

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – WINTER/SPRING FACT SHEET
2007 IN-SEASON SUMMARY**

November 20, 2007

Stock Status

Total Spring Chinook

- The total spring Chinook run is comprised of Upriver, Willamette, Lower Columbia (Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, Sandy) and Select Area spring Chinook.
- The preseason forecast was for a total of 163,500 spring Chinook at the Columbia River mouth.

Upriver Spring Chinook

- The 2007 preseason forecast was 78,500 fish. The final run size is estimated to be 86,000 fish (110% of forecast).
- Bonneville Dam counts between January 1 and June 15 totaled 80,829 Chinook.
- Jack counts totaled 20,239 which is the highest seen since 2000 (24,400 jacks)

Willamette Spring Chinook

- The preseason forecast for Willamette spring Chinook was 52,000 fish, with an estimated 10% of the run being wild. The final run is estimated to be 76% of forecast, at 39,500 fish. The wild component was much larger (9,700 fish) than the preseason estimate of 5,200 fish.
- Willamette Falls counts between January 1 and August 15 totaled 22,818 adult and 280 jack Chinook. Jack counts were poor for the second consecutive year.
- In-season harvest estimates for the mainstem Columbia River include 2,765 Willamette Chinook (kept plus release mortalities).

Wild Winter Steelhead

- The preseason forecast for wild winter steelhead was 16,200 fish. The actual run size will be determined in December. The data suggests the final run size will be similar to preseason estimates.

Management Guidelines

- Spring Chinook are allocated through the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, the Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for the Willamette River, The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP), and through Washington and Oregon Commission guidance.
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) impact limits restrict non-Indian harvest of wild upriver spring Chinook (2%) and wild winter steelhead (2%).
- Impacts to upriver spring Chinook were allocated preseason at 57%/43% sport/commercial. A 10% in-season management buffer was applied to non-Indian impacts to account for variance in run size
- As part of the annual 8,000 sturgeon commercial guideline, 1,800 sturgeon were set aside for winter/spring commercial fisheries.
- ESA impact limits restrict Treaty-Indian harvest of wild upriver spring Chinook (7%).

Fisheries Review

Non-Treaty Sport Fisheries

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to selective (adipose fin-clipped) salmon angling during January 1 through March 31 under permanent regulations with a two Chinook daily bag limit.
- Regulations were adopted to extend the season below the I-5 Bridge through a target date of April 15 and the fishery closed as scheduled. The area from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to I-5 reopened May 16 –June 15, and the area from I-5 upstream to Bonneville Dam was open from June 6 - 15.
- Except for specific fishing sanctuaries, the area from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam was open March 16-May 4 (4 day extension) and reopened June 6 through June 15.
- An estimated 83,000 angler trips below Bonneville Dam resulted in approximately 6,476 kept and 1,648 released adult Chinook, 339 kept jack Chinook, and 1,876 kept and 333 released steelhead.
- Catch above Bonneville Dam is estimated at less than 600 upriver Chinook kept.
- The Snake River near Little Goose Dam was open for hatchery Chinook retention May 9 through June 30, with an estimated 275 kept and 67 released adult Chinook.
- The area near the Ringold Hatchery was also open for hatchery Chinook retention May 1-June 15 (2-wk extension). Catch included 120 kept and 4 released adult Chinook.
- The Wanapum Tribe did not fish during the 2007 spring season.

Non-Indian Commercial White Sturgeon Fisheries

- A total of nine fishing periods (18-24 hour) were conducted in Zones 1-5 from January 9-February 23 (9" minimum mesh). Landings totaled 194 Chinook and 1,424 white sturgeon.

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fisheries

- A total of four fishing periods took place in 2007. Three fishing periods (10-12 hrs) were conducted in Zones 1-4 (upstream to Kelley Point) between March 6 and March 23. Two of the three periods used large mesh gear. The fourth period occurred on June 14 (8hrs, 8" min.) in a modified 2S area to avoid additional harvest of Willamette stock Chinook.
- Landing for the season totaled 2,726 Chinook and 47 white sturgeon. The number of deliveries ranged between 89-122 per period during the first three periods. Prices for Chinook averaged about \$7.50/lb (range \$3.50-\$10.50).
- The total season catch was 2,950 Chinook and 1,471 white sturgeon.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Sturgeon setline fisheries are open under permanent regulations January 1-31. Total landings included 6 white sturgeon.
- A gillnet season occurred from February 1 through March 21. No mesh restrictions were in place and sales of platform caught fish were allowed. Landings include 3 Chinook, 558 steelhead and 1,114 white sturgeon.
- Ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) fisheries occurred for spring Chinook but no target commercial fishing periods were conducted. Total C&S harvest was 6,141 Chinook and 323 steelhead.

Summary of ESA Impacts

- ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook were limited to 1.5% for non-Indian and 7% treaty Indian fisheries. By late June, the run exceeded 82,000 fish, which triggered an increase in the impact limit up to 2% for non-Indian fisheries and 8% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Post season, non-Indian impacts to listed upriver spring Chinook are estimated to be 0.82% (1.14% allocated) in sport fisheries and 0.54% in commercial fisheries (0.86% allocated), for a total of 1.36%, which is 68% of the 2.0% guideline. Impacts to upriver spring Chinook postseason were 60%/40% sport/commercial
- Non-Indian fisheries were only able to utilize 68% of the available upriver spring Chinook impacts because the increase in available impacts occurred late in the season after the majority of the spring run had passed through the lower river.
- Wild winter steelhead incidental mortalities are estimated to be less than 80 fish of the preseason run size of 16,000 fish. Impacts are estimated at 0.47%, or <25% of the 2.0% limit.
- Impacts to upriver spring Chinook in treaty Indian fisheries are estimated to be 7.1% compared to the guideline of 8.0%.