

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FISHERY UPDATE #2
May 29, 2012**

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 28 totals 152,613 adults. The run has been tracking consistent with a late-timed run, and passage at Bonneville Dam is likely more than 80% complete.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today and downgraded the upriver run from 216,500 fish to 209,400 fish at the mouth of the Columbia River. TAC is scheduled to meet again Monday June 4.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a river mouth return of 209,400 adult upriver fish allows for an impact rate of 1.9% and a catch balance limit of 19,055 mortalities for non-Indian fisheries. Commission guidance directs managers to allocate the impacts 60% sport/35% commercial. Both the impact limit and the allocation percentages have changed from pre-season.

Treaty Fishery Update

- The platform/hook-and-line fisheries (above and downstream of Bonneville) are ongoing. No commercial gillnet fisheries have occurred to date in 2012 for spring Chinook. Sales of fish are allowed in the mainstem and tributaries, consistent with tribal regulations.

Summary of 2012 Treaty Indian upriver Chinook catches-preliminary			
Fishery	In Hand (thru 5/26)	Planned (thru 6/15)	Total
Ceremonial Permits	9,700	0	9,700
Zone 6 Platform/H&L	4,640		
Below Bonneville Dam H&L	1,170		
Platform H&L Subtotal	5,810	~2,000	~7,800
Total Upriver Impacts	15,510	2,000	~17,510

- Actual and projected catch from ongoing fisheries totals 17,510 fish. An upriver run size of 192,420 adult Chinook is required to remain within impact limitations (9.1%) for fisheries projected through June 15.

Non-Treaty Fishery Updates

- A total of two mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods (18 hours combined) have occurred to date. Chinook landings for 2012 total 6,180 fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook are estimated at 4,318 fish, or 94.0% of the current allocation.
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 15. Landings thru May 25 total 5,302 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 179 fish to date with a season total projection of 185 fish, or 58.9% of the current allocation.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery was open for Chinook retention through April 22. Final catch estimates total 12,702 kept and 2,142 released adult fish from 105,145 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 9,787 fish.

- The lower Columbia River downstream of I-5 Bridge opened May 16 for hatchery steelhead, fin-clipped jack Chinook, and sockeye retention.
- The lower Columbia River re-opened to Chinook retention for two days (May 26-27) over the recent holiday weekend. Preliminary catch estimates include 688 adults kept and 320 released (455 upriver mortalities). Combined with incidental upriver mortalities associated with the ongoing steelhead fishery (50 fish), the combined upriver mortality estimate for recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam is currently 10,292 fish, or 88.6% of the current allocation.
- 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 re-opened for the May 19-20 weekend. 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 64.1% 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 were closed after Tuesday, May 22. The catch estimate for combined Snake River fisheries is 2,327 kept and 500 released adult fish (2,377 upriver mortalities or 211% of the current allocation).

Summary of 2012 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches – preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (219 K)	Inseason Allocated (209.4 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial						
Mainstem	5,914	4,593	4,318	---	4,318	275
Select Area (in hand thru 5/18; proj. thru 6/15)	330	314	179	6	185	129
Commercial Totals	6,244	4,907	4,497	6	4,503	404
Recreational						
Below Bonneville (in hand thru 5/27, proj thru 6/15*)	12,666	11,611	10,242	50	10,292	1,319
Bonn to OR/WA border	1,689	1,382	886	--	886	496
Snake River (in hand thru 5/22)	1,362	1,127	2,377	--	2,377	1,250
Wanapum Tribal	33	28	0	28	28	0
Recreational Totals	15,750	14,148	13,505	78	13,583	565
Total Upriver Impacts	21,994	19,055	18,002	84	18,086	969

*Includes minimal impacts for recreational steelhead fisheries.

- The table above shows the allocation and projected balances of upriver spring Chinook for all non-treaty fisheries with total upriver mortalities estimated at 18,086 or 94.9% of the current total allocation.
- A final upriver run size of 198,750 is required to remain within catch balance and impact limitations for completed and planned non-treaty fisheries.

Future Meetings

- Staff is not proposing any hearings at this time. Staff will continue to monitor the upriver run and request additional hearings as appropriate. Hearings already in place 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.
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