

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: Winter Fact Sheet #11**  
**Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery Update**  
**April 7, 2010**

- Through April 4, the preliminary total catch of spring Chinook (all stocks) in the Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam is estimated at 11,100 fish (9,600 kept) from 90,600 angler trips.
- The February effort of 7,600 angler trips was the highest since 2004 (9,500), and February kept catch of 128 fish was the highest since 2003 (209).
- The March effort of 63,400 angler trips was the highest since 2003 (65,800), and the March kept catch of 6,800 fish was the highest since 1990 (9,000).
- Of the total catch through April 4, about 7,700 have been upriver stock. The total kept and release mortality for upriver fish (“catch balance”) is estimated at 6,900 fish, or 40% of the 17,200 available. A balance of 10,300 upriver fish (kept and release mortalities) remains available for the recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam from April 5 until a run update.

Preliminary Summary of the lower Columbia Recreational Fishery Feb 1 – Apr 4, 2010.				
	Angler Trips	Total Catch	Kept Catch	UR Catch (kept + rel mort)
Feb	7,614	168	128	29
Mar	63,436	7,772	6,757	4,393
Apr 1-4	19,523	3,127	2,754	2,500
To date	90,573	11,067	9,639	6,922

- Catch rates and effort downstream of the Willamette have been relatively low over the last week due to high turbidity from lower river tributaries.
- Angler effort has increased upstream of the Willamette River, where water conditions are still favorable and recent catch rates have been very high. A total of 900 boats were counted on April 7 between Sauvies Island and I-5 Bridge, representing 75% of all boats counted on the lower Columbia.
- Based on catch through April 4 and current catch rate information, no changes to the on-going fishery are anticipated at this time.
- The Joint Staff will review recreational catches through April 11 early next week and provide another update at that time.