

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 7
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
 May 26, 2016**

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Lower Columbia River commercial salmon

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

- Bonneville Dam passage through May 25 totals nearly 129,000 adult Chinook. The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided an in-season run update of 180,000 adult fish to the Columbia River.
- Four mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date. Landings totaled 2,424 adult Chinook. Preliminary landings for the recent May 24-25 fishing period total 256 Chinook from 44 deliveries. Combined kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook to date is estimated at 1,988 fish, or 68% of the current allocation of 2,934 fish.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation- 2016 Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	7:00 PM Tuesday May 31 until 7:00 AM Wednesday June 1 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, 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. Multiple net rule in place: 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.

Quick Reporting: 24-hour quick reporting required per WAC 220-69-240 for Washington wholesale dealers. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The catch estimate is 350 hatchery Chinook kept based on an expected 50 deliveries. Season total upriver mortalities are projected at 2,368 fish, or 81% of the current mainstem commercial allocation.
- The proposed mainstem fishery avoids conflict with the Monday/Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas, except 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 31 through 12:00 PM (noon) Wednesday June 1, 2016.

Non-Treaty Catch Balance Summary

Summary of 2016 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Mortalities - preliminary						
Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)						
Non-Indian Fishery	in-Season Allocated (180.0 K)	In hand	Projected	Total	Balance	% Used
Mainstem (<i>proj. for May 31</i>)	2,934	1,988	380	2,368	566	81%
Select Area (<i>season total</i>)	270	190	60	250	20	93%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,204</i>	<i>2,178</i>	<i>440</i>	<i>2,618</i>	<i>586</i>	<i>82%</i>
Below BON (<i>proj May 28-Jun 15</i>)	10,370	8,403	1,870	10,273	97	99%
Bonn to OR/WA border	1,383	1,480	0	1,480	-97	107%
Snake River/Wanapum (<i>season total</i>)	1,423	1,221	202	1,423	0	100%
<i>Total</i>	<i>13,176</i>	<i>11,104</i>	<i>2,072</i>	<i>13,176</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>100%</i>
Grand Total	16,380	13,282	2,512	15,794	586	96%

Future Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing for 2:00 PM Thursday June 2 to consider non-Indian spring Chinook commercial fisheries the following week.
- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing for 10:00 AM Thursday June 9 to consider non-Indian summer Chinook commercial fisheries and potentially treaty commercial fisheries.