

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 6a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 24, 2016

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> Lower Columbia River recreational salmon Zone 6 recreational sturgeon – John Day Pool

Stock status and management guidelines for 2016 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1a (January 27, 2016).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Bonneville Dam passage through May 23 totals 125,925 adult Chinook. The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided an in-season run update of 180,000 adult fish to the Columbia River.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a Columbia River return of 180,000 adult upriver fish allows for a non-Indian ESA impact rate of 1.9% and a catch balance limit of 16,380 upriver mortalities. Commission guidance directs fishery managers to allocate the impacts 70% sport/30% commercial.
- The annual harvest guideline for white sturgeon in the John Day Pool is 500 fish. The fishery opens for retention January 1 and continues until the harvest guideline is met. A spawning sanctuary is in place from May through July from McNary Dam downstream 1.5 miles.

Non-Indian Fishery Update

- Three mainstem commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred to date. Landings totaled 2,168 adult Chinook. A fourth period is scheduled for this evening with a catch estimate of less than 600 Chinook. Actual and projected kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 2,374 fish, or 81% of the current allocation of 2,934 fish.
- A mainstem commercial shad fishery is 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 15. Combined winter/spring season landings through May 20 total 5,359 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 190 fish, or 70% of the current allocation of 270 fish.
- The lower Columbia River recreational Chinook fishery was open from January 1 through April 8, May 13 through May 15 and May 20 through May 22. Preliminary catch estimates total 10,900 kept from 101,000 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 8,403 fish, or 81% of the current allocation of 10,370 fish
- Under permanent rules, the lower Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge opened May 16 for hatchery steelhead and hatchery jack Chinook and shad retention opened May 16 from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- The recreational Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open from March 16 through May 8 and May 13 through May 15. Catch

estimates total 1,446 kept from more than 6,700 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 1,480 fish, or 107% of the current allocation of 1,383 fish. This fishery is expected to remain closed unless additional Chinook become available for harvest

- The recreational sturgeon fishery in The John Day Pool is open until the harvest guideline of is met. Catch and effort has been increasing for the past few weeks. Harvest estimates through May 22 total 422 fish or 84% of the 500 fish guideline.
- The recreational Chinook fishery on the Snake River (Washington waters) is ongoing until the harvest allocation is met. Catch estimates through May 16 total 828 kept adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook is estimated at 841 fish or 61% of the current allocation of 1,386 fish.

Non-Indian Fishery Recommendations

Lower Columbia Recreational Salmon

- An estimated 1,967 upriver mortalities remain available for this fishery.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2016 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Open Saturday May 28 through Wednesday June 15, or earlier if catch balance guideline is met (potentially 19-day season).
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 boat boundary defined as: A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse One) 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. Sockeye must be released. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
Additional regulations	
When the 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 closed to Chinook retention, permanent salmonid bag limit regulations apply.	

- The proposed season provides a continuous fishery connecting with the summer season (June 16 start) as requested by the Columbia River Recreational Advisor Group (CRRAG).
- Assumptions used to estimate catch rates, mark rates and upriver proportions may be different from actual data. Staff will monitor the season as it progresses to ensure the fishery remains within the allocation. Season adjustments may be needed if actual data is outside of projections which may result in an early closure.

- Catch estimates based on a 60% markrate and an 85% upriver stock component result in 110 upriver mortalities per day. Under these assumptions, the fishery would reach the catch guideline a few days prior to June 15 under the current runsize.
- If catch estimates were greater than expected after the Memorial holiday weekend, staff would consider taking action by recommending a brief closure sometime during the first ten days of June, then re-open so the fishery could continue seamlessly into the summer season. Based on input from constituents and the CRRAG this would be the preferred strategy over a brief closure at the end of the spring season.
- An alternative to the proposed season would be to open for four days over the upcoming holiday weekend (Friday – Monday; May 27-30), and then re-open for the remainder of the season beginning Friday June 3. This approach would reduce the risk of meeting the catch balance guideline prior to the June 15 resulting in an early closure (17 day season).

Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon – John Day Pool

- Considering the small balance of harvestable sturgeon remaining on the John Day Pool guideline (78 fish), and a daily harvest rate of about 13 fish/day, staff proposes the following recommendation

<i>Staff Recommendation: 2016 John Day Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM Sunday, May 29: Retention of white sturgeon in the John Day Pool and adjacent tributaries is prohibited.

- The proposed closure allows for adequate time to notify the public.
- Catch and release is permissible except closed through July 31 in the sturgeon spawning sanctuary located from McNary Dam downstream 1.5 miles.

Non-Indian Catch Balance Summary:

Summary of 2016 Non-Indian Upriver Chinook Mortalities - preliminary						
Upriver Catch (kept plus release mortalities)						
Non-Indian Fishery	in-Season Allocated (180.0 K)	In hand	Projected	Total	Balance	% Used
Mainstem (<i>proj. thru May 25</i>)	2,934	1,723	646	2,369	565	81%
Select Area (<i>season total</i>)	270	190	20	210	60	78%
<i>Total</i>	<i>3,204</i>	<i>1,913</i>	<i>666</i>	<i>2,579</i>	<i>625</i>	<i>80%</i>
Below BON (<i>proj May 28-Jun 15</i>)	10,370	8,403	2,090	10,493	-123	101%
Bonn to OR/WA border	1,383	1,480	0	1,480	-97	107%
Snake River/Wanapum (<i>season total</i>)	1,423	841	582	1,423	0	100%
<i>Total</i>	<i>13,176</i>	<i>10,724</i>	<i>2,672</i>	<i>13,396</i>	<i>-220</i>	<i>102%</i>
Grand Total	16,380	12,637	3,338	15,975	405	98%

Future Hearing

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing for 2:00 PM Thursday May 26 via teleconference to consider non-Indian commercial fisheries.