

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FISHERY UPDATE #1**  
**April 8, 2022**

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

- As of April 8, the recent five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 168 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 217 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 6.1 feet which is greater than the five-year average of 5.0 feet.

**STOCK STATUS**

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 7 totals 1,007 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 730 fish and the recent three-year average cumulative adult count of 189 fish. It is still very early in the return; the 10-year average proportion complete at Bonneville Dam is approximately 0.4% by April 7.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 14, with four weeks completed to date. Weekly catch rates have been 0.7, 0.6, 1.1, and 2.4 Chinook per drift, which are consistently higher than catch rates observed in 2021. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

- Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available at the ODFW and WDFW websites. The most recent report is the 2022 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2022).
- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2022 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #4b and #5a.

**2022 NON-TREATY FISHERIES**

***Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery – Downstream of Bonneville Dam***

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) mainstem recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under temporary regulations from March 1 – April 6.
- Water conditions have been favorable (low and clear) throughout the season.
- The preliminary kept catch through April 6 is estimated to be about 5,120 adult spring Chinook from approximately 42,600 angler trips.
- Total mortalities of upriver-origin spring Chinook in the fishery through April 6 are estimated to be 4,102 adult Chinook, or 105% of the 3,913 available to this fishery prior to a run update.
- Given there is no balance remaining on the upriver spring Chinook pre-run-update guideline, additional harvest opportunity is not anticipated until after an upriver run size update is provided by the *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee, which typically occurs by mid-May.

### ***Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery – Bonneville Dam to OR/WA Border***

- The recreational spring Chinook fishery is currently open under temporary regulations through May 5 in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam). The pre-run-update guideline for this fishery is 559 upriver mortalities.
- The creel program is scheduled to begin the week of April 11.

### ***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 18.
- Winter season landings through April 1 total 844 spring Chinook (double the recent five-year to-date average) and 35 white sturgeon.
- Through April 1, 45% of the landed spring Chinook have been sampled for visual stock identification with 90% being classified as lower-river origin. After application of the CWT-based correction, an estimated 76 upriver spring Chinook have been landed through April 1 (18% of the Select Area commercial allocation).

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

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