

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 10**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**March 31, 2014**

<b><i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i></b> Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Salmon
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*Stock status and management guidelines for 2014 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 29, 2014). Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are also presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2014 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 22, 2014). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

- River conditions remain high and turbid. Water temperatures were around average for the month of March and currently measure 44° F. The average monthly outflow for March this year was 242 kcfs, compared to the 5-yr average of 166 kcfs at Bonneville Dam.
- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through March 29 totals 413 fish. Based on the preseason forecast and 5-year average timing, about 250 fish would be expected at Bonneville Dam by this date. The 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam is May 7.
- Winter steelhead abundance typically peaks in mid-March, then declines as the fish move into the tributaries. Passage at Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls indicates the run is tracking slightly behind expectations.
- The number of upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) available to the mainstem commercial fishery prior to a run size update is 1,700 adult fish. In addition, a total of 4,200 Willamette hatchery spring Chinook are available to commercial fisheries for the entire 2014 spring season.
- Test fishing has occurred once weekly since March 16. Data from the past three weeks has shown an increase in Chinook abundance and fluctuating steelhead abundances.

2014 Spring Chinook Observation Summary_ All data preliminary														
						Chinook						Steelhead		
Fishery	Month	Date	(inches)	# of	Zones	Handle	Mark	%	Chin/ Drift	Chin/ Sthd	Sthd/ Drift	Total Sthd	Mark Rate	
			Mesh	Drifts			Rate	Upriver						
Test	Mar	16	4.25	16	2-3	16	75%	25%	1.0	0.6	1.6	25	68%	
Test	Mar	23	4.25	15	2-3	36	78%	47%	2.4	2.8	0.9	13	23%	
Test	Mar	30	4.25	17	2-3	54	70%	64%	3.2	2.0	1.6	27	52%	

- March 30 test-fishing data showed the overall Chinook mark rate was 70% (all stocks) and 64% of the Chinook were upriver fish stock. Compared to last week, the March 30 test data showed a lower overall Chinook mark rate, a higher percent upriver stock, and a higher steelhead per drift. Marked Chinook per drift was 2.2 fish compared to last week's data point of 1.9 fish.
- Based on the increasing number of Chinook per drift and the April 1 sport angling closure, staff is providing the following recommendation for a commercial fishing period:

**Joint Staff Recommendations- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery**

Season:	10:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday April 1, 2014	(8 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.	
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. Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension, and the measurement is taken from the inside of one vertical knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and shad.	
Regulations	<b>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.</b> <u>Soak times</u> , defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes. Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. <u>Lighted Buoys</u> : Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required <u>Recovery Box</u> : Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box. Any salmonid that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.	
Additional Rules:	<b>Observer program</b> : As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery. <b>Live Capture workshop</b> : Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification. In addition, cooperation with department personal prior to a fishing period is expected. 24-hour <b>quick reporting</b> required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.	

- The expected kept catch is 1,900 Chinook. Chinook catch is expected to include 1,400 upriver fish (kept and release mortalities) which represents 80% of the 1,735 upriver Chinook allowed pre-update (catch balance), and 58% of the 0.21% ESA impact allowed pre-update.
- Wild winter steelhead release mortalities are expected to be 90 fish (0.56% impact), or 28% of the 2.00% impact limit for wild winter steelhead. Based on observations, steelhead handle is typically less in full fleet fisheries when compared to test-fishing data.

#### **Future Meetings**

- Staff is recommending a Joint State hearing be scheduled for 12:00 p.m. (noon) Thursday April 3 to review the ongoing sport fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam.