

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 6a**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**May 26, 2015**

<b><i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i></b>	Mainstem commercial salmon Youngs Bay commercial salmon Lower Columbia recreational salmon Zone 6 recreational salmon Zone 6 recreational sturgeon – John Day Pool
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*Stock status and management guidelines for 2015 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2a (January 28, 2015).*

- Bonneville Dam passage through May 25 totals 203,368 adult Chinook. The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided an in-season run update of 260,000 adult fish to the Columbia River.
- Bonneville Dam passage through May 25 totals 26,100 shad. On average by May 25, total passage is around 100,000 shad with daily passage approaching 20,000 fish per day.
- Adult spring Chinook passage at Willamette Falls through May 13 totals 33,414 fish, well above the 5-year average cumulative passage to date of 15,031 fish. The five year average 50% passage date is May 21.
- River conditions are lower, warmer, and clearer than recent five- and ten-year averages. Current outflow at Bonneville Dam was measured at 218.5 kcfs on May 25. Water temperatures have been approximately three degrees above normal and currently measure 60° F. Visibility is at 6.0 feet, which is two feet greater than average.

***Non-Indian Fishery Update***

- Five mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date. Landings total 4,757 adult Chinook. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 3,441 fish, compared to the current allocation of 4,847 fish.
- 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).
- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 13. Fishing periods are scheduled to occur on Monday and Thursday nights, except in Youngs Bay which is open 2-4 days per week through mid-June. Landings through May 22 total 9,075 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities are estimated at 520 compared to the current allocation of 390 fish.
- The lower Columbia River recreational fishery is scheduled to be open for the remainder of the spring season (through June 15). Season total kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook are projected at 15,539 fish, compared to the current allocation of 16,729 fish.

- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border is currently closed. Season total kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook total 1,552 fish, compared to the current allocation of 2,231 fish.
- Snake River sport fisheries are currently closed. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook total 1,819 fish, compared to the current allocation of 1,755 fish. Additional opportunity may be possible, but is dependent on future run size updates and actual catch in on-going fisheries.
- The recreational sturgeon fishery in The John Day Pool opened under permanent regulations January 1 and continues until the harvest guideline of 500 fish is met. Harvest estimates through May 24 total 386 fish.

*Non-Indian Fishery Recommendations*

**Non-Indian Commercial**

<i>Joint Staff Recommendations- 2015 Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	7:00 P.M. Wednesday May 27 to 5:00 A.M. Thursday May 28, 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:	<b>Soak times</b> 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. <b>Recovery Box:</b> 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. <u>Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.</u> 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 personal 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 would require 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 500 hatchery Chinook based on an expected 60 deliveries. Upriver mortalities are estimated at 500 fish or less. Season total upriver mortalities would be 3,940 fish, or 81% of the mainstem commercial allocation.
- Total commercial upriver impacts are estimated at 4,500 upriver mortalities (86% of catch balance) and 0.571%, or 91% of the 0.6% allocation.
- 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:

***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 7:00 PM Wednesday May 27 through noon Thursday May 28 2015.

### **Lower Columbia Recreational Salmon**

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation – Lower Columbia Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>	
Effective Saturday May 30 through Monday June 15, 2015: the area from the Beacon Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam boat deadline will be open to boat angling for salmon and steelhead.	
The daily bag limit includes two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Release sockeye. Only adipose fin-clipped salmon and steelhead may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- If the recommendation is adopted, the Columbia River would be open to both bank and boat angling from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam. The area upstream of Beacon Rock is already open for shad angling.
- If adopted, season total upriver mortalities are projected to be 16,173 fish, or 97% of this fishery's allocation at the current run size.

### **Bonneville to OR/WA Border Recreational Salmon**

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation – Above Bonneville Dam Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>	
Season	Thursday May 28 through Monday June 15, 2015
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.

- If adopted, season total upriver mortalities would be 2,102 fish, or 94% of this fishery's allocation at the current run size.

### **John Day Pool Recreational Sturgeon**

- The kept catch in the John Day Pool recreational sturgeon fishery is estimated to be 386 as of May 24, or 77% of the season allocation. It is estimated that approximately 46 sturgeon were kept last week.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation – Recreational sturgeon Fishery – John Day Pool</i>	
Effective Wednesday June 3, 2015: the retention of sturgeon in the John Day Pool and adjacent tributaries is prohibited.	

- Catch and release remains allowed when the John Day Pool closes to sturgeon retention except sturgeon fishing is prohibited from May through July in the sturgeon spawning sanctuary that runs from McNary Dam downstream to the I-82 Bridge.

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

<b>Summary of 2015 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Mortalities - preliminary</b>						
Non-Indian Fishery	Inseason Allocated (260.0 K)	In hand/ Season total proj.	Proposed	Total	Balance	% Used
Mainstem	4,847	3,441	500	3,941	906	
Select Area	390	520		560	-170	
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>5,237</i>	<i>3,961</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>4,501</i>	<i>736</i>	<i>86%</i>
Below Bonneville	16,729	15,539	634	16,173	556	
Bonn to OR/WA border	2,231	1,552	550	2,102	129	
Snake River	1,755	1,819		1,819	-64	
Wanapum Tribal C&S	48	46		46	2	
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>20,763</i>	<i>18,956</i>	<i>1,184</i>	<i>20,140</i>	<i>623</i>	<i>97%</i>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>26,000</b>	<b>22,917</b>	<b>1,684</b>	<b>24,641</b>	<b>1,359</b>	<b>95%</b>

<b>Summary of 2015 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook ESA - preliminary</b>						
Non-Indian Fishery	Inseason Allocated (260.0 K)	In hand/ Season total proj.	Proposed	Total	Balance	% Used
Commercial	0.60%	0.466%	0.105%	0.571%	0.029%	95%
Sport	1.40%	0.920%	0.071%	0.992%	0.408%	71%
<b>Non-Indian Total</b>	<b>2.00%</b>	<b>1.39%</b>	<b>0.18%</b>	<b>1.56%</b>	<b>0.44%</b>	<b>78%</b>

***Future Hearings***

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