

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: Spring Fact Sheet #1
April 20, 2010

Fisheries under Consideration: Select Area commercial and recreational salmon seasons

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 19 totals 47,721 adults. This is the highest cumulative count to date since 2003 and the 8th highest count to date (1977-current).
- TAC is meeting weekly to review passage at Bonneville Dam, but it is still too early to make any conclusions regarding run size.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The winter Select Area commercial season was completed on April 5. Chinook landings in all Select Areas through this date were the highest on record for the winter season, with a total of 1,592 spring Chinook. Total catch of upriver Chinook in winter Select Area commercial fisheries was 104 fish, which was consistent with expectations.
- The spring Select Area commercial season began on April 14 in Deep River and April 15 in Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough. Chinook landings in each site was the highest on record for a spring season opening period, with approximately 3,917 spring Chinook landed in Youngs Bay, 571 in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and 107 in Deep River.
- The proportion of upriver stock Chinook in Youngs Bay on April 15 was substantially higher than average and slightly higher than the highest proportions ever observed for spring openers from past seasons, with 13.7% of the sampled catch being upriver stock fish based on VSI. This equates to an estimated 538 upriver stock fish. An additional 54 upriver fish were landed in the remaining Select Area sites on the spring opener.
- Additional fishing periods in Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and a full-fleet experimental fishery in Tongue Point/South Channel occurred on April 19-20. Deep River was open April 18-19. Preliminary landings indicate that about 2,600 spring Chinook were harvested in these fisheries. Of these, 583 are estimated to be upriver stock fish.
- Total catch of upriver stock fish in Select Area commercial fisheries through April 19 is estimated at 1,279 fish.

2010 Commercial Spring Chinook Fishery Summary		
	Total Chinook Kept Catch	Total Upriver Chinook (kept and release mortalities)
Mainstem Commercial Fishery	9,207	7,519
Select Area Commercial Fishery	8,811	1,279
Commercial Total	18,018	8,798

- The Joint Staff will complete final estimates of catch and impacts in Select Areas and examine potential time and area modifications that could be used to reduce the catch of upriver fish in these areas.

Recreational Fisheries Downstream from Bonneville Dam

2010 lower Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery							
Season / Area	Angler Trips	Total Kept	Total Released	Total Handled	Uprivers Kept	Uprivers Released	Total Upriver Chinook (kept and release mortalities)
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 Total (prelim)	94,977	22,240	3,315	25,555	18,158	2,335	18,392
Totals	166,027	29,125	4,370	33,495	22,641	2,864	22,928

- Through the final fishing date of April 18, an estimated 22,928 upriver stock fish have been taken (kept and release mortalities).
- Angler effort in 2010 has been the highest since 2002. The number of kept Chinook in 2010 is a new record, with 29,000 kept, compared to the previous high of 25,700 in 2001.
- The only ongoing recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam that would potentially contribute additional upriver fish to the management guideline for recreational fisheries are the recreational fisheries in the Select Area sites of Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River.

Non-Treaty Fishery Summary

- Non-Treaty harvest of upriver stock Chinook to date totals 32,197 fish, compared to 38,500 management guideline.

2010 Non-Treaty Spring Fisheries Summary	
Fishery	Total Upriver Chinook (kept and release mortalities)
SAFE	1,279
MS Commercial	7,519
LCR Sport total	22,928
Z6 Sport thru 4/18	471
SR/UC Sport thru 4/18	0
	32,197

Staff Recommendation – Select Area Commercial Fisheries

The Joint Staff is recommending that all currently scheduled Select Area commercial fishing periods be rescinded until further notice. This includes Tongue Point/South Channel and Deep River, and concurrent waters in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough.

Oregon Staff is recommending that all currently scheduled commercial fishing periods in Oregon waters of Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and the remainder of the Youngs Bay Select Area spring season be rescinded until further notice.

Staff Recommendation – Select Area Recreational Fisheries

The Joint Staff is recommending that Select Area recreational fishing in concurrent waters for salmon and steelhead be closed effective Saturday, April 24 until further notice, but not beyond June 16. Recreational fishing in state waters outside of Select Area sites would not be modified.

The Oregon Staff is recommending that recreational fishing in Oregon State waters of Youngs Bay Select Areas and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough for salmon and steelhead be closed effective Saturday, April 24 until further notice, but not beyond June 16. Recreational fishing in state waters outside of Select Area sites would not be modified.

Future Hearings

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor the run size and will provide updates as necessary.
- No future hearings are recommended at this time.