

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
 May 26, 2009**

Fisheries under consideration:	Area 2S Commercial Shad Select Area Commercial Treaty Indian allowable sales
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- The Chinook count at Bonneville Dam through May 25 totals 105,515 adult fish. Based on the recent 5-year average, 77% of the run has typically passed by this date.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 26 and refined their prior inseason run forecast to an estimated 160,000 (range 155,000 – 165,000) upriver spring Chinook at the river mouth. Based on pre-season forecasts, an estimated 11% of the upriver run would be ESA-listed wild fish.
- Shad passage at Bonneville Dam typically begins in early May and daily counts can exceed 100,000 fish a day by late May. Shad passage is typically 50% complete by mid June. The 2008 return of 2.1 million shad was less than the 10-year average of 3.1 million fish. The shad count at Bonneville Dam through May 25 totals 19,383 fish which is well below average.

Non-Indian Fisheries

- Based on the latest TAC update of 160,000 upriver Chinook, non-Indian fishery impacts through May 22 are estimated at 1.90% (100% of available).

2009 Non-Treaty ESA Impacts through May 22	
	5/26 TAC Inseason
Total Upriver Run	160,000
ESA impact limit	1.90%
Below Bonneville Sport (closed April 22)	1.15%
Mainstem Commercial (closed April 15)	0.49%
SAFE (ongoing, limited time and areas)	0.07%
Zone 6 Sport (closed May 1)	0.02%
Above McNary (closed May 18)	0.17%
	1.90%

Shad Commercial Fisheries

- The commercial shad fishery has been conducted annually from mid- May through June since the late 1970's. The fishery is typically open 4 to 5 days a week for 7 hours each fishing day. Effort is low in this fishery since it is market driven; participation is typically 3 to 6 boats.
- Shad harvest for the past few years has been around 13,000 fish, which is less than the 10-year average of 34,000 fish. Harvest expectations for 2009 are 11-12,000 fish considering the recent run sizes and landings and the delay in the season.

- Data collected from an intensive on-board monitoring study during the 1997-2001 are used to estimate salmonid handle during shad fisheries.
- As expected, shad/Chinook ratios improve as the season progresses when shad abundances are increasing and Chinook abundances are decreasing. Adjusting for 2009 run size estimates, an average handle ratio of 1,100 shad/Chinook is expected during May 26-June 5 but should improve to 5,200 shad/Chinook from June 8 onward.
- Based on a catch expectation of 11,500 shad, a total of five adult Chinook would be handled from June 1-15, of which 1.21 would be killed. Wild ESA mortalities are expected to be less than one fish.

<i>Commercial shad season</i>	
Annual Season:	3 PM - 10 PM daily during Monday through Friday, June 1-19, 2009.
Area:	True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslackened, floater gill net; 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ "- 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length or 40 meshes in depth.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

- The states intend to conduct some onboard monitoring during this fishery and will be prepared to modify the fishery if the expected take of ESA Chinook is projected to equal one wild ESA fish.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area commercial fisheries were closed from May 2-17. Limited fisheries (area and time restrictions) were adopted beginning May 18 in order to provide some access to Select Area spring Chinook yet minimize impacts to upriver spring Chinook. Abundance of upriver spring Chinook in these sites typically decreases to very low levels as the season progresses.
- Based on recent year sampling data for the Select Area fisheries proposed, the expected handle was one upriver spring Chinook, and less than one ESA-listed wild fish.
- Through three fishing periods (May 18-26), one upriver spring Chinook was observed in the landed catch (May 25-26 in Youngs Bay).
- The states will continue ongoing intensive monitoring of landings in Select Areas.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Sales of platform and hook and line caught fish was allowed beginning 6 AM May 16, 2009. Sales of fish are expected to continue into the summer and fall months. During the summer and fall timeframe, sockeye and coho are available for harvest. The treaty tribes are recommending that sockeye and coho be added to allowable sales. The treaty tribes are not recommending any other changes to the action taken on May 13, 2009.

Treaty Indian platform and hook and line sales

Effective 6:00 AM Wednesday May 27, allow coho and sockeye to be sold in addition to those species previously adopted at the May 13, 2009 compact hearing.

Allowable sales would include: Chinook, coho, steelhead, sockeye, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches in fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 38-54 inches in fork length in the Bonneville pool may also be retained for subsistence.

Allowable sales also include fish landed in mainstem platform hook and line and Yakama Nation Zone 6 tributary fisheries, and in the Yakama Nation fishery on the Washington shore below Bonneville Dam, except for sturgeon may not be retained in the Yakama fishery below Bonneville.

Future Hearings

The joint Staff is recommending that the Compact be prepared to meet early next week following the TAC meeting scheduled for May 26, in case further modifications to fisheries are needed.