

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 2, 2020

Fisheries Under Consideration: Select Area Commercial Fisheries

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 2020 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 17, 2020) and the 2020 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 7, 2020). Links to the on-line reports are <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 1 totals 65 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 411 fish and the recent three-year average cumulative adult count of 30 fish. It is still very early in the return; the 10-year average proportion complete at Bonneville Dam is only 0.2% by April 1.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2020 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #2b and #3a.

2020 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Spring Chinook Fisheries

- Combined Select Area winter-season landings through March 27 total 198 Chinook and 176 white sturgeon.
- Winter season fishing periods (with restricted area and time) are scheduled to continue in Oregon Select Area sites through April 14, and spring fisheries open April 16.
- Ex-vessel price for Chinook has declined recently, averaging \$9.29/pound but white sturgeon prices remain stable averaging \$3.34/pound.
- Through March 27, 68% of the landed spring Chinook have been sampled for visual stock identification with 97.0% being classified as lower-river origin. Sixteen coded-wire tags have been collected and analyzed, all of which were from lower-river stocks. Through March 29, 3.0% (6 fish) of the landings have been of upriver origin.
- Given the low interception rate for upriver spring Chinook, commercial fishers have requested 1) a modest expansion of fishing periods, and 2) a modification of currently adopted fishing periods to better align with current low-flow river conditions.
- Staff believes additional fishing time can be provided in these sites without exceeding expectations of upriver impacts for the winter or spring seasons.

Recommendation: 2020 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Youngs Bay (Zone 70)

Adopt the following fishing periods for Upper Youngs Bay as follows:

- 5 PM to 9 PM Monday April 6 (4 hours)
- 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM Thursday April 9 (4 hours)

South Channel (Zone 71)

Modify the previously adopted fishing periods for South Channel as follows:

- 2:30 AM to 6:30 AM Friday April 3 (4 hours)
- 6 PM to 10 PM Monday April 6 (4 hours)
- 8:30 PM Thursday April 9 to 12:30 AM Friday April 10 (4 hours)
- 11:30 PM Monday April 13 to 3:30 AM Tuesday April 14 (4 hours)
- 3:30 AM to 7:30 AM Friday April 17 (4 hours)

Knappa Slough (Zone 73)

Modify the previously adopted fishing periods for Knappa Slough as follows:

- 2:30 AM to 6:30 AM Friday April 3 (4 hours)
- 6 PM to 10 PM Monday April 6 (4 hours)
- 8:30 PM Thursday April 9 to 12:30 AM Friday April 10 (4 hours)
- 11:30 PM Monday April 13 to 3:30 AM Tuesday April 14 (4 hours)
- 3:30 AM to 7:30 AM Friday April 17 (4 hours)

All other previously adopted regulations for these sites remain in effect.

- The proposed modifications add two additional fishing periods in Youngs Bay, and modify the hours in South Channel and Knappa Slough.
- In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, food production (e.g. commercial fisheries) is considered essential by state and federal policies.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact/Joint State hearing is currently scheduled for 10 AM April 15 to consider recreational spring Chinook fisheries. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.