

**OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 9
April 13, 2009**

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| <i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i> | Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Recreational fishery update |
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- Bonneville Dam passage of spring Chinook through April 12 totals 1,110 adults, daily counts should be increasing dramatically this week, based on recent year timing curves.
- Water temperatures have been gradually increasing and water clarity remains high, around 5.5 feet. Flows have increased to over 200 kcfs since April 10, compared to the average flows of around 125 kcfs during March and an average of 160 kcfs during the April 1-9.

Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery - Update

- The recreational fishery downstream of Hayden Island is currently open 3 days per week (Thu-Sat) and is scheduled to remain open through April 18. The area from Hayden Island upstream to Bonneville Dam is open 4 days per week (Wed-Sat) and is scheduled to remain open through April 22.
- Catch during March was expected to result in the accrual of 17% of the impacts available to recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam (pre-update). Actual impacts represented 18% of the total.
- As expected, catch rates improved in April averaging 0.19 fish per trip during April 1-4, which is very similar to the expected catch rate.
- A preliminary catch estimate for April 8-11 will be available on April 14. Catch rate information for April 8-11 are preliminary, but indicate that average catch rates may be lower than projected.
- At this point it appears the fishery can proceed as scheduled. Staff will review Chinook handle and impacts tomorrow. Staff will provide an update if the data is substantially different from expectations.

| 2009 LCR Recreational Fishery- Pre-Update, Below Bonn. | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|
| | Anglers | Kept | Released | Impacts | CPUE |
| Jan- March | 61,808 | 3,228 | 1,093 | 0.124% | 0.070 |
| April | 87,358 | 14,241 | 4,774 | 0.602% | 0.218 |
| Preseason Projection | 141,966 | 17,470 | 5,866 | 0.726% | 0.110 |
| | | | | | |
| | Anglers | Kept | Released | Impacts | CPUE |
| Jan-March | 59,600 | 3,940 | 935 | 0.138% | 0.082 |
| April 1-4 | 26,041 | 4,327 | 696 | 0.158% | 0.193 |
| Actual (thru April 4) | 85,641 | 8,268 | 1,631 | 0.296% | 0.116 |
| | | | | | |
| | Anglers | Kept | Released | Impacts | CPUE |
| April 8-11 | 25,736 | 3,756 | 1,186 | 0.156% | 0.192 |
| April 15-18 | 27,546 | 4,533 | 1,432 | 0.192% | 0.217 |
| April 22 | 3,905 | 1,484 | 469 | 0.065% | 0.500 |
| Apr 8-22 Projected | 57,143 | 9,773 | 3,087 | 0.413% | 0.225 |
| Season Total (Actual and Projected) | 138,245 | 18,005 | 4,717 | 0.709% | 0.165 |

Columbia River Commercial Fishery

- Preseason catch expectations for the mainstem commercial fishery (pre-update) totaled 7,700 Chinook handled (5,800 kept and 1,900 released).
- Impacts to date represent 52% of the 0.378% impacts allocated to the commercial fishery pre-update. Conservative estimates indicate 2,900 Chinook remain available for harvest.
- A total of 20 white sturgeon have been landed during the two salmon fishing periods, bringing the winter/spring season total to 1,806 white sturgeon. Commercial fisheries are allocated 8,000 white sturgeon annually for harvest.
- Test fishing was conducted on April 12. A total of 48 marked Chinook were observed from 8 drifts in the area above Hayden Island. This results in an average of 6 kept Chinook per drift, which is slightly less than the test data collected on April 13, 2008 (6.6 Chinook/drift).

| 2009 Commercial Salmon Fishery | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Kept | Released | Impacts | |
| Expected | 5,800 | 1,900 | 0.378% | |
| | | | | |
| | Deliveries | Kept | Released | Impacts |
| Winter | | 18 | 6 | 0.001% |
| 29-Mar | 71 | 371 | 62 | 0.020% |
| 07-Apr | 135 | 2,811 | 691 | 0.171% |
| To Date | | 3,280 | 784 | 0.196% |

| <i>Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i> | |
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| Season: | 9 AM to 1 PM Tuesday April 14, 2009 (4 hours) |
| Area: | West powerlines on Hayden Island upstream to Beacon Rock (Zone 4-5) |
| Sanctuaries: | Washougal River and Sandy River. |
| Gear: | Drift nets only. 4¼” maximum mesh size restriction (tangle net gear). |
| Allowable Sales: | Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon measuring 43 – 54 inches in fork length. |
| Additional Regulations include but are not limited to: | <p>Multi- Net Rule: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater</p> <p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Two red corks are required at each end of nets fitted with steelhead excluder panels, weedlines, or droppers. Use of monofilament tangle nets not allowed. Soak times must not exceed 45 minutes. Lighted buoys are required at the end of nets fished between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>Use of recovery boxes is required for all lethargic or bleeding salmonids that are required to be released. Vessels must have two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers.</p> <p>Workshop: Commercial fishers must have successfully completed a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques. Cooperation of vessel operators with state observers is required.</p> <p>24 hour Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.</p> |

- Effort in the fishery is expected to be high, and catch rates should be improved over last week’s fishery. The catch expectation is 2,000-3,000 Chinook landed.
- Impacts are expected to remain within the limits allocated to mainstem commercial fisheries. A catch of 2,500 landed Chinook in the proposed fishery would bring the total impacts in the mainstem commercial fisheries to 0.355%, which would be 94% of the total available pre-update.
- Staff is not recommending a hearing at this time. Staff will continue to track the progress of the ongoing recreational fisheries in the lower river and provide updates as necessary.