

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 6, 2014

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i>	Treaty salmon Mainstem commercial salmon Select Area commercial salmon Lower River Recreational salmon Zone 6 Recreational salmon
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2014 Spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 29, 2014).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Bonneville Dam passage through May 5 totals 119,758 adult Chinook. Based on the 10-year average the 50% passage date is May 7, ranging from April 27 to May 12.
- The U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met Monday May 5 to review the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC officially updated the run to a minimum of 185,000 adult fish. TAC will continue to meet weekly to review stock status and is scheduled to meet again Monday May 12.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a Columbia River return of 185,000 adult upriver fish allows for a non-Indian ESA impact rate of 1.9% and a catch balance limit of 16,835 upriver mortalities. Commission guidance directs managers to allocate the impacts 70% sport/30% commercial. ESA impacts increase for runsizes of 217,000 fish or greater.
- Adult spring Chinook passage at Willamette Falls through May 1 totals 3,423 fish, well below the 5-year average cumulative passage to date of 6,023 fish. The five year average 50% passage date is May 22.

Non-Indian Fishery Update

- A mainstem commercial salmon fishing period (8 hours) occurred on April 1. Chinook landings totaled 1,746 fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,511 fish, or 49% of allocated.
- Mainstem commercial shad fisheries are open under permanent regulations in Area 2S from 3 PM to 10 PM daily Monday through Friday from May 10 through June 20 (except on the observed Memorial Day holiday). Additional shad harvest may also occur under an experimental permit issued by the state of Oregon
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 13. Landings through May 2 total 1,434 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities to date total 204 fish and are projected to total 278 fish for the season. In season action was taken on this fishery to reduce accumulation of upriver take.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery was open for Chinook retention through April 14, and re-opened for one additional day on April 19. Catch estimates total 11,056 kept and

2,652 released adult fish from 80,900 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 9,276 fish, or 85% of allocated.

- The lower Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge will open May 16 for hatchery steelhead and hatchery jack Chinook. Shad retention opens May 16 from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam under permanent regulations.
- The recreational spring Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border is scheduled to be open through May 9. Catch estimates through Sunday May 4 total 1,174 kept and 434 released adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,217 fish. Catch projections for May 5-9 total 700 additional kept plus release mortalities. The season total would be 1,917 fish or 131% of allocated.
- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) are open on a days-per-week basis in four sections of the river. The fisheries are ongoing until the harvest allocation is met. Catch estimates through April 30 total 81 kept and 21 released adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 83 fish or 8% of allocated.

Summary of 2014 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (227.0 K)	Inseason Allocated (185.0 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial						
Mainstem	1,735	3,101	1,511	0	1,511	1,590
Select Area (actual and Proj.) <i>(proj. thru 6/13)</i>	238	278	204	74	278	0
Recreational						
Below Bonneville	10,157	10,945	9,276	0	9,276	1,669
Bonn to OR/WA border <i>(proj. thru 6/9)</i>	1,354	1,459	1,217	700	1,917	-458
Snake River (actual and proj.)	950	1,023	83	940	1,023	0
Wanapum Tribal	26	28	0	28	28	0
Total Upriver Mortalities	14,460	16,835	12,291	1,742	14,033	2,802

Treaty Fishery Recommendation

- The treaty tribes have decided that commercial sales are appropriate for the on-going Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery on the number of fish remaining available for harvest at the updated run size. For ease of regulations, this fishery runs continuously into the Summer Management Period.

<i>Treaty Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line Fisheries</i>	
Date:	6:00 PM Tuesday May 6, 2014 through 11:59 PM Thursday July 31, 2014
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoopnets, Dipnets, Hook and Line
Allowed 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.
Misc.	Sanctuaries applicable to these gear types apply
Regs:	
Note:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

- The tribes will monitor and report the harvest in this fishery as it progresses.
- The Yakama Nation has ongoing Zone 6 tributary fisheries that will include commercial sales when sales are authorized in Zone 6.

<i>Yakama Nation Tributary Fisheries</i>	
Season	6:00 PM Tuesday May 6, 2014 through 11:59 PM Thursday July 31, 2014, and only during those days and hours when the tributaries listed below are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.
Area	Drano Lake, Wind River and Klickitat River
Gear	Hoop nets, dip bag nets, and rod and reel with hook-and-line. Gill nets may only be used in Drano Lake.
Allowable Sales	Salmon, steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, or yellow perch. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches fork length harvested in tributaries within The Dalles or John Day Pools and sturgeon between 38-54 inches fork length harvested in tributaries within Bonneville pool may not be sold but may be kept for subsistence
Note:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

- At this time, the tribes have chosen to not open the bank fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam; however, this fishery may open at some point in the spring. The tribes propose the following action for this fishery

<i>Treaty Bank Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville Dam</i>	
Season	6:00 PM Tuesday May 6, 2014 through 11:59 PM Thursday July 31, 2014, and <u>only during those days and hours when the area is open under lawfully enacted tribal fishery regulations for enrolled tribal members in accordance with each tribe's MOU/MOA</u>
Participants	Tribal members may participate under the conditions described in the 2007 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Yakama Nation (YN), in the 2010 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), in the 2010 MOU with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Spring Reservation (CTWS), and in the 2011 MOU with the Nez Perce Tribe. Tribal members fishing below Bonneville Dam must carry an official tribal enrollment card
Gear	Hoop nets, dip bag nets, and rod and reel with hook and line
Allowable Sales	Salmon, steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, or yellow perch. Sturgeon retention is prohibited, and sturgeon may not be sold or retained for ceremonial or subsistence purposes. Sale of platform or hook-and-line-caught fish is allowed. Sales may not occur on USACE property
Note:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

Non-Indian Fishery Recommendations

Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial:

<i>Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>	
Season	1:00 PM to 10:00 PM Wednesday May 7, 2014 (9 hours)
Gear	Drift nets only. 4¼” maximum mesh size restriction. . Single-wall multi-filament net only. Monofilament tangle nets are not allowed. Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension, and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact. 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.
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>Soak times, 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>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.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: 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>Recovery Box: 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 non-legal 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 fish 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:

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.

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.

24-hour **quick reporting** required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

- The catch estimate is 1,600 to 1,800 hatchery Chinook based on an expected 100 to 120 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are estimated at less than 1,540 fish. Season total upriver mortalities would be 3,050 fish, or 98% of the total commercial allocation at the current minimum run size.
- Average weight of kept chinook is expected to be around 12 pounds per fish and ex-vessel value is estimated at \$ 5to \$7 per pound for Grade-A adult size fish.
- A Wednesday fishery avoids conflict with the Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas.

Non-Indian Select Area Commercial:

- Based on the current run size, staff is recommending the following season modifications for Select Area fisheries which slightly liberalize season restrictions adopted in late April. These recommendations continue the conservative approach needed in order to manage available upriver spring Chinook impacts for the remainder of the season.

2014 Knappa Slough Select Area - Recommendation

Effective Thursday May 8: The lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is extended downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the **west end** of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).

2014 Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area - Recommendation

Modify the previously adopted fishing period (7 PM-1 AM) for Thursday night May 8 in Tongue Point to **9 PM Thursday May 8 through 6 AM Friday May 9, 2014.**

Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery- Oregon State Staff Recommendation

Modify the previously adopted fishing period (1-7 PM) for Thursday May 8 in Youngs Bay to **2-10 PM.**

- Beginning May 12, Select Area fishing periods and hours revert to the seasons originally adopted at the January 29 Compact Hearing.

Non-Indian Recreational:

- Based on the remaining allocation for the area downstream of Bonneville Dam, the staff has outlined two options for consideration:

2014 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries - Options	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Option 1	Delay decision. Use remaining allocation to allow direct transition to summer Chinook season. Start date to be determined based on TAC run update (next week?).
Option 2	Open Friday May 9 through Sunday May 11, 2014. (3 days)
Area:	Tongue Point/Rocky Point line 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. Release sockeye. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
Additional regulations for both fisheries above:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 <u>closed</u> to Chinook retention, permanent salmonid bag limit regulations apply 	

- The intent of Option 1 would be to use the remaining allocation to provide adult Chinook retention opportunity that would allow for the spring fishery to transition directly to the summer fishery without a retention break.
 - If this approach were preferred, the decision could be postponed until next week since the current available allocation is not sufficient to start the fishery right away. Staff estimates a minimum upriver run size of 216,500 would be needed to allow for Chinook retention May 16-June 15.
 - In past years, this approach has been favored when discussed at the Recreational Advisory Group.
- Option 2 would re-open Chinook retention for three days. Catch estimates include 1,400 Chinook kept (400 released). Upriver mortalities are expected to total 1,224 fish, bringing the total for recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam to 10,500 mortalities.
 - An additional 210 upriver mortalities need to be set aside for release mortalities associated with the steelhead fishery. This brings the combined total to 10,710 upriver fish or 98% of allocated.
- An upriver run size of at least 217,000 fish is needed in order to allow for a Chinook retention season as proposed in Option 2 *and* a Chinook retention season during May 16 through June 15.

2014 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries-Recommendation
Upstream of Bonneville Dam
Effective Thursday May 8, 2014, close the ongoing recreational salmonid fishery in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon-Washington border. All other permanent regulations remain in effect

- Given the current upriver run size forecast, the recreational Chinook fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam is projected to exceed the available Chinook allocation. Closing the fishery 2 days earlier than scheduled is expected reduce the total upriver mortalities for this fishery to 1,637, or 112% of the current allocation.
- A run size of around 220,000 is needed to allow the fishery to continue as currently scheduled (through May 9).

Actual and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance

Summary of 2014 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (227.0 K)	Inseason Allocated (185.0 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial						
Mainstem	1,735	3,101	1,511	1,540	3,051	50
Select Area (actual and Proj.) <i>(proj. thru 6/13)</i>	238	278	204	74	278	0
Recreational						
Below Bonneville	10,157	10,945	9,276	1,434	10,710	235
Bonn to OR/WA border <i>(proj. thru 6/7)</i>	1,354	1,459	1,217	420	1,637	-178
Snake River (actual and proj.)	950	1,023	83	940	1,023	0
Wanapum Tribal	26	28	0	28	28	0
Total Upriver Mortalities	14,460	16,835	12,291	4,436	16,727	108

Future Hearing

- The Joint Staff may recommend a hearing as early as Tuesday May 13 to review stock status and non-Indian fisheries.