

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 9
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 14, 2026

Fisheries under consideration:

Mainstem recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam

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 2026 Stock Status and Fisheries for Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, and Other Species Report (February 2, 2026) 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

- Through April 13, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 196 kcfs compared to the recent five-year average of 167 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 50°F compared to the five-year average of 47°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is the same as the recent five-year average at 5.6 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 13 totals 1,110 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 872 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of 887 fish. It is still very early in the return; passage is typically less than 1% complete by April 13, based on both the recent 5- and 10-year averages.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 16 this year, with fishing primarily occurring on Mondays. Five weeks of test fishing have been completed to date. Weekly observed catch rates have been 0.4, 0.4, 1.1, 1.2, and 1.1 adult Chinook per drift. This week's observed catch rate is considered preliminary. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2026 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5b and #6.

2026 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area commercial fisheries are scheduled in all four sites (Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/ Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep River). Preliminary catch estimates for the combined Select Areas through April 10 total 593 spring Chinook, including an estimated 54 upriver-origin fish (as compared to an allocation of ≤ 501).

Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under permanent regulations from January 1 – February 28 and temporary regulations from March 1 – April 8. Joint State action last week resulted in April 11-13 being added in-season.
 - Projected catches through Monday April 13 in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam are preliminarily estimated to be 3,713 adult spring Chinook with 369 released from approximately 49,670 angler trips.
 - Mortalities of upriver-origin Chinook are estimated to be 2,778 adults, or 50% of the 5,513 available to the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam prior to a run size update.
- The Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington border recreational spring Chinook fishery is open under temporary regulations from April 1–26 and May 2. The preseason buffered allocation of upriver spring Chinook is 788 fish. This fishery just recently opened, effort has been low and catches have been minimal.
- Given the balance on the preseason buffered allocation of upriver spring Chinook (2,735 mortalities remain available) for the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, there is potential for additional angling opportunity.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Saturday April 18 1 retention day
Area:	Buoy 10 line upstream to Beacon Rock plus only the Oregon and Washington banks 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.

- Modeled catch associated with this recommendation is up to 1,900 adult Chinook (including 1,600 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities). Total mortalities of upriver Chinook (4,380 adults) would represent 79% of the 5,513 mortalities available to the LCR recreational fishery prior to a run update.
- An upriver spring Chinook run size of about 86,000 adults would cover the projected cumulative mortalities for the LCR recreational fishery recommendation and pre-update allocations for other non-treaty fisheries (1,796 total). This analysis accounts for the fact that Snake River wild abundance is constraining the allowed harvest rates this year.

- Fishery-specific ESA impact rate expectations for other species and stocks are expected to remain within the estimates provided in the 2026 Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.
- Hand-cast bank-only regulations will be in effect for the Washington shore from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time.