

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 6 May 9, 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 8 at Bonneville Dam totaled 74,279 spring Chinook. Based on the 10-year average passage is 65% complete by May 8 and 47% complete by May 8 based on the recent 3-year average.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met Friday May 9 to review the upriver spring Chinook run. Given counts to date and run timing information for recent late-timed returns, TAC downgraded the upriver spring Chinook run size projection to 180,000 fish to the Columbia River mouth. TAC is scheduled to review the run again Monday May 12 at 8 AM.

Fishery Updates

Non-Indian Fisheries

- Non-Indian recreational and commercial fishery catches were provided in 2008 Spring Fact Sheet #5, distributed on May 7, 2008. No additional information is available at this time.

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%
Treaty Total	10.0%	9.1%
Total	12.0%	11.0%

- 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.
- Non-Indian impacts to date are estimated at 2.04% based on current run size of 180,000 fish.
- In order to prevent further impacts from accruing, closure of ongoing salmon directed fisheries is necessary.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2008 Non-Indian Spring Chinook Fisheries</i>
Effective 11:59 PM Sunday, May 11, 2008, close all recreational fisheries to retention of Chinook salmon upstream of McNary Dam.

<i>Washington State Recommendation: 2008 Snake River Spring Chinook Fisheries</i>
Effective 11:59 PM Sunday, May 11, 2008, close all recreational fisheries to retention of Chinook salmon from the mouth of the Snake River upstream to the upper fishing boundary, located approximately one mile above Little Goose Dam.

- The spring Chinook fishery between Bonneville and McNary dams is scheduled to close 12:01 AM Sunday May 11). Closure notifications and announcements cannot be distributed in time to close this fishery sooner than already scheduled.
- No ongoing fisheries below Bonneville Dam are scheduled to occur from May 10-11.
- A Compact meeting will be needed on Monday, May 12 following the TAC run size update meeting. Non-Indian fisheries that may incidentally handle upriver spring Chinook will be reviewed. These fisheries are scheduled to begin after noon on May 12 (SAFE commercial, commercial shad, and recreational mainstem steelhead seasons (May 16)). Unless TAC updates the upriver spring Chinook run size to a larger projected return at their May 12 meeting, the states are prepared to take action on these fisheries as necessary to stop the accrual of any additional impacts.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

Fishery	Catch	Harvest Rate (based on 180,000 run size)
C&S Permit Gillnet	6,867	3.8%
Platform/Hook and line	1,000	0.6%
Commercial Gillnet	9,450	5.3%
Total to date	17,317	9.6%

Tribal Fishery Recommendation

The tribes will close their Mainstem Platform and hook and line fisheries effective 6:00 PM Sunday May 11. This closure will remain in effect until June 16 or until such time as TAC estimates that the run size and or total harvest rate estimate is such that there are sufficient tribal impacts available to resume fisheries. Sales of Zone 6 platform and hook and line caught fish are allowed at any time as long as those fish are harvested before the fishery closure.

- The Yakama Nation will propose that Commercial sales be allowed by Yakama tribal members fishing in open tributary fisheries described in Fact sheet #4. Previous Compact Action allowed sales of these fish when Zone 6 fisheries were open. For Tributary fisheries beginning Monday May 12, the Yakama Nation proposes that sales be allowed any time these fisheries in the Wind, Little White Salmon/Drano Lake, Big White Salmon, and Klickitat Rivers are open.

Future Hearings

- A Joint State/Compact Hearing will be scheduled for 11 AM on Monday, May 12, 2008 to discuss modifications to ongoing and planned non-Indian fisheries.