

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 20, 2013

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Lower River Recreational salmon fishery 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).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met May 20 to review the status of the upriver spring Chinook return. TAC maintained the inseason forecast of 107,500 adult upriver Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. TAC is scheduled to meet again Tuesday, May 28.
- 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.

Non-Treaty Fishery update

- A mainstem commercial salmon fishing period occurred on April 9; Chinook landings totaled 1,028 adult fish. A second commercial period occurred on May 15; Chinook landings totaled 245 adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 850 fish, or 45% of allocated. A balance of 237 white sturgeon remain on the winter/spring allocation.
- 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.

Summary of 2013 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (141.4 K)	Inseason Allocated (107.5 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	Balance
Commercial						
Mainstem	1,222	1,885	850	0	850	1035
Select Area (actual and Proj.)	148	161	151	10	161	0
Recreational						
Below Bonneville	4,934	4,896	3,539	0	3,539	1,357
Bonn to OR/WA border	658	653	607	0	607	46
Snake River (actual and proj.)	351	348	346	0	346	2
Wanapum Tribal	12	12	0	12	12	0
Total Upriver Mortalities	7,325	7,955	5,493	22	5,515	2,440

Non-Treaty Fishery Recommendations

- The Joint Staff is making the following recommendations based on an inseason runsize of 107,500 upriver Chinook and the remaining balance of upriver Chinook allocated to each fishery.

2013 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries - Recommendation	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Thursday May 23 through Saturday June 15, 2013
Area:	Tongue Point/Rocky Point line 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.
	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.
	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

- Catch estimates for the proposed season is estimated to include 1,353 upriver Chinook mortalities, bringing the total to 4,892 fish or 99.9% of allocated.
- Modeling assumes 40 upriver mortalities/day in May and 65/day in June.

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery - Recommendation		
Season	2:00 PM Tuesday May 21 to 6:00 AM Wednesday May 22, 2013 2:00 PM Thursday May 23 to 6:00 AM Friday May 24, 2013 2:00 PM Tuesday May 28 to 6:00 AM Wednesday May 29, 2013	(16 hours) (16 hours) (16 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 5 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:	<p>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</p> <p>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.</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 salmonid 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>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.</p>

- Estimated kept catch is 1,000 adult hatchery Chinook for the three periods. Upriver mortalities are estimated at 744 fish. Season total upriver mortalities would be 1,594 fish, or 85% of the total commercial allocation at the current estimated run size. Sturgeon harvest is expected to be less than 50 fish per period.
- The proposed mainstem commercial fishery conflicts with the Youngs Bay Select Area fishery previously adopted. Therefore staff recommends the following action:

Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery- Oregon State Staff Recommendation

Retention and sale of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 2:00 PM May 21 to 12:00 PM (noon) May 22, 2013.

2:00 PM May 23 to 12:00 PM (noon) May 24, 2013

2:00 PM May 28 to 12:00 PM (noon) May 29, 2013

Actual and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance

Summary of 2013 Non-treaty upriver Chinook catches _ preliminary						
Fishery	Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)					
	Pre-Update Allocated (141 K)	Inseason Allocated (107.5 K)	In Hand	Projected	Total	% available
Commercial						
Mainstem	1,222	1,885	850	744	1,594	85%
Select Area	148	161	151	10	161	100%
Recreational						
Below Bonneville	4,934	4,896	3,539	1,353	4,892	100%
Bonn to OR/WA border	658	653	607	0	607	93%
Snake River	351	348	346	0	346	99%
Wanapum Tribal	12	12	0	12	12	0%
Total Upriver Mortalities	7,325	7,955	5,493	2,119	7,612	96%

- Based on the actual, projected and proposed seasons an estimated 7,612 adult upriver spring Chinook mortalities would occur in non-Indian fisheries. This would require a run size of at least 103,000 adult upriver spring Chinook to the Columbia River mouth.

Future Hearing

- The Joint Staff is not recommending a future hearing at this time.