

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1  
Columbia River Compact Hearing  
April 20, 2015**

***Fisheries under Consideration:*** Select Area commercial fisheries

*Stock status and management guidelines for 2015 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2a (January 28, 2015).*

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 19 totals 41,223 adults. On average the run is around 5% complete by April 19 (range 0-17%) and the 50% passage date is May 7, ranging from May 1 to May 12 over the past ten years.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) began meeting weekly today to review status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC did not update the run.
- Select Area fisheries target spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons (mid-February through mid-June) and both spring Chinook and Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook during the summer season (mid-June through July).
- Harvest in winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial fisheries has averaged 11,800 Chinook annually over the past five years (2010–2014), with 85% of the harvested fish originating from Select Area sites. Excluding the exceptionally high catch in 2010, the average harvest is about 8,500 fish.
- From the commercial allocation of ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook, a fixed allocation of 0.15% has been allotted to Select Area commercial fisheries (unchanged since 2008).

• This year’s winter, spring and summer Select Area commercial seasons were set at the Compact hearing on January 28, 2015. The number of upriver Chinook mortalities allocated to this fishery prior to a run update was 244 adult fish. Once the run is updated, and if projected to meet the preseason forecast, a total of 349 upriver mortalities will be allowed

Upriver Spring Chinook ESA limits and # of mortalities allowed for Commercial fisheries in 2015				
	Total Allowed		Pre-Update	
	ESA	# Fish	ESA	# Fish
Mainstem	0.45%	4,334	0.21%	1,760
Select Areas	0.15%	349	0.15%	244
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>0.60%</b>	<b>4,683</b>	<b>0.36%</b>	<b>2,004</b>

- The Select Area commercial winter season concluded March 31. Landings totaled 885 Chinook and included 244 upriver stock spring Chinook (100% of the pre-update allocation).
- The interception of upriver fish was unprecedented for winter Select Area fisheries, resulting in the final three fishing periods in Youngs Bay being rescinded.
- The spring season began in Deep River on Thursday April 16. All other areas are scheduled to open on the evening of Tuesday April 21.
- Given that the entire Select Area pre-run-update allocation of upriver Chinook has been utilized, spring Select Area commercial season cannot open as previously adopted.
- Recent test fishing in Youngs Bay (Thursday 4/16 and Sunday 4/19) indicates moderate Chinook abundance. Stock composition was 9% upriver origin (8/92); similar to average

rates for the late spring timeframe. Test fishing in Tongue Point on Sunday yielded an insufficient sample size.

- On average, spring opening periods in the Select Areas land approximately 800 Chinook.
- Staff is recommending that up to 150 upriver fish from the mainstem commercial upriver pre-update balance (399) be applied to spring Select Area fisheries to provide an opportunity to re-open these fisheries.
- Staff also recommends that the season structure be modified through early May to minimize interception of upriver spring Chinook.

***Staff Recommendation: Select Area Commercial Fisheries***

Compact Action:

- Rescind the fishing periods currently scheduled to occur April 21 and April 23, 2015 for Tongue Point/South Channel, Deep River, and concurrent waters in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough.
- Modify the periods in Tongue Point/South Channel previously adopted for April 28 through May 8 as follows:
  - April 28 open 3 PM to 7 PM (4 hours)
  - April 30 open 4 PM to 8 PM (4 hours)
  - May 5 open 7 PM to 11 PM (4 hours)
  - May 7 open 8 PM to 12 AM (midnight; 4 hours)

Oregon State Action:

- Rescind the fishing periods currently scheduled to occur April 21, April 23, and May 6, 2015 in Youngs Bay and April 21 and April 23 in Oregon waters of Blind Slough.
- Modify the periods in Youngs Bay previously adopted for April 28 through May 8 as follows:
  - April 28 open 3 PM to 7 PM (4 hours)
  - April 30 open 4 PM to 8 PM (4 hours)
  - May 5 open 7 PM to 11 PM (4 hours)
  - May 7 open 8 PM to 12 AM (midnight; 4 hours)

All other rules pertaining to 2015 Select Area commercial fisheries remain in effect.

- ✓ The recommendation would result in the closure of two fishing periods this week in each of the Select Area sites (Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/South Channel, Deep River and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough). Additionally, the open hours would be reduced significantly through May 7 in Youngs Bay and Tongue Point.

- ✓ These modifications to the season structure will help limit additional upriver spring Chinook impacts in the early spring Select Area fisheries.
- ✓ It is expected that abundance of upriver spring Chinook will decline after May 7, allowing the fisheries to resume as originally adopted. The recommendation for weekly fishing periods will provide fishery data to inform any potential management decision prior to fisheries resuming as planned for the week of May 11.

### **Future Hearings**

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled.
- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.