

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT -UPDATE
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 15
April 6, 2005**

| <i>2005 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i> | |
|---|--|
| ✓ | Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April 5-May 15. |
| ✓ | Fishery checkpoints will be used to monitor progress towards the adopted upriver spring Chinook impact guideline and modify the ongoing fishery as needed. |
| ✓ | Modifications to the ongoing fishery will occur in the following order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Eliminate fishery between the Rooster Rock boundary and Bonneville Dam completely. 2) Reduce fishery below the Rooster Rock boundary to less than seven days per week. 3) Eliminate fishery below the Rooster Rock boundary completely. |
| ✓ | Manage the fishery in the lower Columbia River to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery above Bonneville Dam. |

- The upriver spring Chinook count through April 5th at Bonneville Dam total 56 Chinook. Based on the recent 5-year average, 6% of the run has passed by April 5th. Late-timed runs typically have 1%-2% passage complete by April 5th. Run-size updates begin in late April.
- The mainstem Columbia River is scheduled to be open for adipose fin-clipped salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad angling from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to

| <i>2005 Recreational Spring Chinook Allocation by Fishery</i> | |
|---|-------------------|
| <u>Fishery</u> | <u>Allocation</u> |
| Lower Columbia (below Bonneville) | 0.79% |
| Lower Columbia Steelhead (May 15- Jun 15) | 0.01% |
| Bonneville to McNary Dam | 0.10% |
| Snake River Sport/Wanapum Tribal | 0.20% |
| Buffer (8.3%) | 0.10% |
| Total | 1.20% |

McNary Dam (excluding salmon angling from a boat and from the Washington shore between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island power lines) during January 1st thru May 15 below I-5 Bridge, and during March 16 thru May 15 above I-5 Bridge.

- Total March catch rates are one fish per 13 boat anglers. Catch rates have improved slightly since April 1 with catch rates of one fish per 11 boat anglers. Chinook kept per angler through March 2005 is 1 Chinook for every 23 anglers. This compares to the 2004 totals of 1 Chinook for every 20 anglers during the same time period.
- Catch rates above Beacon Rock during the most recent weekend were good with 1 Chinook kept for every 5 boat anglers. Muddy water conditions are contributing to the recent poor catch rates observed downstream of the Willamette River.

| <i>Catch and Effort During the 2005 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Below Bonneville Dam</i> | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|--|
| 2005 | Angler Trips | Total Handle | Kept Catch | Kept Upriver | Runsize Impact | Impact Allocation Of 0.79% Of 1.2% |
| February Totals | 7,551 | 39 | 39 | 0% | | |
| March <i>Below I-5</i> | 28,837 | 1,955 | 1,531 | 35% | | |
| March <i>Above I-5</i> | 3,950 | 324 | 203 | 100% | | |
| March Totals | 32,787 | 2,279 | 1,734 | 42% | | |
| April 1-3 <i>Below I-5</i> | 6,646 | 560 | 436 | 67% | | |
| April 1-3 <i>Above I-5</i> | 1,353 | 119 | 88 | 95% | | |
| April Totals | 7,999 | 679 | 524 | 72% | | |
| PRELIMINARY Total | 48,337 | 2,997 | 2,297 | 48% | 0.060% | 7.6% 0.5% |

- The Joint Staff recommends weekly updates on Wednesday afternoons by telephone to review stock status and the on-going sport fishery.