

# OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 12 April 9, 2008

**Purpose:** Spring Chinook Recreational fisheries update and review

*Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2008 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #3 (February 15, 2008)*

- The upriver spring Chinook count through April 8 at Bonneville Dam totaled 774 spring Chinook. Based on the recent 10-year average, about 6% of the run has passed by this date.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 24 fish as of April 7.
- Run sizes cannot be updated until late April for upriver stock and early May for Willamette stock.
- The mainstem Columbia River is currently scheduled to be open for retention of hatchery spring Chinook in the area from the Hayden Island west powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam during March 16 through April 30. Retention of hatchery Chinook is also allowed from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam (with some area restrictions) during March 16 through May 10.
- The area from Buoy 10 upstream to the Hayden Island powerlines was open from March 24-April 4. The estimated catch for this fishery was 3,154 kept and 480 released spring Chinook and 298 kept and 65 released steelhead from 35,000 angler trips. Stock composition based on VSI indicates 86% of the Chinook are of upriver origin, which is slightly higher than expected.
- In the area from Hayden Island upstream to Bonneville Dam during March 16-31 catch totaled 2,573 fish kept (371 released). Catch during April 1-6 continued to be high, with an estimated catch of 3,184 Chinook kept (460 released). Total estimated catch (March 16-April 6) for the area from Hayden Island to Bonneville Dam is 5,757 kept Chinook (831 released) and 9 kept steelhead (7 released).
- The combined catch estimate for the lower river recreational fishery through April 6 is 8,900 Chinook kept and 1,300 Chinook released from 64,900 angler trips. Pre-season catch expectations for season totaled 18,000-20,000 fish kept.
- Through April 6, recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam have used 0.35% impacts, or 35% of the maximum allowable ESA-impacts for these fisheries.
- Based on catch rates and cumulative impacts to date, the sport fishery below Bonneville is tracking ahead of management expectations. An estimated 11,600-13,800 Chinook remain available for retention in sport fisheries below Bonneville during April 7-30.

### FUTURE HEARINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 11:00 AM Monday, April 14, 2008 via teleconference to consider non-Indian Commercial fisheries.