

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 10
Columbia River Compact
April 5, 2010

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Non-Indian Commercial Salmon

Stock status and management guidelines for 2010 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #3(February 18, 2010).

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 4 totals 1,193 adults. During the most recent five years, run timing at Bonneville has been late-timed, when compared to 10-year averages and to timing since 1980. It is still too early in the run to make any conclusions regarding run size.
- Mainstem sport catch through March 28 includes 6,700 hatchery Chinook kept (plus 1,000 released) from 68,300 angler trips. Chinook handle (kept plus release mortalities) of upriver stock totals 3,900 fish, or 23% of the 17,200 available prior to a run update.
- Through March 28, recreational effort and Chinook catch was tracking closely with preseason modeling. Catch rates likely decreased in the mainstem downstream of the Willamette but a catch estimate for March 29-April 4 is not yet available.
- Catch in winter Select Areas fisheries was generally tracking above expectations. The Compact recently rescinded the final winter periods scheduled for Youngs Bay and Deep River due to an increasing catch of upriver spring Chinook. This action increased the likelihood that the spring season could be conducted as scheduled, without need for inseason management.
- The first full fleet fishery occurred on March 30. Landings include 3,168 Chinook (597 released) from 169 deliveries. Chinook handle (kept plus release mortalities) of upriver stock totals 2,600 fish, or 31% of the 8,300 available prior to a run update.
- Results from the most recent test fishing on April 5 continued to show improvement in Chinook catch rates. Steelhead catch has declined from early March as the fish move into the tributaries.

2010 Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery Observation Data_ preliminary															
						Chinook Data							Steelhead		
Fishery	Month	Day	Mesh	Drifts	Zones	Lower	Upriver	Total	Chin/Drift	Mark Rate	% Upriver	Chinook/Sthd	Total Sthd	# unclipped	Sthd/drift
Test	Mar	7	4.25	11	2-3	2	0	2	0.2	50%	0%	0.1	16	4	1.5
Test	Mar	14	4.25	16	2-3	5	1	6	0.4	100%	17%	0.4	17	7	1.1
Test	Mar	21-22	4.25	18	2-3	33	26	59	3.3	86%	44%	2.6	23	7	1.3
Test	Mar	28-29	4.25	21	2-3	24	42	66	3.1	91%	64%	4.7	14	4	0.7
Full	Mar	30	4.25	79	1-4	44	97	208	2.6	84%	69%	5.3	39	22	0.5
Test	Apr	4-5	4.25	16	2-3	42	135	177	11.1	90%	76%	17.7	10	5	0.6

Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

Season:		
Option 1	Midnight (12:01AM) to 4 AM Wednesday April 7, 2010	(4 hours)
Option 2	5:30 PM – 9:30 PM Wednesday April 7, 2010	(4 hours)
Area:	Mouth upstream to the I-205 Bridge	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy River and Washougal River as applicable.	
Gear:	Drift nets only. 4¼” maximum mesh size restriction. 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.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon. A maximum of five white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The sturgeon possession/sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.	
Additional Regulations:	Standard regulations typically in place for spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, tangle-net certification, etc. 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 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.	

- Staff estimates 5,700 upriver (kept + release mortalities) fish remain available pre update. Based on an expected mark rate of 84% and 80% upriver fish an estimated 6,500 total Chinook remain available for harvest.
- Staff estimates Chinook kept catch would be 5,000-6,500 fish.
- Some commercial fishers have requested that the upper boundary of the fishing area be moved upstream.

Future meetings

- Staff is not recommending a hearing at this time.