

2019 Spring Chinook mainstem Columbia River Test Fishery

Mainstem Columbia River Tangle Net test fishing is conducted each spring on the lower Columbia River in Catch Areas 1B and 1C (Zones 2 and 3) to evaluate the current run in regards to timing, stock composition, mark rate and other biological data, and to provide a long-term dataset. This test fishery provides additional information to fishery managers which aides in the in-season management of the recreational spring Chinook fishery.

Steelhead, wild Chinook and sturgeon are released immediately or are placed in a recovery box to aid in collection of biodata then released after the fish recovers. Adipose-clipped Chinook are sold by the agency to offset costs of conducting the test fishery (RCW 77.12.451). Upon request some upriver Chinook may be retained by Columbia River Treaty tribal members to meet immediate ceremonial needs. If a mortality occurs for a non-retainable fish it is donated to a local food bank.

2019 Spring Chinook Observation Preliminary Summary

			Adult Chinook							Steelhead			Sturgeon	
Month	Date	# of Drifts	Total Handle	Total Release	Mark Rate	% Upriver	Chinook/ Drift	Chinook/ Steelhead	Steelhead/ Drift	Total Handle	Total Release	Mark Rate	Total Handle	Total Release
Mar	18	15	4	3	25%	25%	0.3	0.8	0.3	5	4	80%	1	1
Mar	25	15	11	2	73%	36%	0.7	1.6	0.5	7	7	57%	3	3
Apr	1	15	13	2	69%	67%	0.9	3.3	0.3	4	4	50%	12	12
Apr	8	15	7	3	57%	29%	0.5	1.4	0.3	5	5	40%	22	22
Apr	15	15	75	22	71%	45%	5.0	18.8	0.3	4	4	25%	56	56
Apr	21,22	12	42	3	74%	79%	3.5	21.0	0.2	2	2	50%	25	25
Apr	28,29	14	52	6	85%	42%	3.7	10.4	0.4	5	5	60%	49	49
May	5,6	14	19	6	68%	58%	1.4	3.8	0.4	5	2	60%	18	18

March 18 - 1 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency. 1 adipose-clipped steelhead donated to food bank.

March 25 - 8 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency. 1 lower river no mark Chinook donated to food bank.

April 1 - 8 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency. 3 upriver Chinook (2 no mark, 1 adipose-clipped) retained by Treaty tribe.

April 8 - 2 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency. 2 upriver adipose-clipped Chinook retained by Treaty tribe.

April 15 - 54 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency.

April 21,22 - 31 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency. 8 upriver Chinook (7 no mark, 1 adipose-clipped) retained by Treaty tribes.

April 28,29 - 48 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency. 2 lower river no mark Chinook donated to food bank.

May 5,6 - 17 adipose-clipped Chinook sold by agency. 3 steelhead (1 no mark, 2 adipose-clipped) donated to food bank.