

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 30, 2015

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Mainstem commercial salmon Select Area commercial salmon Lower Columbia River recreational salmon
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2015 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2a (January 28, 2015).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Bonneville Dam passage through April 29 totals 125,466 adult Chinook. Based on the 10-year average (which have primarily been late timed) the 50% passage date is May 7, ranging from May 1 to May 12.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met Monday April 27 and again on Wednesday April 29 to review the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. On April 29, TAC officially updated the run to 220,000 adult fish. TAC will continue to meet weekly to review stock status and is scheduled to meet again Monday May 4.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a Columbia River return of 220,000 adult upriver fish allows for a non-Indian ESA impact rate of 2.0% and a catch balance limit of 22,000 upriver mortalities. Commission guidance directs managers to allocate the impacts 70% sport/30% commercial.
- Adult spring Chinook passage at Willamette Falls through April 27 totals 13,197 fish, well above the 5-year average cumulative passage to date of 5,292 fish. The five year average 50% passage date is May 21.

Non-Indian Fishery Update

- Two mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date (17 hours total). Landings totaled 1,737 adult Chinook. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,361 fish, or 33% of the current post run update allocation (4,101).
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 13. Landings from the winter season totaled 885 Chinook. Preliminary spring season landings through April 29 total 2,413 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities to date total 252 out of an allocation of 330 fish. 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 11, and re-opened for one additional day on April 16. Catch estimates total 13,183 kept and 2,150 released adult fish from 96,764 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 10,134 fish, or 72% of currently 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 6. Catch estimates through Sunday April 26 total 484 kept and 168 released adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 501 fish. Catch projections for April 27-May 6 total 1,340 additional kept plus release mortalities. The season total would be 1,841 fish or 98% of currently 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 29 total 524 kept and 77 released adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 532 fish or 36% of currently allocated.

Summary of 2015 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (162.7/232.5K)	Inseason Allocated (220.0 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial						
Mainstem	1,760	4,101	1,361	0	1,361	2,740
Select Area (actual and Proj.) <i>(proj. thru 6/13)</i>	244	330	252	60	312	18
Recreational						
Below Bonneville	10,318	14,155	10,134	0	10,134	4,021
Bonn to OR/WA border <i>(proj. thru 5/6)</i>	1,376	1,887	501	1,340	1,841	46
Snake River (actual and proj.)	1,083	1,485	532	953	1,485	0
Wanapum Tribal	30	41	0	41	41	0
Total Upriver Mortalities	14,810	22,000	12,780	2,394	15,174	6,825

Non-Indian Fishery Recommendations

Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial:

<i>Joint Staff Recommendations- 2015 Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	10:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday May 6, 2015 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, and shad.
Gear:	<p>Drift nets only. 4¼-inch maximum mesh size (tangle net). Single-wall multi-filament net only. Monofilament tangle nets are not allowed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.</u> There are no restrictions on the use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net and is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.</p> <p>Net length may be increased from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers. An optional use of a steelhead excluder panel of mesh may be hung between the corkline and the 4¼-inches maximum mesh size tangle net. The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12 inches stretched measure when taut under hand tension. Monofilament mesh is allowed for the excluder panel only. The excluder panel must be a minimum of five feet in depth and must not exceed ten feet in depth as measured from the corkline to the upper margin of the tangle net mesh as the net hangs naturally from a taut corkline. Weedlines or droppers (bobber type) may be used in place of the steelhead excluder panel. A weedline-type excluder means the net is suspended below the corkline by lines of no less than five feet in length between the corkline and the upper margin of the tangle net. A dropper-type excluder means the entire net is suspended below the surface of the water by lines of no less than five feet in length extending from individual surface floats to a submersed corkline. The corkline cannot be capable of floating the net in its entirety (including the leadline) independent of the attached floats. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of five feet above the 4¼ inch maximum mesh size tangle net. Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers must have two red corks at each end of the net, as well as the red corks as required.</p> <p><u>Red corks are required</u> at 25-fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p><u>Multi net rule in place:</u> 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>

Regulations:

Soak times are defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gillnet web is deployed into the water until the gillnet web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Each chamber of the recovery box(es) must include an operating water pumping system capable of delivering a minimum flow of 16 gallons per minute, not to exceed 20 gallons per minute of freshwater per chamber. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Each chamber of the recovery box must meet the following dimensions as measured from within the box: the inside length measurement must be at or within 39 ½ inches to 48 inches; the inside width measurements must be at or within 8 to 10 inches; and the inside height measurement must be at or within 14 to 16 inches. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water inlet hole between ¾ inch and 1 inch in diameter, centered horizontally across the door or end wall of the chamber and 1¾ inches from the floor of the chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water outlet hole that is a least 1½ inches in diameter located on either the same or opposite end as the inlet. The center of the outlet hole must be located a minimum of 12 inches above the floor of the box or chamber. The fisher must demonstrate to WDFW and ODFW employees, fish and wildlife enforcement officers, or other peace officers, upon request, that the pumping system is delivering the proper volume of fresh river water into each chamber.

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.

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 the 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.

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.

24-hour quick reporting is in effect for Washington buyers (WAC 220-69-240(14)(d)).

- The catch estimate is 1,200 to 1,600 hatchery Chinook based on an expected 80 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are estimated at less than 1,400 fish. Season total upriver mortalities would be 2,761 fish, or 67% of the total commercial allocation at the current run size.
- Average weight of kept chinook is expected to be around 12 pounds per fish and ex-vessel value is estimated at \$7 per pound for adult size fish.
- A Wednesday fishery avoids conflict with the Monday/Tuesday and Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas.

Select Area Commercial

- Based on minimal interception of upriver spring Chinook in the recent spring Select opener (<1.0%), staff recommends that near-term Select Area commercial fisheries be liberalized from the highly constrained seasons adopted by the Compact on April 20. The proposed modifications still represents a significant reduction in total days/hours adopted pre-season in order to minimize interception of upriver spring Chinook.

<i>Staff Recommendation: Select Area Commercial Fisheries</i>
<p><u>Compact Action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rescind the fishing periods currently scheduled to occur May 5 and May 7, 2015 for Tongue Point/South Channel. Modify the fishing periods for May 4 through May 8 as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 PM Monday May 4 through 7 AM Tuesday May 5, 2015 (12 hours)• 7 PM Thursday May 7 through 7 AM Friday May 8, 2015 (12 hours) <p><u>Oregon State Action:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rescind the fishing periods currently scheduled to occur May 5 and May 7, 2015 in Youngs Bay. Modify the fishing periods for May 4 through May 8 as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 7 PM Monday May 4 through 7 AM Tuesday May 5, 2015 (12 hours)• 7 PM Thursday May 7 through 7 AM Friday May 8, 2015 (12 hours) <p>All other rules pertaining to 2015 Select Area commercial fisheries remain in effect.</p>

- ✓ The proposed Select Area season modifications will allow additional hours (night-time) and re-align all openers so they are concurrent among all sites.
- ✓ It is expected that abundance of upriver spring Chinook will decline by May 11, 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.

Non-Indian Recreational:

- Based on the remaining allocation for the area downstream of Bonneville Dam, the staff has the following recommendation for consideration:

<i>2015 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season	Open Saturday May 2 through Sunday May 3, 2015 (2 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 boat 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:	
<p>The mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad <u>only</u> during days and seasons open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.</p> <p>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.</p>	

- The fishery would re-open Chinook retention for two days this weekend. Catch estimates include 2,920 Chinook kept (680 released). Upriver mortalities are expected to total 2,660 fish, bringing the total for recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam to 12,794 mortalities.

Actual and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance

Summary of 2015 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (167.7/ 232.5K)	Inseason Allocated (220.0 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial						
Mainstem	1,760	4,101	1,361	1,400	2,761	1,340
Select Area (actual and proj.) <i>(proj. thru 6/13)</i>	244	330	250	60	310	20
Recreational						
Below Bonneville	10,317	14,155	10,134	2,660	12,794	1,361
Bonn to OR/WA border <i>(proj. thru 5/6)</i>	1,376	1,887	501	1,340	1,841	46
Snake River (actual and proj.)	1,083	1,485	532	953	1,485	0
Wanapum Tribal	30	41	0	41	41	0
Total Upriver Mortalities	14,810	22,000	12,778	6,454	19,232	2,767

Future Hearing

- The Joint Staff may recommend a hearing as early as Tuesday May 5 to review stock status and non-Indian fisheries.