

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACTSHEET NO. 5
May 27, 2014

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met this morning and upgraded the inseason run size update of 230,000 adult upriver Chinook. TAC will continue to review the run as it progresses and provides updates as needed.
- Under the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, the inseason runsize allows for an ESA impact limit of 2.0% for non-Indian fisheries and 10.0% treaty fisheries. Non-Indian impacts are allocated 70% sport/30% commercial. Of the sport impacts, 25% are allocated to Zone 6 sport and Snake River sport fisheries. The catch balance limit is 23,000 upriver mortalities each for treaty and non-Indian fisheries.

Non-Indian Fishery Update

- Three mainstem commercial fishing periods have occurred between April 1 and May 21. Chinook landings total 2,795 adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 2,420 fish, or 56% of the 4,322 allocated. Impacts to date are 0.254, or 56% of the 0.45 allowed.
- Select Area commercial fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 13. Through May 23 Chinook landings total 2,211 fish. Upriver Chinook mortalities are estimated at 216 fish. The projected total is expected to remain within the season allocation for upriver mortalities (345 adults).
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery is open for Chinook retention through June 15. Catch estimates through May 18 include 12,342 kept adult fish from 97,000 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 10,419 fish. Catch is currently tracking within expectations. The projected total is 13,600 upriver mortalities for the season, or 91% of the 14,912 allocated.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open through May 9 for Chinook retention. Catch estimates include 1,945 kept adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 2,025 fish, or 102% of the 1,988 allocated.
- Recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) opened in April on a days-per-week basis in four sections of the river and continued until the harvest allocation was met. Three sections are closed and the uppermost section closes today. Preliminary catch estimates through May 27 include 1,291 kept adult Chinook. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,358 fish or 97% of the 1,394 fish allocated.

Non-Indian Recommendations

Mainstem Commercial

- Given available commercial impacts, staff estimates about 750 upriver mortalities remain available for mainstem commercial fisheries based on the use of large mesh gear.

<i>Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>	
Season	7:00 P.M. Wednesday May 28 to 5:00 A.M. Thursday May 29, 2014 (10 hours)
Gear	Drift nets only. 8” minimum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and shad
Regulations:	<p>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</p> <p>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.</p> <p><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.</p> <p><u>Red corks</u> are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p><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</p> <p><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. <u>Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.</u> 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.</p>
Additional Rules:	<p>Observer program: 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. In addition, cooperation with department personal prior to a fishing period is expected.</p> <p>Live Capture workshop: 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.</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers WAC 220-69-240).</p>

- The catch estimate includes up to 600 hatchery Chinook based on an expected 40-50 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are estimated at 710 fish or less with an expected impact of 0.18%. Season total upriver mortalities and impacts would be 3,132 fish and 0.438% impacts, representing 72% and 97% of the mainstem commercial allocations.
- Average weight of kept chinook is expected to be around 15 pounds per fish and ex-vessel value is estimated at \$5 per pound for Grade-A adult size fish.
- Tuesday or Wednesday mainstem fisheries avoid conflict with the Monday/Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas (excluding Youngs Bay).
- The proposed options conflict with the Youngs Bay Select Area fishery previously adopted. Therefore staff recommends the following action:

<i>Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery- Oregon State Staff Recommendation</i>
Retention and sale of non -adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 6:00 PM May 28 to 12:00 PM (noon) May 29, 2014

Non-Indian Recreational:

- As directed by the Compact, the staff is proposing the majority of the remaining balance of upriver fish available to the LCR sport fishery be shifted to sport fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Based on current projections, approximately 1,300 upriver mortalities could be shifted from lower Columbia River recreational fisheries for use in recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam.

Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border	
Season:	Saturday May 31 through Sunday June 15, 2014
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only <u>one</u> may be a Chinook.
	Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.

- The available allocation for Zone 6 would be 750 upriver mortalities. Based on data from 2007 when the fishery was open during early June, the catch estimate for the proposed season would include 365 upriver kept plus release mortalities. High flows and spill may limit angler success.
- A proportion of the LCR balance has also been reserved for the Snake River sport fishery. Snake River fishery managers will hold these fish in reserve until (and if) the Snake River fisheries can reopen. With high abundance at the Snake River dams, Snake River staff may choose to wait to ensure harvest remains within the catch balance and ESA limits.

Actual and Projected and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance

- Upriver adult mortalities from non-Indian fisheries total 16,438 fish. Additional take from ongoing/proposed fisheries totals 4,809 fish. Combined actual and projected take totals 21,247 fish or 92% of the 23,000 allocated. This assumes Zone 6 uses 100% of the shifted LCR allocation.
- ESA impacts are expected to remain well within the 2.0% limit; however, mainstem commercial fisheries will likely be constrained by their allocated ESA limits. At current projections, total ESA impacts are estimated at 0.254% for commercial (89% of allocated) and about 1.00% for sport (71% of allocated).

Preliminary Summary of 2014 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Catch - Actual & Projected*						
Fishery	Inseason Allocated	In Hand	Projected/proposed	Total	Balance	% of Allocated
Mainstem**	4,322	2,420	710	3,130	1,192	72%
Select Area (<i>Proj through June 13</i>)	345	216	129	345	0	100%
Commercial Total	4,667	2,636	839	3,475	1,192	74%
					0	
LCR Sport (<i>proj. through June 15</i>)	14,912	10,419	3,181	13,600	1,312	91%
Z6 Sport (<i>proposed transfer</i>)	1,988	2,025	750	2,775	-787	140%
Snake River (<i>proposed transfer</i>)	1,394	1,358		1,358	36	97%
Wanapum Tribal	39	0	39	39	0	100%
Recreational Total	18,333	13,802	3,970	17,772	561	97%
Non-Indian Total	23,000	16,438	4,809	21,247	1,753	92%
<i>*Includes kept & release mortalities of adult fish</i>						
<i>** Allocated based on tanglenet gear. Numbers are less with large mesh gear (higher mortality rate)</i>						

Treaty Fisheries

- The tribes held a 2.5 day commercial gillnet fishery from 6:00 a.m. Tuesday May 20 until 6:00 p.m. Thursday May 22. Tribal staff anticipated effort up to 500 nets, but only 376 were counted. Preliminary catch estimates are less than projected.
- Total catch of upriver spring Chinook through May 27 is estimates at 14,057 fish, which represents 61% of allowed.

2014 Treaty Fishery	Chinook
Winter Gillnet	0
Spring C&S Permit Gillnet	6,127
Zone 6 Platform H&L (<i>through May 17</i>)	4,330
Z6 Platform H&L (<i>May 17- Jun 15</i>)	600
Zone 5 H&L	0
May 20-22 Gillnet	3,500
Total To-Date	14,557
Allowed Catch (10% of 230,000)	23,000
Remaining	8,443

Tribal Fishery Plan

<i>2014 Treaty Spring Gillnet Commercial Fishery</i>	
Area:	Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam)
Season:	6:00 a.m. Wednesday May 28 until 6:00 p.m. Friday May 30, 2014
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, carp, catfish, bass, and yellow perch may be sold or kept for subsistence. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches fork length harvested in The Dalles or John Day Pools and sturgeon between 38-54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool may not be sold but may be kept for subsistence.
Gear:	Gill nets. No mesh restriction
Sanctuaries:	Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries in effect for this gear type except for the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary which is not necessary this time of year.
Miscellaneous:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington wholesale dealers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- Catch estimates total 3,500 adult fish which is well within the 8,400 fish balance.

Future Hearings

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled via teleconference at 11 AM Wednesday June 11 to consider non-Indian and treaty summer season commercial fisheries.