

**JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 17  
Columbia River Compact  
Joint State Hearing  
April 28, 2004**

**Purpose:** To review salmon stock status and the ongoing recreational fishery.

**2004 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 2004. Non-Indian impacts are allocated 60% for sport fisheries (1.2%) and 40% for commercial fisheries (0.8%).
- Non-Indian commercial fisheries are being managed for an overall 0.8% upriver impact with 0.2% reserved for Select Areas and as a management buffer. The mainstem upriver impact through the March 29-30 fishing period is estimated to be 0.598%, which is 100% of the 0.6% impact reserved for this fishery.
- The Columbia River sport fishery allocation includes fisheries above McNary Dam (Snake River sport/Wanapum tribal) and the sport fishery from Bonneville to McNary Dam which are expected to impact 0.2% and 0.1% of the listed upriver spring chinook, respectively.
- The Joint Staff also recommends a management buffer of 0.1% for sport fisheries with the remaining 0.8% reserved for the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam.

**STOCK STATUS**

- The preseason spring chinook run size forecasts include returns of 360,700 upriver stock (94% 4-year old) and 109,400 Willamette stock to the Columbia River mouth.
- Counts of spring chinook at Bonneville Dam through April 27 are 99,922 adults and 572 jacks. The run still appears to be consistent with a late run time.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on April 26 to review stock status and consider an in-season run size update. TAC provided the following comments:
  - ✓ The run is likely late.
  - ✓ If the run is late it is too early to provide a precise update.
  - ✓ TAC recommends that a river mouth run size of 264,000-360,700 be used for management purposes at this time.
- The Joint Staff recommends using the mid-point of the TAC range, or 312,000 for management purposes.

## FISHERY UPDATES

### *Non-Indian Sport Fisheries*

<i>2004 Spring Chinook Sport Fishing Plan</i>	
✓	Fishery checkpoints will occur one or two days per week during April 1-May 15.
✓	Fishery checkpoints will be used to monitor progress towards adopted upriver spring chinook impact guideline and modify ongoing fishery.
✓	Modifications to ongoing fishery will occur in the following order: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Reduce fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam to less than seven days per week.</li> <li>2) Eliminate fishery between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam completely.</li> <li>3) Reduce fishery below the I-5 Bridge to less than seven days per week.</li> <li>4) Eliminate fishery below the I-5 Bridge completely.</li> </ol>
✓	Manage the fishery above Bonneville Dam to maintain opportunity fairness with fishery below the I-5 Bridge.

- Fishing was generally slow during February and March with catch rates of one fish per 12 boat anglers. Catch rates increased after April 1. Overall catch rates have been excellent with a total April catch rate of 0.31 fish per boat angler. Catch rates from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam were 0.43 during April 1-21.
- Impacts to upriver spring chinook in the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam totaled 0.748% through April 25, 2004. This represents 62% of the total sport fishery impact (1.2%), and 94% of the portion of the impact (0.8%) that is reserved for the mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam. The impact for the fishery between the I5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam was 0.417% through April 21.

<i>Catch and Effort During the 2004 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery Below Bonneville Dam</i>					
Time Period	Angler Trips	Total Catch	Kept Catch	Upriver Stock	
				%	Impact
February	9,467	79	48	43	0.001%
March	44,576	3,341	2,614	54	0.058%
April 1-25 (total)	99,966	27,526	21,075	78	0.689%
<i>April 1-21 above The I-5 Bridge<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>29,021</i>	<i>12,498</i>	<i>9,694</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>0.400%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,009</b>	<b>30,946</b>	<b>23,737</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>0.748%</b>

<sup>1</sup> Also included in the April total.

- Last week a decision was made to close the fishery in the area from I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam, effective April 22.
- The projected cumulative upriver impact through April 30 under the current regulations is 0.796% (99.5% of the 0.8% impact rate).
- Through April 25, a total of 300 chinook have been kept and 50 released in the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam. Total impacts are 0.01% (10% of the 0.1% expected impact rate).

**Select Area Fisheries**

- The total SAFE fisheries upriver impact is 0.058% through April 27, which is 58% of the 0.1% SAFE impact allocation or 29% of the 0.2% impact reserved for Select Areas and as a management buffer.
- Projected impacts for Select Area fisheries during April 29 through June 18 are 0.03% for a combined impact of 0.104%.

**Combined Fisheries Impacts**

- A summary of all non-Indian mainstem fisheries below Bonneville Dam is provided in the table below.

<i>Spring Chinook Catch and Impacts Summary for 2004</i>				
Fishery	Total Handle	Kept Catch		Upriver Impact
		Total	Upriver	
Commercial Demonstration Fishery	18,576	13,546	5,475	0.598%
Select Area Commercial through April 27	4,633	4,633	179	0.058%
<b>Total Commercial</b>	<b>23,209</b>	<b>18,179</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>0.656%</b>
Below Bonneville Sport through April 25	34,366	26,399	17,564	0.748%
<b>Total</b>	<b>57,575</b>	<b>44,578</b>	<b>23,218</b>	<b>1.404%</b>

**FISHERY RECOMENDATIONS**

***Below Bonneville Spring Chinook Sport Fishery***

<i>Recommendation</i>
The Joint staff recommends the following closure: Close the fishery from I-5 Bridge downstream to Buoy 10 effective May 1.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The Joint Staff recommends the next weekly update occur on Wednesday May 5 at 1PM by telephone to review stock status and the on-going sport fishery above Bonne ville Dam.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 April 28, 2004