

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 7, 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

- As of April 7, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 137 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 231 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 47°F compared to a five-year average temperature of 46°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.4 feet which is greater than the five-year average of 4.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 6 totals 247 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 658 fish and the recent three-year average cumulative adult count of 116 fish. It is still very early in the return; the 10-year average proportion complete at Bonneville Dam is approximately 0.4% by April 6.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 15 this year, with four weeks completed to date. Observed catch rates have been 0.1, 0.5, 0.6, and 1.0 Chinook per drift to date, respectively. In 2020, test fishing ceased after the first two weeks due to COVID, making those results difficult to compare. When comparing 2021 with 2019, this year's catch rates were lower during the first two weeks but has increased and is higher during the third and fourth weeks. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

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 April 2 total 305 Chinook and 89 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 \$13.29 /pound. White sturgeon prices remain stable averaging \$3.25/pound.
- Through April 3, 64% of the landed spring Chinook have been sampled for visual stock identification with 94% being classified as lower-river origin. An estimated 21 upriver spring Chinook have been landed through April 3.
- 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 this additional proposed fishing time will fully utilize upriver impacts reserved for the winter season, while providing a sufficient balance for prosecution of spring season fisheries.

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)

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

Adopt the following fishing periods for Youngs Bay as follows:

7 PM to 11 PM Monday April 12 (4 hours)

Tongue Point (Zone 71)

Adopt the following fishing periods for Tongue Point as follows:

5:30 PM to 9:30 PM Thursday April 8 (4 hours)

7:30 PM to 11:30 PM Monday April 12 (4 hours)

South Channel (Zone 71)

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

5:30 PM to 9:30 PM Thursday April 8 (4 hours)

7:30 PM to 11:30 PM Monday April 12 (4 hours)

Deep River (Zone 80)

Adopt the following fishing periods for Deep River as follows:

7 PM Thursday April 8 to 7 AM Friday April 9 (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 one period in Youngs Bay, adds two periods in Tongue Point, modifies the hours in South Channel (for concurrency with Tongue Point), and adds one period in Deep River.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.

	Page(s)	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youngs Bay Select Area	2	Oregon state
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area	2	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep River Select Area	2	Compact