

# OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 5

May 15, 2007

Fisheries under consideration:	Lower Columbia River- recreational Chinook John Day Pool- recreational white sturgeon
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*Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2007 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 25, 2007)*

### STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 14 at Bonneville Dam totaled 53,973 adult and 10,500 jack spring Chinook. Based on average timing since 1980, the run is 79% complete by May 14. Late timed runs average 72% complete during the same time frame.
- The TAC met yesterday to review the stock status of upriver spring Chinook. TAC upheld the preseason forecast of 78,500 fish, with an approximate range between 76,000 and 81,000 fish (+/- 2,500 fish).
- The Willamette Falls spring Chinook count through May 11<sup>th</sup> totals 9,988 adult fish. Typically, 39% of the run has passed by this date. Most model projections indicate the run will be less than forecast.

### FISHERY UPDATES

#### *Commercial Fisheries*

- Mainstem commercial fishing concluded March 23. Landings during the salmon fishery totaled 2,726 Chinook and 34 white sturgeon. Combined landings including the winter sturgeon fishery include 2,920 Chinook and 1,458 white sturgeon.
- Landings for Select Area winter commercial seasons included 961 spring Chinook and 14 white sturgeon. The spring season began April 19 with cumulative annual landings through May 11 of 4,460 Chinook and 106 white sturgeon with very few upriver spring Chinook observed.

#### *Recreational Salmon Fisheries*

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year. Performance of the fishery through April indicated the run was on track to meet the preseason forecast. During May, catch rates have been below expectations and daily passage at Willamette Falls has fluctuated widely.

- The recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam, in the area from Buoy 10 to the I-5 Bridge, closed April 16. The recreational catch is estimated at 5,641 kept (and 1,235 released) spring Chinook from 67,244 angler trips
- The recreational Chinook fishery above Bonneville Dam closed effective May 4. The estimated catch includes 521 kept and 125 released from 2,976 angler trips.
- Under permanent regulations, the area from Tongue/Rocky Point to the I-5 Bridge is scheduled to open May 16 for hatchery steelhead and hatchery Chinook jacks.

### *Non Treaty-Indian Fishery Impacts*

2007 Non-Indian Upriver Spring Chinook Impacts						
		70,000	75,000	78,500	80,000	85,000
Allocation		<i>Impacts used, including projected (SAFE, SR Sport)</i>				
Lower Columbia (below Bonn)	0.641%	0.606%	0.565%	0.540%	0.530%	0.499%
Bonn. to McNary Dam	0.071%	0.092%	0.086%	0.082%	0.080%	0.076%
Snake R/Wanapum	0.143%	0.118%	0.143%	0.143%	0.143%	0.194%
<b>Sport Total</b>	<b>0.855%</b>	<b>0.816%</b>	<b>0.794%</b>	<b>0.765%</b>	<b>0.753%</b>	<b>0.769%</b>
Commercial	0.545%	0.637%	0.594%	0.568%	0.557%	0.524%
SAFE	0.100%	0.047%	0.052%	0.050%	0.049%	0.038%
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>0.645%</b>	<b>0.684%</b>	<b>0.646%</b>	<b>0.618%</b>	<b>0.606%</b>	<b>0.562%</b>
<b>Total Non-Indian Impacts</b>	<b>1.50%</b>	1.50%	1.44%	1.38%	1.36%	
	<b>2.00%</b>					1.33%
<b>Percent of Allocation</b>		<b>100%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>67%</b>

### *Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fisheries*

- Non-Indian recreational sturgeon fisheries in Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam) opened January 1 and continue until pool-specific catch guidelines are met. Catch guidelines are 700 for Bonneville Pool, 100 for the Dalles Pool and 165 for John Day Pool.
- The Dalles Pool closed effective March 29 with an estimated catch of 102 sturgeon (102% of guideline).
- Sturgeon catch in Bonneville Pool is estimated at 52 fish (7% of guideline) through April 30.
- Catch estimates for the John Day Pool include 124 sturgeon kept (75% of guideline) through May 13. The majority of the catch occurred during one week in March and one week in April, with poor catches so far in May. Results of projecting catch at this time would be unreliable due to the inconsistency of the catch rate.

## FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Mainstem Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery*

#### **Joint Staff Recommendation - Recreational Fishery (Tongue/Rocky Pnt. to I-5 Bridge)**

- Effective 12:01 AM Wednesday May 16 through 11:59 PM Thursday May 31, 2007; open the mainstem Columbia River for the retention of adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge.

Catch limits: Oregon: Two adult salmon or steelhead per day.  
Washington: Two adult salmon and two steelhead per day.  
Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept.

#### Miscellaneous Regulations:

For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery upstream of the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line effective through June 15, 2007, it is unlawful when fishing from vessels which are less than 30 feet in length, substantiated by Coast Guard documentation or Marine Board registration, to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released.

- ✓ Anticipated Chinook handle is 450 fish, with 50-60% (58% modeled) assumed to be of upriver origin. Impacts associated with this fishery are 0.033% which would bring total non-Indian upriver spring Chinook impacts to 1.416%, or 94% of the 1.5% guideline.
- ✓ Joint Staff believes the fishery below I-5 Bridge can resume through May with minimal risk of exceeding the 1.5% impact limit even for an upriver run of 75,000 fish.
- ✓ Staff also believes the fishery has the potential to continue through June 15, but due to uncertainty in the run size and limited data for late May and June fisheries, staff recommends delaying a decision regarding June fishing opportunity until a later date, if possible.
- ✓ Staff did evaluate the potential for opening the area above I-5 Bridge, but modeling indicates a significant risk of exceeding impacts if the run is less than 78,500 fish.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 11 AM Tuesday, May 22 via teleconference to review the John Day Pool recreational sturgeon fishery. If appropriate, an additional hearing should be considered for late May to review the recreational Chinook fishery.