unknown	
Test*	09-Mar	4 1/4	16	1-3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.3	0.7	0.4	6	4	2	0	50%
Test*	17-Mar	4 1/4	17	1-3	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	0.3	0.7	0.4	7	4	3	0	40%	
Test	19-Mar	4 1/4	8	4-5	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	100%	
Test*	23-Mar	4 1/4	19	1-3	8	3	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	26	1.4	2.6	0.5	10	7	3	0	85%	
Test	26-Mar	4 1/4	8	4-5	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0.4	3.0	0.1	1	1	0	0	67%	
Full	29-Mar	4 1/4	81	4-5	2	0	0	34	5	0	6	2	0	49	0.6	16.3	0.0	3	2	1	0	86%	
Test*	04-Apr	4 1/4	5	1-3	3	4	0	23	5	0	0	0	0	35	7.0	3.2	2.2	11	9	2	0	74%	
Test	05-Apr	4 1/4	8	4-5	5	1	0	19	5	0	0	0	0	30	3.8	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	80%	

*Occurred in Zone 2-3 to maintain historical database

- Similar test data from 2008 (April 5 in Zones 4-5) showed a ratio of 2.4 Chinook/drift. In 2008, a fishery followed the test fishing period and resulted in a ratio of 2.1 Chinook/ drift.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i>	
Season:	1 PM to 11 PM Tuesday April 7, 2009 (10 hours)
Area:	West powerlines on Hayden Island upstream to Beacon Rock (Zone 4-5)
Sanctuaries:	Washougal River and Sandy River.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 4¼" maximum mesh size restriction (tangle net gear).
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon measuring 43 – 54 inches in fork length.
Additional Regulations include but are not limited to:	<p>Multi- Net Rule: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater</p> <p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Two red corks are required at each end of nets fitted with steelhead excluder panels, weedlines, or droppers. Use of monofilament tangle nets not allowed. Soak times must not exceed 45 minutes. Lighted buoys are required at the end of nets fished between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>Use of recovery boxes is required for all lethargic or bleeding salmonids that are required to be released. Vessels must have two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers.</p> <p>Workshop: Commercial fishers must have successfully completed a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques. Cooperation of vessel operators with state observers is required.</p> <p>24 hour Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.</p>

- Effort in the fishery is expected to be high, and catch rates will likely be improved over last week's fishery. Staff estimates 2,000- 3,000 Chinook may be landed.

- Impacts are expected to remain well within the limits allocated to commercial fisheries. A catch of 3,000 landed Chinook in the proposed fishery would bring the total impacts in the mainstem commercial fisheries to 0.188%, which would be 50% of the total of 0.378% available (pre-update).

Select Area Commercial Fishery - Deep River

- The winter season in Deep River has concluded and the spring season is scheduled to begin on Wednesday April 15 and continue on Sunday and Wednesday nights through April 30.
- Catch to date has been minimal, with landings of 27 Chinook and 26 white sturgeon. One of the landed Chinook was classified as upriver origin based on visual stock identification. Effort in Deep River is typically one to four boats per opener.
- Staff is proposing to add a single fishing period prior to the start of the spring season

<i>Deep River Select Area</i>	
Time:	7 PM Wednesday April 8 through 7 AM Thursday April 9, 2009
Area:	Deep River fishing area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge (all concurrent water)
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, shad, and white sturgeon (43-54 inches in fork length). A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open
Additional Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. A sampling station will be established downstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at Stephen's dock. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers

- The recommendation to modify the winter season is in response to industry request. The spring season would start as scheduled on Wednesday April 15.
- Allowing an additional fishing period provides additional harvest opportunity for hatchery fish and poses minimal risk of incurring additional impact to ESA listed Chinook.
- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action. Either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff recommends a Compact hearing for 11 AM Monday April 13. Test fishing is scheduled for Sunday April 12.