

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 4, 2023

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Select Area commercial Mainstem recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam
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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 2023 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2023) 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 April 3, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 120 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 164 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 43°F compared to a five-year average temperature of 45°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.2 feet which is greater than the five-year average of 5.2 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 3 totals 222 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 545 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of 238 fish. It is still very early in the return; the 10-year average proportion complete at Bonneville Dam is approximately 0.3% by April 3.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 13 this year, with four weeks completed to date. Observed catch rates have been 0.0, 0.1, 0.2, and 0.9 adult Chinook per drift to date, respectively. Catch rates during the first four weeks of test fishing this year have been consistently lower when compared to the same timeframe in 2022. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2023 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5 and #6a.

2023 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Spring Chinook Fisheries

- Combined Select Area winter-season landings through April 1 total 407 Chinook.
- Winter-season fishing periods (with restricted area and time) are scheduled to continue in limited Select Area sites through April 14; spring-season fisheries open April 17 in some sites

and April 20 in all sites.

- Ex-vessel price for Chinook has remained stable since the onset of the winter season averaging \$12.75/pound.
- Through April 1, 53% of the landed spring Chinook have been sampled for visual stock identification with 96% being classified as lower-river origin. An estimated 14 upriver spring Chinook have been landed through April 1 (2% of the total pre-update allocation).
- Given the low interception rate for upriver spring Chinook and high fish value, commercial fishers have requested a modest expansion of fishing area and time.

Recommendation: 2023 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Youngs Bay (Zone 70)

Adopt the following fishing periods for Upper Youngs Bay:

- 7 AM to 11 AM Thursday April 6 (4 hours)
- 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM Monday April 10 (4 hours)

South Channel (Zone 71)

Modify the hours for the previously-adopted fishing periods for South Channel as follows:

- 7 PM Thursday April 6 to 7 AM Friday April 7 (12 hours)
- 7 PM Monday April 10 to 7 AM Tuesday April 11 (12 hours)
- 7 PM Thursday April 13 to 7 AM Friday April 14 (12 hours)

Knappa Slough (Zone 73)

Modify the hours for the previously-adopted fishing periods for Knappa Slough as follows:

- 7 PM Thursday April 6 to 7 AM Friday April 7 (12 hours)
- 7 PM Monday April 10 to 7 AM Tuesday April 11 (12 hours)
- 7 PM Thursday April 13 to 7 AM Friday April 14 (12 hours)

Deep River (Zone 80)

Modify the hours for the previously-adopted fishing periods for Deep River as follows:

- 7 PM Thursday April 6 to 10 AM Friday April 7 (15 hours)
- 7 PM Monday April 10 to 10 AM Tuesday April 11 (15 hours)
- 7 PM Thursday April 13 to 10 AM Friday April 14 (15 hours)

All other previously adopted regulations for these sites remain in effect.

- The recommendation adds two four-hour periods in upper Youngs Bay and extends the hours for three periods each in South Channel, Knappa Slough, and Deep River.
- Staff believes this additional proposed fishing time will utilize a limited number of the upriver impacts reserved for the winter season, while providing a sufficient balance for prosecution of spring season fisheries.

Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery – Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational spring Chinook fishery is open under temporary regulations from March 1 – April 7.
- Through Sunday April 2, the combined season kept catch is estimated at 623 adult spring Chinook from 23,464 angler trips.
- Mortalities of upriver-origin Chinook are estimated to be 255 adults, or 4% of the 6,487 available to this fishery prior to a run size update.
- Staff expect this fishery to accrue another 500 upriver Chinook mortalities during April 3-7, when the fishery is scheduled to close. This would bring the balance to 755, or 12% of the pre-update allocation.
- Given the significant balance on the pre-season buffered allocation of upriver spring Chinook (5,732 fish expected to remain available) for this fishery, there is potential for additional angling opportunity.

<i>Recommendation: 2023 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Saturday April 8 and Sunday April 9 2 retention days
Area:	Buoy 10 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. Shad may also be retained. All other permanent regulations apply.

- Given projected water conditions and assumed Chinook abundance, the combined kept catch for a weekend fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam (bank-only upstream of Beacon Rock) would be about 1,000 total adult Chinook (700 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities). Total mortalities of upriver Chinook (1,455 adults) would represent 22% of the 6,487 mortalities available to the LCR recreational fishery prior to a run update.
- An upriver spring Chinook run size of about 67,000 adults would cover the projected cumulative mortalities for the LCR recreational fishery recommendation and pre-update allocations for other non-treaty fisheries (3,763 total). This analysis accounts for the fact that Snake River wild abundance is constraining the allowed harvest rates this year.
- Impacts to other listed stocks are expected to remain within take limitations based on recent year results. Fishery-specific impact rate expectations can be found in the latest Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the 2023 Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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