
Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group Meeting

February 8, 2022

10:00a-12:00p

Virtual

Prepared by: Columbia River Joint Staff

Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group Meeting

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Or call in (audio only) [+1 564-999-2000,,350605035#](#) Conference ID: 350 605 035#

10:00a – 12:00p February 8, 2022

Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and Introductions	(20 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ground rules○ Agenda review	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring fishery planning	(20 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Summary of management guidelines○ Commercial guidelines	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commission/Legislative update	(20 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Alternative Gear	(40 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2022 Coho fishery○ Other 2022 Alternative Gear fisheries	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future Meetings	(20 minutes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Compact Hearing (treaty commercial), February 9 at 10am○ Compact Hearing (Select Area commercial), February 15 at 10am○ Joint State Hearing (recreational spring Chinook), February 23 at 10am○ North of Falcon #1, March 15 (tentative)○ North of Falcon #2, April 1 (tentative)○ Other future meetings discussion	

Ground rules

- For virtual meetings
 - *6 to mute/unmute
 - Chat will not be monitored or used except for technical assistance
- Focus on the task at hand – *stick to the agenda*
- One person at a time to speak – *speak your name to be added to the speaking list*
 - Non-advisers will observe meeting and stay on mute – *comments may be permitted at the end of the meeting if time permits*
- Be respectful of others
 - Mute phone or line
 - Be tough on issues and questions, not on people or organizations
 - No personal attacks, insults or threats
 - Listen
 - Speak and act professional – *no offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity*
 - Allow for a balance of speaking time – *limit length and number of times to speak on each topic*
- Be a conduit – *share information*

Spring Fishery Planning

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted</i>					
		2021	2021	2022	
		Forecast	Return	Forecast	
Spring Chinook	Upriver Total *	75,200	91,756	122,900	
	Upper Columbia	13,000	17,365	21,700	
	<i>Upper Columbia natural-origin</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>3,978</i>	<i>2,800</i>	
	Snake River Spring/Summer **	40,000	52,274	73,400	
	<i>Snake River natural-origin **</i>	<i>11,100</i>	<i>9,480</i>	<i>13,200</i>	
	Lower River Total	68,000	60,939	74,100	
	Total Spring Chinook	143,200	152,695	197,000	
	<u>Area-specific detail</u>				
	Willamette River	50,000	41,308	51,200	
	Sandy River	5,300	5,676	5,600	
	Select Areas ***	6,300	5,754	8,800	
	Cowlitz River	1,800	3,478	4,100	
	Kalama River	2,200	1,883	2,000	
	Lewis River	2,400	2,840	2,400	
	Wind River ***	1,200	3,227	4,200	
	Drano Lake/Little White Salmon River ***	3,900	3,299	3,800	
	Hood River ***	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Klickitat River ***	1,500	1,821	1,800	
	Deschutes River ***	n/a	2,435	n/a	
	John Day River ***	n/a	1,529	n/a	
Umatilla River ***	900	1,077	3,000		
Yakima River ***	3,200	2,882	4,700		
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia *	78,800	56,800	57,500	
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	155,600	152,309	198,700	
	Wenatchee	27,300	41,219	19,200	
	Okanogan	127,300	105,493	175,700	
	Yakima	200	3,531	3,500	
	Deschutes	100	n/a	100	
	Snake River	700	953	200	
Winter Steelhead	Wild	14,300	13,906	13,400	
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	101,400	69,669	99,700	
	(to Bonneville Dam) Upriver Skamania Index (total)	4,600	1,917	3,100	
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>1,119</i>	<i>1,600</i>	
	A-Index (total)	89,200	56,256	81,000	
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>27,500</i>	<i>19,071</i>	<i>28,100</i>	
	B-Index (total)	7,600	11,496	15,600	
<i>(wild)</i>	<i>1,000</i>	<i>1,690</i>	<i>1,900</i>		
* Upriver totals are developed by TAC for use in management of U.S. v. OR fisheries. Wild components are included in the stock total. Area-specific estimates for upriver tributaries detailed here are provided by other agencies/entities and may not sum to TAC's upriver abundance estimates.					
** 2021 return is based on current TAC run reconstruction methodology.					
*** Return to tributary mouth.					
				2/4/2022	

Summary of Management Guidelines

Upriver Chinook Stocks

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides the treaty Indian and non-treaty fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Fisheries are also managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook, which requires that mortalities in non-treaty fisheries not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries. The following table is derived from the harvest schedule within the MA and reflects the allowable catch and associated ESA impacts for treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries.

Spring Management Period Harvest Rate Schedule						
Total Upriver Run Size	SNAKE RIVER Natural Run Size	Treaty Indian Harvest Rate	Treaty Indian Catch Guideline	Non-Treaty Harvest Rate	Non-Treaty Mortality Guideline	Total Harvest Rate
44,000	4,400	6.0%	2,640	1.0%	2,640	7.0%
55,000	5,500	7.0%	3,850	1.5%	3,850	8.5%
82,000	8,200	7.4%	6,068	1.6%	6,068	9.0%
109,000	10,900	8.3%	9,047	1.7%	9,047	10.0%
141,000	14,100	9.1%	12,831	1.9%	12,831	11.0%
217,000	21,700	10.0%	21,700	2.0%	21,700	12.0%
271,000	27,100	10.8%	29,268	2.2%	29,268	13.0%
326,000	32,600	11.7%	38,142	2.3%	38,142	14.0%
380,000	38,000	12.5%	47,500	2.5%	47,500	15.0%
434,000	43,400	13.4%	58,156	2.6%	58,156	16.0%
488,000	48,800	14.3%	69,784	2.7%	69,784	17.0%

- The MA also specifies non-treaty and treaty fisheries occurring prior to a run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the predicted upriver spring Chinook run size. Buffering the 2022 pre-season forecast of 122,900 fish results in an abundance of 86,030 fish for determining pre-update allocations.

Lower Columbia Chinook Stocks (spring run)

- ESA authorization for fisheries impacting listed lower Columbia River Chinook requires specific hatchery escapement goals be met.
- The 2022 forecasts for the Cowlitz, Lewis, Kalama, and Sandy rivers are sufficient to meet escapement goals.
- For reference, from NMFS Guidance letter to the Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2019: “The Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery and Lewis River Salmon Hatchery are being used ... for reintroduction of LCR spring-run Chinook salmon into the upper basins above the existing dams. The hatchery programs are critical to the overall recovery effort. Given the circumstances, maintaining the hatchery brood stocks for the Cowlitz and Lewis River Hatcheries is essential for implementation of specified recovery actions.”

Willamette Spring Chinook

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to $\leq 15\%$.

- The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish which determines the allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls. The escapement goals are also intended to allow for full recreational fisheries in the upper Willamette River. Given the 2022 preseason forecast, the commercial fishery may only take up to 1% of the run as incidental catch in non-Willamette spring Chinook target fisheries.

Commercial guidelines

- Based on the MA and the preseason forecast of 122,900 upriver spring Chinook, ESA impacts for 2022 fisheries are limited to 10.0%, with 1.7% for non-treaty fisheries and 8.3% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- To allow for uncertainty in the preseason forecast, the MA requires a 30% reduction from the forecast (i.e., a run-size buffer) to start the season, which equates to 86,030 upriver spring Chinook. At this run size, the MA allows for a non-treaty ESA limit of 1.6%, or an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 6,366 fish prior to a run size update.
- The allocation policies for 2022 specific to commercial-recreational ESA-impact sharing and within sport sub-allocations are not concurrent. Until further direction is provided through Director Delegation, all information in this document assumes: no more than 70% to the recreational fisheries (WA Policy) and no more than 20% to the commercial fisheries (OR Policy); and within the recreational sub-allocation no more than 70% to the Lower Columbia River fishery (WA Policy) and no more than 25% for fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam (OR Policy; Bonneville to OR/WA state line, Snake River). If additional guidance is provided, staff will modify the results described below and adjust future staff recommendations at upcoming Compact/Joint State Hearings.

2022 Spring Chinook Preseason Management Guidelines			
	2021 postseason	2022 preseason	Difference
Upriver CHS abundance (adults)	91,756	122,900	+31,114
ESA impact rate (Non-treaty)	1.60%	1.70%	+0.1%
Willamette CHS abundance (adults)	41,308	51,200	+9,892

Commission Guidance (ESA impact allocation)	2021	2022	Difference
Sport allocation	80%	70%	-10%
Commercial allocation	20%	20%	0%
U.S. v OR Catch Balance	preseason	preseason	
30% Buffered Run	52,640	86,030	+33,390
ESA Impact rate	1.00%	1.60%	+0.6%
Unallocated Impact Rate	NA	0.16%	
Catch Balance Pre-update	3,158	6,366	+3,208
Unallocated Non-treaty	NA	637	
Commercial Mainstem	TBD	TBD	
Commercial Select Area	≤226	≤418	+192
Sport Fisheries (LCR, Z6, Snake)	2,922	5,293	+2,371
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	2,206	3,913	+1,707
Bonneville to OR/WA border	315	559	+244
Snake River (WA waters)	243	542	+299
Sport unallocated	158	279	

- Below are the calculated commercial allocations based on the two state’s current policies:
 - OR: 0.34% ESA; 418 total upriver spring Chinook mortalities
 - WA: 0.51% ESA; 627 total upriver spring Chinook mortalities
- Select Area commercial fisheries have been actively managed to minimize upriver spring Chinook catches and to target locally-released stocks using time and area regulations.
 - Continue hatchery production/releases into the off-channel areas
 - Knowledge gained over the past two decades informs current management strategies
 - Reduced number of periods per week around the peak of the upriver stock abundance
 - During periods of potential higher upriver CHS abundance, short-hour fisheries focused around low tides to minimize catch of non-local stocks
 - Constrained open fishing area during periods of potential higher upriver CHS abundance
 - Catch composition monitored in-season
- Weekly mainstem test fishing is expected to occur on Mondays beginning March 14 (up to 9 days, March 14-May 9).
 - Provides stock composition, catch rates and bycatch information, and continues long-term data set; test fishing is helpful in setting potential future commercial fisheries.
 - Hatchery fish are sold at fair market value to off-set test fishing operational costs.
 - All information can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/columbia-river-test>.

2022 Coho forecast – pre-harvest ocean abundance

2021 abundance and 2022 forecast of ocean coho run components prior to harvest (thousands of fish)				
	2021			2022
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	1,014.0	580.3	175%	592.5
Columbia River Late	576.0	249.6	231%	404.7
<i>Columbia River Subtotal</i>	1,590.0	829.8	192%	997.2
<i>Coast Subtotal</i>	17.9	11.4	157%	6.3
Total (OPI-H)	1,607.9	841.3	191%	1,003.5
<i>OCN Rivers</i>	116.3	251.1	46%	209.0
<i>OCN Lakes</i>	8.7	22.1	39%	13.4
<i>OCN Total</i>	125.0	273.3	46%	222.4
Grand Total	1,732.9	1,114.5	155%	1,225.9