

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 3, 2014

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial salmon
 John Day Recreational sturgeon

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- The current *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) inseason forecast is for a Columbia River return of 234,000 adult upriver Chinook. TAC will continue to review the run as it progresses and provides updates as needed.
- Under the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, the inseason runsize allows for an ESA impact limit of 2.0% and a catch balance limit is 23,400 upriver mortalities for non-Indian fisheries.
- Lower Columbia River Chinook returns to Washington tributaries total nearly 2,100 adult fish. Currently, the Cowlitz River is tracking behind forecast expectations. Although the run is still in progress, hatchery goals may not be met at all three facilities.
- Adult spring Chinook passage at Willamette Falls through May 30 totals 19,390 fish, which is below the 5-year average for this date of 23,200 fish. The run is currently tracking behind expectations but passage and escapement goals are expected to be met.

LCR Spring Chinook Tributary Returns			
	2014	Hatchery	(H+W)
Tributary	Forecast	Goal	In hand
Cowlitz	7,800	1,537	1,460
Kalama	500	400	234
Lewis	1,100	1,300	837
	9,400	3,237	2,531

Non-Indian Salmon Fishery Update

- Four mainstem commercial fishing periods have occurred between April 1 and May 29. Chinook landings total 3,152 adult fish. Upriver Chinook mortalities are estimated at 2,841 fish.
- Select Area commercial fisheries are open through June 13. Through May 30 Chinook landings total 2,337 fish (221 upriver Chinook). For the season, the upriver mortalities are projected at 251 adult fish.
- The lower Columbia River recreational Chinook fishery is open through June 15. Catch estimates through May 31 include 13,574 kept adult Chinook from 113,800 angler trips. Upriver Chinook mortalities are estimated at 11,480 fish. For the season, the upriver mortalities are projected at 13,323 adult fish.
- A portion of the remaining catch balance (and associated impacts) was shifted from the lower river recreational fishery to recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam. A total of 1,250 upriver mortalities were made available to those fisheries.
- The recreational Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border is open through June 15. Catch estimates through May 9 include 1,945 kept adult Chinook. For the season, the upriver mortalities are projected at 2,423 adult fish.

- Recreational fisheries on the Snake River (Washington waters) are open on a days-per-week basis in four sections of the river and will continued through June 30 or until the harvest allocation is met. Catch estimates through May 27 include 1,131 kept adult Chinook. For the season, the upriver mortalities are projected at no more than 2,269 adult fish.
- Considering actual and projected catch and the associated ESA impacts, non-Indian fisheries account for 89% of the allowed catch balance and 79% of the allowed ESA impacts.

Mainstem Commercial Recommendation

- Given available ESA impacts remaining to non-Indian fisheries, staff is making the following recommendation:

<i>Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>	
Season	6:00 P.M. Wednesday June 4 to 6:00 A.M. Thursday June 5, 2014 (12 hours)
Gear	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook, sockeye and shad
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><u>Soak times</u>, 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.</p> <p><u>Red corks</u> 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><u>Lighted Buoys</u>: 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><u>Recovery Box</u>: 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. <u>Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.</u> All 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. In addition, cooperation with department personal prior to a fishing period is expected.</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 completed the required state-sponsored workshop.

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

- The catch estimate includes up to 500 hatchery Chinook based on an expected 40-50 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are estimated at 591 fish or less.
- Average weight of kept Chinook is expected to be around 15 pounds per fish and ex-vessel value is estimated at \$5 per pound for Grade-A adult size fish.
- Tuesday or Wednesday mainstem fisheries avoid conflict with the Monday and Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas (excluding Youngs Bay).
- The proposed fishery conflicts with a Youngs Bay Select Area fishery adopted previously. 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 6:00 PM June 4 to 12:00 PM (noon) June 5, 2014

Actual and Projected and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance and ESA impact Summary

- Upriver adult mortalities from non-Indian fisheries total 17,769 fish. Additional take from ongoing/proposed fisheries totals 3,968 fish. Combined actual and projected take totals 21,737 fish or 93% of the 23,400 allocated.
- Season total ESA impacts (actual, projected and proposed) total 1.75%, or 88% of the 2.0% limit.

Preliminary Summary of 2014 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Catch and ESA Impacts¹					
Fishery	Inseason Allocated	In Hand	Projected/proposed ²	Catch Balance Total	ESA Impact
Mainstem ³	4,397	2,841	591	3,432	
Select Area (<i>in hand thru May 29</i>)	351	221	30	251	
Commercial Total	4,748	3,062	621	3,683	0.62%
LCR Sport (<i>in hand thru May 31</i>)	15,171	11,480	1,843	13,323	
Z6 Sport (<i>in hand thru May 9</i>)	2,023	2,025	398	2,423	
Snake River (<i>in hand thru May 27</i>)	1,419	1,163	1,106	2,269	
Wanapum Tribal	39	39	15	54	
Recreational Total	18,652	14,707	3,361	18,068	1.13%
Non-Indian Total	23,400	17,769	3,982	21,751	1.75%

1. Includes kept & release mortalities of adult fish

2. Projected is for remainder of spring season

3. Allocated based on tanglenet gear.

Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fishery

- Fishery status for Zone 6 pools are as follows:

2014 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest in Zone 6				
Pool	Guideline	Catch ¹	Balance	Season
Bonneville	1,100	241	859	Closed Mar. 9
The Dalles	300	71	229	Ongoing
John Day	500	428	72	Ongoing

¹ Bonneville Pool through Mar. 9, The Dalles Pool through May 25, and John Day Pool through Jun. 1.

- Bonneville Pool is scheduled to re-open to sturgeon retention for the following two periods: June 13-14 (Fri.-Sat.) and June 20-21 (Fri.-Sat.).
- Catch rates in The Dalles Pool have been low, similar to recent years, and the fishery remains open with 24% of the guideline used through May 25. In 2013, The Dalles Pool closed on November 12.
- The John Day Pool fishery has used 86% of the harvest guideline with 38% of the catch occurring from May 1 to June 1.
- Weekly angling effort and catch per angler in John Day Pool varied throughout May without any clear pattern, but would be expected to average about 6 fish/day based on the high end of the weekly effort observed and the preceding three-week average catch/effort.
- At that rate, harvest is projected to reach the harvest guideline on or about June 13. In 2013, the John Day Pool closed on June 29.
- Considering the balance of harvestable sturgeon remaining on the John Day Pool guideline and expected catch rates, staff proposes the following recommendation:

Staff Recommendation: John Day Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery
 Effective 12:01 AM Saturday June 14, 2014, close the John Day Pool and adjacent tributaries to white sturgeon retention.

- Catch and release would be allowed after the retention period closes.

Future Hearings

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled via teleconference at 11 AM Wednesday June 11 to consider non-Indian and treaty summer season commercial fisheries.