

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 18, 2016

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Mainstem commercial salmon Select Area commercial salmon – Youngs Bay

Stock status and management guidelines for 2016 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1a (January 27, 2016).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met Monday May 16 to review the status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC updated the inseason run to 180,000 adult fish which is slightly less than the preseason forecast of 188,800 fish. TAC will continue to meet weekly to review stock status and is scheduled to meet again Monday May 23.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a Columbia River return of 180,000 adult upriver fish allows for a non-Indian ESA impact rate of 1.9% and a catch balance limit of 16,380 upriver mortalities. Commission guidance directs fishery managers to allocate the impacts 70% sport/30% commercial.
- A total of 31,100 adult spring Chinook are forecasted to return to Washington tributaries in the lower river (Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis). In Oregon, the Sandy River forecast is approximately 4,000 fish. The majority of these lower river stocks have turned into the tributaries by mid-May.

Non-Indian Fishery Update

- Three mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date (33 hours total). Landings totaled 2,168 adult Chinook. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,723 fish, or 59% of the current allocation of 2,934 fish.
- 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).
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 15. Combined winter/spring season landings through May 13 total 4,911 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 190 fish, or 70% of the current allocation of 270 fish.
- The lower Columbia River recreational Chinook fishery was open from January 1 through April 8 and May 13 through May 15. Catch estimates total 10,513 kept from 94,020 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 8,026 fish, or 77% of the current allocation of 10,370 fish.
- An estimated 2,344 upriver mortalities remain available for this fishery.
- During preseason discussions with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG), there has been a strong desire to open adult Chinook retention concurrent with the steelhead opener (May 16), or at a later date if necessary to continue the fishery through the remainder of the spring season (June 15).

- A more conservative approach would be to provide some opportunity this weekend and use the balance (following subsequent in-season run updates) to provide a second, longer season that would connect with the summer fishery.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation:</i> 2016 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Open Saturday May 21 and Sunday May 22, 2016
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 One) 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. Sockeye must be released. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
Additional regulations	
The mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad during days and seasons open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.	
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.	

- The proposed season provides some near-term recreational opportunity while allowing staff additional time to estimate catches for a second season based on the balance available at an updated upriver run size.
- Due to the date of the fishery, a Lewis sanctuary may not be needed.
- Catch estimates total 340 Chinook handled including 184 upriver mortalities. Season total upriver mortalities would be 8,210 fish, or 79% of the total below Bonneville sport allocation at the current run size.
- Under permanent rules, the lower Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge opened May 16 for hatchery steelhead and hatchery jack Chinook and shad retention opened May 16 from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- The recreational Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open from March 16 through May 8 and May 13 through May 15. Catch estimates total 1,446 kept from more than 6,700 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,480 fish, or 107% of the current allocation of 1,383 fish. This fishery is expected to remain closed unless additional Chinook become available for harvest
- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) are open on a days-per-week basis in three sections of the river. The fisheries are ongoing until the harvest

allocation is met. Catch estimates through May 16 total 828 kept adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 841 fish or 61% of the current allocation of 1,386 fish.

Non-Indian Fishery Recommendations

Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial:

- An estimated 1,211 upriver mortalities remain available for this fishery.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation- 2016 Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	7:00 PM Tuesday May 24 until 7:00 AM Wednesday May 25, 2016 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. 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.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and shad.
Regulations:	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, live capture certification, etc. <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. <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. <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 <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. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. 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 non-legal 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.
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. Additionally, cooperation with department personnel 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. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The catch is not expected to exceed 600 hatchery Chinook based on an expected 60 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are estimated at 646 fish. Season total upriver mortalities would be 2,369 fish, or 81% of the total commercial allocation at the current run size.
- Given the date and the large ‘B’ sanctuaries, encounters of Lewis River spring Chinook are expected to be near zero based on CWT data from recent years.
- A Tuesday night fishery avoids conflict with the Monday night and Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas.
- Staff is recommending a large mesh fishery due to building shad abundance which prevents effective use of tangle nets. Adoption of a fishery with large mesh gear would require the Compact to initiate the adaptive management clause outlined in the current Columbia River policy.

Non-Indian Select Area Commercial:

- The proposed mainstem fishery avoids conflict with Monday and Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas, except for Youngs Bay where staff recommends the following action:

Oregon State Staff Recommendation - Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery

Retention and sales of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 7 PM Tuesday May 24 through 12:00 PM (noon) Wednesday May 25, 2016.

Non-Indian Catch Balance Summary:

Summary of 2016 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Mortalities - preliminary						
Non-Indian Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	in-Season Allocated (180.0 K)	In hand	Projected Through May 25	Total	Balance	% Used
Mainstem	2,934	1,723	646	2,369	565	81%
Select Area (<i>season total</i>)	270	190	20	210	60	78%
Total	3,204	1,913	666	2,579	625	80%
Below Bonneville	10,370	8,026	184	8,210	2,160	79%
Bonn to OR/WA border	1,383	1,480	0	1,480	-97	107%
Snake River/Wanapum (<i>season total</i>)	1,423	841	582	1,423	0	100%
Total	13,176	10,347	766	11,113	2,063	84%
Grand Total	16,380	12,260	1,432	13,692	2,688	84%

Future Hearing

- The Joint Staff is not recommending additional hearings at this time. Staff will continue to review stock status and may request a hearing next week.