

YAKAMA NATION FISHERIES
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact Hearing
May 19, 2026

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries
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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 #2b for river conditions.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- Refer to Spring Fact Sheet #2b 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 111,900 spring Chinook, the treaty fishery is managed at a 7.4% harvest rate, with an allowed total harvest of 8,281 adult spring Chinook.
- There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead during 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 Treaty Drano Lake fishery. There was no steelhead harvested during the May 12-13, 2026 Drano Lake fishery.
- Yakama Nation (YN) 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. Hatchery reports indicate that broodstock collection has been achieved and is currently in excess of their program needs.
- The PIT tag expansions over Bonneville are 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.
- YN held a commercial fishery in Drano Lake May 12-13, 2026, and harvested 804 adult spring chinook and 7 jacks.
- The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of its lottery permit fishery in Drano Lake for fish caught during the May 19- June 17 openings, with the next scheduled commercial opening occurring May 19–20, with the following recommendation:

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery</i>	
Season:	Beginning 9:00 PM Tuesday, May 19, until Wednesday, June 17, 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.
Area:	Drano Lake
Gear:	Gillnets, hoop nets, rod and reel
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sturgeon between 38 inches and 54 inches in fork length may not be sold but may be retained for subsistence. Sales of fish will conclude when the open period ends. The selling of fish does not extend to any other fishing areas.
Additional:	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.

- Fish from the Drano Lake fishery can be sold with a valid YN Drano Lake permit, and the seller must be listed on the permit.
- Fish can be sold on-site or transported off-site with a memo from the YN Fish & Wildlife Committee allowing transport and sale.
- 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. 2b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 19, 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 18, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 241 kcfs which is lower than the five-year average of 264 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 58°F which is higher than the five-year average of 55°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 5.4 feet which is similar to the five-year average of 5.3 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through May 18 totals 78,562 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 75,286 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of 89,892 fish. The recent 5- and 10-year average proportions complete at Bonneville Dam are approximately 68% and 62%, respectively, by May 18.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 18 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 111,900 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 26.
- 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 18 a total of 853 upriver Skamania steelhead (including 340 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 19% complete on May 18.
- 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. This week's test fishing results are not yet available. 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 (10% for the Bonneville to OR/WA state line and 15% for the Snake River fisheries).
- The directors from both agencies have agreed to allocate 30% of the available recreational fishery ESA impact sub-allocation 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 given the commission guidance for ESA-impact sharing, allocation of upriver-origin spring Chinook (including release mortalities) for non-treaty fisheries is:
 - 828 unallocated non-treaty
 - 5,491 fish for the recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam
 - 1,020 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
 - 559 fish for recreational fisheries in the lower Snake River (Washington waters)
 - 24 fish for Wanapum tribe (upper Columbia)
 - 358 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, April 18, May 15–17, and May 23–25.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 5,909 kept and 690 released from about 66,500 angler trips through May 17.

- The Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington border recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under temporary regulations from April 1–26 and May 2. The fishery was reopened for May 15–17 and May 23–24.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 621 kept and 66 released from about 6,200 angler trips through May 17.
- The lower Snake River recreational fishery (Washington waters) opened May 5 through May 19 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, and is scheduled to open May 20–21 from the southbound Highway 12 Bridge near Pasco upstream about seven miles to the fishing restriction boundary downstream of Ice Harbor Dam.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 245 kept and 49 released from about 960 angler trips through May 15.
- 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 17							
Fishery	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)	Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance	
downstream of BON	5,909	4,256	4,293	5,491	78%	1,198	
BON - OR/WA border	621	621	628	1,020	62%	392	
Snake River (WA waters)	245	245	250	559	45%	309	
<i>Total</i>	<i>6,775</i>	<i>5,122</i>	<i>5,171</i>	<i>7,070</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>1,899</i>	

- Catches in both mainstem Columbia River fisheries from May 15–17 were lower than anticipated, partially due to poor weather conditions, resulting in available balances of upriver-origin spring Chinook despite TAC’s abundance downgrade.
- 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. Modeling included recent-year observed May effort and catch rates. Chinook abundance, passage expectations, and current river conditions were also incorporated.
- Staff have reserved 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.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i>
Downstream of Bonneville Dam
Open for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead on Friday May 22. The daily adult bag limit is two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. All previously-adopted regulations, including areas open to bank only, and other permanent regulations, remain in effect.
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington state line
Open for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead on Friday May 22 and Monday May 25. The daily adult bag limit is two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. All previously-adopted regulations, including areas open to bank only, and other permanent regulations, remain in effect

- With these additions to the previously-adopted dates for the coming weekend, the fisheries in both areas would be open to hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead from Friday May 22 through Monday May 25.
- Modeled mortalities associated with these modified fisheries are around 920 adult Chinook (including 774 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities) in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, and 286 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.

Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Combined Select Area landings through May 15 total 4,968 spring Chinook. Chinook landings are 67% of the recent 5-year average cumulative total for the same timeframe. Select Area fisheries have accrued an estimated 282 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 15.
- No landings have occurred in the Area 2S commercial shad fishery to date.

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 (1.113% as compared to the allowed 1.6%) on the upriver spring Chinook run.

Expected upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2026 non-treaty fisheries.								Projected ESA Impact
Fishery	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			Total Expected	Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation		
	Completed	Currently adopted	Recommendation					
Downstream of BON	4,293	605	169	5,067	5,491	92%	0.514%	
BON - OR/WA border	628	143	143	914	1,020	90%	0.089%	
Snake River (WA waters)	250	na	na	559	559	100%	0.190%	
Wanapum Band (upper Columbia)	3	na	na	24	24	100%	0.190%	
<i>Recreational & NT tribal subtotal</i>	<i>5,174</i>	<i>748</i>	<i>312</i>	<i>6,564</i>	<i>7,094</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>0.793%</i>	
Select Areas	282	76	na	358	358	100%	0.320%	
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>282</i>	<i>76</i>		<i>358</i>	<i>358</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>0.320%</i>	
<i>Unallocated subtotal ¹</i>					828		<i>0.160%</i>	
TOTAL	5,456			6,922	8,280	84%	1.113%	

¹ 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.