

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 5

May 7, 2008

<i>Purpose:</i>	<i>Review Salmon Stock Status Update Columbia River Non-Indian Fisheries</i>
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Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2008 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #3 (February 15, 2008)

Stock Status

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 6 at Bonneville Dam totaled 68,330 spring Chinook. Based on the 10-year average passage is 61% complete by May 6 and 41% complete by May 6 based on the recent 3-year average.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Tuesday, April 29 and Monday, May 5 to review the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC reported that the run is late timed and has not reached 50% passage yet. Highly variable counts over the last week have resulted in a wide range of potential run projections. TAC felt that a run size of 200,000 fish was somewhere near the middle of the range of projections. Counts need to stabilize in order to get a more definitive runsize estimate. TAC is scheduled to review the run on Friday May 9 and again on Monday May 12.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 1,389 fish as of May 5. The Willamette River run cannot typically be updated until mid May. River temperatures have been colder than average (consistently below 53° F through May 4), and have likely contributed to delayed passage at Willamette Falls.

River Conditions

- During March, Columbia River water temperatures were slightly cooler than normal averaging 43° F compared to the 10-year average of 44° F. Flow averaged 150 kcfs, which is 86% of the 10-year average of 174 kcfs. Water clarity averaged 5.7 feet, which is higher than the 10-year average of 4.7 feet.
- April river conditions continued to be cool and clear, with below average flow and temperature. April temperatures averaged 47° F compared to the 10-year average of 50° F. Flow averaged 167 kcfs, which is 78% of the 10-year average of 215 kcfs. Water clarity averaged 4.7 feet, which is higher than the 10-year average of 4.2 feet.

Fishery Updates

Recreational Fisheries

- The Columbia River is closed for retention of spring Chinook below Bonneville Dam. Fisheries were allowed from Buoy 10 upstream to Hayden Island powerlines during March 24-April 4 and from Hayden Island upstream to Bonneville Dam during March 16-April 20.

The catch estimate for these combined areas includes 20,040 kept and 3,132 released Chinook and 392 kept and 62 released steelhead from 102,972 angler trips.

- Retention of hatchery Chinook is allowed from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam (with some area restrictions) during March 16 through May 10. Catch and effort in this area has increased as passage over Bonneville has improved. Catch estimates for the Zone 6 area (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam) include 330 Chinook kept and 84 released from 2,077 angler trips during April and an additional 818 Chinook kept and 205 released for 3,164 angler trips projected for May 1-10.
- The Snake River recreational fishery opened April 22 and is scheduled to continue through June 15. Based on the preseason forecast, 2,500 Chinook were expected to be harvested in this fishery. An estimated 240 Chinook have been kept and 58 released through May 6.
- The Ringold Area recreational bank fishery opened May 1 and is scheduled to continue through June 15. Based on the preseason forecast, 550 Chinook were expected to be harvested in this fishery. Catch estimates through May 4 include 13 Chinook kept and 4 released from 175 angler trips.

Commercial Fisheries

- Three mainstem commercial fishing periods (all tangle net) were conducted in the area from the Hayden Island powerlines upstream to Beacon Rock on Tuesdays between April 1 and April 15. Landings total 5,938 Chinook and 17 white sturgeon. Deliveries ranged between 27 and 84 per period. An additional 12 Chinook and 869 white sturgeon were landed in the winter season sturgeon fishery.
- Select Area winter fisheries landed 291 Chinook and 37 white sturgeon. Landings in the spring season, which began on April 17, continue to track below expectations. Combined SAFE landings through May 2 (including Tongue Point) total 1,543 Chinook and 74 white sturgeon.
- The Tongue Point Select Area test fishery has landed 130 Chinook and 35 white sturgeon for the first three fishing periods (April 28, May 2, and May 5).

Non-Indian ESA-Impacts

- Based on the preseason forecast of 269,300 upriver Chinook, non-Indian fisheries are restricted to an ESA impact limit of 2.0%. For runs less than 217,000 fish, the non-Indian ESA-impact limit is reduced to 1.9%.

Non-Indian ESA-Impact Allocation on Upriver Spring Chinook		
Fishery	Run = 217K +	Run <217K
Mainstem salmon Winter/Spring	0.63%	0.59%
SAFE Commercial Winter/Spring	0.15%	0.15%
Commercial Total (39%)	0.78%	0.74%
Lower Columbia Rec (below Bonn)	0.92%	0.87%
Bonneville to McNary Rec	0.10%	0.10%
SNAKE RIVER SPT/WANAPUM TRIBAL	0.20%	0.19%
Recreational Total (61%)	1.22%	1.16%
Non-Treaty Total	2.00%	1.90%

- At this time, ongoing non-Indian fisheries include those in Select Areas and above Bonneville Dam. Other fisheries expected to occur during the 2008 spring season (through June 15) include the lower river recreational steelhead and shad fishery (opens May 16 below I-5 Bridge), the non-Indian commercial shad fishery (opens May 12), and the Wanapum tribal fishery.

2008 Non-Indian Handle of Upriver Chinook and Winter Steelhead and Associated ESA-Impacts (To Date & Projected)				
	Upriver Chinook Handle Only		Based on 269,300	Based on 200,000
Handle and Impacts to Date ¹	Kept	Rel	ESA-Impact	
LCR commercial	5,936	1,626	0.414%	0.557%
SAFE (thru May 2)	114	0	0.042%	0.057%
LCR recreational	19,350	2,991	0.830%	1.118%
Z6 recreational (thru May 10)	1,148	289	0.053%	0.071%
Ringold/Snake R. (thru May 6)	240	58	0.027%	0.037%
Total to Date	26,788	4,964	1.366%	1.840%
Projections for future/ongoing fisheries	Kept	Rel	ESA-Impact	
SAFE (May 3-June 15)	50	0	0.019%	0.025%
LCR commercial shad (opens May 12) ²	0	3	0.001%	0.002%
LCR recreational steelhead (opens May 16)	0	30	0.001%	0.002%
Above McNary Dam recreational (ongoing)	2,260	372	0.177%	0.237%
Total Projected	2,310	405	0.198%	0.266%
Grand Total (Actual and projected)	29,098	5,369	1.564%	2.106%
ESA Impacts allowed			2.00%	1.90%
Winter Steelhead	Kept	Rel	ESA-Impact	
LCR commercial	0	51	0.39%	0.39%
LCR recreational	392	62	0.07%	0.07%
Total	392	113	0.46%	0.46%
ESA Impacts allowed			2.00%	2.00%
¹ Some fishery impacts not verified with coded-wire tag data				
² Release mortalities				

- If the upriver run is 200,000 fish, non-Indian fisheries (actual and projected) will be 11% (0.206%) over the 1.9% ESA-limit.
- Projected impacts from ongoing fisheries are accruing slowly and present minimal risk of exceeding the allowable impacts prior to the next scheduled run update (May 12).

Future Hearings

- No hearings are scheduled at this time. Staff will review the upriver run as it progresses and schedule hearings as necessary.