

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1a**  
**Columbia River Compact Hearing**  
**May 12, 2026**

***Fisheries under consideration:***

Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries

*Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries is 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**

- Refer to Spring Fact Sheet #1b for river conditions.

**STOCK STATUS**

***Upriver Spring Chinook***

- Refer to Spring Fact Sheet #1b for stock status.

**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

- Preseason forecasts for 2026 spring Chinook were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #5b.
- The harvest rate schedule in the Management Agreement determines the allowed upriver spring and Snake River spring summer Chinook harvest rate limit. There is a provision that if the Snake River natural-origin run size is less than 10% of the total run, it will determine the allowed harvest rate. Based on the updated TAC projected river mouth run size of 126,200 spring chinook, the treaty fishery is managed at a 7.4% harvest rate, with an allowed total harvest of 9,339 adult spring Chinook.
- There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in spring season treaty fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is low in the spring and is expected to remain within recent average rates.
- There is no expected catch of steelhead in the Treaty Drano Lake fishery.
- Yakama Nation spring season tributary fisheries are not subject to the mainstem spring Chinook treaty harvest rate schedule. These fisheries are managed to meet broodstock collection and other escapement objectives.
- The Little White Salmon escapement goal is 1,000 adults. The hatchery reports that broodstock collection has been achieved and is currently in excess of their program needs.
- The PIT tag expansions over Bonneville are reported to be approximately 10,503 spring chinook destined for Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery.

**2026 SPRING SEASON TREATY FISHERIES**

- The Platform and Hook and Line fishery has been open in Zone 6 for subsistence use in all of Zone 6 and is ongoing.
- YN Ceremonial Permit fishing completed in Zone 6 on Friday May 8, 2026.
- The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of its lottery permit fishery in Drano Lake for fish caught during the May 12-13 opening, with the following recommendation:

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	Beginning 10:00 PM Tuesday, May 12, until 6:00 PM Wednesday, May 13, 2026. and only during the days and hours when the tributaries listed below are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal lottery permit fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.
<b>Area:</b>	Drano Lake
<b>Gear:</b>	Gillnets, hoop nets, rod and reel
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence. Sales of fish will conclude when the open period ends.
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure tributary management objectives are met. Total catch estimates will be based on tribal creel program data, supplemented with fish ticket data.
- Treaty commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal members and their families as well as to communities along the river and on reservations.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1b**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**May 12, 2026**

***Fisheries under consideration:***

Mainstem recreational spring Chinook

*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 May 11, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 231 kcfs which is lower than the five-year average of 248 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 57°F which is higher than the five-year average of 53°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.7 feet compared to the five-year average of 5.4 feet.

**STOCK STATUS**

***Upriver Spring Chinook***

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through May 11 totals 70,958 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 58,899 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of 69,655 fish. The recent 5- and 10-year average proportions complete at Bonneville Dam are approximately 53% and 48%, respectively, by May 11.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 11 to review the 2026 upriver spring Chinook return. Based on the information to date and discussion of the output from several Bonneville Dam passage projection models, TAC reduced the expected return of adult upriver-origin spring Chinook to 126,200 fish at the Columbia River mouth, compared to the preseason forecast of 147,300 fish, for the *U.S. vs OR* parties to use for management of 2026 fisheries during the spring management period. TAC's next scheduled meeting is May 18.
- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam between April 1 and June 30 (including harvest in Bonneville Pool during this timeframe) are managed as upriver Skamania stock steelhead. Steelhead caught in the lower Columbia through April are considered to be winter steelhead and from May 1 – June 30 are lower river Skamania stock steelhead for fishery management purposes. Through May 10 a total of 695 upriver Skamania steelhead (including 291 unclipped) have been counted at Bonneville Dam, which is 90% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. On average, upriver Skamania passage is 17% complete on May 10.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 16 this year, with fishing typically occurring on Mondays. Weekly observed catch rates have been 0.4, 0.4, 1.1, 1.2, 1.2, 6.5, 2.9, 4.3, and 1.5 adult Chinook per drift. All test fishing results are

available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Preseason forecasts and management guidelines for 2026 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5b and #6.
- The Oregon and Washington allocation policies for 2026 specific to commercial/recreational ESA-impact sharing and within-recreational 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 per guidance to Oregon staff, 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).
- Recently, the directors from both agencies met to discuss the recreational sub-allocations and agreed to allocate 30% of the available recreational fishery ESA impacts to fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam for 2026: 13% will be allocated to the Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line fishery and 17% to Washington's lower Snake River fishery.
- At TAC's current in-season upriver spring Chinook abundance expectation, and commission guidance for ESA-impact sharing, allocation of upriver-origin spring Chinook (including release mortalities) for non-treaty fisheries is:
  - 934 unallocated non-treaty
  - 6,196 fish for the recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam
  - 1,151 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
  - 630 fish for recreational fisheries in the lower Snake River (Washington waters)
  - 24 fish for Wanapum tribe (upper Columbia)
  - 404 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

## 2026 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

### *Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries*

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational spring Chinook fishery, downstream of Bonneville Dam, was open under permanent regulations from January 1 – February 28 and temporary regulations from March 1 – April 8. The fishery was reopened for April 11–13 and April 18.
  - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 5,521 kept and 592 released from about 60,300 angler trips.

- The Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington border recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under temporary regulations from April 1–26 and May 2.
  - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 542 kept and 48 released from about 4,900 angler trips.
- The lower Snake River recreational fishery (Washington waters) opened May 5 on a two-day-per-week schedule (Tuesdays and Fridays) from the Texas Rapids boat launch upstream to the Little Goose Dam fishing restriction boundary.
  - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 46 kept and 13 released from about 390 angler trips.
- Upriver-origin adult spring Chinook catches in recreational fisheries are summarized in the table below:

Accounting of upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2026 recreational fisheries through May 8						
Fishery	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)	Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance
downstream of BON	5,521	4,039	4,068	6,196	66%	2,128
BON - OR/WA border	542	542	546	1,151	47%	605
Snake River (WA waters)	46	46	47	630	7%	583
<i>Total</i>	<i>6,109</i>	<i>4,627</i>	<i>4,661</i>	<i>7,977</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>3,316</i>

- Given the balances of upriver-origin spring Chinook available to mainstem Columbia River recreational fisheries downstream of the OR/WA border, staff modeled additional fishing opportunities that allows for in-season adjustments if needed to remain within the allowable ESA-impacts and catch-sharing guidelines. Modeling included recent-year observed May effort and catch rates. Chinook abundance, passage expectations, and current river conditions were also incorporated.
- Staff considered the following when developing the fishery structures:
  - Angler interest to begin fishing soon after an in-season upriver spring Chinook abundance expectation was available from TAC.
  - Reserve sufficient upriver-origin spring Chinook ESA-impacts to prosecute hatchery summer steelhead-directed fisheries scheduled to occur May 16 – June 15 downstream of the I-5 Bridge.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2026 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i></b>	
<b>Downstream of Bonneville Dam</b>	
<b>Season:</b>	Friday May 15 – Sunday May 17 and Saturday May 23 – Monday May 25 6 retention days
<b>Area:</b>	Tongue Point/Rocky Point 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 Adult 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.

**Bonneville Dam to Oregon/ Washington state line**

**Season:** Friday May 15 – Sunday May 17 and 5 retention days  
Saturday May 23 – Sunday May 24

**Area:** Tower Island power lines (approximately six miles below the Dalles Dam) upstream to the Oregon/Washington border, plus only the Oregon and Washington banks from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Tower Island power lines.

**Daily Adult 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 mortalities associated with these recommendations are around 2,385 adult Chinook (including 1,991 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities) in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, and 598 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities in the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Hand-cast bank-only regulations will be in effect for the Washington shore from both Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam and from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Tower Island power lines.
- Staff will monitor the fisheries in-season. If the fisheries are tracking within expectations, they will proceed as scheduled. However, due to the dynamic nature of fisheries and fish runs, in-season action may be necessary to remain within ESA limits and/or catch balancing requirements.

***Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries***

- Combined Select Area landings through May 8 total 4,019 spring Chinook. Chinook landings are 72% of the recent 5-year average cumulative total for the same timeframe. Select Area fisheries have accrued an estimated 316 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 8.

***Catch Balance and ESA***

- Catches in all non-treaty fisheries combined are projected to remain within the allowable *U.S. vs OR* catch balance sharing and ESA impact rate (1.128% as compared to the allowed 1.6%) on the upriver spring Chinook run.

Expected upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2026 non-treaty fisheries.							
Fishery	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Projected Balance	Projected ESA Impact
	Current <sup>1</sup>	Recommendation	Total Expected				
Downstream of BON	4,068	1,991	6,059	6,196	98%	137	0.520%
BON - OR/WA border	546	598	1,144	1,151	99%	7	0.098%
Snake River (WA waters)	47	na	630	630	100%	0	0.190%
Wanapum Band (upper Columbia)	0	na	24	24	100%	0	0.190%
<i>Recreational &amp; NT tribal subtotal</i>	<i>4,661</i>		<i>7,857</i>	<i>8,001</i>	<i>98%</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>0.808%</i>
Select Areas	316	na	404	404	100%	0	0.320%
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>316</i>		<i>404</i>	<i>404</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.320%</i>
<i>Unallocated subtotal</i> <sup>2</sup>				<i>934</i>		<i>934</i>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,977</b>	<b>2,589</b>	<b>8,261</b>	<b>9,339</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>1,078</b>	<b>1.128%</b>
<sup>1</sup> Includes mortalities from completed and ongoing fisheries							
<sup>2</sup> Unallocated balance between OR/WA Commission guidance (non-concurrence) resulting from 10% difference between recreational/commercial							

- 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.

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

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