

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 11, 2022

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmonid downstream of Bonneville Dam
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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 report is the 2022 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2022) available at:

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

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of May 10, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 226 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 312 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 51°F compared to the five-year average of 54°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 5.3 feet compared to the five-year average of 4.4 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through May 9 totals 90,064 fish, which is 127% of the 10-year (2012-21) average cumulative count and 278% of the 5-year (2017-21) average for this date. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam is May 11.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met most recently on Monday, May 9 to review the upriver spring Chinook return and upgraded the forecast to 161,800 adults at the Columbia River mouth compared to the pre-season forecast of 122,900 adults. TAC's next scheduled meeting is Monday, May 16.
- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam between April 1 and June 30 (including Bonneville Pool harvest during this timeframe) are considered upriver Skamania stock steelhead. Steelhead caught in the lower Columbia through April are counted as winter steelhead and from May 1-June 30 are counted as lower river Skamania stock steelhead. Through May 9 a total of 644 Skamania steelhead, which is 59% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. The Skamania run is 18% complete on May 9.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets occurred primarily on Mondays from March 15 through May 9. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).
- The 2022 forecasts for the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Sandy (CKLS) rivers are sufficient to meet escapement goals. It is too early to update spring Chinook hatchery returns to the CKLS rivers.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- 2022 pre-season forecasts and management guidelines for spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #4b and #5a.
- The Oregon and Washington allocation policies for 2022 specific to commercial-recreational ESA-impact sharing and within sport sub-allocations are not concurrent. Under the WA policy, no more than 70% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the recreational fisheries, and under Oregon rule, no more than 20% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the commercial fisheries. Additionally, under the WA policy, no more than 70% of the recreational allocation can be allocated to the Lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery, and under Oregon rule, no more than 25% of the recreational allocation can be allocated for fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam (Bonneville to OR/WA state line, Snake River). Therefore, modeling only utilizes 90% of the non-treaty allocation and 95% of the recreational share of upriver spring Chinook impacts.
- At TAC's current upriver run size and guidance for ESA impact sharing, allocation of upriver fish (including release mortalities) for non-treaty fisheries is:
 - 1,472 unallocated non-treaty
 - 9,308 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
 - 1,330 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
 - 1,288 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (Washington waters)
 - 45 fish for Wanapum tribe (Upper Columbia)
 - 665 unallocated recreational
 - ≤615 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

2022 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery

- The recreational spring Chinook fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam was open through April 6 with 5,166 adult spring Chinook kept (683 released) and 265 winter steelhead kept (197 released) from 43,390 angler trips.
- From Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA border, the spring Chinook fishery was open April 1 through May 3 with 1,500 adult spring Chinook kept (426 released) from 4,954 angler trips.
- The Snake River recreational fishery (Washington waters) was open on a two days per week and per location (Little Goose and Ice Harbor areas) approach with 372 adults kept and 47 released through May 8 from 4,068 angler hours.
- Wanapum Band (tribal) fisheries opened May 9 and are expected to fish through June 3. No fish have been harvested.

- Recreational spring Chinook catches are summarized in the table below:

Accounting of upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2022 recreational fisheries						
Fishery	adult Chinook through May 8			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance
	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			
downstream of BON	5,166	4,079	4,133	9,308	44%	5,175
BON - OR/WA border	1,500	1,500	1,543	1,330	116%	-213
Snake River (WA waters)	372	372	377	1,288	29%	911

- At the current run size and associated allocations, the remaining total recreational allocation is reduced due to the overage in the Bonneville Dam to OR/WA state line fishery.
- Given the significant balance remaining on the upriver spring Chinook allocation at the current run size projection, there is potential for additional recreational angling opportunity downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Recommendation: 2022 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Thursday May 12 through Wednesday May 18, and June 1-15 22 retention days
Area:	Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. Legal upstream boat boundary defined as: A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse One) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock.
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Shad may also be retained.
	All other permanent regulations apply.

- This recommended season structure is expected to handle about 5,625 adult Chinook, including 4,125 kept, and would accrue 3,412 additional upriver mortalities. Projected season total upriver mortalities would be 7,545 or 81% of the current allocation for this fishery.
- Due to uncertainties surrounding both the abundance of upriver spring Chinook and fishery performance, staff is recommending a split season approach with the possibility to add more opportunity as information becomes available next week.
- The proposal for the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam provides immediate opportunity while spring Chinook abundance is high as well as an early June fishery leading into the summer season.
- The Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group has previously supported providing fishing opportunity in June to merge with the summer season. The 2022 summer season is scheduled to occur June 16-22 below Bonneville Dam.

Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Combined Select Area landings through May 7 total 2,181 Chinook and 45 white sturgeon. Chinook landings are approximately 71% of the recent 5-year average cumulative total for the same timeframe. Select Area fisheries have accrued 423 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 7.
- All Select Area sites, excluding Deep River, had periods rescinded after the spring season opener on April 18 due to achieving the allowable commercial allocation of upriver spring Chinook based upon the pre-season forecast. Select Area fisheries re-opened with modified hours and area on May 9-10 and revert to previously scheduled periods beginning the evening of May 11.

Catch Balance and ESA

- Catches in all non-treaty fisheries combined are projected to remain within the allowable *U.S. vs. OR* Catch Balance and ESA impact rate (1.26% as compared to the allowed 1.90%) of the upriver spring Chinook run.

Expected upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2022 non-treaty fisheries.							
Sector	Fishery	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Projected Balance
		through May 8	Recommendation	Total Expected			
Recreational	Downstream of BON*	4,133	3,416	7,549	9,308	81%	1,759
	BON - OR/WA border	1,543	na	1,543	1,330	116%	-213
	Snake River (WA waters)	377	na	1,288	1,288	100%	0
Tribal	Wanapum Band (Upper Columbia)	0	na	45	45	100%	0
<i>subtotal</i>		6,053		10,425	11,971	87%	1,546
Commercial	Select Areas	423	na	615	615	100%	0
	Mainstem	0	na	0	0		0
<i>subtotal</i>		423		615	615	100%	0
TOTAL		6,476		11,040	14,724**	75%	3,684

* Includes non-target release mortalities during steelhead season.

** Includes unallocated balance between OR/WA Commission guidance (non-concurrence).

- Impacts to other listed stocks, including steelhead, are expected to remain below ESA take limitations. Pre-season expectations were outlined in the 2022 Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the 2022 Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff request a hearing to be scheduled for 10 AM May 18, 2022 to consider additional non-treaty spring Chinook fisheries.