

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 21, 2018**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon fisheries Select Area recreational fisheries
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between January 1 and June 15 are managed as upriver spring Chinook. Snake River wild spring/summer Chinook and upper Columbia wild spring Chinook are components of this run and are federally-listed under the ESA. Spring Chinook returning to other tributaries above Bonneville Dam are part of this run but are not ESA-listed. Based on the recent ten-year average (2008-2017), Bonneville Dam passage is usually 50% complete by May 8. Over the past ten years, adult runs have averaged around 204,600 (range 115,800 to 315,300).

Willamette Spring Chinook

Willamette River spring Chinook exhibit broader migration timing than upriver spring Chinook. Wild spring Chinook destined for portions of the Willamette River and its tributaries are ESA-listed. Over the past ten years, adult runs have averaged around 58,600 fish (range 26,600 to 107,700).

Lower Columbia Spring Chinook

Spring Chinook returning to the tributaries of the lower Columbia River are destined for the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Sandy rivers and the Select Areas. Wild components of this group are ESA-listed, with the exception of the Select Area fish. Over the past ten years, the combined adult return of these lower river stocks has averaged around 19,100 fish (range 10,300 to 31,300) to the tributaries and 9,500 fish (range 2,600 to 23,100) to the Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteenmile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Wild populations from the Cowlitz River upstream to Fifteenmile Creek and from specific areas above Willamette Falls are ESA-listed. Steelhead handled downstream of Bonneville Dam during November through April are managed as winter steelhead. Over the past ten years, wild winter steelhead returns have averaged around 16,200 fish (range 9,400 to 22,400).

Summer Steelhead

Lower Columbia summer steelhead abundance in the Columbia River peaks during May and June. The Skamania stock hatchery summer steelhead are widely planted in the lower Columbia tributaries, including the Willamette Basin. Skamania stock hatchery fish are also released annually in some tributaries upstream of Bonneville Dam. Wild lower river summer steelhead are present in the Kalama, Lewis, Washougal, and Wind rivers in Washington and in the Hood River in Oregon. The

lower Columbia River steelhead DPS is listed as threatened by the NMFS. All steelhead handled in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam during May and June are managed as lower river Skamania stock.

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted*</i>				
		2017 Forecast	2017 Return	2018 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Total Spring Chinook	227,890	208,805	248,520
	Willamette River	38,090	50,774	53,820
	Sandy River**	3,600	8,100	5,400
	Select Areas**	4,900	15,210	12,300
	Cowlitz River**	17,100	14,000	5,150
	Kalama River**	3,100	2,500	1,450
	Lewis River**	700	2,400	3,700
	Lower River Total	67,490	92,984	81,820
	Wind River**	3,600	5,400	5,300
	Drano Lake**	7,500	8,900	10,200
	Hood River**	--	--	2,500
	<i>Hood River wild**</i>	--	--	120
	Klickitat River**	2,100	2,281	1,990
	Yakima River**	5,510	5,660	7,000
	Umatilla River**	3,340	4,512	6,300
	Mid-Columbia total (by subtraction)	45,300	52,707	39,200
	Upper Columbia (total)	19,300	11,166	20,100
	<i>Upper Columbia wild</i>	<i>3,700</i>	<i>2,514</i>	<i>3,400</i>
	Snake River Spring/Summer (total)***	95,800	51,948	107,400
	<i>Snake River wild***</i>	<i>15,100</i>	<i>6,261</i>	<i>18,500</i>
	Upriver Total	160,400	115,821	166,700
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	63,100	68,204	67,300
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	198,500	88,263	99,000
	Wenatchee	54,200	34,861	25,700
	Okanogan	137,900	52,272	72,600
	Yakima	4,000	619	50
	Deschutes	1,000	66	50
	Snake River	1,400	445	600
Winter Steelhead	Wild	11,900	9,448	11,700
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	130,700	116,841	190,350
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	11,300	3,491	7,950

<i>(wild)</i>	4,100	1,236	3,000
Group A-run Index (total)	112,100	106,776	158,000
<i>(wild)</i>	33,000	27,909	44,800
Group B-run Index (total)	7,300	6,574	24,400
<i>(wild)</i>	1,100	751	3,400

* Components may not sum to totals shown since individual forecasts are not available for all upriver spring Chinook tributaries. Wild components are included in the stock total.

** Return to tributary mouth (except that 2018 forecasts for Sandy, Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers are at the Columbia River mouth).

*** 2017 return is based on standard TAC run reconstruction methodology.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) was extended through February 2018 while the new 2018-2027 MA is being finalized.
- The MA provides the treaty Indian and non-treaty fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Fisheries are managed to meet the upriver spring Chinook catch balance provision in the MA which requires mortalities in non-treaty fisheries not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries.
- The MA also specifies fisheries occurring prior to a run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the predicted upriver spring Chinook run size to allow for forecast uncertainty.
- A 30% reduction to the preseason forecast (166,700 adults) equates to a run size of 116,690 fish, which allows for an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 9,685 upriver spring Chinook and an ESA limit of 1.7% for non-treaty fisheries prior to a run size update.

Endangered Species Act

- A Biological Opinion (BO) based upon the management actions outlined in the MA was issued by NMFS in 2008. NMFS extended the 2008-2017 BO through February 2018 while the new 2018-2027 BO is finalized.
- Impacts to wild winter steelhead are limited to 2% for all mainstem Columbia River non-treaty fisheries. Impacts to wild LCR summer steelhead are also limited to 2%.
- ESA authorization for fisheries impacting listed lower Columbia River Chinook requires specific hatchery escapement goals be met. The 2018 forecasts for these fish exceed the required escapement goals.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to $\leq 15\%$.

- The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish which determines the allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls. The escapement goals are also intended to allow for full recreational fisheries in the upper Willamette River.
- Based on FMEP guidance, an expected return of 44,760 hatchery spring Chinook, and the FMEP escapement goal of 25,300 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 19,460 hatchery fish. This surplus is allocated 16,540 for recreational fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls (including the mainstem Columbia River) and 2,920 to commercial fisheries.

2018 Spring Chinook Management

- The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions have provided guidance on spring Chinook management. Allowed ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook are allocated 80% to recreational fisheries and 20% to commercial fisheries; the Select Area commercial allocation is not subject to the *U.S. v OR* run-size buffer provision. This direction, combined with catch balance provisions in the MA, result in the following guidelines:

Prior to an in-season run update, allocation of upriver fish (including release mortalities) for non-treaty fisheries will be:

- 7,157 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
- 954 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
- 920 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (Washington waters)
- 20 fish for Wanapum tribe (Upper Columbia)
- ≤633 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

2018 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- The Columbia River downstream of the I-5 Bridge is open through March 31 for hatchery salmon and steelhead under permanent regulations.
- The Columbia River from the I-5 Bridge upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA is open through March 31 for hatchery steelhead under permanent regulations.
- Staff modeled a lower river spring Chinook season for 2018 similar to the approach used since 2011 and a spring Chinook season for the area upstream of Bonneville Dam similar to that used in recent years. The modeled season structures were discussed with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG).

<i>Recommendations: 2018 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Season:	Thursday March 1 through Saturday April 7	38 retention days
Area:	Buoy 10 upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. Legal upstream boat boundary defined as: A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse One) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids (Chinook, coho, or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border		
Season:	Friday March 16 through Monday May 7	53 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids (Chinook, coho, or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- Catch expectations are approximately 8,400 adult Chinook kept (6,680 upriver mortalities) for the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam and 880 adult Chinook kept (902 mortalities, all upriver stock) for the fishery upstream of Bonneville.
- Fishery recommendations were developed to remain within and comply with:
 - ✓ Impact limits for species listed under the ESA.
 - The most constraining stock for these fisheries is upriver spring Chinook. Staff estimates the recommended fisheries will accrue 0.54% impact to upriver spring Chinook.
 - Impacts to other listed stocks are expected to remain within take limitations based on recent year results. Fishery-specific impact rate expectations can found in the latest Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the 2018 Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.
 - ✓ Run-size buffer and catch balance provisions are outlined in the MA.
 - ✓ Policy guidance and management objectives provided by the Commissions.
- The proposed season for below Bonneville Dam received strong majority support from the CRRAG.

- The season for the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam is based on the available pre-update allocation and estimated catch rates and is the same structure used in recent years. Staff discussed alternative scenarios to extend the fishery further into May with the CRRAG but did not identify a new season structure.
- Although a key management goal is to minimize the need for in-season emergency action, due to the dynamic nature of fisheries and fish runs, none of the seasons recommended guarantee that in-season action will not be necessary in order to remain within ESA limits and/or catch balancing requirements.
- Staff will monitor the fisheries in-season. If they are tracking within preseason expectations, the intent would be to allow the fisheries to run through the proposed end dates. After closure of each fishery, staff will review catches and determine if additional fishing opportunity is warranted. Therefore, staff recommends a Joint State hearing be tentatively scheduled for Wednesday April 11 to review the lower Columbia recreational spring Chinook fishery and May 9 or 10 to review the above Bonneville fishery.

Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Recreational Fishery

- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge closes to steelhead retention April 1. The area downstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens May 16 and the area upstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens June 16.
- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River is open for shad angling all year, except closed downstream of Bonneville Dam from April 1 through May 15.

<i>Recommendation: Retention of Hatchery Steelhead and Shad During Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries</i>

Effective March 16 – May 15, 2018, the Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead from Buoy 10 to the Highway 395 Bridge and shad from Buoy 10 to Bonneville Dam ONLY during days and in areas open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

- Beginning May 16 permanent rules typically resume with hatchery steelhead retention allowed from the Tongue Point – Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge and shad retention allowed river-wide.
- Impact rate expectations for steelhead fisheries through July are well within take limitations and can found in the latest Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the 2018 Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.
- Shad retention upstream of Bonneville will be allowed consistent with permanent regulations (open year round).

Tributary Spring Chinook Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- No changes to permanent regulations are recommended for spring Chinook recreational fisheries in the Sandy, Clackamas, and Willamette rivers.
- Washington tributary seasons are in the 2017-2018 Fishing in Washington pamphlet and are currently the same as in 2017.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries

- Permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2018 Oregon Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (adipose fin-clipped only during January 1 – July 31), adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped Coho except for some seasonal tributary closures.
- Permanent Washington recreational fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge are open to Chinook salmon (adipose fin-clipped only during January 1 – July 31), fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped Coho the entire year.
- Impacts to non-local Chinook and steelhead (including wild fish) are expected to be minimal or near-zero since the majority of fishing effort is concentrated in upper tidewater areas or in the tributaries.
- In order to ease enforcement of co-occurring recreational fisheries in Select Areas and the mainstem Columbia River, staff recommends that daily bag limits in Select Area recreational fisheries be modified to match those of the mainstem when the fisheries are open concurrently.

<i>Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Recreational Fisheries</i>
<p>Effective March 1 – June 15:</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is <u>closed</u> to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply.</p>

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends a Joint State hearing be tentatively scheduled for April 11 and another tentatively for May 9 or 10.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration</i>		
	Page(s)	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring Chinook recreational fisheries	5	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shad and hatchery steelhead retention	6	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select Area recreational fisheries	7	Joint State