

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 11**  
**Columbia River Joint State Hearing**  
**April 3, 2014**

***Fisheries under Consideration:***      Recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam

*Stock status and management guidelines for 2014 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 29, 2014).*

*Water Conditions*

- River conditions are high and somewhat turbid, but improving. The water temperature in the Columbia River was normal for March and is currently 44° F. Average outflow during March at Bonneville Dam was 146% of the 5-year average, measuring 243 kcfs compared to 166 kcfs. Water conditions are expected to improve over the next two weeks.

*Stock Status*

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 2 totals 620 adults. Over the past ten years passage at Bonneville has averaged around 1% complete through April 2, and the average 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.

*Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery*

- The Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam is scheduled to be open for Chinook retention through Monday April 7. Catch expectations for this fishery included a kept catch of 12,400 Chinook. A total of 10,157 upriver Chinook (including release mortalities) are available to this fishery until a run update is available in early May.

Preliminary Summary of the LCR Recreational Fishery during Feb 1 – Apr 7, 2014.			
	Angler Trips	Total Kept Catch	UR Catch (kept + rel mort)
Feb	2,500	0	0
Mar	23,178	786	529
Apr 1-7 (proj.)	14,600	2,000	1,654
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,278</b>	<b>2,786</b>	<b>2,183</b>

- Preliminary catch estimates of spring Chinook (all stocks) in the Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam through March 31 total 986 fish (786 kept) from 23,178 angler trips. The projected catch for April 1-7 is an additional 2,500 fish (2,000 kept).
- Of the total projected catch (kept and released) through April 7, an estimated 80% are upriver stock. The estimated kept and release mortality for upriver fish represents 21% of the 10,157 available prior to a run update.
- Given the remaining balance of upriver fish, there is the potential for additional angling opportunity in the lower river. Unfortunately, predicting catch is difficult without knowing if, and how much, catch rates will improve. Therefore, staff is proposing an extension based on improved catch rates and increasing upriver stock composition.

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

**Season:** Extend the ongoing fishery through Monday April 14, 2014, except closed Tuesday April 8 (6 days)

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

**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 regulations:**

- Effective through May 15: 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.
- Effective through June 15: on days when the mainstem Columbia River 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 the proposed fishery is 10,000 Chinook (8,100 kept), including 6,800 upriver mortalities.
- Maintaining the Tuesday closure serves two purposes: the first is that it maintains the ability to set a second commercial opener if possible, and second, the closure provides a little more certainty that the proposed fishery can continue through Monday April 14.

- Through April 14, the projected upriver mortalities would represent 89% of the 10,157 available to the LCR recreational fishery prior to a run update. The corresponding upriver impact rate would represent 58% of the 0.84% pre-update impact rate allowed for the mainstem recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- If adopted, staff will closely monitor the catch and effort as the fishery progresses and call for a hearing if the data differ significantly from expectations.

2014 Effort, Catch and ESA impact for the Lower Columbia Recreational Fishery (Actual, Projected and Proposed)

	Angler Trips	Total Kept Catch	Upriver Catch (kept + rel mort)	ESA Impact
Feb	2,500	0		
Mar	23,178	786	529	0.03%
Apr 1-7 (proj.)	14,600	2000	1654	0.09%
Thru April 7 Total	40,278	2,786	2,183	0.12%
Proposed (Apr 9-14)	43,700	8,100	6,806	0.37%
Thru April 14 Total	93,378	10,886	8,989	0.49%
Allowed			10,157	0.84%
Balance			1,168	0.35%
% Used			89%	58%