

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2a**  
**Columbia River Joint State Hearing**  
**April 20 2011**

*Fisheries under Consideration:* Recreational salmon upstream of Bonneville Dam

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 19 totals 1,803 adults. Based on the recent 5-year average, which includes four late-timed years, passage is typically about 7% complete (range 0.2% to 17%) by this date and the average 50% passage date is May 8 (range May 1-12).
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will review the status of the upriver spring Chinook run on April 25.

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 to date.
- The estimated catch in the combined tribal fisheries through April 14 is approximately 250 spring Chinook.

Non-Indian Fishery Update

- Two mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods (10 hours combined) occurred on March 29 and April 6. Landings include 2,039 Chinook. An additional 75 Chinook were landed during the winter sturgeon season. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 1,728 fish, compared to the 1,915 available pre-update (90%).
- Winter season Select Area fisheries concluded April 4. Landings total 216 Chinook, including 8 upriver Chinook. Spring seasons opened beginning April 17; an additional 200 upriver Chinook mortalities are allocated to the spring season.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery closed Wednesday April 20. Catch and effort data is still being compiled, but the preliminary projection is 7,115 Chinook kept from 109,600 angler trips. Upriver Chinook mortalities are estimated at 5,564 fish, compared to the 7,743 available pre-update (72%).
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border opened March 16 and is scheduled to close April 25. Catch and effort to date has been minimal, reflective of the low Bonneville Dam counts. Catch estimates through April 17 total 39 Chinook kept and 24 released. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 41 fish, compared to the 1,032 available pre-update (4%).
- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (below Lower Granite Dam) are scheduled to open below Ice Harbor Dam on April 20 and near the Little Goose/ Clarkston area on April 25 and continue through May 31. A total of 629 wild Chinook mortalities are available to this fishery pre-update.

<b>Preliminary summary of 2011 Non-Indian upriver Chinook catches (Pre-Update)</b>				
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)			
	Allocated	In Hand	Planned	Total
Mainstem commercial (complete)	1,915	1,728	0	1,728
Select Area commercial (ongoing)	208	8	200	208
Below Bonneville recreational (complete)	7,743	5,564	0	5,564
Bonn to OR/WA border recreational (planned to April 24)	1,032	41	100	141
Upper river recreational (begin April 20)	629	0	629	629
<b>Total Upriver Impacts</b>	<b>11,527</b>	<b>7,341</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>8,270</b>

- Including completed and currently planned fisheries, the expected season total of upriver catch (kept and release mortalities) in all non-Indian fisheries is 8,270 fish (72% of the 11,527 available prior to the run update). This includes projected catch in the Bonneville-OR/WA border recreational fishery through April 24.
- At a minimum upriver run size of 109,000 Chinook, the 8,270 total upriver mortalities in non-Indian fisheries would be well within the catch balancing provisions of the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement.
- Based on the low recreational Chinook catch in the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border, staff is recommending an extension to the ongoing season.

<b>Recommendation: Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</b>
<b>Season:</b> Extend the ongoing fishery from Monday April 25 through Thursday May 5, 2011 (11 days)
<b>Area:</b> Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border plus the Oregon <b>and</b> Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
<b>Bag limit:</b> Two adult Chinook <u>or</u> steelhead per day or one of each. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
<b>Additional regulations:</b> For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to OR/WA border, effective through June 15, 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.

- Providing additional opportunity for Chinook retention in this area allows anglers access to Chinook allocated to this fishery pre-update. The mid-week end date provides an opportunity for staff to review catches and recommend an additional hearing to review the fishery prior to the closure date.
- Catch and effort is expected to gradually increase as upriver passage increases. Based on past performance of this fishery and current passage, the proposed season extension is expected to result in a handle of no more than 50 fish per day on average.
- If the season is adopted as proposed, an estimated 550 upriver Chinook mortalities would accrue, bringing the total estimated upriver Chinook mortalities to 8,672 fish, or 75% of the 11,527 available at the buffered preseason run size.

- With an expected total of 8,672 upriver Chinook mortalities, non-Indian fisheries would remain within the catch balancing provisions, according to run size intervals described in the *US v Oregon* Management Agreement, with a minimum upriver run size of 109,000 Chinook.

<b>Spring Management Period Harvest Rate Schedule</b>						
Total Upriver Run Size	Snake River Natural Run Size	Treaty Harvest Rate	Treaty Catch Guideline	Non-Treaty Harvest Rate	Non-Treaty Mortality Guideline	Total Harvest Rate
<27,000	<2,700	5.0%		<0.5%		<5.5%
27,000	2,700	5.0%	1,350	0.5%	1,350	5.5%
33,000	3,300	5.0%	1,650	1.0%	1,650	6.0%
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%

#### **Future Meetings**

- If the fishery extension is adopted as proposed, staff recommends that a Joint State hearing be scheduled for 1 PM Wednesday May 4 to review the above Bonneville (Zone 6) recreational spring Chinook fishery.