

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 7, 2016

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i>	Recreational Salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam Bonneville Pool Recreational Sturgeon
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2016 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1a (January 27, 2015).

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 6 totals 824 fish. Based on the preseason forecast and 5-year average timing, about 900 fish would be expected at Bonneville Dam by this date. The (5-yr ave) 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam is May 7.
- River conditions far are currently lower, warmer, and clearer than recent 5-year averages for April 6. Current outflow at Bonneville Dam is 230 kcfs, which is less than the average of 271 kcfs. Water temperature currently measures 48° F, which is slightly higher than the average of 47° F. Visibility is six feet compared to the average visibility of four feet.

Below Bonneville Dam Recreational Salmon Fishery

- The recreational spring Chinook fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam is scheduled to remain open through Saturday April 9.
- Kept catch and upriver mortalities through late March matched preseason modeling. Since then, effort and catch rates have exceeded expectations.
- The estimated catch through Sunday April 3 is 6,954 kept adult fish from 67,831 angler trips. The catch projection for April 4-9 (closed Tuesday April 5) includes 4,448 kept adults from 23,195 angler trips, for a total of 11,402 kept from 91,026 angler trips (compared to 80,700 expected).
- Upriver mortalities through April 3 total 4,730 adult Chinook. An additional 3,775 upriver mortalities are expected to occur during April 4-9. Combined kept and release mortalities of upriver fish through April 9 is projected to be 8,505 fish, or 113% of the 7,515 available to this fishery prior to a run update.

Summary of 2016 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Catch _ Preliminary						
Non- Indian Fishery	Upriver Chinook Allocated		Upriver Catch Pre Update (kept plus release mortalities)			
	No Buffer (188.8K)	Pre-Update (132.2)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial - Mainstem	3,077	1,222	≤1,222	0	≤1,222	0
Commercial Select Area	283	198	69	129	198	0
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>3,360</i>	<i>1,420</i>	<i>1,291</i>	<i>129</i>	<i>1,420</i>	<i>0</i>
Sport - Below Bonneville <i>(in hand 4/3, proj 4/4-4/9)</i>	10,877	7,515	4,730	3,775	8,505	-990
Sport - Above Bonn	1,450	1,002	0	1,002	1,002	0
Sport - Snake River	1,454	1,005	0	1,005	1,005	0
<i>Sport Total</i>	<i>13,782</i>	<i>9,522</i>	<i>4,730</i>	<i>5,782</i>	<i>10,512</i>	<i>-990</i>
Wanapum Tribal	39	27	0	27	27	0
Total Upriver Mortalities	17,181	10,969	6,021	5,937	11,958	-990

- Based on the projected catch estimates and total upriver mortalities, staff recommends the ongoing fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam be modified as follows:

Joint Staff Recommendation – Lower Columbia Recreational Salmon Fishery

Effective 11:59 PM Friday April 8, 2016, close the lower Columbia River to angling for, and retention of spring Chinook, steelhead, and shad from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam. Existing permanent regulations remain in effect.

- The expected kept catch through Friday April 8 is projected at 10,172 adult Chinook from 85,026 angler trips. Combined upriver mortalities (kept and release mortalities) would total 7,474 fish, or 99% of the pre-season allocation for this fishery.
- If the fishery remained opened through Saturday April 9, it is estimated the LCR sport fishery would exceed its pre-update allocation by 990 upriver Chinook mortalities. An upriver Chinook run size of at least 151,000 would be needed for non-Indian fisheries to continue as planned pre update given this overage.

Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fishery

- Under permanent rule, the 2016 Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam) recreational white sturgeon fisheries opened for retention effective January 1. The fishery in Bonneville Pool has a split winter/summer season. The winter season closed to retention on February 8. The other fisheries remain open until the annual guideline for each pool is met. Fishery status for all pools are as follows:

2016 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest in Zone 6				
	Guideline	Catch ¹	Balance	Season
Bonneville Pool	325	157	168	Closed
The Dalles Pool	100	82	18	Ongoing
John Day Pool	500	94	406	Ongoing

¹ Catch for Bonneville Pool through February 7, and The Dalles and John Day pools through April 3.

- Catch rates in The Dalles Pool have been averaging around 3 kept fish per week, therefore the fishery could extend into May. In John Day Pool, 81% of the quota remains available. Staff will continue to monitor both fisheries, especially The Dalles where the quota could be reached soon if catch rates improve.
- In Bonneville Pool, kept catch during the 2016 winter season was 157 fish, or 48% of the 325 fish guideline leaving a balance of 168 sturgeon for a summer retention season. The annual harvest guideline was reduced at the start of 2016 to 325 fish from the previous 1,100 fish in response to a decline in recruitment to the legal-size population.
- Harvest per day in the Bonneville Pool winter fishery was similar the past two Januarys, but jumped substantially the one week it was open in February 2016.
- Harvest per day during June in the Bonneville Pool summer fishery was very similar the past two years, averaging 96 fish/day. In both years, harvest per day in July declined due to reduced effort, averaging 53 fish/day.
- Considering the balance of harvestable sturgeon remaining on the Bonneville Pool guideline and expected catch rates, staff proposes the following season recommendation:

<i>Staff Recommendation: 2016 Bonneville Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery</i>	
Season:	Saturday June 18 and Friday July 1 (2 retention days)
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam, including adjacent tributaries.
Sanctuary:	Angling for sturgeon prohibited during May through July from The Dalles Dam downstream 1.8 miles to a line from the east (upstream) dock at the Port of The Dalles boat ramp straight across to a marker on the Washington shore
Allowable Catch	White sturgeon between 38-inches and 54-inches fork length.

- The proposal for two retention days two weeks apart provides meaningful summer opportunity while allowing staff to monitor the fishery as it progresses and recommend any changes if needed.

Future Meetings

- Staff is not proposing any hearings at this time.