

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: Spring Fact Sheet #5
May 7, 2010

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Sport fisheries above Bonneville Dam and in Select Areas

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 6 totals 174,400 adults. This is the highest cumulative count to date since 2002 and the 3rd highest count to date (1977-current).
- TAC met on Monday May 3 and provided a range of 310,000-370,000 upriver spring Chinook based on passage to date.
- TAC will continue to meet at least weekly to review passage at Bonneville Dam.

Sport Fisheries Above Bonneville Dam

- The fishery from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam opened on March 16. The total catch of spring Chinook is estimated to be 3,400 fish through May 9.

<i>Recommendation – Sport Fishery from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam</i>
Effective Monday May 10, close the area from Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to McNary Dam plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines to salmon fishing.

- ✓ There is still uncertainty surrounding the actual run size, and when the 50% passage date will occur.
- ✓ Based on the current run size range from TAC of 310,000 to 370,000, the closure is necessary to ensure other fisheries have similar opportunity at the reduced run size level.

Sport Fisheries in Select Areas

- At the time Select Area sport fisheries were closed for spring Chinook retention, a large number of upriver spring Chinook had moved into these areas. Commercial fisheries in Select Areas were closed at the same time.
- Test fishing was conducted recently to determine if the numbers of upriver spring Chinook had decreased in the Select Areas as is common at this point in the run.
- Based on the results of the test fishing and limited commercial fishing in the Select Areas, the number of upriver fish in these areas has decreased and is expected to remain at low levels.

<i>Recommendation - Select Area Sport Fisheries</i>
The Joint Staff is recommending that Select Area recreational fishing for salmon and steelhead re-open effective Saturday May 8.

- To date, non-Treaty fisheries have taken a total of 36,623 upriver fish.

2010 Non-Treaty Spring Fisheries Summary	
Fishery	Total Upriver Chinook (kept and release Mortalities)
SAFE, through 5/5	1,287
MS Commercial	7,506
LCR Sport total	23,533
Z6 Sport, projected through 5/9	3,398
SR/UC, projected through 5/9	899
	36,623

Future Hearings

- The Joint Staff recommends a Compact hearing for Monday May 10 at 1PM to consider Select Area commercial fisheries and potential treaty Indian commercial fisheries.