

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND
WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Joint State Hearing
April 14, 2011**

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam

Water Conditions

- During April 1-12, discharge at Bonneville Dam averaged 338 kcfs, including about 111 kcfs in spill. The discharge peaked at 390 kcfs on April 5 and dropped to 303 kcfs by April 13. The 5-year average discharge for April 14 is 217 kcfs. River stage is currently at 10.0 feet with a predicted rise to 11.4 feet by April 18.
- Bonneville Dam discharge is predicted to average 266 kcfs from April 16-22 and 274 kcfs from April 23-30. Water visibility is 2.0 feet compared to 4.0 feet on April 1. The 5-year average visibility for this date is 4.7 feet.
- Water temperature was 47° F on April 12. Spring water temperatures have been colder than both the 5- and 10-year averages.

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 13 totals 864 adults. Based on the recent 5-year average, which includes four late-timed years, passage is typically about 2% (range 0.1% to 4%) complete on April 13. The 10-year average completion percentage is 8% (range 0.1% to 32%).
- The 5-year average 50% passage date is May 8; therefore it is difficult to make accurate conclusions regarding run size at this time.
- Indicators for the upriver run strength are mixed; negative indicators include the low cumulative Bonneville Dam count and low catch rates in the lower river sport fishery to date. Positive indicators include a high proportion of upriver fish in non-Indian catch since early February and the improved catch rate from test fishing and ongoing research activities.

2011 Spring Chinook Observation Summary_ All data preliminary												
			Adult Chinook Data						Ratios		Steelhead	
Fishery	Date	# of Drifts	Lower River	Upper River	No VSI	Ttl Chin	Mark Rate	% Upr.	Chin/ Drift	Sthd/ Drift	Total Sthd	Mark Rate
Test	Feb 22	13	1	2		3	67%	67%	0.2	0.6	8	13%
Test	Feb 27	12	1	4		5	80%	80%	0.4	0.6	7	57%
Test	Mar 6	17	4	3		7	57%	43%	0.4	0.5	9	67%
Test	Mar 13	17	15	5		20	85%	25%	1.2	0.4	7	57%
Test	Mar 20	17	7	10		17	76%	59%	1.0	1.7	29	59%
Test	Mar 26-27	20	42	56	5	103	79%	57%	5.2	0.8	15	80%
Full Fleet	Mar 29	64	72	74	30	176	78%	51%	2.8	0.3	17	71%
Test	Apr 4	18	24	54		78	81%	59%	4.3	0.6	10	40%
Full Fleet	Apr 6	62	29	69	13	111	75%	70%	1.8	0.2	13	46%
Test	Apr 12	16	61	123	19	203	83%	67%	12.7	1.3	21	43%

Treaty Fishery Update

- The ongoing treaty fisheries include ceremonial permit gillnet fisheries, Zone 6 platform and hook and line subsistence fisheries, and hook and line fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The tribes have not authorized commercial sales of spring Chinook at this time.
- The estimated catch in the combined tribal fisheries to date is 250 spring Chinook.

Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery

- The Columbia River downstream of Bonneville Dam closed as scheduled for Chinook retention effective Tuesday April 5. Through April 4, the kept and release mortality for upriver fish was estimated at 3,820 fish, or 49% of the 7,750 available.
- Given the large remaining balance of upriver fish, the States re-opened the fishery for eight additional days from Friday April 8 through Friday April 15 under the same structure and regulations as the initial fishery.

Preliminary Summary of the 2011 Lower Columbia Recreational Fishery					
	Angler Trips	Total Catch	Kept Catch	UR Catch (kept + rel mort)	Cumulative % of pre-update upriver (kept + rel mort)
Feb 1 – Apr 4	82,342	5,843	4,511	3,820	49%
Apr 8-15*	18,850	1,732	1,362	767	59%
Total	101,192	7,575	5,873	4,587	
**Apr 16-17	9,620	1,100	865	710	68%
** Apr 18-22	13,650	1,600	1,260	1,034	82%
Total	23,270	2,700	2,125	1,744	
Sum	124,462	10,275	7,998	6,331	82%
* Includes projection for April 14-15		** Projections if season was extended beyond April 15			

- Projected total catch for April 8-15 is 1,732 Chinook, with an estimated 1,362 kept, and a total upriver catch (kept and release mortalities) of 767 fish. This brings the total upriver catch in the lower river fishery to 4,587 fish, or 59% of the 7,750 available.
- The estimated total upriver catch (kept and release mortalities) in all non-Indian fisheries through Friday April 15 is 6,323 (55% of the 11,257 available at the buffered pre-season run size).

Preliminary summary of 2011 Non-Indian upriver Chinook catches			
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)		
	Completed	Planned	Total
Mainstem commercial	1,728	0	1,728
Select Area commercial	8	200	208
Below Bonneville recreational	4,587		4,587
Bonneville to OR/WA border recreational	0	1,032	1,032
Upper river recreational	0	629	629
Total Upriver Impacts	6,323	1,861	8,184

- Including completed and planned fisheries, the expected season total of upriver catch (kept and release mortalities) in all non-Indian fisheries 8,184 fish (71% of the 11,527 available at

the buffered preseason run size). This includes projected catch in the lower river recreational fishery through April 15.

- At a minimum upriver run size of 109,000 Chinook, the 8,184 total upriver impacts in non-Indian fisheries would meet the catch balancing provisions of the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement.

<i>Recommendation: 2011 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Extend the ongoing fishery from Saturday April 16 through Friday April 22, 2011 (7days).
Area:	Buoy 10 upstream to Rooster Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Rooster Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam
Catch limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
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. • Effective through May 15, 2011, the mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad ONLY during days and seasons open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook. • Effective through June 15, 2011, on days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits. On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is <u>closed</u> to Chinook retention, permanent salmonid bag limit regulations apply. 	

- If the lower river recreational fishery was extended through April 22, the expected season total catch of upriver Chinook (kept and release mortalities) would be 9,928 fish, or 86% of the 11,527 available at the buffered preseason run size.
- At a minimum upriver run size of 119,600 Chinook, the 9,928 total upriver catch in non-Indian fisheries would meet the catch balancing provisions of the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement.
- The following table reflects the total non-Indian upriver Chinook catch if the proposed fishery is adopted.

Potential 2011 Non-Indian upriver Chinook catches				
		Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)		
	Fishery	Completed	Planned	Total
	Mainstem commercial	1,728	0	1,728
	Select Area commercial	8	200	208
	Below Bonneville recreational (<i>Includes proposed fishery</i>)	4,587	1,744	6,331
	Bonneville to OR/WA border recreational	0	1,032	1,032
	Upper river recreational	0	629	629
	Total Upriver Impacts	6,323	3,605	9,928

Future Meetings

- Staff recommends that a Joint State hearing be scheduled for 2 PM Wednesday April 20 to review the above Bonneville (Zone 6) recreational spring Chinook fishery.