

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 13 Columbia River Compact March 30, 2005

Fisheries under Consideration: Non-Indian Spring Chinook Commercial Salmon

STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- The preseason spring Chinook run size forecasts include returns of 254,100 upriver stock and 116,900 Willamette stock.
- The upriver spring Chinook count through March 29 at Bonneville Dam total 34 Chinook. Based on the recent 5-year average, nearly 2% of the run has passed by this date. Run size updates begin in late April.
- The Willamette spring Chinook count through March 26 at Willamette Falls total 233 adult Chinook. Passage is ahead of recent years and is on track to meet the preseason forecast. Run size updates begin in early May.

Wild Winter Steelhead

- The preseason forecast is for a return of 27,000 wild winter steelhead to the Columbia River mouth.
- Passage at Willamette Falls totaled 3,535 winter steelhead as of March 27, 2005.
- Willamette wild winter steelhead typically represent 40% of the total wild winter steelhead return to the Columbia River. The Willamette run size may be updated in late March, the current data suggests the run is 55% of forecast.

COLUMBIA RIVER WATER CONDITIONS

- Temperature during March 1-28 has ranged from 41-46 F and has averaged 44 F, which is equal to the 10-year average temperature for this period.
- Flow has ranged from 112 to 149 kcfs with an average of 130 kcfs, compared to the 10-year average of 203 kcfs for this period.
- Visibility at Bonneville Dam is 4.5 feet, and visibility is even less in the lower river due to recent tributary run-off.

FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

- An estimated 1,617 spring chinook (53.6% upriver stock) and 1 white sturgeon were landed during last nights (March 29-30, 8-hour) fishing period.
- Mainstem landings to date total 3,318 spring Chinook with a 40.9% average upriver stock component. The fishery has also handled an estimated 275 wild winter steelhead to date.
- Impacts on upriver Chinook total 0.186% of the runsize forecast and 0.223% of the wild winter steelhead runsize forecast.

Spring Chinook Fishery 2005 - Preliminary Observation Data*																						
Date	Mesh size	# Drifts	Lower R.			UpRiver			Chinook no VSI			Total Chinook	Ratio Chinook /Steelhead	Total Steelhead	Steelhead				Steelhead /Drift	Wild Sthd /Drift	% UpRiver Chinook	% Marked Chinook
			Clipped	No Mark	Unknown	Clipped	No Mark	Unknown	Clipped	No Mark	Unknown				Hatchery	Wild	Unknown	DNA count				
Feb 27 Test	4.25"	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	3	2	1	0	0	0.20	0.07	0%	0%	
Mar 1-2 Obsv	9"	56	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	7	3.5	2	1	1	0	0	0.04	0.02	29%	57%	
Mar 3-4 Obsv	9"	57	9	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	13	6.5	2	0	2	0	1	0.04	0.04	8%	85%	
Mar 6 Test	4.25"	16	6	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	10	2.5	4	2	2	0	0	0.25	0.13	10%	60%	
Mar 8-9 Obsv	9"	53	29	11	0	3	2	0	1	0	46	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	11%	72%	
Mar 10-11 Obsv	9"	48	20	5	0	2	1	0	2	0	30	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	11%	80%	
Mar 13 Test	4.25"	10	7	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	13	1.2	11	5	6	0	6	1.10	0.60	17%	75%	
Mar 15-16 Obsv	9"	69	25	7	0	5	2	0	0	0	40	20.0	2	0	1	1	1	0.03	0.01	18%	77%	
Mar 20 Test	4.25"	20	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5	8	5	3	0	2	0.40	0.15	0%	75%	
Mar 21 Research	4.25"	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.5	4	2	2	0	2	0.67	0.33	50%	100%	
Mar 22 Research	4.25"	16	9	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0.0	9	3	6	0	6	0.56	0.38	0%	0%	
Mar 22 Test	4.25"	34	25	2	0	8	1	0	0	0	36	1.6	23	2	11	0	11	0.68	0.32	25%	92%	
Mar 23 Research	4.25"	7	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	5	1.3	4	2	2	0	1	0.57	0.29	60%	80%	
Mar 26 Research	4.25"	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	1	0	1	0	1	0.17	0.17	0%	0%	
Mar 27 Test	4.25"	19	29	11	0	8	2	0	0	0	50	6.3	8	4	4	0	3	0.42	0.21	20%	74%	
Mar 29-30 Obsv	4.25"	58	40	16	0	27	5	0	9	7	104	5.5	19	9	10	0	8	0.33	0.17	36%	73%	
Totals		490	207	69	0	61	15	0	13	7	2	374	4.6	81	37	52	1	42	0.17	0.11	22%	76%

*All Data Is PRELIMINARY. Only fish observed are reported. Catch from drifts made prior to on-board monitoring are not included.

<i>Chinook and Steelhead Data from 2005 Winter Commercial Season</i>							
Fishing Period	Gear	Deliveries	White Sturgeon	Total Chinook Kept	% Upriver Stock	Steelhead Handle	
						Total	Wild Winter
Winter Sturgeon Jan 18-Feb 25	9"	110	473	83	30%	0	0
Mar 1-2 (12 hr) + Mar 3-4 (12 hr)	9"	118	9	300	29%	80	59
Mar 8-9 (12 hr) + Mar 10-11 (20 hrs)	9"	217	33	674	27%	0	0
Mar 15-16 (12 hr)	9"	128	14	644	32%	43	21
Mar 29-30 (8 hr)	4.25"	127	1	1,617	54%	404	195
Total		700	530	3,318	41%	527	275

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i> <i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
Season:	9 PM Thursday March 31 through 6 AM Friday April 1, 2005 (9 hours)
Area:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1-4)
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomín –B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 4¼” maximum mesh size restriction. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Use of monofilament tangle nets not allowed. Optional use of a steelhead excluding panel hung between the cork line and the tangle net mesh is encouraged . Excluder panel must be a minimum of 5’ in depth and not exceed 10’ in depth with a 12” minimum mesh size restriction in effect. Use of weedlines or droppers, used in smelt bobber nets, are allowed in place of a steelhead excluder panel. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of 5’ above the tangle net mesh. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and sturgeon.
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.
New Regulation	As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department observers or observers collecting data for the Department, when notified by the observer of their intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Soak times , defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Use of recovery boxes will be required on all lethargic or bleeding salmonids. Each participant will be required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in this fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber. Each box shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Lighted buoys required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise.
	Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers.

Estimated Impacts for Proposed Fishery						
	Maximum	UpRiver Chinook			Wild Winter Steelhead	
Small Mesh	Catch:	of Runsize	of 0.60%*	of 0.80%	of Runsize	of <2.00%
To date	3,314	0.186%	31.00%	23.88%	0.223%	11.15%
Fishery proposal	3,375	0.187%	31.17%	23.38%	0.241%	12.05%
Cumulative	6,689	0.373%	62.17%	47.26%	0.464%	23.20%
Large Mesh						
To date	3,314	0.186%	31.00%	23.88%	0.223%	11.15%
Fishery proposal	2,500	0.299%	49.83%	37.38%	0.336%	16.80%
Cumulative	5,814	0.485%	80.83%	61.26%	0.559%	27.95%
*0.1% reserved for SAFE fisheries and 0.1% reserved for management buffer						

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing for Monday April 4th at 3:00 pm, via telephone.