

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FISHERY UPDATE #1
April 6, 2021

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of April 6, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 132 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 230 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 46°F compared to a five-year average temperature of 45°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.4 feet which is greater than the five-year average of 4.7 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 5 totals 204 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 596 fish and the recent three-year average cumulative adult count of 88 fish. It is still very early in the return; the 10-year average proportion complete at Bonneville Dam is approximately 0.3% by April 5.
- 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 Sheets #3 and #4a.

2021 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery - Below Bonneville Dam

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under temporary regulations from March 1 – April 4.
- Water conditions have been favorable (low and clear) throughout the season.
- The preliminary kept catch is estimated to be 2,900 adult spring Chinook from approximately 42,730 angler trips through April 4.
- Total mortalities of upriver-origin spring Chinook in the fishery through April 4 are estimated to be 1,978 adult Chinook, or 90% of the 2,206 available to this fishery prior to a run update.
- Given the balance available on the upriver spring Chinook guideline (228 mortalities) is less than what would be expected for even a one-day season extension, additional harvest opportunity is not anticipated until after an upriver run size update from the *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee, which typically occurs by mid-May.

Mainstem Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery – Bonneville Dam to OR/WA Border

- The recreational spring Chinook fishery is currently open under temporary regulations through May 5 from Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam). The pre-update guideline for this fishery is 315 upriver mortalities.
- The creel program is scheduled to begin in mid-April.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area winter season commercial fisheries are currently scheduled through April 15 with restricted times and area. Spring season fisheries are scheduled to open April 19.
- Winter season landings through April 2 total 305 spring Chinook (55% of recent five-year average) and 89 white sturgeon.
- Through April 2, 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 2.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:30 AM Wednesday April 7, 2021 via teleconference to consider Select Area commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor fish runs and ongoing fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.