

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2

April 25, 2007

Purpose:	Review salmon stock status Update recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam Review ongoing recreational fishery above Bonneville Dam Consider additional fishing periods in Deep River Select Area
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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 April 24 at Bonneville Dam totaled 15,003 spring Chinook. Based on the recent 10-year average, about 37% of the run has passed by this date. Late timed runs are 15% complete.
- The TAC met today to review the stock status of upriver spring Chinook. TAC believes the run is tracking late, but appears to be approaching a pattern more consistent with a normal timed run. Although TAC did not update the run, TAC feels the preseason forecast of 78,500 fish is still within the bounds of possible run sizes.
- Spring Chinook counts over Willamette Falls total 862 fish as of April 24. So far, the run appears to be on track to meet the preseason forecast of 52,000 Chinook. The run size forecast for Willamette stock can not be updated until at least early May.

FISHERY UPDATES

2007 Lower Willamette River Recreational Fishery

- The mainstem Willamette River below Willamette Falls is open for adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and adipose fin-clipped steelhead the entire year.
- Through April 15, an estimated 1,620 Chinook were kept from 27,800 angler trips (0.058 Chinook/angler).
- Effort, catch, and catch rate are all tracking slightly behind the 2005-2006 average for this date; however, catch rates have improved significantly (0.22 Chinook/angler) since mid-April.

2007 Mainstem Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery

- 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 Columbia River from Rocky Point/Tongue Point upstream to the I-5 Bridge is scheduled to open for steelhead and Chinook jacks on May 16 under permanent regulations. The Columbia River also opens May 16 for shad angling below Bonneville Dam.
- The ongoing recreational Chinook fishery above Bonneville Dam is scheduled to close effective May 1, and will revert back to permanent regulations. Impacts allocated to this fishery allow for a handle of 500-560 fish.
- The estimated catch through April 22 includes 67 kept (and 38 released) spring Chinook. Projected handle through April 30 is 384 Chinook from 1,200 angler trips.

2007 Mainstem Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery

- Commercial fishing concluded March 23. Landings during the salmon fishery totaled 2,726 Chinook and 34 white sturgeon.
- Commercial shad fishing is scheduled to open in the 2S area beginning May 14.

2007 Select Area Fisheries

- SAFE commercial fisheries landed an estimated 961 Chinook during the winter season. The spring opener scheduled for April 19 was delayed until April 23 to minimize upriver impacts and reduce the likelihood of exceeding the commercial fishery allocation.
- Catches during the April 23-24 opening were good in Youngs Bay and average in Blind/Knappa sloughs and Deep River. Preliminary landings include 1,100 Chinook and <20 white sturgeon with few upriver spring Chinook observed.
- Future Select Area fishing periods are expected to continue as scheduled; however, staff will continue to monitor the fishery closely with additional season adjustments possible if upriver spring Chinook impacts increase.
- SAFE recreational fisheries are open year round. Although recreational effort increased following closure of the mainstem, spring Chinook harvest has remained within expectations.

Non Treaty-Indian Fishery Impacts

2007 Summary of Upriver Spring Chinook ESA Impacts from Non-Indian Fisheries							
Fishery	Impact Guidelines		Upriver Impacts			% Used	
	Buffer	No-Buffer	To Date	Projected	Total	Buffer	No Buffer
LCR	0.577	0.641	0.541	0.000	0.541	93.7%	84.3%
Bonn-McNary*	0.064	0.071	0.013	0.036	0.049	76.6%	69.0%
Snake R./Wanapum	0.128	0.142	0.000	0.142	0.142	110.0%	100.0%
Recreational Total	0.770	0.855	0.554	0.178	0.732	95.1%	85.7%
<i>*To date is through Apr 22</i>							
Mainstem	0.480	0.545	0.568	0.000	0.568	118.2%	104.2%
SAFE	0.100	0.100	0.020	0.050	0.070	70.0%	70.0%
Commercial Total	0.580	0.645	0.588	0.050	0.638	109.9%	98.9%
NI Total ESA Impacts	1.35	1.50	1.14	0.23	1.37	101.5%	91.4%

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mainstem Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation – Recreational fishery above Bonneville Dam</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following season modification:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extend the ongoing fishery above Bonneville Dam beyond the scheduled May 1 closure date. 	
<u>Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam</u>	
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to McNary Dam plus the Oregon bank between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
Dates:	March 16 – May 2, 2007
Catch Limits:	Oregon: Two adult salmon <u>or</u> steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. Washington: Two adult salmon <u>and</u> 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 Rocky Point/Tongue Point line effective during February 15 through May 15, 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.

- The proposed season modification will provide additional fishing opportunity (two weekdays) while maintaining upriver spring Chinook impacts within the allocation for this fishery.
- The proposed season extension would bring estimated impacts to 0.066%, which is 103% of the buffered allocation (93% non-buffered). An additional day (thru May 3) would increase impacts to 116% of the buffered allocation (105% non-buffered).
- Each weekday during early May is expected to handle about 67 Chinook, translating to 0.008% impact per day.

Deep River Select Area Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action.
- Either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation – Deep River Select Area Commercial Fishery</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Season modification: Add additional fishing time (Sundays and Wednesdays) effective April 26 	
Current Season:	Monday and Thursday nights through June 15 Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Proposed Season:	Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from April 26 through June 15 Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours)
Area:	Deep River fishing area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.

Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. In the spring season a sampling station will be established upstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at the upper pen site at Kato's dock.

- The proposed season modification was requested by industry to provide fishing opportunity in Deep River.
- Staff does not anticipate any significant increase in upriver spring Chinook impacts from the proposed season modification. Additional fishing opportunity should provide incentive for fishers to participate in the spring Deep River fishery, which has been under-utilized in the past.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor spring Chinook runs and will schedule additional Compact/Joint State hearings as necessary.