

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: Spring Fact Sheet #4
May 4, 2010**

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Select Area commercial salmon seasons
--

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 3 totals 158,562 adults. This is the highest cumulative count to date since 2002 and the 3rd highest count to date (1977-current).
- It is still too early for TAC to provide a reliable point estimate but TAC provided a range of 310,000-370,000 based on passage to date. TAC also estimates that the run timing for 2010 is somewhat earlier than the very late runs seen in the last five years, and anticipates that the 50% passage date will likely occur sometime this week.
- TAC will continue to meet at least weekly to review passage at Bonneville Dam.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- At the April 19 Compact/Joint State hearing to rescind Select Area commercial and recreational fishing seasons, the Joint Staff committed to completing the final estimates of upriver catch and impacts in Select Areas and to examine potential time and area modifications that could be used to reduce the catch of upriver fish in these areas.
- Overall, catch of upriver fish in Select Areas greatly exceeded expectations; however, the total commercial catch of upriver fish remains within expectations and within ESA limits.

2010 Commercial Spring Chinook Fishery Summary		
	Total Chinook Kept Catch	Total Upriver Chinook (kept and release mortalities)
Mainstem Commercial Fishery	9,207	7,506
Select Area Commercial Fishery	8,811	1,281
Commercial Total	18,018	8,787

- Volunteer test fishing conducted in Youngs Bay upstream of the Old Youngs Bay Bridge on Sunday, May 2 showed a high abundance of locally-produced spring Chinook (110 fish observed) with zero upriver fish.

<i>Recommendation - Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area</i>	
9 PM Tuesday May 4 through 5 AM Wednesday, May 5, 2010 (8 hours). Blind Slough only.	
9 PM Thursday May 6 through 5 AM Friday, May 7, 2010 (8 hours). Blind Slough and Knappa Slough.	
Area:	Blind Slough only for May 4-5. Blind Slough/Knappa Slough for May 6-7, with the lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area including the area downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).

Gear:	9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers

<i>Recommendation – Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area</i>	
9 PM Thursday May 6 through 5 AM Friday, May 7, 2010 (8 hours)	
Area:	The Tongue Point fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line extended from the upstream (southern most) pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility through navigation marker #6 to Mott Island (new spring lower deadline), a line from a marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a marker on the northwest tip of Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island westerly to a marker on the Oregon shore. The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green USCG buoy #7 to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to the flashing red USCG marker #10, northwesterly to a marker on Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.
Gear:	In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a 9¾-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 250 fathoms, and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area, gear restricted to a 9¾-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area is unlawful until ODFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. A sampling station will be established at the MERTS dock. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers

Recommendation - Deep River Select Area

9 PM Tuesday May 4 through 5 AM Wednesday, May 5, 2010 (8 hours)

9 PM Thursday May 6 through 5 AM Friday, May 7, 2010 (8 hours)

Area: Deep River fishing area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge (all concurrent water)

Gear: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction.
Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel.

Allowable Sales: Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).

Miscellaneous Regulations: Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. A sampling station will be set up at the boat ramp off of Miller Point Road on the east bank of Deep River slough.
24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

Recommendation - Youngs Bay Select Area

10 AM – 2 PM Wednesday, May 5, 2010 (4 hours)

12 noon – 4 PM Friday, May 7, 2010 (4 hours)

Area: Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at a line from the posted sign on the shore of the Youngs River to the point of land at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers to the posted sign on the shore of the Klaskanine River.

Gear: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction.
Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.
Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed upstream of markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River.

Allowable Sales: Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).

Miscellaneous Permanent transportation rules will be in effect.

Regulations:

- The proposed seasons are intended to progressively increase access to abundant locally-reared fish based on data collected in each opener.
- The proposed schedule will allow staff to analyze landings from the first openers and propose modifications if necessary.
- The proposed fisheries are structured to end at around the low water mark of the tide series, to reduce the potential influx of upriver fish into Select Areas on incoming tides.
- Staff is proposing the entire Youngs Bay area be opened to provide maximum fishing area because it would be the only fishing site open on the proposed fishing dates.
 - Allowing the expanded area will provide additional fishing area and maximize the catch of locally-reared stocks in the area in the reduced fishing time.
 - Daylight hours are proposed in order to allow fishers to adjust to expected congestion in the fishing area.
 - Considering the reduction in fishing hours, the proposed Youngs Bay fishery represents more than a 90% reduction from normal fishing opportunity during week 19.
 - Local stocks are abundant in the fishing area as evidenced by test fishing. Fish are already arriving at local hatcheries and it is important to harvest these fish before more escape into tributaries.
 - Expected catch of upriver fish in the proposed fishery is <10.
- Fisheries in the other Select Area sites (Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep River) have historically had low catches of upriver fish beginning in May (typically near zero after week 19).
 - When taking in to account restricted areas and reduced time, the proposed fisheries in these sites represent <50% of normal week 19 fishing opportunity.
 - Estimated catch of upriver spring Chinook for the proposed fisheries in these sites is <10.
 - Eight-hour periods pose little risk of encountering upriver stocks and provide for an orderly and enforceable fishery but are less than standard periods to remain conservative.
 - Proposed fisheries in these sites are designed around low tide and during nighttime to increase harvest of local stocks.
- From 2000-2008, total upriver catch in all Select Areas during week 19 has averaged 28 fish (range 0 to 69) fish. From 2000-2008, total upriver catch in Select Areas during weeks 20 through the remainder of the spring season has averaged 42 fish (range 3 to 104). For most years, these totals are based on all Select Areas being open as normal, with full areas and standard hours.
- The proposed seasons represent substantial reductions from standard spring seasons, provide access to abundant locally-reared fish, and are expected to result in less catch of upriver fish than would be observed in standard seasons and than has been observed in many past years.

- Through May 2, non-Treaty fisheries have taken a total of 35,275 upriver fish, compared to the 38,500 fish management guideline. The additional catch of upriver fish expected in the proposed seasons would bring the total to date to 35,295.

2010 Non-Treaty Spring Fisheries Summary	
Fishery	Total Upriver Chinook (kept and release Mortalities)
SAFE	1,281
MS Commercial	7,506
LCR Sport total	23,533
Z6 Sport thru 5/2	2,579
SR/UC Sport thru 5/2	376
	35,275

- Pending results of these initial commercial openings and catches of upriver fish observed, staff may propose a re-opening of Select Area recreational fisheries in the near future.

Future Hearings

- A Compact hearing to consider Treaty fisheries is expected to be held on May 5.