

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 7 May 12, 2008

Purpose: *Review Salmon Stock Status and Update Columbia River Non-Indian Fisheries*

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 11 at Bonneville Dam totaled 82,027 spring Chinook. Typically, passage through this date is 69% complete based on the 10-year average and 54% complete based on the recent 3-year average.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has met several times recently to review the upriver spring Chinook run. On May 9, TAC downgraded the run to 180,000 fish. TAC met this morning and reported that the models are projecting a range of run sizes and 180,000 fish appears to be at the top end of the range at this point. TAC is scheduled to review the run again Monday May 19.

Fishery Updates

Non-Indian Fisheries

- Columbia River recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam closed for retention of spring Chinook effective April 21. Kept plus release mortalities total 19,649 upriver spring Chinook.
- Columbia River recreational fisheries in Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam) closed for retention of Chinook effective May 11. Kept plus release mortalities are estimated at 1,092 upriver spring Chinook.
- Washington State recreational fisheries in the Snake River closed for retention of spring Chinook effective May 12 due to the run size downgrade. Catch estimates through May 6 include 240 kept and 58 released Snake River Chinook.
- The Washington State recreational bank fishery at Ringold Hatchery also closed for retention of spring Chinook effective May 12 due to the run size downgrade. Catch estimates through May 6 include 13 kept and 4 released upper Columbia Spring Chinook.
- Currently, several non-Indian fisheries are in place, or scheduled to begin, that may incidentally handle upriver spring Chinook. Based on previous fisheries, incidental mortalities of ESA-listed wild Chinook resulting from these fisheries have proven to be minimal. These fisheries include:
 - Select Area commercial and recreational fisheries that occur in Youngs Bay, Blind/Knappa sloughs, Deep River, and Tongue Point/South Channel. Select

Area recreational fisheries are open to Chinook retention 7days/week under permanent regulations. Commercial fisheries are scheduled to occur ≤ 4 -days/week in Youngs Bay and on Monday and Thursday nights in the other sites. Historically, upriver handle decreases significantly after mid-May with some annual variation. Based on prior years with similar impact profiles (2001, 2005, and 2007), incidental mortalities of upriver spring Chinook range between 4-14 fish during weeks 19-25 (mid-May-mid-June) and 1-8 upriver fish during weeks 20-25. This equates to 0.4-1.2 and 0.1-0.7 ESA-listed wild Chinook, respectively.

- Lower river recreational steelhead and shad fishery (opens May 16 below I-5 Bridge). Historically, incidental release mortalities of ESA-listed wild Chinook have averaged ≥ 1 fish per year.
- Lower river commercial shad fishery (opens 3 PM May 12), Historically, incidental release mortalities of ESA-listed wild Chinook have averaged 0.3 fish per year.

Non-Indian ESA-Impacts

- Based on the preseason forecast of 269,300 upriver spring 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%.
- The states of Washington and Oregon have closed all non-Indian fisheries that directly impact upriver spring Chinook. The State’s took emergency action with the intention to stop any additional ESA impacts from accruing as a result of non-Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian impacts to date are estimated at 2.04% based on the current estimated upriver run size of 180,000 fish. Staff will closely monitor the progress the fisheries for upriver Chinook handle.
- At this time, the Joint Staff is recommending modifications to fisheries currently in place or scheduled to open under permanent regulations.

<i>2008 Non-Indian Fishery Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delay Mainstem steelhead recreational fishery in the area from Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge until further notice, but no later than June 16. ● Open Shad sport fishery as planned. ● Rescind SAFE commercial fisheries for the week of May 12. ● Open mainstem commercial shad as scheduled.

Future Hearings

- No hearings are scheduled at this time.