

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
March 30, 2021

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Select Area commercial
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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 online. The most recent reports are the 2021 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 14, 2021) and the 2021 Spring/Summer salmon, steelhead, and other species report (February 4, 2021) available at:

*<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> or
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The current five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 129 kcfs compared to a five-year average outflow of 236 kcfs. The current water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 45°F compared to a five-year average temperature of 44°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.6 feet which is greater than the five-year average of 3.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through March 28 totals 92 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 196 fish and the recent three-year average cumulative adult count of 27 fish. It is still very early in the return; the 10-year average proportion complete at Bonneville Dam is approximately 0.1% by March 28.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2021 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #3.

2021 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Spring Chinook Fisheries

- Combined Select Area winter-season landings through March 26 total 189 Chinook and 66 white sturgeon.
- Winter-season fishing periods (with restricted area and time) are scheduled to continue in limited Oregon Select Area sites through April 15, and spring fisheries open April 19 in all sites.
- Ex-vessel price for Chinook has declined since the onset of the winter season but is still averaging \$15.22 /pound. White sturgeon prices remain stable averaging \$3.27/pound.
- Through March 26, 66% of the landed spring Chinook have been sampled for visual stock

identification with 95% being classified as lower-river origin. An estimated ten upriver spring Chinook have been landed through March 26.

- Given the low interception rate for upriver spring Chinook and high fish value, commercial fishers have requested a modest expansion of fishing area and time.
- Staff believes additional fishing time can be provided in these sites without exceeding expectations of upriver impacts for the winter or spring seasons.

Recommendation: 2021 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Youngs Bay (Zone 70)

Modify the area for the previously adopted period for Upper Youngs Bay as follows:

Youngs Bay (entire)

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM Thursday April 1 (4 hours)

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

1:30 PM to 5:30 PM Monday April 5 (4 hours)

4:30 PM to 8:30 PM Thursday April 8 (4 hours)

Tongue Point (Zone 71)

Adopt the following fishing periods for Tongue Point as follows:

10:00 PM Thursday April 1 to 2:00 AM Friday April 2 (4 hours)

South Channel (Zone 71)

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

10:00 PM Thursday April 1 to 2:00 AM Friday April 2 (4 hours)

Knappa Slough (Zone 73)

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

7 PM Monday April 5 to 7 AM Tuesday April 6 (1 night)

7 PM Thursday April 8 to 7 AM Friday April 9 (1 night)

7 PM Monday April 12 to 7 AM Tuesday April 13 (1 night)

7 PM Wednesday April 14 to 7 AM Thursday April 15 (1 night)

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

- The recommendation expands the fishing area for one period in Youngs Bay, adds two periods in Upper Youngs Bay, adds one period in Tongue Point, modifies the hours in South Channel (for concurrency with Tongue Point) and expands the hours in Knappa Slough for the remainder of the winter season.
- Staff is not recommending any changes to Deep River Select Area at this time in order to minimize impacts to upriver stocks. Only Age-3 and Age-4 spring Chinook are expected to

return. The currently scheduled April 3-19 break in the Deep River fishery is consistent with the approach taken prior to 2018 when the fishery was open.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing may be needed on Tuesday April 6 to consider Select Area commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.