

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FISHERY UPDATE #1**  
**April 18, 2024**

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

- As of April 17, the recent five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 184 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 171 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 50°F compared to the five-year average temperature of 48°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.4 feet which is greater than the five-year average of 4.7 feet.

**STOCK STATUS**

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 17 totals 1,595 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 4,363 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of 1,118 fish (range 321–2,239). It is still very early in the return; the recent 10-year average proportion complete at Bonneville Dam is approximately 2.1% by April 17. Based on the recent ten-year average, Bonneville Dam passage is usually 50% complete by May 11.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 18 this year, with five weeks completed to date. Weekly catch rates have been 0.1, 0.3, 0.2, 0.5 and 1.8 Chinook per drift. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

- Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available at the ODFW and WDFW websites. The most recent report is the 2024 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 1, 2024).
- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2024 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5 and #6.

**2024 NON-TREATY FISHERIES**

***Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery – Downstream of Bonneville Dam***

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) mainstem recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under temporary regulations from March 1 – April 11 between Buoy 10 and Bonneville Dam.
- Water conditions were favorable (low and clear) throughout the season and the river temperature was warmer than average.
- The preliminary kept catch is estimated to be about 3,460 adult spring Chinook from approximately 41,300 angler trips.
- Total mortalities of upriver-origin spring Chinook in this fishery are preliminarily estimated to be 2,334 adult Chinook, or 60% of the 3,906 available to this fishery prior to a run-size update.

- During the Compact/Joint State Hearing on April 4, 2024, based on the fishery performance to date, the states extended the LCR recreational fishery for four additional days past the scheduled closure date of April 5 to allow for additional opportunity before catches became too volatile in mid to late April. Although catch and effort increased during this extension period, an adequate balance of upriver spring Chinook mortalities remained which allowed the states to extend the fishery an additional two days (through April 11) via Joint State Action.
- With abundance building in the lower river, and the potential for very high catch rates, fishery managers are not prepared to consider additional fishing time until a time closer to the upriver spring Chinook run-size update. The run-size update is provided by the *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee and typically occurs in mid-May, when substantial numbers of upriver spring Chinook have crossed Bonneville Dam. The Joint State Staff will continue to evaluate the return and make recommendations for additional angling opportunity if appropriate.

### ***Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery – Bonneville Dam to OR/WA Border***

- The recreational spring Chinook fishery is currently open under temporary regulations through May 2 in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam). The pre-run-update allocated catch is 558 upriver Chinook mortalities.
- Through April 15, no catch has been observed from approximately 18 angler trips in the recreational fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam.

### ***Select Area Commercial Fisheries***

- Select Area winter season commercial fisheries concluded April 12. Spring season fisheries opened April 16.
- Winter-season landings total 1,306 spring Chinook (70% greater than the recent five-year average).
- Through April 12, 45% of the landed spring Chinook have been sampled for visual stock identification with 98.6% being classified as lower-river origin. After application of the CWT-based correction, an estimated 21 upriver spring Chinook have been landed through April 12 (5% of the Select Area commercial allocation).

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

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