

- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 15. Landings thru May 18 total 4,795 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 169 fish to date and are projected to total 181 fish for the season.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery was open for Chinook retention through Sunday April 22. Catch estimates total 12,950 kept and 2,162 released adult fish from 107,820 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 9,934 fish.
- The lower Columbia River downstream of I-5 Bridge opened May 16 for hatchery steelhead, fin-clipped jack Chinook, and sockeye retention.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open through May 6 with an estimated adult spring Chinook catch of 591 kept and 174 released (608 upriver mortalities). The fishery reopened this past weekend (May 19-20). Catch rates were less than expected with an estimated 265 adults kept and 124 released (278 upriver mortalities) bringing the total kept and release mortalities to 886 fish, or 62% of the current allocation.
- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) were open in four separate areas. The lower two areas (Ice Harbor and Little Goose) closed after Friday, May 18. The upper two areas remained open to balance opportunity between areas. Catches in the lower fisheries were higher than expected; therefore, the upper two areas will close tonight (May 22). The catch estimate for combined Snake River fisheries is 2,327 kept and 500 released adult fish (2,377 upriver mortalities).

Summary of 2012 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches – preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (219 K)	Inseason Allocated (216.5 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial						
Mainstem	5,914	4,749	4,318	---	4,318	431
Select Area (in hand thru 5/18; proj. thru 6/15)	330	325	169	12	181	144
Commercial Totals	6,244	5,074	4,487	12	4,499	575
Recreational						
Below Bonneville	12,666	12,005	9,934	---	9,934	2,071
Bonn to OR/WA border	1,689	1,429	886	---	886	543
Snake River (in hand thru 5/22)	1,362	1,165	2,377	---	2,377	-1,212
Wanapum Tribal	33	29	0	29	29	0
Recreational Totals	15,750	14,628	13,197	29	13,226	1,402
Total Upriver Impacts	21,994	19,702	17,684	41	17,725	1,977

- The table above shows the allocation and remaining balances of upriver spring Chinook for all non-treaty fisheries. At the current in-season upriver run size, several fisheries have a balance available. However, because the Snake River fishery exceeded its current allocation, and Commission guidance is to allocate 25% of available recreational impacts (18% of upriver mortalities) to fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam, actual balances for the remaining recreational fisheries must be reduced accordingly leaving no balance for above Bonneville and about 1,400 upriver mortalities for recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Non-Treaty Fishery Recommendations - Recreational

- Based on the remaining allocation for the area downstream of Bonneville Dam, the staff has outlined two options for consideration:

2012 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery - Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Option 1: Saturday, May 26 through Monday, May 28, 2012 (3 days) Option 2: Delay decision. Use remaining allocation to allow direct transition to summer Chinook season. Start date to be determined.
Area:	Buoy 10 upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. Legal upstream boundary defined as: “A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse 1) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock.”
Catch limit:	Retention of sockeye, adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead allowed. Daily bag limit includes up to two adult salmon/steelhead in combination, but only one may be a Chinook. Sockeye salmon count towards the adult limit regardless of size.
Expected catch:	Option 1: 1,235 Kept (1,070 upriver mortalities) Option 2: TBD
Additional regulations:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, 2012 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 June 15, 2012, 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. 	

- Option 1 would allow anglers to retain adult Chinook this coming holiday weekend but would require Chinook retention close again prior to the summer Chinook fishery which opens June 16.
 - Upriver mortalities would be at 14,300, or 97.8% of the total recreational allocation at the current estimated run size.
- The intent of Option 2 would be to use the remaining allocation to provide adult Chinook retention opportunity in early June allowing for the spring fishery to transition directly to the summer fishery without a retention break.
 - If this approach were preferred, the decision could be postponed until next week because the current available allocation is not sufficient to start the fishery until early June.
 - At the current run size, the season could open around June 6, for a potential 10-day retention season.
 - This approach allows for another run update next week.

Non-Treaty Fishery Recommendations - Commercial

- There are 575 upriver spring Chinook remaining on the commercial allocation at the current run size. This includes a projected balance of 144 from Select Area fisheries that can be applied to a mainstem fishery.
- If a commercial season were to be considered at this time, staff would propose the following season structure:

<i>Joint Staff Option- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	10:00 PM Tuesday May 29 –4:00 AM Wednesday May 30, 2012	(6 hours)
Gear:	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored.	
Area:	Zones 1-4, upstream to Kelley Point.	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sockeye, shad and white sturgeon (43-54 inch fork length). A maximum of 6 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.	

Standard regulations typically in place for spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, tangle-net certification, etc.

Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box. Any fish that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

Additional
Rules:

Observer program: As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.

Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

24-hour **quick reporting** required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

- Expected catch is 600-800 kept fish based on an expected 85-100 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are expected to be approximately 450-600 fish.
- Similar to May 2011, staff is recommending the use of large mesh gear to minimize steelhead handle and shad catch which can lengthen drift times if handle is high.
- Expanding the fishery upstream of Kelley Point would effect the Chinook stock composition, and could increase participation and landed catch.
- A balance of 423 fish of the 480 white sturgeon allocated to winter/spring commercial fisheries remain available. Sturgeon harvest is expected to be less than 100 fish.
- If the recommendation is adopted as proposed, the total commercial non-Indian catch (kept plus released mortalities) of upriver fish could reach 5,100, or 100.4% of the 5,074 fish limit at the in-season run size of 216,500. This is very close to the current total commercial allocation and provides no buffer for uncertainty in catch estimates, stock composition, or a run downgrade. Options include waiting to set a fishery until next week following the TAC meeting or utilizing a landing limit. If the recreational decision is delayed, staff would support waiting until next week to consider a commercial fishery
- The proposed mainstem commercial fishery conflicts (gear, time and allowable sales) with the Youngs Bay Select Area fishery previously adopted. Therefore staff recommends the following action:

Joint Staff Recommendation- Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery

Retention and sale of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 9 PM Tuesday May 29, 2012 through 6 AM Thursday May 31, 2012.

Future Meetings

- Staff recommends a Joint Staff hearing be scheduled for Tuesday afternoon May 29 to consider non-Indian fisheries.
- Hearings already scheduled include:
 - Summer Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 a.m. Wednesday June 13, 2012
 - Fall Compact Hearing #1: 10:00 a.m. Thursday July 26, 2012

Both hearings will be held at The River Street Room (12 River Street) in Cathlamet, WA 98612. STREET PARKING ONLY