

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 5, 2018**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam Mainstem recreational salmon from Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border Estuary recreational sturgeon
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent reports are the 2018 Joint Staff Report Concerning Stock Status and Fisheries for Sturgeon and Smelt (January 18, 2018) and the 2018 Spring/Summer report (February 20, 2018):

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01973/wdfw01973.pdf> or http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports/18_reports/2018_spring_jsr.pdf
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports/18_reports/2018_wssjsr.pdf or <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01959/>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Columbia River conditions as measured at Bonneville Dam currently show higher total project outflow with less visibility, but with similar water temperature compared to recent 5-year averages for this date in June. Current outflow is 371 kcfs (160 kcfs is spill), which is 88 kcfs higher than the recent 5-year average of 283 kcfs. Water temperature currently measures 60° F, which is similar than the average of 60.6° F. Visibility is currently at 3.0 feet compared to the average of 4.2 feet. The river stage at Vancouver is currently 10.5 feet and is forecasted to remain around 10 feet over the next few days.

STOCK STATUS

- Bonneville Dam passage through June 4 totals 93,166 adult Chinook.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met June 4 and maintained the previous in-season run update of 116,500 adult upriver spring Chinook to the mouth of the Columbia River. TAC will meet again next Monday to provide a final in-season run update.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Under the 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a Columbia River return of 116,500 adult upriver spring Chinook allows for a non-treaty ESA impact rate of 1.7% and a catch balance limit of 9,670 upriver mortalities. Commission guidance directs fishery managers to allocate the ESA impacts 80% recreational and 20% commercial.
- Current Commission guidance on white sturgeon management requires a 10% conservation buffer if the maximum harvest rate (16%) identified in WSCP is utilized. In addition, the available harvest will be allocated 80% to recreational fisheries and 20% to commercial fisheries.

2018 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

- 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). Less than 100 fish have been landed through June 1; passage at Bonneville Dam just recently began to increase dramatically.
- Select Area commercial fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue into the summer management period. Combined winter/spring season landings through June 1 total 7,479 Chinook, which is less than Harvest Reform expectations. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 274 fish, or 69% of the current allocation of 396 fish.
- There has been no commercial salmon fishery in the mainstem to date in 2018. Oregon policy allows for mainstem commercial tangle net opportunity post run-update if the commercial allocation will not be fully utilized in Select Area fisheries. However, implementation of a fishery at this point would be difficult, especially given current high shad abundance.
- The lower Columbia River recreational Chinook fishery was open from January 1 through April 7, April 14, and re-opened May 25 through June 6. Preliminary adult catch estimates through June 3 total 6,486 kept and 1,184 released. Kept and release mortalities of adult upriver Chinook are estimated at 4,859 fish, or 68% of the current allocation of 7,187 fish.
- 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. Through June 3, an estimated 625 steelhead have been kept (64 released).
- The recreational Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open from March 16 through May 7, and re-opened May 25 through June 15. Catch estimates through June 3 total 527 adult Chinook and zero steelhead kept from approximately 5,940 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of adult upriver Chinook are estimated at 537 fish, or 56% of the current allocation of 958 fish.
- The recreational fisheries on the lower Snake River (Washington waters) are ongoing until the harvest allocation is met. Catch estimates through June 4 total 585 kept adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of adult upriver Chinook are estimated at 601 fish, or 65% of the current allocation of 924 fish.
- The Wanapum tribal ceremonial and subsistence fishery in the upper Columbia River is currently allowed under a permit issued by WDFW. To date, no effort or catch has been reported.
- The 2018 Estuary white sturgeon retention season was adopted on a days-per-week approach (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays) for 10 days from May 14 through June 4. Overall total season effort was 91% of preseason expectations but the kept catch rate was about 63% of expected. Total harvest to date is estimated at 1,705 fish, or 58% of the 2,960 fish allocation.

Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- Given the current run size estimate, an estimated 2,328 upriver Chinook mortalities remain available for the mainstem recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, and 421

remain available for the mainstem recreational fishery between Bonneville Dam and the OR/WA border.

- Given these balances, additional spring Chinook fishing opportunity exists for both fisheries.

<i>Recommendations: 2018 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Season:	Thursday June 7 through Friday June 15	9 retention days
Area:	Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to angling deadlines (boat and bank) at Bonneville Dam.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids (Chinook, coho, or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only hatchery fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border		
Effective Thursday June 7 through June 15, modify the salmonid daily bag limit to allow retention of up to two adult hatchery spring Chinook. All other permanent regulations apply.		

- The proposed fishery modifications provide additional opportunity both below and above Bonneville Dam based on the current projected upriver run size.
- For the proposed fishery below Bonneville Dam, staff expects catches will not exceed 150 adult Chinook handle per day, which would accrue an additional 1,200 upriver mortalities for June 4-15. The projected season total upriver mortalities would be approximately 6,060 fish, or 84% of the allocation at the current run size.
- Catch rates for the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam since the season re-opened have been similar to expectations which allows for consideration of a two Chinook daily bag limit. If adopted, the combined season total upriver mortalities would be 677 fish, or 71% of the allocation for this area.
- As a reminder, through June 15, on days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas is the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.

Non-Treaty Fisheries ESA Impact Summary

Summary of 2018 Non-Treaty Fishery ESA Impacts on Upriver Chinook							
Preliminary Inseason Estimates							
Fishery	current allocation	to date	% used	projected	total	balance	projected % used
Select Area commercial	0.340%	0.235%	69%	0.031%	0.266%	0.074%	78%
total	0.340%	0.235%	69%	0.031%	0.266%	0.074%	78%
below Bonneville recreational	1.020%	0.487%	48%	0.103%	0.590%	0.430%	58%
BON to OR/WA border recreational	0.136%	0.053%	39%	0.014%	0.067%	0.069%	49%
lower Snake River recreational	0.204%	0.125%	61%	0.079%	0.204%	0.000%	100%
Wanapum C&S	0.204%	0.000%	0%	0.171%	0.171%	0.033%	84%
total	1.360%	0.665%	49%	0.288%	0.861%	0.499%	63%
Grand Total	1.700%	0.901%	53%	0.319%	1.127%	0.573%	66%

Note: ESA allocations for the Snake River recreational and Wanapum fisheries are not additive. Since these are single-stock fisheries, each has the same allocation and the higher of the two actual impact rates is included in the overall non-treaty fishery accounting.

Below Wauna Powerlines (Estuary) Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery

- Given the balance of 1,255 fish on the 2018 estuary guideline, some additional retention opportunity exists, although it is not likely to exceed one day.
- Kept catch rates during June (last two days of the season) increased significantly, averaging 0.22 per angler compared to 0.08 per angler in May. Moving forward, this trend would be expected to continue. Given the improved catch rates, effort would also be expected to increase.

Recommendation: 2018 Sturgeon Recreational Fishery for Below Wauna Powerlines	
Season:	Friday June 8 1 day
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay, and all adjacent Washington tributaries
Allowable Catch:	Up to 1,255 white sturgeon Legal size: 44-inch minimum and 50-inch maximum fork length (Fork length is measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork in the caudal fin (tail) with the fish laying on its side on a flat surface, with the tape measure/ruler positioned flat <u>under</u> the fish) Daily bag limit: One fish Annual bag limit: Two fish Retention of green sturgeon is prohibited
Additional Regulations:	On days open to white sturgeon retention, angling for sturgeon is prohibited after 2 PM, including catch and release.

- Staff considered Saturday June 9 for a potential one-day extension but is recommending a weekday (Friday) instead as a conservative approach to moderate effort and kept catch. Staff

also considered lifting the 2 PM closure to allow some local evening opportunity but that would complicate catch estimation. The expected kept catch for the proposed season is 600 fish, for a cumulative season kept total of approximately 2,300 fish, or 78% of the 2,960 fish guideline.

- Considering the 2017 guideline was exceeded by 235 fish, the cumulative kept catch for the 2017-18 estuary retention seasons would be 5,535 fish, or 93% of the cumulative 2-year guideline (5,960).

FUTURE HEARINGS

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.