

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3 May 2, 2007

Purpose:	Review salmon stock status Review ongoing recreational fishery above Bonneville Dam
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Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2007 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 25, 2007)

STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 1 at Bonneville Dam totaled 33,079 spring Chinook. The Dalles Dam count totaled 21,433 Chinook on the same date.
- The TAC met today to review the stock status of upriver spring Chinook. TAC concluded that there is no technical basis to change the preseason forecast of 78,500 fish at this time. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for 10 AM Monday, May 7.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 1,695 fish through April 26; however, passage began to increase dramatically late last week concurrent with increased water temperatures. The run size forecast for Willamette stock can not be updated until at least early May.

FISHERY UPDATES

Recreational Fisheries

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year. Through April 22, an estimated 2,690 Chinook were kept and 1,130 released from 40,400 angler trips. Performance of the fishery indicates the run is on track to meet the preseason forecast.
- The recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam, in the area from Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge, closed April 16. The recreational catch is estimated at 5,641 kept (and 1,235 released) spring Chinook from 67,244 angler trips
- The ongoing recreational Chinook fishery above Bonneville Dam is scheduled to close effective May 4. The estimated catch through May 1 includes 422 kept (and 116 released) spring Chinook from 2,500 angler trips. The projected Chinook handle through May 3 is 490 kept and 120 released from 2,800 angler trips.
- SAFE recreational fisheries are open year round. Although recreational effort increased following closure of the mainstem, spring Chinook harvest has remained within expectations.
- Catch and effort in the ongoing tributary fisheries has recently picked up, both above and below Bonneville Dam.

Commercial Fisheries

- Commercial fishing concluded March 23. Landings during the salmon fishery totaled 2,726 Chinook and 34 white sturgeon.
- SAFE commercial fisheries landed an estimated 961 Chinook during the winter season. The spring season began April 23. Landings through May 1 include approximately 4,900 Chinook and 70 white sturgeon with very few upriver spring Chinook observed. Future Select Area fishing periods are expected to continue as scheduled

Non Treaty-Indian Fishery Impacts

2007 Summary of Upriver Spring Chinook ESA Impacts from Non-Indian Fisheries						
Fishery	Impact Guidelines		Upriver Impacts			% Used
	Buffer	No-Buffer	To Date	Projected	Total	No Buffer
LCR	0.577	0.641	0.541	0.000	0.541	84.3%
Bonn-McNary*	0.064	0.071	0.068	0.010	0.078	109.9%
Snake R/ Wanapum	0.128	0.142	0.000	0.142	0.142	100.0%
Recreational Total	0.770	0.855	0.609	0.152	0.761	89.1%
<i>*To date is through May 1</i>						
Mainstem	0.480	0.545	0.568	0.000	0.568	104.2%
SAFE	0.100	0.100	0.023	0.035	0.058	58.0%
Commercial Total	0.580	0.645	0.591	0.035	0.626	97.1%
NI Total ESA Impacts	1.35	1.50	1.200	0.187	1.387	92.5%

STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- The Joint staff is not recommending an extension of the recreational fishery above Bonneville Dam at this time. This fishery is scheduled to close effective 12:01 AM Thursday May 4, 2007.
- Based on the preseason forecast, recreational fisheries have additional impacts remaining. (~0.094% unbuffered).
- If the fishery below I-5 Bridge were reopened, catch projections would include 115 fish/weekday and 175 fish per weekend day, or 925 Chinook for a full week of fishing (0.060% additional impacts).
- Staff recognizes that a run size of anything less than the preseason forecast would likely not allow for any additional fishing time.
- Staff considered the possibility of re-opening the sport fishery below I-5, but given the uncertainty of the run size, staff concluded that it would be prudent to wait until TAC can provide a firm run size update.
- Dependant on TAC's update on Monday, additional fishing opportunity may be considered.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends a Joint State hearing be scheduled via teleconference for 1 PM Monday, May 7.