

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 8 May 15, 2008

Purpose: Review Columbia River Non-Indian SAFE 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 14 at Bonneville Dam totaled 95,863 spring Chinook. Typically, passage through this date is 73% complete based on the 10-year average and 60% complete based on the recent 3-year average.
- Passage counts from May 9-11 averaged 2,600 fish per day, but have increased somewhat since, with an average from May 12-14 of about 4,600 fish per day. Continued improved passage may improve run size projections.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has met several times since April 28 to review the upriver Chinook run size. Most recently (May 12) TAC reported that 180,000 fish appears to be at the top end of the range of estimates. TAC is scheduled to update the run on Monday May 19.

Fishery Updates

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area winter commercial fisheries landed 291 Chinook and 37 white sturgeon. Combined landings for spring SAFE fisheries through week 19 (May 9) total 1,996 Chinook and 67 white sturgeon. Combined site-specific landings to date include 1,582 Chinook and 30 white sturgeon in Youngs Bay, 514 Chinook and 2 white sturgeon in Blind/Knappa sloughs, 165 Chinook and 47 white sturgeon in Tongue Point/South Channel, and 26 Chinook and 25 white sturgeon in Deep River.
- On May 12, the Columbia River Compact rescinded Select Area commercial fisheries for the week of May 12 (statistical week 20) because non-Indian fisheries had exceeded the 1.9% allowable impact rate on upriver spring Chinook as a result of the run downgrade.
- Pending today's review, Select Area commercial fisheries in all sites are currently scheduled to re-open Monday, May 19 (week 21) as previously adopted.
- Staff conducted a review of 2008 Select Area commercial fisheries, and compared the 2008 fisheries with previous years, to determine the potential risk for additional take of listed upriver spring Chinook during the remainder of the spring season:
 - Impacts to upriver spring Chinook this year are tracking low compared to previous years (3rd lowest since 2001).

- No upriver spring Chinook have been sampled since April 22 in Blind/Knappa Slough, May 2 in Deep River, and May 6 in Youngs Bay and Tongue Point/South Channel.
- Based on previous years, impacts to upriver spring Chinook in Select Area commercial fisheries averaged 88% complete by week 19 and 96% complete by week 21 (May 19-25 for 2008). Applying this rate to observed impacts for Select Area commercial fisheries to date, projects that <1 (0.47) listed upriver spring Chinook will be harvested during the remainder of the 2008 spring season.
- For years with low cumulative impacts, an average of 97% of total impacts occurred through week 19. Applying this rate to the 2008 season projects that <1 (0.35) listed upriver spring Chinook will be harvested during the remainder of the season.
- Comparing the impact rate profile for 2008 with a model developed from years with similar patterns of impacts by date (2001, 2004, 2005, and 2007), the expected catch of listed upriver spring Chinook would be <1 (0.59) listed upriver spring Chinook for the remainder of the spring season (week 21 on). In three of these years, zero upriver fish were caught in Select Area commercial fisheries from week 22 on.
- Based on these analyses, staff expects impacts to listed upriver spring Chinook during the remainder of the spring commercial season to be *de minimis*.

<i>Staff Recommendation – Select Area Spring Commercial Fisheries</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Joint Staff recommends that Select Area spring commercial fisheries open effective May 19, 2008 as currently scheduled.

- Youngs Bay SAFE commercial fisheries will open at 7 PM on May 19, as adopted at the May 12 Compact hearing.

Non-Indian Impacts

- Non-Indian impacts to date are estimated at 2.07% for all fisheries, based on a run size of 180,000 upriver spring Chinook. A run size of 196,000 fish or larger is needed to put non-Indian impacts at or below the 1.9% limit.

Future Hearings

- No hearings are scheduled at this time.