

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: Winter Fact Sheet #12
Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery Update
April 14, 2010

- From April 1-11, the majority of angler effort was concentrated in the area upstream of the Willamette River, where water conditions remained favorable. Catch rates in this area were very high from April 5-11. On Saturday April 10, a total of 2,300 boats and 700 bank anglers were counted during the flight. Of the total 2,300 boats, 1,500 (65%) were counted from Warrior Rock upstream to the I-5 Bridge.
- Catch rates and effort downstream of the Willamette have begun to increase this week as water clarity improves.
- Through April 11, in the Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam spring Chinook catch estimates include 18,700 kept (2,700 released) from 125,400 angler trips. Upriver fish represent 77% of the catch.
- Based on preseason planning, the guideline for the lower river recreational fishery prior to a run update is 17,200 *upriver* spring Chinook (kept + release mortalities). Through April 11, stock composition data (VSI and CWT) shows a total of 14,950 fish have been accounted for, representing 87% of the guideline.

Preliminary 2010 Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery - Catch and Effort							
Season / Area	Angler Trips	Total Kept	Total Released	Total Handled	Uprivers Kept	Uprivers Released	Total Uprivers (Kept+Rel. Mort.)
Jan- Feb Total	7,614	128	40	168	23	4	23
March Total	63,436	6,757	1,015	7,772	4,460	525	4,512
April 1-11	54,367	11,829	1,608	13,437	10,286	1,258	10,412
Totals	125,417	18,714	2,663	21,377	14,769	1,787	14,947

- Given recent effort and catch rates, it is very likely that the lower river recreational fishery will reach its preseason guideline before April 18. However, as outlined in Winter Fact Sheet #3 the states intend to use their discretion relative to the pre update run size buffer and total fish available for use in the recreational fisheries to meet recreational fishery objectives set at the February 18 Joint State Hearing.
- Based on expected harvest prior to the run size update, total take of upriver fish is not expected to exceed the non-treaty management guideline under *US v Oregon*.
- Recreational fisheries will continue as adopted.