

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 7a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 1, 2015

Fisheries under Consideration: Mainstem commercial salmon
 Youngs Bay commercial salmon

Stock status and management guidelines for 2015 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2a (January 28, 2015).

- Bonneville Dam passage through May 31 totals 220,480 adult Chinook. The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided an in-season run update of 271,000 adult fish to the Columbia River.
- Bonneville Dam passage through May 31 totals 192,809 shad. Daily counts are reaching 50,000 per day and expected to continue building.
- Six mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date. Landings total 5,364 adult Chinook. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 4,036 fish, 72% of the current allocation (5,599 fish).
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 13. Landings through May 29 total 9,776 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities are estimated at 595 compared to the current allocation of 407 fish.
- Total commercial ESA impacts are currently at 0.585% (89% of allowed).

Non-Indian Fishery Recommendation

- A balance of 0.521% ESA impacts (24% of allowed) is anticipated at the end of the spring season after all planned and on-going fisheries are complete. Given this projected balance, staff is proposing that commercial fisheries utilize a portion of this balance in order to provide access to the fish remaining under their catch balance allocation.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendations- 2015 Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	7:00 P.M. Tuesday June 2 to 5:00 A.M. Wednesday June 3, 2015	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal.	
Gear	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. <u>Red corks are required</u> at 25-fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. <u>Multiple net rule in place:</u> 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, and shad.	

Regulations:

Soak times are defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gillnet web is deployed into the water until the gillnet web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Each chamber of the recovery box(es) must include an operating water pumping system capable of delivering a minimum flow of 16 gallons per minute, not to exceed 20 gallons per minute of freshwater per chamber. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Each chamber of the recovery box must meet the following dimensions as measured from within the box: the inside length measurement must be at or within 39½ inches to 48 inches; the inside width measurements must be at or within 8 to 10 inches; and the inside height measurement must be at or within 14 to 16 inches. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water inlet hole between ¾ inch and 1 inch in diameter, centered horizontally across the door or end wall of the chamber and 1¾ inches from the floor of the chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water outlet hole that is a least 1½ inches in diameter located on either the same or opposite end as the inlet. The center of the outlet hole must be located a minimum of 12 inches above the floor of the box or chamber. The fisher must demonstrate to WDFW and ODFW employees, fish and wildlife enforcement officers, or other peace officers, upon request, that the pumping system is delivering the proper volume of fresh river water into each chamber. 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 in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

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 the fishery. In addition, cooperation with department personnel prior to a fishing period is expected.

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.

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.

24-hour quick reporting is in effect for Washington buyers (WAC 220-69-240(14)(d)).

- Adoption of a fishery with large mesh gear requires the Compact to initiate the adaptive management clause outlined in the current Columbia River policy.
- Implementing large mesh gear is intended to reduce an over-abundance of shad in the catch avoiding prolonged drift times, and therefore minimize any additional risk to ESA-listed salmonids.
- The catch estimate is 650 hatchery Chinook kept based on an expected 50 deliveries. Season total upriver mortalities are projected at 4,740 fish, or 85% of the mainstem commercial allocation.

- Total (mainstem plus Select Areas) commercial upriver impacts are estimated at 5,355 upriver mortalities (89% of catch balance) and 0.750%, or 114% of the 0.660% allocation.
- With the proposed fishery the total spring season non-Indian ESA impacts would be 1.837% (84% of allowed).
- The proposed mainstem fishery avoids conflict with the Monday/Thursday night fisheries in most Select Areas, except Youngs Bay where staff recommends the following action:

<i>Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery- Oregon State Staff Recommendation</i>
Retention and sale of non -adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 7:00 PM Wednesday May 27 through noon Thursday May 28 2015.

Actual and Proposed Non-Indian Catch Balance

Summary of 2015 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Mortalities - preliminary						
Non-Indian Fishery	Inseason Allocated (271.0 K)	In hand/ Season total proj.	Proposed	Total	Balance	% Used
Mainstem	5,599	4,036	701	4,737	862	
Select Area	407	615		615	-208	
<i>Total</i>	<i>6,006</i>	<i>4,651</i>	<i>701</i>	<i>5,352</i>	<i>654</i>	<i>89%</i>
Below Bonneville	18,743	17,298		17,298	1,445	
Bonn to OR/WA border	2,499	2,102		2,102	397	
Snake River/Wanapum	2,021	2,183		2,183	-162	
<i>Total</i>	<i>23,263</i>	<i>21,583</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>21,583</i>	<i>1,680</i>	<i>93%</i>
Grand Total	29,269	26,234	701	26,935	2,334	92%

Summary of 2015 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook ESA - preliminary						
Non-Indian Fishery	Inseason Allocated (271.0 K)	In hand/ Season total proj.	Proposed	Total	Balance	% Used
Commercial	0.66%	0.592%	0.158%	0.750%	-0.090%	114%
Sport	1.54%	1.087%	0.000%	1.087%	0.453%	71%
Non-Indian Total	2.20%	1.68%	0.16%	1.84%	0.36%	84%

Future Hearings

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled.