

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 16
Columbia River Joint State Hearing
April 13, 2005**

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery
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2005 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Non-Indian Upriver Impact Allocation

- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed to limit impacts to listed upriver spring Chinook to $\leq 2\%$ in 2005. Non-Indian impacts are allocated 60% for sport fisheries (1.2%) and 40% for commercial fisheries (0.8%).

2005 Recreational Spring Chinook Allocation by Fishery	
<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
Upriver Columbia (below Bonneville)	0.79%
Upriver Columbia Steelhead (May 15- Jun 15)	0.01%
Bonneville to McNary Dam	0.10%
Columbia River Sport/Wanapum Tribal	0.20%
Upriver (8.3%)	0.10%
Total Recreational	1.20%
2005 Commercial Spring Chinook Allocation by Fishery	
Upriver Commercial	0.60%
Coast Areas	0.10%
Upriver/ Buffer	0.10%
Total Commercial	0.80%

STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- The preseason spring Chinook run size forecasts include predicted returns of 254,100 upriver stock and 116,900 Willamette stock.
- The upriver spring Chinook count through April 12th at Bonneville Dam totals 200 adult fish. Based on the recent 5-year average, 16% of the run has passed by April 12th. Passage of late-timed runs is typically 5-7% complete by this date. Run-size updates typically begin in late April but the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is meeting today to discuss status of the 2005 upriver spring Chinook run.
- The Willamette spring Chinook count through April 9th at Willamette Falls totals 452 adult fish. Passage has decreased recently resulting in increased variance in run size projections. Run size updates begin in early May.

SPRING CHINOOK FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- Seven commercial salmon fishing periods occurred between March 1 and April 1 resulting in landings of 5,281 spring Chinook and 70 white sturgeon. Combined landings for both the

winter commercial sturgeon and salmon seasons include 5,364 Chinook and 543 white sturgeon. Upriver spring Chinook impacts for these fisheries total 0.281% of the preseason forecast, which represents 47% of the 0.6% management guideline or 36% of the 0.8% impact limit.

Select Area Commercial Fishery

- The winter Select Area commercial season consisted of nine fishing periods in both Youngs Bay and Blind Slough from February 16 through March 17 with combined landings of 190 spring Chinook and 9 white sturgeon. Upriver spring chinook impacts are 0.004% of the preseason forecast or 3.9% of the 0.1% Select Area impact guideline.

Non-Indian Recreational Fishery

- 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 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 15th below I-5 Bridge, and above I-5 Bridge during March 16 thru May 15.
- The area from Rooster Rock to Bonneville Dam opened to angling three days per week (Sunday, Monday, Tuesday) beginning March 16th, 2005.
- The fishing plan developed for the 2005 spring chinook sport fishery includes weekly fishery checkpoints to evaluate the run, estimate catch, monitor upriver spring chinook impacts, and determine fishery modifications.

<i>2005 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April 6-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.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.

Columbia River Below Bonneville Dam

- The catch rate for boat anglers during March 2005 (0.15 Chinook/boat) was 52-80% of catch rates observed during 2001-2004 (0.19-0.29 Chinook/boat). Catch rates improved during April 1-10 to 0.32 Chinook per boat which is 50-65% of 2001-2004 catch rates for this period (0.54-0.64 Chinook/boat). Catch rates for bank anglers were generally poor during March and early April. Heavy rains during late March created poor fishing conditions in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of the Willamette and Cowlitz rivers but water clarity has improved recently. Water conditions remained favorable upstream of Bachelor Island on the Washington side of the Columbia and above the I-5 bridge.

- Catch rates throughout the lower Columbia are continuing to improve. During April 10-11, boat anglers above Rooster Rock averaged 1.1 spring Chinook per boat while boat anglers downstream of Rooster Rock averaged 0.4 salmon per boat.
- The estimated recreational catch through April 10 is 5,771 spring chinook (4,461 kept and 1,310 released). Impacts to upriver spring chinook are estimated at 0.142% which represents 18.0% of the 0.79% impact guideline.

<i>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%	0.000%	0.0%	0.0%
March 1-31 <i>Below I-5</i>	28,827	1,955	1,528	35%	0.032%	4.1%	2.7%
March 16-31 <i>Above I-5</i>	3,960	324	203	100%	0.013%	1.6%	1.1%
March Totals	32,787	2,279	1,731	42%	0.045%	5.7%	3.8%
April 1-10 <i>Below I-5</i>	23,076	2,661	2,117	60%	0.066%	8.4%	5.5%
April 1-10 <i>Above I-5</i>	5,562	792	574	98%	0.031%	3.9%	2.6%
April Totals	28,638	3,453	2,691	68%	0.097%	12.3%	8.1%
PRELIMINARY Total	68,976	5,771	4,461	57%	0.142%	18.0%	11.8%

- The projected sport catch for April 11-17 is 2,215 Chinook, with a total upriver handle of about 1,574 fish of which 516 should be caught above the I-5 Bridge. This catch would increase the total upriver Chinook impact from 0.142% to 0.203% of the preseason forecast. This would raise upriver spring chinook impacts for the mainstem recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam to 26% of the 0.79% impact guideline allocated for this fishery.
- Predicting the recreational catch beyond April 17 is difficult due to unknown but anticipated increases in effort and catch rate.
- Assuming similar landings occur during April 18-22 (5 days) as occurred in the previous week (April 11-17), the combined recreational catch would increase to 10,201 (7,925 kept) spring Chinook resulting in the total upriver Chinook impact raising to 0.266%, which would represent 34% of the 0.79% impact guideline.

Lower Willamette River

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year.
- Fishing conditions have been mixed. Low clear water conditions limited catch during March. Heavy rainfall in late March resulted in high flows and low visibility. Catch rates have increased recently but remain fair with about one spring chinook for every 7 boats.

Combined Fishery Impacts

- A summary of all non-Indian fishery impacts at various run sizes are provided in the following table:

Summary of non-Indian impacts by run size								
	Run Size							
	254,100		200,000		150,000		100,000	
	To date	Remaining						
Commercial								
Mainstem commercial	0.281	0.319	0.357	0.243	0.476	0.124	0.714	0.000
Select Area commercial	0.004	0.096	0.005	0.095	0.007	0.093	0.010	0.076
Commercial shad/buffer	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.0
Total Commercial	0.285	0.515	0.362	0.438	0.483	0.317	0.724	0.076
% of Guideline (0.8%)	36%	64%	45%	55%	60%	40%	91%	9%
Recreational								
Below BO sport (thru 4/17)	0.203	0.587	0.258	0.532	0.344	0.446	0.516	0.274
LCR STH (May 15-Jun 15)	0.0	0.010	0.0	0.010	0.0	0.010	0.0	0.010
BO to McNary Dam sport	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100
SR sport/Wanapum Tribal	0.0	0.200	0.0	0.200	0.0	0.200	0.0	0.200
Sport Buffer	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100	0.0	0.100
Total Recreational	0.203	0.997	0.258	0.942	0.344	0.856	0.516	0.684
% of Guideline (1.2%)	17%	83%	21%	79%	29%	71%	43%	57%
Total non-Indian Impacts	0.488	1.512	0.620	1.380	0.827	1.173	1.240	0.760
% of Guideline (2.0%)	24%	76%	31%	69%	41%	59%	62%	38%
Total non-Indian impacts with April 18-22 sport	0.551	1.449	0.700	1.300	0.933	1.067	1.400	0.600
% of Guideline (2.0%)	28%	72%	35%	65%	47%	53%	70%	30%

FISHERY RECOMENDATION

Below Bonneville Spring Chinook Sport Fishery

- The Joint Staff is not providing a fishery recommendation at this time, but have provided the risk assessment table above for management decision purposes.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Wednesday April 20, 2005 at 2:00 PM by telephone.