

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 18, 2022

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmonid downstream of Bonneville Dam Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon fishery
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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 online. The most recent report is the 2022 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2022) available at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of May 18, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 256 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 353 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 52°F compared to the five-year average of 55°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 5.6 feet compared to the five-year average of 3.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through May 17 totals 121,042 fish, which is 134% of the 10-year (2012-21) average cumulative count and 258% of the 5-year (2017-21) average for this date. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam is May 11.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met most recently on Monday, May 16 to review the upriver spring Chinook return and upgraded the forecast to 180,000 adults at the Columbia River mouth compared to the pre-season forecast of 122,900 adults. TAC’s next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 23.
- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam between April 1 and June 30 (including Bonneville Pool harvest during this timeframe) are considered upriver Skamania stock steelhead. Steelhead caught in the lower Columbia through April are counted as winter steelhead and from May 1-June 30 are counted as lower river Skamania stock steelhead. Through May 17 a total of 785 Skamania steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam, which is 60% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. The upriver Skamania run is about 19% complete on May 17.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets is scheduled to occur from March 15 through May 31. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).
- The 2022 forecasts for the Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis, and Sandy rivers are sufficient to meet escapement goals. Spring Chinook hatchery returns to the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers are ahead of expectations to-date, while the Kalama is on schedule. Approximately 90% of the Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis stock fish are expected to have entered their corresponding tributary by mid-May.

- During the spring management period, shad abundance tends to increase substantially in late May and peak in June. Cumulative shad passage at Bonneville Dam through May 17 is 582 fish; which is 93% lower than the 2021 cumulative count to date and less than 5% of the 10-year average. Based on the 10-year average for passage, shad passage is usually about 1% complete through May 24 and 50% complete by June 15.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- 2022 pre-season forecasts and management guidelines for spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #4b and #5a.
- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to $\leq 15\%$. The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish which determines the allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls. The 2022 preseason forecast:
 - Allocates the entire hatchery surplus (16,090) to recreational fisheries.
 - Limits the commercial fishery to 1% of the run as incidental catch in non-Willamette spring Chinook target fisheries (391 fish).
- The Oregon and Washington allocation policies for 2022 specific to commercial-recreational upriver ESA-impact sharing and within sport sub-allocations are not concurrent. Under the WA policy, no more than 70% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the recreational fisheries, and under Oregon rule, no more than 20% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the commercial fisheries. Additionally, under the WA policy, no more than 70% of the recreational allocation can be allocated to the Lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery, and under Oregon rule, no more than 25% of the recreational allocation can be allocated for fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam (Bonneville to OR/WA state line, Snake River). Therefore, modeling only utilizes 90% of the non-treaty allocation and 95% of the recreational share of upriver spring Chinook impacts.
- The current OR and WA policies pertaining to allowable gears for use in a spring mainstem commercial fishery are not concurrent. However, policy direction from both OR and WA commissions provides for mainstem commercial fisheries using standard spring season live capture techniques after an in-season run update if Select Area fisheries are not projected to use the full commercial allocation of impacts to upriver Chinook.

2022 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery

- The recreational spring Chinook fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam was open through April 6 and re-opened May 12. Catches through May 15 total 6,888 adult spring Chinook kept (1,154 released) and 302 steelhead kept (216 released) and from 53,232 angler trips. The fishery from May 12 through May 15 tracked slightly ahead of expectations for both effort and kept catch.
- From Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA border, the spring Chinook fishery was open April 1 through May 3 with 1,500 adult spring Chinook kept (426 released) from 4,954 angler trips.

- The Snake River recreational fishery (Washington waters) is open on a two days per week and per location (Little Goose and Ice Harbor areas) schedule with 832 adults kept and 119 released from May 3-15 from 11,341 angler hours.

Accounting of upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2022 recreational fisheries						
Fishery	adult Chinook through May 15			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance
	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			
downstream of BON	6,888	5,448	5,530	10,170	54%	4,640
BON - OR/WA border	1,500	1,500	1,543	1,453	106%	-90
Snake River (WA waters)	832	832	844	1,408	60%	564

- The remaining total recreational allocation is slightly reduced due to the overage in the Bonneville Dam to OR/WA state line fishery.
- There is potential for additional recreational angling opportunity downstream of Bonneville Dam given the balance remaining on the upriver spring Chinook allocation to this fishery at the current run size projection. Staff has adjusted the expectations for this fishery moving forward based on fishery performance from May 12-15.

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Season:	Tuesday May 24 through Friday June 3, 2022	11 retention 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 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 hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook.	
Other:	All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- This recommended extension fills the gap between the open dates adopted during the Joint State Hearing on May 11, 2022 and is expected to handle about 2,307 adult Chinook, including 1,770 kept, and would accrue 1,448 additional upriver mortalities. Projected season total upriver mortalities would be 9,826 or 97% of the current allocation for this fishery.
- Permanent rules still apply on May 23, including shad retention downstream of Bonneville Dam and hatchery steelhead and hatchery spring Chinook jack retention downstream of the I-5 Bridge.
- Given expectations for this fishery, staff projects a balance on the total recreational allocation of 254 fish.

- This balance could be available for the Bonneville Dam to OR/WA state line fishery. However, due to the fishery’s performance earlier this season, which was outside the range of recent year results, staff is uncertain how much opportunity this balance may represent at this time. Given the uncertainty in potential catch rates and effort plus relatively high abundance of spring Chinook upstream of Bonneville Dam, staff is not able to recommend additional fishing opportunity in the Bonneville Dam to OR/WA state line fishery at this point.

Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Combined Select Area landings through May 15 total 4,976 Chinook and 71 white sturgeon. Chinook landings are approximately 74% greater than the cumulative total for the same timeframe in 2021, and about 26% greater than the recent 5-year average. Select Area fisheries have accrued 454 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 15. Given the currently adopted season structure, Select Area commercial fisheries are projected to accrue a total of 568 upriver mortalities (0.315% ESA impact rate) through June 15, which is less than the upriver spring Chinook commercial allocation (0.380% ESA impact rate) at the current run size projection.
- No landings have occurred in the Area 2S commercial shad fishery to date.
- Given the current upriver spring Chinook run size projection, allocation sharing guidance, the post-update timeframe, and expected usage in Select Area commercial fisheries, a mainstem non-treaty commercial fishery could be considered at this time based on the available commercial balance (0.065% ESA impact rate).

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	10:00 AM to 9:00 PM Monday May 23, 2022 (11 hours)
Area:	Reduced Zones 4-5. Hayden Island power lines (west towers) upstream to the upper commercial fishing deadline at Beacon Rock
Sanctuaries:	Sandy and Washougal river sanctuaries in effect.
Gear:	<p>Drift tangle nets only. 4¼-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Single-wall multi-filament net only. Monofilament tangle nets are not allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.</p> <p>An optional use of a steelhead excluder panel of mesh may be hung between the corkline and the 4¼-inch maximum mesh size tangle net. The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12-inch 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,</p>

weedlines, or droppers must have two red corks at each end of the net, as well as the red corks as required below.

Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension, and the measurement is taken from the inside of one vertical knot to the inside of the opposite vertical knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact.

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.

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 (hatchery) Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of sixteen (16) adult adipose fin-clipped Chinook may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel. The first sixteen (16) adult hatchery fish must be retained and no additional drifts may be conducted once the Chinook limit has been retained. Jacks (Chinook less than 24-inches in total length) do not count against the adult landing limit. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.

Regulations: Soak times, 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. Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

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.

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 at 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 non-legal sized 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.

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. 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, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours.

- Given the timing, location, short-notice, and potential for shad encounters in the proposed fishery, effort is expected to be relatively low.

- This fishery is expected to result in a kept catch of no more than 400 adult spring Chinook, with a maximum of 368 upriver mortalities.
- Additional opportunity may be available if a sufficient balance is available within the commercial allocation.
- Staff intends to conduct onboard observation of the fishery.
- Since the commercial allocation of Willamette hatchery spring Chinook at the preseason forecast is low, and some of those fish have been harvested in Select Area fisheries, the staff recommendation includes a reduced area to minimize the interception of Willamette-origin spring Chinook.
- Any steelhead encountered in this fishery would be classified as lower river Skamania stock. Based on observations in prior year fisheries during May, few steelhead are expected to be impacted in this fishery and aggregate impacts to wild lower river Skamania steelhead are expected to remain well within the 2.0% ESA limit for non-Treaty fisheries.
- The proposed mainstem fishery overlaps all Select Area fisheries, therefore staff recommends the following action:

<i>Recommendation: Select Area Commercial Fisheries</i>
Retention and sales of non -adipose fin-clipped Chinook from ongoing Select Area commercial fisheries is prohibited from 10:00 AM Monday May 23 through 12:00 PM (noon) Tuesday May 24, 2022.

Catch Balance and ESA

- Catches in all non-treaty fisheries combined are projected to remain within the allowable *U.S. vs. OR* Catch Balance and ESA impact rate (1.35% as compared to the allowed 1.90%) of the upriver spring Chinook run.

Expected upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2022 non-treaty fisheries.						
Fishery	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Projected Balance
	through May 15	Recommendation	Total Expected			
Downstream of BON*	5,530	1,448	9,826	10,170	97%	344
BON - OR/WA border	1,543	na	1,543	1,453	106%	-90
Snake River (WA waters)	844	na	1,408	1,408	100%	0
Wanapum Band (Upper Columbia)	3	na	50	50	100%	0
<i>Recreational subtotal</i>	<i>7,920</i>		<i>12,826</i>	<i>13,080</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>253</i>
Select Areas	454	na	568	568	100%	0
Mainstem	0	368	368	368	100%	0
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>454</i>		<i>936</i>	<i>936</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Unallocated subtotal**</i>				<i>2,364</i>		<i>2,364</i>
TOTAL	8,374		13,762	16,380	84%	2,618

* Includes non-target release mortalities during steelhead season. Total Expected includes adopted May 16-22 and June 4-15 fishery catch projections (2,848 upriver mortalities).

** Unallocated balance between OR/WA Commission guidance (non-concurrence) resulting from 10% difference between recreational/commercial (1,638 fish) and 5% difference within recreational (726 fish).

- Impacts to other listed stocks, including steelhead, are expected to remain below ESA-take limitations. Pre-season expectations were outlined in the 2022 Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the 2022 Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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