

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 6**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**April 1, 2013**

<b><i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i></b> Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Salmon
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*Stock status and management guidelines for 2013 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 30, 2013). Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are also presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2013 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 24, 2013). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

- River conditions are clear and low. Water temperatures have been at or slightly above normal for March and currently measure 45° F. Average outflow during March at Bonneville Dam was 77% of the 5-year average, measuring 130 kcfs compared to 169 kcfs.
- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through March 31 totals 286 fish. Based on the preseason forecast and 5-year average timing, about 200 fish would be expected at Bonneville Dam by this date.
- Winter steelhead abundance typically peaks in mid-March, then declines as the fish move into the tributaries. Passage at Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls indicates the run is tracking slightly behind expectations.
- The number of upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) available to the mainstem commercial fishery prior to a run size update is 1,200 adult fish. An additional 4,400 Willamette spring Chinook are available to commercial fisheries for the 2013 spring season.
- Test fishing has occurred once weekly since March 3 in Zones 2-3. The most recent test fishery occurred on Sunday March 31.
- Data from the March 31 test fishery indicates an increase in Chinook abundance and the continued low steelhead abundance, when compared to data collected last week (March 24).

<b>2013 Spring Chinook Observation Summary_ All data preliminary</b>															
						<b>Chinook Adult Data</b>								<b>Steelhead</b>	
						<b>Lower R.</b>		<b>UpRiver</b>							
Fishery	Month	Date	(inches) Mesh	# of Drifts	Zones	Ad- Clip	No Clip	Ad- Clip	No Clip	Ttl Chin	Chin/ Drift	Chin/ Sthd	Sthd/ Drift	Total Sthd	Ad- Clip
Test	Mar	3	4¼	16	2-3	1	1	0	0	2	0.1	0.5	0.3	4	2
Test	Mar	10	4¼	16	2-3	1				1	0.1	0.3	0.3	4	3
Test	Mar	17	4¼	16	2-3	1	1	1		3	0.2	0.4	0.5	8	5
Test	Mar	24	4¼	18	2-3	2		6	2	10	0.6	1.1	0.5	9	4
Test	Mar	31	4¼	16	2-3	4	1	12	8	25	1.6	2.8	0.6	9	5

- Although 6,100 Chinook are available for harvest, only 1,200 can be upriver stock (including release mortalities). Staff estimates stock composition to be 80% upriver fish and the Chinook mark rate is estimated at 65%. Based on these assumptions, around 1,500 Chinook can be landed in order to remain within the ESA/catch balance limits.

- Based on the low number of steelhead encountered, the increasing number of Chinook per drift and the April 2 sport angling closure, staff is providing the following recommendation for a commercial fishing period:

<b>Joint Staff Recommendations- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</b>	
Season:	1:30 PM to 8:00 PM Tuesday April 2, 2013 (6.5 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 4¼” maximum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers. Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon.
	<p><b>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.</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>
Additional Rules:	<p><b>Observer program:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Live Capture workshop:</b> 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.</p> <p>24-hour <b>quick reporting</b> required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.</p>

- The expected kept catch is 1,200 Chinook (range 900-1,300). Chinook catch is expected to include 1,043 upriver fish (kept and release mortalities) which represents 85% of the 1,200 upriver Chinook allowed pre-update, and 60% of the 0.25% impact allowed pre-update.
- Wild winter steelhead release mortalities are expected to be 33 fish (0.2% impact), or 10% of the 2.00% impact limit for wild winter steelhead.
- A balance of 265 fish, or 95% of the 280 white sturgeon allocated to winter/spring commercial fisheries remain available. Sturgeon harvest is expected to be less than 50 fish.

#### **Future Meetings**

- A Joint State hearing is scheduled for 2 PM Wednesday April 3 to review the ongoing sport fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam.