

Columbia River Spring Chinook Management Options

WDFW and ODFW staff analyzed seven Columbia River spring Chinook management scenarios relative to the ability to meet the primary management objectives recommended by the Columbia River Fish working Group (CRFWG). Those management objectives include:

- Adequate conservation buffer to maintain low risk of exceeding ESA impacts.
- A high likelihood of a 45-day lower Columbia sport season during March and April.
- A high likelihood that the above Bonneville Dam sport fisheries will not be closed by emergency action.
- A SAFE commercial fishery opportunity at least similar to recent years.
- A meaningful early mainstem Columbia commercial opportunity.
- Lower Columbia Fishing opportunity in May for both sport and commercial fisheries within remaining ESA impacts.

The following scenarios were analyzed with the 2009 forecasted abundance of upriver and Willamette stock spring Chinook. The actual allocation for 2009 is increased 5% for commercial and decreased 5% for sport based on the forecasted abundance i.e. 65/35 base allocation is 60/40 in 2009.

Scenario 1-CRFWG recommendation

- 65% sport/ 35% commercial base ESA allocation

Scenario 2-OFWC decision

- 55% sport/ 45% commercial base ESA allocation

Scenario 3- Mid-point CRFWG and OFWC ESA allocation

- 60% sport/ 40% commercial base ESA allocation

Scenario 4-Commercial buffer adjusted

- 65% sport/ 35% commercial base ESA allocation
- Commercial buffer reduced from 50% to 40%

Scenario 5-Commercial and sport buffer adjusted

- 60% sport/ 40% commercial base ESA allocation
- Commercial buffer reduced from 50% to 45%
- Sport buffer reduced from 25% to 20%

Scenario 6- SAFE reduced and commercial buffer adjusted

- 65% sport/ 35% commercial base ESA allocation
- SAFE ESA impact reduced from 0.15 to 0.10
- Commercial buffer reduced from 50% to 45%

Scenario 7- Upriver sport share reduced

- 60% sport/ 40% commercial base ESA allocation
- Upriver sport reduced from 25% to 20% of sport ESA impact allocation
- Lower River sport increased from 75% to 80% of sport ESA impact allocation

The following tables display expected fishery performance under the seven management scenarios: 1) expected sport and commercial fishery catch numbers and 2) a high, medium, or low expectation for meeting the CRFWG management objectives.

| Expected Columbia River Spring Chinook Fishery Harvest | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Scenario # | 1 CRFWG | 2 OFWC | 3 Mid-point | 4 Comm. Buffer | 5 Both Buffers | 6 SAFE/ Comm. Buffer | 7 U.Col. Sport |
| Base Case Sharing ^{1/} | 65% S 35% C | 55% S 45% C | 60% S 40% C | 65% S 35% C | 60% S 40% C | 65% S 35% C | 60% S 40% C |
| Sport Catch | | | | | | | |
| Early L. Col. | 16,700 | 13,900 | 15,300 | 16,700 | 16,300 | 16,700 | 16,300 |
| Late L. Col. | 5,600 | 4,600 | 5,100 | 5,600 | 4,100 | 5,600 | 5,400 |
| Above Bonn. | 7,400 | 6,200 | 6,800 | 7,400 | 6,800 | 7,400 | 5,400 |
| Comm. Catch | | | | | | | |
| Early Mstem | 4,400 | 6,100 | 5,300 | 5,800 | 6,000 | 5,900 | 6,000 |
| Late Mstem | 2,500 | 3,100 | 2,800 | 2,000 | 2,500 | 2,200 | 2,500 |
| SAFE | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 6,300 | 4,200-6,300 | 6,300 |
| Total Sport | 29,700 | 24,800 | 27,200 | 29,700 | 27,200 | 29700 | 27,200 |
| Total Comm. | 13,200 | 15,500 | 14,400 | 14,100 | 14,800 | 12,300-14,400 | 14,800 |
| % Catch Sport | 69% | 61% | 65% | 68% | 65% | 67%-71% | 65% |
| % Catch Comm. | 31% | 39% | 35% | 32% | 35% | 29%-33% | 35% |
| Buffer | 35% | 37% | 36% | 31% | 31% | 33% | 34% |

^{1/} The following scenarios were analyzed with the 2009 forecasted abundance of upriver and Willamette stock spring Chinook. The actual allocation for 2009 is increased 5% for commercial and decreased 5% for sport based on the forecasted abundance i.e. 65/35 base allocation is 60/40 in 2009.

| Expected Performance of CRFWG Management Objectives | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Scenario # | 1 CRFWG | 2 OFWC | 3 Mid-point | 4 Comm. Buffer | 5 Both Buffers | 6 SAFE/ Comm. Buffer | 7 U.Col. Sport |
| Base Case Sharing ^{1/} | 65% S 35% C | 55% S 45% C | 60% S 40% C | 65% S 35% C | 60% S 40% C | 65% S 35% C | 60% S 40% C |
| Conservation | High | High | High | High | High | High | High |
| Early L. Col. Sport | High | Low | Medium | High | High | High | High |
| Above Bonn. Sport | High | High | High | High | High | High | Medium |
| SAFE | High | High | High | High | High | Medium | High |
| Early Mstem. Comm. | Low | High | Medium | High | High | High | High |
| May Opportunity | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium | Medium |