

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**May 17, 2005**

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fisheries under consideration: | Commercial Select Area<br>Area 2S Commercial Shad<br>Recreational Steelhead/Shad |
|--------------------------------|--|

**Spring Chinook Status**

- The Chinook count at Bonneville Dam through May 16<sup>th</sup> totals 58,946 adult fish. Typically, 79% of the run has passed by this date.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 16<sup>th</sup> and estimated 82,400 upriver spring Chinook will return to the river mouth. Based on pre-season forecasts, and estimated 11.7% of the upriver run would be ESA-listed.
- The Willamette Falls spring Chinook count through May 12<sup>th</sup> totals 19,469 adult fish. Typically, 44% of the run has passed by this date. Current model projections still bound the pre-season forecast but indicate the run will be less than forecast.

**Select Areas Fisheries**

- Select Area commercial fisheries (winter and spring) have harvested 1,181 Chinook and 53 sturgeon to date. A total of 966 spring Chinook have been landed during the spring season, of which 896 (93%) were mark sampled and 450 were examined for visual stock identification (VSI).
- Based on VSI, nearly all (99.7%) of the catch were of lower river origin although 1 upriver fish was sampled from Youngs Bay during the May 12-13 fishing period. No upriver coded-wire tags have been recovered from the 200 tags analyzed.

**Combined Fishery Impacts**

- Based on the 82,400 run size, impacts include 0.875% for the commercial fisheries (mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas) and 1.049% for the recreational fisheries for a total of 1.924%, or 96.2% of the 2.00% limit.

**Area 2S Commercial Shad – Analysis of Impacts**

- The estimated harvest for 2005 is 45,000 - 100,000 shad.
- Data collected from monitoring during 1998-2001 was used to estimate Chinook handle in 2005 based on run size.
  - Sample rates ranged from 4% - 63%.
  - Observed Chinook handle ranged from 1-11 fish.
  - Observed shad harvest ranged from 700 – 20,000 fish.

- The average shad/Chinook ratio adjusted for the 2005 run size estimates a handle ratio of 3,100 shad/Chinook during the Area 2S shad fishery.

| <b>Estimated Impacts to Upriver Spring Chinook in the Area 2S Shad Commercial Fishery</b> |              |         |
|---|--------------|---------|
|   | Shad Harvest |         |
|   | 45,000       | 100,000 |
| Spring Chinook handled  | 15           | 32      |
| % Upriver   | 100%         | 100%    |
| Upriver Mortalities*  | 3.5          | 7.8     |
| Upriver Impacts   | 0.004%       | 0.009%  |

\*17% immediate mortality and 10% delayed mortality.

### **Recreational Steelhead/Shad - Analysis of Impacts**

- The mainstem Columbia River steelhead/shad sport fisheries occur annually beginning May 16 under permanent rules.
- Chinook handle is incidental in the mainstem steelhead sport fishery. In years where harvestable Chinook are available, retention is allowed. Handle rates for 1995-2001 were used for this analysis because spring Chinook retention was prohibited during those years.
- During 1995-2001:
  - Total Chinook released during May 16-30 ranged from 56 to 168 and averaged 105 fish.
  - Total Chinook released during June 1-15 ranged from 37 to 336 and averaged 149.
- Stock composition was developed based on timing of the upriver and lower river stocks, and estimating the proportion of the run available in the lower river during May 16 through June 15.
- Based on the run timing of the spring Chinook stocks available to the fishery, it is estimated that the upriver component would represent an average of 14% of the fish during May 16-30, and an average of 3% during June 1-15.

| <b>Summary of Impacts to Upriver Spring Chinook in the Steelhead/Shad Sport Fishery</b> |           |           |         |
|---|-----------|-----------|---------|
|   | May 16-30 | June 1-15 | Total   |
| Total Chinook Mortalities   | 10.5      | 14.9      | 25.4    |
| Upriver Component   | 14%       | 3%        | 8%      |
| Upriver Mortalities*  | 1.5       | 0.5       | 2.0     |
| Upriver Impacts   | 0.0018%   | 0.0006%   | 0.0024% |

\* 10% hook and release mortality. Assumes full season fishery (May 16-June 15)

## Summary of Impact Analysis

| Estimated Impacts to Upriver Spring Chinook<br>in the Sport and Commercial Fisheries during May 16-June 15 |          |           |
|--|----------|-----------|
|  | 45K Shad | 100K Shad |
| Upriver Mortalities from 2S-Shad   | 3.5      | 7.8       |
| Upriver Mortalities from Select Area Fisheries   | 2        | 2         |
| Upriver Mortalities from Recreational Steelhead  | 2        | 2         |
| Total Estimated mortalities  | 7.5      | 11.8      |
| Total Estimated Impacts  | 0.009%   | 0.014%    |

- Impacts to-date equal 1.924%, combined with the estimated impacts stated above (0.009-0.014%) result in a total of 1.933%- 1.938% (96.7%- 96.9%).

### FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Compact Consideration:

| Area 2S Commercial Shad Fishery  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Joint Staff is recommending the shad fishery that was previously adopted be reinstated as follows:</li> </ul> |   |
| Season:  | 3 PM - 10 PM daily<br>May 23-27 (5 days)<br>May 31- Jun 3 (4 days)<br>June 6-10 (5 days)<br>June 13-17 (5 days)<br>June 20-24 (5 days)  |
| Area:  | True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.   |
| Gear:  | Single-wall, unslackened, floater gill net; 5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "- 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length or 40 meshes in depth. |
| Allowable Sales:   | Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.   |

#### Joint State Hearing Consideration:

| 2005 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Sport Fishery Recommendation   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reinstatement of permanent regulations regarding Mainstem Steelhead and Shad sport fishing effective 12:01 a.m. Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>.</li> </ul> |

**Oregon State Consideration:**

| Select Area Commercial Fishery Recommendation  |  |
|--|--|
| The ODFW staff is recommending the following seasons for the Youngs Bay Select Area: |  |
| Spring Season:   | Noon Wednesday May 18 - noon Friday May 20 (2 days).   |
| Area:  | Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.   |
| Gear:  | 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction<br>Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. |
| Allowable Sales:   | Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.  |
| Miscellaneous Regulations:   | Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules will be in effect.     |

- ✓ These proposed fishing periods will likely result in  $\leq 2$  upriver spring chinook mortalities, assuming effort similar to 2001-2004. Poor returns to date in Select Areas may result in reduced effort and further limit the potential for impacts.
- ✓ Fishing periods previously adopted for the remainder of the spring season in Youngs Bay (May 23-July 28) are not anticipated to handle or impact to upriver spring chinook.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The next Compact will occur when needed. TAC will meet regularly.
- Schedule a Compact hearing to set summer Chinook commercial fishing periods (commercial fishery expected to start as early as the week of June 20<sup>th</sup>).