

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 3, 2026

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational spring Chinook
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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 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 June 2, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 223 kcfs which is lower than the five-year average of 252 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 61°F which is higher than the five-year average of 58°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet compared to the five-year average of 5.6 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through June 2 totals 90,538 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 98,170 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of 109,775 fish. The recent 5- and 10-year average proportions complete at Bonneville Dam are approximately 83% and 82%, respectively, by June 2.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on June 1 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 maintained their current expected return of adult upriver-origin spring Chinook of 111,900 fish at the Columbia River mouth, compared to the preseason forecast of 147,300 fish, for the *U.S. v. OR* parties to use for management of 2026 fisheries during the spring management period. TAC's next scheduled meeting is June 8.
- 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 winter steelhead and from May 1 – June 30 are lower river Skamania stock steelhead for fishery management purposes. Through June 2 a total of 1,334 upriver Skamania steelhead (including 513 unclipped) have been counted at Bonneville Dam, which is 98% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. On average, upriver Skamania passage is 27% complete on June 2.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 16 and continued through May 26 this year. Weekly observed catch rates have been 0.4, 0.4, 1.1, 1.2, 1.2, 6.5, 2.9, 4.3, 1.5, 2.3, and 1.1 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 in-season management guidelines were presented in Spring Fact Sheet #1b.
- 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:
 - 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 22–25.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 6,342 kept and 817 released from about 73,400 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. The fishery was reopened May 15–17 and May 22–25.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 656 kept and 95 released from about 7,600 angler trips.
- The lower Snake River recreational fishery (Washington waters) was open 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 reopened 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. The final opener occurred on May 25 from the Texas Rapids boat launch upstream to the Little Goose Dam fishing restriction boundary.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates are 390 kept and 98 released from about 2,000 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 25						
Fishery	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)	Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance
downstream of BON	6,342	4,552	4,601	5,491	84%	890
BON - OR/WA border	656	656	665	1,020	65%	355
Snake River (WA waters)	390	390	400	559	72%	159
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,388</i>	<i>5,598</i>	<i>5,666</i>	<i>7,070</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>1,404</i>

- The remaining balance of the mainstem Columbia River recreational allocation for upriver-origin spring Chinook downstream of the OR/WA border allowed staff to consider additional fishing opportunities. Modeling for these fisheries incorporated recent-year observed June effort, catch rates, current Chinook abundance expectations, and river conditions.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Friday June 5 – Monday June 15 11 retention days
Area:	Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.
Daily Adult Bag Limit:	Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. All other permanent regulations apply.
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington state line	
Season:	Friday June 5 – Monday June 15 11 retention days
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. All other permanent regulations apply.

- Modeled mortalities associated with these recommendations are expected to be at or less than 1,360 adult Chinook (including 1,077 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities) in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, and 75 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 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 29 total 6,624 spring Chinook. Chinook landings are 68% of the recent 5-year average cumulative total for the same timeframe. Select Area fisheries have accrued an estimated 300 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 29.

Catch Balance and ESA

- Catches in all non-treaty fisheries combined are projected to remain within the allowable *U.S. v. OR* catch balance sharing and ESA impact rate (1.159% 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)			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation		
	Completed/ On-going	Recommendation	Total Expected				
Downstream of BON	4,601	1,077	5,678	5,491	103%	0.574%	
BON - OR/WA border	665	75	740	1,020	73%	0.075%	
Snake River (WA waters)	400	na	400	559	72%	0.103%	
Wanapum Band (upper Columbia)	7	na	24	24	100%	0.190%	
<i>Recreational & NT tribal subtotal</i>	<i>5,673</i>	<i>1,152</i>	<i>6,842</i>	<i>7,094</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>0.839%</i>	
Select Areas	300	na	358	358	100%	0.320%	
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>300</i>		<i>358</i>	<i>358</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>0.320%</i>	
<i>Unallocated subtotal ¹</i>				828			
TOTAL	5,973		7,200	8,280	87%	1.159%	

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

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 1 PM on Wednesday June 10, 2026, via teleconference, to consider treaty summer commercial fisheries.