

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2
June 24, 2010

Fisheries under consideration:	Recreational sturgeon below Wauna Recreational salmon
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Management guidelines for summer Chinook, sockeye, and summer steelhead were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 dated June 10, 2010

STOCK STATUS

- Chinook counts at Bonneville Dam from June 16 through June 23 total 23,114 adults. Summer Chinook passage is typically 50% complete by June 30. The preseason forecast is 88,800 fish.
- Sockeye counts at Bonneville Dam through June 23 total 164,431 fish. Daily counts at Bonneville have exceeded record highs. Sockeye passage is typically 50% complete by June 25. The preseason forecast was for 125,200 fish including 14,300 Wenatchee stock, or 62% of the escapement goal for that system.
- The TAC met on June 23 and upgraded the sockeye return to 250,000 fish, which should also allow the Wenatchee escapement goal of 23,000 to be met. The ESA limit for non-Indian fisheries is 1% of the run size.
- The summer steelhead counting period at Bonneville Dam began April 1 and continues through June for upriver Skamania stock. Through June 23, summer steelhead counts at Bonneville Dam total 17,022 fish (5,125 wild). Counts to date have exceeded the preseason forecast for Skamania steelhead of 16,400 fish (3,300 wild).
- TAC is scheduled to meet again on June 30 to update the summer Chinook run size.

2010 SUMMER FISHERIES

Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery

- A total of 5,450 summer Chinook and 533 white sturgeon are allocated to 2010 summer commercial fisheries.
- Commercial fishing periods took place on the evenings of June 17 and June 22. Landings for the first period were 2,585 Chinook and 132 white sturgeon from 120 deliveries. Landings for the second period included 2,201 Chinook and 124 white sturgeon from 116 deliveries for a total of 4,786 Chinook and 256 white sturgeon combined.
- About 660 Chinook and 280 sturgeon remain available for harvest during the summer season. Based on Chinook catch rates in the past two fishing periods, staff is not proposing a fishing period for next week (week of June 28), as catch may exceed the available quota. Fishing could resume as early as the week of July 5 when catch rates should be considerably lower.

Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery below Wauna

- The white sturgeon retention season for the area below Wauna was adopted at the February 18 Compact hearing. The fishery is open seven days a week during January 1- April 30 (38-54 inch fork length) and May 22 – June 26 (41-54 inch fork length).
- The 2010 catch guideline for this fishery is 9,600 white sturgeon. Catch during the January through April portion of the fishery is typically minimal, with the majority of the effort and catch occurring from late May onward.
- Catch (and effort) to date has been well below average with an estimated zero fish kept during January-April, 446 kept during May, and 1,753 kept during June 1-20 (2,199 total). An additional 750 fish will likely be kept during June 21-26.
- Actual and projected kept catch for the current season (January 1-June 26) totals 2,950 white sturgeon. Based on the catch guideline, an additional 6,650 fish remain available for harvest.

<i>2010 Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery - Below Wauna</i>		
Option 1:	June 27-July 5 (7 days per week) July 8-11 (Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday)	(9 days) (4 days)
Option 2:	Close the fishery as scheduled on June 27, then open on: July 2-5 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday) July 9-11 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)	(4 days) (3 days)
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay, and all adjacent Washington tributaries.	
Allowable Catch:	White sturgeon between 41-inches and 54-inches fork length Retention of green sturgeon prohibited	

- The estimated catch for Option 1 is 2,600-3,500 white sturgeon and 1,400-1,900 fish for Option 2. The corresponding minimum balances for the two options would be 3,150 (33% of quota) and 4,750 (49% of quota).
- Both options are conservative and are expected to allow the fishery to continue through the month of July (on a days per week schedule).
- A shift to days/week provides staff opportunity to verify catch estimates between retention periods.
- Staff will continue to closely monitor catch as the season continues, and modify the proposed season as necessary in order to remain within the catch guideline.

Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries above Wauna

- The white sturgeon retention season for the mainstem Columbia from Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to be open three days a week (Thursday-Saturday) during January 1- July 31 and October 1-December 31 (38-54 inch fork length). Sturgeon angling is prohibited from the east end of Skamania Island upstream to Bonneville Dam April 1 through August 31 and in the Sand Island Slough through July 31.

- The 2010 catch guideline for this fishery is 4,835 white sturgeon. The estimated kept catch through May is 2,204 fish (46% of quota) from 20,000 angler trips.
- The white sturgeon retention season for the lower Willamette River is scheduled to be open three days a week (Thursday-Saturday) during January 1- March 31 and November 1- December 31 (38-54 inch fork length). Sturgeon angling is prohibited during April 1 through August 31 from the I-205 Bridge upstream to Willamette Falls.
- The catch guideline for this fishery is 3,600 fish of which 2,865 are included in the 7,700 harvest cap for the area upstream of the Wauna powerlines.
- The estimated catch for this area during January-March is 2,900 (81% of the quota).

Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The recreational summer Chinook fishery is currently scheduled to be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped adults and jacks from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Priest Rapids Dam during June 16-July 31. Retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead is also allowed under permanent rules. Sockeye retention is currently not allowed.
- During June 16-20, an estimated 850 adult Chinook were retained and 308 released (73% mark rate) from 10,000 angler trips. An estimated 760 sockeye were released during May 16-June 20. High flows and low visibility have likely reduced Chinook success rates during the early portion of this fishery.

<i>Staff Recommendation – Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM Saturday, June 26 through July 31, 2010, allow retention of sockeye in the mainstem Columbia River from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Priest Rapids Dam. Sockeye are considered adults and included in the adult portion of the daily bag limit.

- Sockeye catch is expected to remain well within ESA limits. The majority of the catch occurs below Bonneville Dam. Bonneville Dam passage will be 50% complete by the proposed retention start date. Staff estimates a total catch of less than 1,200 fish for the proposed season.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff may request a Compact hearing on July 1 to consider additional non-treaty commercial fishing opportunity.
- The Joint Staff recommends a Joint State hearing be considered for Tuesday, July 13 to review the estuary sturgeon fishery.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on July 29 at 25 River Street in Cathlamet, Washington.