

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 23, 2018**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam Mainstem recreational salmon from Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border
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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. The most recent reports are the 2018 Joint Staff Report Concerning Stock Status and Fisheries for Sturgeon and Smelt (January 18, 2018) and the 2018 Spring/Summer report (February 20, 2018):

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01973/wdfw01973.pdf> or http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports/18_reports/2018_spring_jsr.pdf
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports/18_reports/2018_wssjsr.pdf or <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01959/>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Columbia River conditions as measured at Bonneville Dam are currently much higher with less visibility, but similar in water temperature, compared to recent 5-year averages for this date in May. Current outflow is 486.5 kcfs (of which 293 kcfs is spill), which is substantially higher than the recent 5-year average of 292 kcfs. Water temperature currently measures 57° F, which is similar than the average of 57.8° F. Visibility is currently at 2.5 feet compared to the average of just over 4.2 feet. The river stage at Vancouver is currently 15.2 feet and is forecasted to rise to about 17.1 feet by May 28 (Action Stage is 15.0 feet and Flood Stage is 16.0 feet).

STOCK STATUS

- Bonneville Dam passage through May 22 totals 70,855 adult Chinook.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met May 21 and provided an in-season run update of 116,500 adult upriver spring Chinook to the mouth of the Columbia River. TAC noted that given the current river flows, and fluctuations in Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam, some uncertainty exists in this estimate. TAC will continue to meet at least weekly during the spring management period and will provide additional updates as needed.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Under the 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a Columbia River return of 116,500 adult upriver spring Chinook allows for a non-treaty ESA impact rate of 1.7% and a catch balance limit of 9,670 upriver mortalities. Commission guidance directs fishery managers to allocate the ESA impacts 80% recreational and 20% commercial.

2018 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

- Mainstem commercial shad fisheries are open under permanent regulations in Area 2S from 3 PM to 10 PM daily Monday through Friday from May 10 through June 20 (except on the observed Memorial Day holiday). No effort or catch has been reported to date.
- Select Area commercial fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through June 15. Combined winter/spring season landings through May 18 total 6,242 Chinook. Upriver Chinook mortalities total 229 fish, or 58% of the current allocation of 396 fish.
- There has been no commercial salmon fishery in the mainstem to date in 2018.
- The lower Columbia River recreational Chinook fishery was open from January 1 through April 7 and April 14. Preliminary catch estimates total 6,008 kept from about 68,400 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook are estimated at 4,533 fish, or 64% of the current allocation of 7,098 fish.
- Under permanent rules, the lower Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge opened May 16 for hatchery steelhead and hatchery jack Chinook, and shad retention opened May 16 from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam. Through May 20, an estimated 111 steelhead have been kept (18 released) from 1,020 angler trips.
- The recreational Chinook fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Oregon/Washington border was open from March 16 through May 7. Catch estimates total 436 adult Chinook and zero steelhead kept from approximately 4,830 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook are estimated at 443 fish, or 47% of the current allocation of 946 fish.
- The recreational fisheries on the lower Snake River (Washington waters) are ongoing until the harvest allocation is met. Catch estimates through May 21 total 267 kept adult fish. Kept and release mortalities of upriver Chinook are estimated at 272 fish or 30% of the current allocation of 912 fish.
- The Wanapum tribal ceremonial and subsistence fishery in the upper Columbia River is currently allowed under a permit issued by WDFW. To date, no effort or catch has been reported.
- The 2018 Estuary white sturgeon retention season was adopted on a days-per-week approach (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays) for 10 days from May 14 through June 4. Through May 19, effort has been nearly double (194%) preseason expectations but the kept catch rate has been about 40% of expected. Total harvest to date is tracking about 80% of the preseason modeled expectations for this point of the season. Effort and catch rates are expected to increase as the season progresses.

Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- An estimated 2,565 upriver Chinook mortalities remain available for the mainstem recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, given the current run size estimate.
- An estimated 503 upriver mortalities remain available for the mainstem recreational fishery between Bonneville Dam and the OR/WA border, at the current run size estimate.
- Given these balances, additional spring Chinook fishing opportunity exists for both fisheries.

<i>Recommendations: 2018 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Season:	Friday May 25 through Wednesday June 6	13 retention days
Area:	Tongue Point/Rocky Point line 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 hatchery fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border		
Season:	Friday May 25 through Friday June 15	22 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 hatchery fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- The proposed fisheries provide additional opportunity both below and above Bonneville Dam based on the current projected upriver run size.
- Current river conditions make predicting catches challenging. For the fishery below Bonneville Dam, staff expects that catches will not exceed 250 adult Chinook handled per day. Available data indicates daily catch rates should be modest for the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border, and may be further dampened by the high flows. However, if catch rates differ from these expectations, or if a subsequent TAC run size update warrants action to the fisheries, there is time and opportunity for fishery managers to respond.
- Staff estimates that the below Bonneville season as recommended would accrue an additional 2,400 upriver Chinook mortalities, bringing the season total to 6,933 fish, or 98% of the allocation at the current run size.
- For the proposed fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam, approximately 210 upriver mortalities are expected, for a combined season total of 653 mortalities, or 69% of the allocation for this area.
- Below Bonneville Dam, a fishery connecting with the summer season is typically preferred by the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group. This is not an option in 2018 given the planned June 22 start of the summer Chinook season.

- As a reminder, through June 15, 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.

Non-Treaty Fisheries ESA Impact Summary

Summary of 2018 Non-Treaty Fishery ESA Impacts on Upriver Chinook							
Preliminary Inseason Estimates							
Fishery	current allocation	to date	% used	projected	total	balance	projected % used
Select Area commercial	0.340%	0.196%	58%	0.040%	0.236%	0.104%	69%
total	0.340%	0.196%	58%	0.040%	0.236%	0.104%	69%
below Bonneville recreational	1.020%	0.439%	43%	0.251%	0.690%	0.330%	68%
BON to OR/WA border recreational	0.136%	0.044%	32%	0.021%	0.065%	0.071%	48%
lower Snake River recreational	0.204%	0.040%	20%	0.164%	0.204%	0.000%	100%
Wanapum C&S	0.204%	0.000%	0%	0.171%	0.171%	0.033%	84%
total	1.360%	0.524%	39%	0.443%	0.960%	0.400%	71%
Grand Total	1.700%	0.720%	42%	0.483%	1.196%	0.504%	70%

FUTURE HEARINGS

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.