

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 7
 Joint State Hearing
 May 13, 2011**

Fisheries under consideration: Lower Columbia recreational fisheries

Stock status and management guidelines for 2011 winter/spring fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (February 8, 2011).

- Bonneville Dam counts through May 12 total 136,842 adult upriver spring Chinook and 18,530 jacks.
- TAC officially updated the run on May 9 to the preseason forecast of 198,400 adult upriver spring Chinook at the Columbia River mouth. TAC met again on May 11 and upgraded that estimate to 210,000.
- Based on the *U.S. v Oregon* agreement, non-Indian fisheries are limited to a total of 19,110 upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) and an ESA impact rate of 1.9%.

2011 Non-Indian Upriver Catch Balance Summary	
Fishery	Upriver Mortalities
Mainstem commercial (not including May 12 catch)	1,728
SAFE	219
Lower river recreational	6,005
Bonneville to Or/Wa border recreational	2,403
Upper river recreational	1,200
Non-Indian Total	11,555

- At a run size of 210,000, recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam have a total of 5,000 upriver fish (kept + release mortalities) available. This total includes balance from the season that concluded in April. Recreational fisheries above Bonneville Dam are projected to have exceeded the available catch for this area by about 1,200 fish. This leaves a balance of 3,800 upriver fish currently available for the recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville.
- Staff met with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG) on May 11 to discuss options for re-opening the lower river for salmon. Staff presented information that indicated a high likelihood that the fishery would be able to open on Monday May 16, concurrent with the below I-5 steelhead opener. Modeling suggested the season could continue through to the start of summer Chinook season on June 16 under the same regulations and areas as were used in March and April.
- The consensus from the CRRAG was to re-open as soon as possible, ideally by Saturday. Most members also preferred extending the upstream boundary for boat fishing from Rooster Rock upstream to Beacon Rock in order to provide more fishing area. Some expressed concern over potential high catch rates in this area, whereas others cautioned that expected increases in river flows would reduce angler success. Several members wanted to reserve fish for a June opener prior to the summer Chinook fishery on June 16.

<i>Recommendation: 2011 Lower Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery</i>	
Season:	Sunday May 15 through Wednesday June 15, 2011.
Area:	Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam. The boundary at Beacon Rock is defined as: A line projected from a sign posted on a dock on the Oregon shoreline across to the exposed downstream end of Pierce Island, then across to a sign posted on the Washington shoreline at Beacon Rock.
Catch limit:	Retention of sockeye, adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead allowed. Sockeye salmon count towards the adult limit regardless of size. Daily bag limit includes up to two adult salmon/steelhead in combination, but only one may be a Chinook.
Additional regulations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective through June 15, 2011 for the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to OR/WA border, it is unlawful when fishing from vessels which are less than 30 feet in length (substantiated by Coast Guard documentation or Marine Board registration) to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released. • In Washington, on the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, anglers may not possess in the field fish mutilated so that size, species or fin clip cannot be determined until the angler has reached their automobile or principle means of land transportation and has completed their daily angling. • Angling for shad is allowed from May 16 – Dec 31 from the Buoy 10 line upstream to Bonneville Dam and year round above Bonneville Dam under permanent rules. • Effective through June 15, 2011, in Oregon and Washington Select Areas the hatchery adult Chinook daily limit will be the same as the adjacent mainstem Columbia River when the mainstem Columbia River is open for adult Chinook retention. When the adjacent mainstem Columbia River is closed for adult Chinook retention, the salmon daily limit will revert to permanent rules. 	

- Anglers are advised that the Beacon Rock deadline is downstream of most of the back-channel areas on the north side of Pierce and Ives Islands. Those areas will remain closed to boat angling at this time.
- The proposed season is expected to remain within the available catch guideline at a run size of 210,000 fish.
- Staff will closely monitor the fishery to gauge the likelihood of meeting the June 15 objective and to look for opportunities to expand the fishery.
- Staff will also closely monitor the ability to re-allocate unused fish for use in upriver recreational fisheries.

FUTURE HEARINGS

No future hearings are recommended at this time, but staff will call for a Joint State Hearing if needed to address the above seasons.