

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**May 14, 2013**

<b><i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i></b> Non-Treaty fisheries update Lower River Recreational salmon fishery Recreational Sturgeon in Bonneville Pool Mainstem commercial salmon Select Area 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).*

***Stock Status and Management Guidelines***

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through May 13 totals 65,347 adults. Passage at Bonneville Dam by now is likely more than 50% complete.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met May 13 and officially updated the run to 107,500 adult upriver Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. TAC is scheduled to meet again Monday, May 20.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a river mouth return of 107,500 adult upriver fish allows for an impact rate of 1.6% and a catch balance limit of 7,955 mortalities for non-Indian fisheries. Commission guidance directs managers to allocate the impacts 60% sport/35% commercial. Both the ESA-impact and catch balance limits have decreased from preseason.

***Non-Treaty Fishery Updates***

- A mainstem commercial salmon fishing period (9 hours) occurred on April 9. Chinook landings totaled 1,025 fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 690 fish, or 37% of allocated. A balance of 259 white sturgeon remain on the winter/spring allocation.
- Mainstem commercial shad fisheries are open under permanent regulations in Area 2S from 3 PM to 10 PM daily Monday through Friday from May 10 through June 20 (except on the observed Memorial Day holiday). Additional shad fisheries may also occur under experimental permit issued by the state of Oregon
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 14. Landings through May 10 total 3,887 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities to date total 145 fish and are projected to total 161 fish for the season.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery was open for Chinook retention through Friday April 12. Catch estimates total 5,100 kept and 1,200 released adult fish from 75,700 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 3,539 fish, or 72% of allocated.

- The lower Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge will open May 16 for hatchery steelhead and hatchery jack Chinook and shad retention under permanent regulations.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open through May 5. Catch estimates total 580 kept and 270 released adult fish from 4,200 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 607 fish, or 93% of allocated.
- The recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) are open on a days-per-week basis in three sections of the river. The fisheries are ongoing until the harvest allocation is met. Catch estimates through May 13 total 288 kept and 84 released adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 296 fish or 85% of allocated. The area in Clarkston is expected to remain open, however the two lower areas are expected to close

<b>Summary of 2013 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary</b>						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (141.4 K)	Inseason Allocated (107.5 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
<b>Commercial</b>						
Mainstem	1,222	1,885	690	0	690	1,195
Select Area (actual and Proj.) (in hand thru 5/11; proj. thru 6/15)	148	161	145	16	161	0
<b>Recreational</b>						
Below Bonneville	4,934	4,896	3,539	0	3,539	1,395
Bonn to OR/WA border	658	653	607	0	607	46
Snake River (actual and proj.)	351	348	296	50	346	2
Wanapum Tribal	12	12	0	12	12	0
<b>Total Upriver Mortalities</b>	<b>7,325</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>5,277</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>5,355</b>	<b>2,600</b>

- The recreational sturgeon fishery is open 3-days per week through June 15 in the area from the Wauna powerlines upstream to the markers on the top-end of Skamania Island. The area downstream of Wauna powerlines is open 7-days per week through June 30. Actual end dates are dependent on each area's harvest quota.
- The recreational sturgeon fisheries in Zone 6 are ongoing until the harvest guideline is reached, except Bonneville Pool closed February 11 with the intent to set a summer retention period for sometime in late June. A balance of 765 sturgeon remain available for harvest in Bonneville Pool.

*Non-Treaty Fishery Recommendations*

**Non-Indian Recreational:**

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

<i>2013 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries - Options</i>	
<b>Downstream of Bonneville Dam</b>	
Option 1	Delay decision. Use remaining allocation to allow direct transition to summer Chinook season. Start date to be determined.
Option 2	Thursday May 16 through Wednesday June 5, 2013
Area:	<b>Tongue Point/Rocky Point line</b> 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.”
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Release sockeye. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
<b>Additional regulations for both fisheries above:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to OR/WA border, effective February 15 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.</li> <li>• Effective through June 15, 2013, 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</li> </ul>	

- The intent of Option 1 would be to use the remaining allocation to provide adult Chinook retention opportunity that would allow 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 since the current available allocation is not sufficient to start the fishery right away. The delay would also allow for another TAC run update.
  - At the current run size, the season could open as early as the Memorial weekend (May 25), and continue through June 15 for a potential 22-day retention season.
- Option 2 would re-open Chinook retention on May 16, but would require a June 6 Chinook retention closure, 10-days prior to the summer Chinook opener on June 16. Upriver mortalities would total 4,585 fish, or 94% of the total recreational allocation at the current estimated run size.

<i>Bonneville Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery - Recommendation</i>		
Season:	June 14-15 (Fri-Sat) and June 21-22 (Fri-Sat), 2013	4 days
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam, including adjacent tributaries.	
Allowable Catch:	White sturgeon between 38-inches and 54-inches fork length	

- Estimating catch for this fishery is complicated by recent changes in sturgeon population abundance and limited summer fishery data (effort and catch rates) for this pool.
- Based on catch rates observed in the 2011 and 2012 Bonneville Pool summer sturgeon fishery, the projected kept catch for the proposed four day fishery is 688 fish, or 90% of the remaining balance. The season total kept catch would be 1,023, or 93% of the 1,100 fish quota.
- Splitting the summer fishery into two 2-day periods allows staff time to estimate harvest from the first period and recommend modifications to the second 2-day period if needed.
- If catch rates are less than expected, additional fishing opportunity may be considered for July 6 (Sat) or July 6-7 (Sat-Sun) which will provide staff time to verify total catch and to provide adequate notice for additional retention day(s).

**Non-Indian Commercial:**

<i>Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>		
Season	10:00 AM to Midnight Wednesday May 15, 2013	(14 hours)
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.	
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon (43-54 inch fork length). A maximum of <b>5</b> white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. Select Areas remain open under a 2 white sturgeon weekly retention limit.	

Regulations:

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

**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.

- The expected kept catch is 800 hatchery Chinook based on an expected 80 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are expected to be approximately 510 fish. Season total upriver mortalities would be 1,200 fish, or 64% of the total commercial allocation at the current estimated run size.
- A balance of 259 fish, or 92% of the 280 white sturgeon allocated to winter/spring commercial fisheries remain available. Sturgeon harvest is expected to be less than 50 fish.
- A Wednesday fishery avoids conflict with the recreational steelhead opener (May16) and with the Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas.
- If catch estimates are accurate, a balance of nearly 700 upriver Chinook mortalities would remain available on the commercial allocation based on the current inseason runsize. Additional commercial seasons could be considered for as early as next week.

- 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:

<i>Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery- Oregon State Staff Recommendation</i>
Retention and sale of <b>non</b> -adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 10:00 AM Wednesday May 15 to 12:00 PM (noon) Thursday May 16, 2013.

- Current net-length regulations in the Tongue Point and South Channel Select Areas are different and limit the fleet’s ability to transition between these two adjacent sites. Staff recommends the net-length be the same in both areas since there is no biological risk. The intent would be to continue this rule in future fisheries.

<i>2013 South Channel Select Area – Staff Recommendation</i>
Effective May 16- June 14, 2013. In the South Channel fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed

**Actual and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance**

<b>Summary of 2013 Actual and Projected Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary</b>						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (141 K)	Inseason Allocated (107.5 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	% available
<b>Commercial</b>						
Mainstem	1,222	1,885	690	510	1,200	64%
Select Area	148	161	145	16	161	100%
<b>Recreational</b>						
Below Bonneville	4,934	4,896	3,539	1,046	4,585	94%
Bonn to OR/WA border	658	653	607	0	607	93%
Snake River	351	348	296	50	346	99%
Wanapum Tribal	12	12	0	12	12	0%
<b>Total Upriver Mortalities</b>	<b>7,325</b>	<b>7,955</b>	<b>5,277</b>	<b>1,634</b>	<b>6,911</b>	<b>87%</b>

**Future Hearing**

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 11 AM Tuesday May 21 to review stock status and consider additional mainstem commercial fishing periods.