

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 17  
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
April 19, 2005**

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fisheries under consideration: | Non-Indian Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery<br>Select Area Commercial Fisheries |
|--------------------------------|--|

**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>ery</u>   | <u>Allocation</u> |
| er Columbia (below Bonneville)                         | 0.79%             |
| er Columbia Steelhead (May 15- Jun 15)                 | 0.01%             |
| neville to McNary Dam                                  | 0.10%             |
| e River Sport/Wanapum Tribal                           | 0.20%             |
| er (8.3%)  | 0.10%             |
| <b>l Recreational</b>                                  | <b>1.20%</b>      |
| 2005 Commercial Spring Chinook Allocation by Fishery   |                   |
| ystem Commercial                                       | 0.60%             |
| ct Areas   | 0.10%             |
| l/ Buffer  | 0.10%             |
| <b>l Commercial</b>                                    | <b>0.80%</b>      |

**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 18<sup>th</sup> at Bonneville Dam totals 1,545 adult fish (1,530 since March 15) which is the lowest cumulative count for this date on record. Daily counts over the last 5 days were 470, 210, 398, 94, and 122 adult Chinook. Based on the recent 5-year average, 31% of the run has passed by April 18<sup>th</sup>. Passage of late-timed runs is typically 11-15% complete by this date.
- The Willamette spring Chinook count through April 16<sup>th</sup> at Willamette Falls totals 675 adult fish which represents 6-55% of 2001-2004 cumulative counts for this date. Water temperatures this year have been lower than average. Preliminary run predictions vary above and below the preseason forecast.

## **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.
- Spring season fishing periods are scheduled to begin later this week (April 21) in Youngs Bay, Deep River, and Blind/Knappa Slough Select Areas.

### **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 and catch rates have improved during the past week with about one kept Chinook for every 4.3 boats compared to one fish per every 7 boats prior.

### **Non-Indian Columbia River Recreational Fisheries**

- 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 1<sup>st</sup> thru May 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**2005 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan**

- ✓ 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:
  - 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.

- Catch rates throughout the lower Columbia River continued to improve this past week. During April 11-17 boat anglers above Rooster Rock averaged 1.5 spring Chinook per boat while boat anglers downstream of Rooster Rock averaged 0.5 salmon per boat. Catch rates for these two areas during April 1-10 were 0.9 fish/boat and 0.3 fish/boat, respectively. The combined recreational boat catch rate below Bonneville Dam during April 1-17 was 0.42 fish per boat which is 68-98% of 2001-2004 catch rates for the same period.
- Bonneville Pool sport anglers have completed 162 angler trips through April 17<sup>th</sup> resulting in 35 kept and 41 released spring chinook.
- The estimated recreational catch through April 17<sup>th</sup> is 11,164 spring chinook (8,712 kept and 2,452 released). Impacts to upriver spring chinook are estimated at 0.287% which represents 36.3% of the 0.79% impact guideline.

| <b>2005 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Below Bonneville Dam</b> |               |               |              |              |                |                   |              |
|--|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>2005</b>  | Angler Trips  | Total Handle  | Kept Catch   | Kept Upriver | Runsize Impact | Impact Allocation |              |
|  |               |               |              |              |                | of 0.79%          | of 1.2%      |
| <b>February Totals</b>   | <b>7,551</b>  | <b>39</b>     | <b>39</b>    | <b>0%</b>    | <b>0.000%</b>  | <b>0.0%</b>       | <b>0.0%</b>  |
| 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%         |
| <b>March Totals</b>  | <b>32,787</b> | <b>2,279</b>  | <b>1,731</b> | <b>42%</b>   | <b>0.045%</b>  | <b>5.7%</b>       | <b>3.8%</b>  |
| April 1-17 <i>Below I-5</i>  | 45,415        | 6,747         | 5,412        | 60%          | 0.159%         | 20.1%             | 13.3%        |
| April 1-17 <i>Above I-5</i>  | 10,794        | 2,099         | 1,530        | 100%         | 0.083%         | 10.5%             | 6.9%         |
| <b>April Totals</b>  | <b>56,209</b> | <b>8,846</b>  | <b>6,942</b> | <b>68%</b>   | <b>0.242%</b>  | <b>30.6%</b>      | <b>20.2%</b> |
| <b>PRELIMINARY Total</b>   | <b>96,547</b> | <b>11,164</b> | <b>8,712</b> | <b>65%</b>   | <b>0.287%</b>  | <b>36.3%</b>      | <b>23.9%</b> |

- The projected sport catch for April 18-20 is 1,626 Chinook (1,270 kept) with a total upriver handle of about 1,194 fish. This catch would increase the total upriver Chinook impact by 0.047% from 0.287% to 0.334% of the preseason forecast. This would raise upriver spring chinook impacts for the mainstem recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam by 5.9% to 42% of the 0.79% impact guideline allocated for this fishery.
- The projected sport catch for April 21-24 is 3,202 Chinook (2,467 kept) with a total upriver handle of about 2,499 fish. This catch would increase the total upriver Chinook impact by

0.099% from the projected 0.334% to 0.433% of the preseason forecast. This would raise upriver spring chinook impacts for the mainstem recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam by 12.5% to 55% of the 0.79% impact guideline allocated for this fishery.

### ***Combined Fishery Impacts***

- Impacts through April 17<sup>th</sup> based on the pre-season forecast include 0.283% for the commercial fisheries (mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas) and 0.287% for the recreational fisheries for a total of 0.570%, or 29% of the 2.00% limit.
- Additional impacts for sport fisheries occurring below Bonneville Dam through April 20<sup>th</sup> will increase non-Indian impacts by 2.4% to 31% of the 2.0% maximum non-Indian upriver impact limit based on the pre-season forecast.
- Run size reductions inflate impact rates for completed and planned fisheries. A summary of all non-Indian fishery impacts at various run sizes are provided in the following table:

| <b>Summary of non-Indian impacts by run size</b>   |                             |              |                |              |               |              |               |              |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| <b>Actual Impacts</b>  | <b>Run Size<sup>a</sup></b> |              |                |              |               |              |               |              |
|  | <b>150,000</b>              |              | <b>100,000</b> |              | <b>82,000</b> |              | <b>75,000</b> |              |
|  | To date                     | Remaining    | To date        | Remaining    | To date       | Remaining    | To date       | Remaining    |
| <b>Commercial</b>  |                             |              |                |              |               |              |               |              |
| Mainstem commercial  | 0.473                       | 0.127        | 0.710          | 0.0          | 0.865         | 0.0          | 1.261         | 0.0          |
| Select Area commercial   | 0.007                       | 0.093        | 0.011          | 0.079        | 0.013         | 0.0          | 0.019         | 0.0          |
| Commercial shad/buffer   | 0.0                         | 0.100        | 0.0            | 0.0          | 0.0           | 0.0          | 0.0           | 0.0          |
| <b>Total Commercial</b>  | <b>0.480</b>                | <b>0.320</b> | <b>0.721</b>   | <b>0.079</b> | <b>0.878</b>  | <b>0.0</b>   | <b>1.280</b>  | <b>0.0</b>   |
| <b>% of Guideline (0.8%)<sup>a</sup></b>   | <b>60%</b>                  | <b>40%</b>   | <b>90%</b>     | <b>10%</b>   | <b>110%</b>   | <b>0%</b>    | <b>213%</b>   | <b>0%</b>    |
| <b>Recreational</b>  |                             |              |                |              |               |              |               |              |
| Below BO sport (thru 4/17)   | 0.486                       | 0.304        | 0.729          | 0.061        | 0.889         | 0.001        | 1.296         | 0.000        |
| LCR STH (May 15-Jun 15)  | 0.0                         | 0.010        | 0.0            | 0.010        | 0.0           | 0.010        | 0.0           | 0.000        |
| BO to McNary Dam sport   | 0.0                         | 0.100        | 0.0            | 0.100        | 0.0           | 0.100        | 0.0           | 0.000        |
| SR sport/Wanapum Tribal  | 0.0                         | 0.200        | 0.0            | 0.200        | 0.0           | 0.200        | 0.0           | 0.000        |
| Sport Buffer   | 0.0                         | 0.100        | 0.0            | 0.100        | 0.0           | 0.0          | 0.0           | 0.000        |
| <b>Total Recreational</b>  | <b>0.486</b>                | <b>0.714</b> | <b>0.729</b>   | <b>0.471</b> | <b>0.889</b>  | <b>0.311</b> | <b>1.296</b>  | <b>0.000</b> |
| <b>% of Guideline (1.2%)<sup>a</sup></b>   | <b>40%</b>                  | <b>60%</b>   | <b>61%</b>     | <b>39%</b>   | <b>74%</b>    | <b>26%</b>   | <b>144%</b>   | <b>0%</b>    |
| <b>Total non-Indian Impacts</b>  | <b>0.966</b>                | <b>1.034</b> | <b>1.450</b>   | <b>0.550</b> | <b>1.767</b>  | <b>0.233</b> | <b>2.576</b>  | <b>0.0</b>   |
| <b>% of Guideline (2.0%)<sup>a</sup></b>   | <b>48%</b>                  | <b>52%</b>   | <b>73%</b>     | <b>28%</b>   | <b>88%</b>    | <b>12%</b>   | <b>172%</b>   | <b>0%</b>    |
| <b>Projected Impacts</b>   |                             |              |                |              |               |              |               |              |
| <b>Total non-Indian impacts with April 18-20 sport</b>   | 1.045                       | 0.955        | 1.568          | 0.433        | 1.912         | 0.088        | 2.090         | 0.000        |
| <b>% of Guideline (2.0%)<sup>a</sup></b>   | <b>52%</b>                  | <b>48%</b>   | <b>78%</b>     | <b>22%</b>   | <b>96%</b>    | <b>4%</b>    | <b>139%</b>   | <b>0%</b>    |
| <b>Total non-Indian impacts with April 18-24 sport</b>   | 1.211                       | 0.789        | 1.817          | 0.1835       | 2.215         | 0.000        | 2.422         | 0.000        |
| <b>% of Guideline (2.0%)<sup>a</sup></b>   | <b>61%</b>                  | <b>39%</b>   | <b>91%</b>     | <b>9%</b>    | <b>111%</b>   | <b>0%</b>    | <b>161%</b>   | <b>0%</b>    |
| <sup>a</sup> Non-indian impact rate decreases to 1.5% of upriver run at run sizes less than 81,999 |                             |              |                |              |               |              |               |              |

## FISHERY RECOMMENDATION

### *Below Bonneville Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Recommendation*

The Joint Staff is recommending the following modification to the Columbia River recreational fishery:

- Effective 11:59 PM Wednesday April 20, angling for salmon, steelhead and shad from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam is prohibited until further notice.

### *Select Area Commercial Fisheries Recommendation*

The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to scheduled Select Area spring fisheries:

#### **Youngs Bay**

- Modify the previously scheduled 12-h fishery (6 PM Thursday April 21 to 6 AM Friday April 22) to a 4-hour fishery from 4 PM Thursday April 21 to 8 PM Friday April 22
- Modify the previously scheduled 12-h fishery (6 PM Monday April 25 to 6 AM Tuesday April 26) to a 4-hour fishery from 6 PM Monday April 25 to 10 PM Tuesday April 26
- All other previously adopted gear regulations would apply

#### **Blind Slough/Knappa Slough**

- Modify the previously scheduled 12-h fishery (7 PM Thursday April 21 to 7 AM Friday April 22) to a 6-hour fishery from 7 PM Thursday April 21 to 1 AM Friday April 22
- Modify the previously scheduled 12-h fishery (7 PM Monday April 25 to 7 AM Tuesday April 26) to a 6-hour fishery from 7 PM Monday April 25 to 1 AM Tuesday April 26
- Fishing allowed in Blind Slough only (Knappa Slough closed)
- All other previously adopted gear regulations would apply

#### **Deep River**

- Modify the previously scheduled 12-h fishery (7 PM Thursday April 21 to 7 AM Friday April 22) to a 6-hour fishery from 7 PM Thursday April 21 to 1 AM Friday April 22
- Modify the previously scheduled 12-h fishery (7 PM Monday April 25 to 7 AM Tuesday April 26) to a 6-hour fishery from 7 PM Monday April 25 to 1 AM Tuesday April 26
- All other previously adopted gear regulations would apply

- ✓ An estimated 1,500-2,000 spring chinook would be landed in these proposed fisheries of which  $\leq 15$  would be upriver stock representing 0.006% of the preseason run size prediction or 0.015% of a 100,000 upriver run.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Wednesday April 27, 2005 at 11:30 AM by telephone.