

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 12**  
**Columbia River Joint State Hearing**  
**April 16, 2014**

<b><i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i></b> Recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam
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*Stock status and management guidelines for 2014 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 29, 2014).*

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 15 totals 7,727 adults. On average the run is around 3% complete by April 15 and the 50% passage date is May 7, ranging from April 27 to May 12. It is still too early in the run to make any conclusions regarding run size.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will begin meeting April 21 to review status of the upriver spring Chinook run on a weekly basis.
- Based on the pre-season forecast and corresponding ESA impact sharing and catch balance protocol, the recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam was allocated a total of 10,157 upriver spring Chinook (including release mortalities).
- The recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam fishery was open for Chinook retention through Monday April 14, which included an additional six days of Chinook retention beyond the original closure date of April 8.
- Catch estimates include 9,358 adult Chinook kept (2,261 released) from 73,900 angler trips. Upriver spring Chinook comprised 82% of the handle to date; upriver mortalities are estimated at 7,882, or 78% of allowed prior to a run update.

<b>2014 Preliminary summary of Non-Indian upriver Chinook catches (Pre-Update)</b>				
Fishery	Upriver Mortalities			
	Allocated	Actual	Expected	Total
Mainstem commercial (April 1 fishery)	1,735	1,511	0	1,511
Select Area commercial (actual through April 1)	238	61	177	238
Below Bonneville recreational (actual through April 14)	10,157	7,882		7,882
Bonn to OR/WA border recreational (actual through April 13)	1,354	4	1,350	1,354
Snake River recreational	950	0	950	950
Wanapum Tribal	26	0	26	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,460</b>	<b>9,458</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>11,961</b>

- Given the volatile nature of fisheries in mid-April, the most conservative approach is to apply the remaining balance of upriver spring Chinook to fishing opportunity after the run update.
- However, with a balance of 2,275 upriver fish available to the recreational fishery below Bonneville, there is potential for some additional angling opportunity. Based on increasing Chinook abundance, improved water conditions, and expected high effort, catch rates would be high during any additional fishery. Due to these factors, staff is only able to recommend a one-day season extension to remain consistent with the management guideline.

***Staff Recommendation: 2014 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery***

**Season:** Friday April 18, 2014

**Area:**

Option 1 Buoy 10 upstream to **Beacon Rock** (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.  
Legal upstream boat boundary defined as: “A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse One) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock.”

Option 2 Buoy 10 upstream to **Rooster Rock** (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Rooster Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.  
Legal upstream boat boundary defined as: “a line projected from Rooster Rock on the Oregon shore true north to the Washington shore.”

**Daily Bag limit:** Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.

**Additional Rules:** The mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad only during days and seasons open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

When the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits. On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is closed to Chinook retention, permanent salmonid bag limit regulations apply.

- The catch estimate for Option 1 is 3,000 Chinook (2,400 kept), including 2,288 upriver mortalities from 10,000 angler trips. This would bring the fishery to 100% (10,170) of the 10,157 available to the recreational fishery below Bonneville prior to a run update.
- The catch estimate for Option 2 is 2,000 Chinook (1,600 kept), including 1,394 upriver mortalities from 10,000 angler trips. The projected upriver mortalities would represent 91% (9,276) of the 10,157 available to the recreational fishery below Bonneville prior to a run update.
- The reduced area in Option 2 takes into account the increasing effort and very high catch rates observed (nearly four fish/boat) upstream of Rooster Rock on the last day the fishery was open.
- The expected total upriver catch (kept and release mortalities) in all current non-Indian fisheries (actual and planned) is 11,961 fish, which would require a final run size of 141,000 to remain within catch balance limitations. With the addition of the catch expectation represented in Option 1, a final upriver run of 156,600 (69% of forecast) is required to remain within catch balance limitations.