

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 2, 2022**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam Mainstem recreational salmon Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Estuary recreational white sturgeon
--	--

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 June 1, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 313 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 350 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 55°F compared to the five-year average of 57°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 4.6 feet compared to the five-year average of 3.9 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through June 1 totals 149,031 fish, which is 129% of the 10-year (2012-21) average cumulative count and 210% of the 5-year (2017-21) average for this date.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met most recently on Tuesday, May 31 to review the upriver spring Chinook return and upgraded the forecast to 192,900 adults at the Columbia River mouth compared to the pre-season forecast of 122,900 adults. TAC’s next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 6.
- 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 to June 30 are counted as lower river Skamania stock steelhead. Through June 1 a total of 1,197 Skamania steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam, which is 63% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. The upriver Skamania run is typically about 29% complete by June 1.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets occurred from March 15 through May 31 this year. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).
- The 2022 forecasts for the Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis, and Sandy rivers are sufficient to meet escapement goals. Spring Chinook hatchery returns to-date to the Cowlitz, Lewis, and Kalama rivers are ahead or meeting expectations.

- During the spring management period, shad abundance tends to increase substantially in late May and peak in June. Cumulative shad passage at Bonneville Dam through June 1 is 88,220 fish; which is 106% of the 2021 cumulative count to date, but less than 29% of the 10-year average. Based on the 10-year average for passage, shad passage is usually about 8% complete through June 1 and 50% complete by June 16.
- 2022 stock status information for white sturgeon was presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5a and #8.

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 upriver ESA-impact sharing and within sport sub-allocations are not concurrent.
- The current Oregon and Washington policies pertaining to allowable gears for use in a spring mainstem commercial fishery are not concurrent. However, if Select Area fisheries are not projected to use the full commercial allocation of impacts to upriver Chinook, policy direction from both commissions provides for mainstem commercial fisheries, using standard spring season live capture techniques, after an in-season run update.
- Management guidelines for white sturgeon fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5a and #8.

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 and re-opened May 12. Catches through May 29 total 8,943 adult spring Chinook kept (2,331 released), 561 steelhead kept (268 released), and 14 sockeye released from about 70,000 angler trips.
- From Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA border, the spring Chinook fishery was open April 1 through May 3, and re-opened for May 26 and May 28. Catch for this fishery includes 1,604 adult spring Chinook kept (519 released) from about 6,200 angler trips. No steelhead or sockeye have been handled to-date.
- The Snake River recreational fishery (Washington waters) was open on a two days per week and per location (Little Goose and Ice Harbor areas) schedule with 1,337 adults kept and 317 released from May 3-27 from 19,683 angler hours. This fishery is currently closed, although Washington may consider additional opportunities.

Accounting of upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2022 recreational fisheries						
Fishery	adult Chinook through May 29			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance
	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			
downstream of BON	8,943	6,949	7,131	10,915	65%	3,784
BON - OR/WA border	1,604	1,604	1,656	1,559	106%	-97
Snake River (WA waters)	1,337	1,337	1,369	1,511	91%	142

- The states utilized unused recreational allocation to open the Bonneville Dam to OR/WA border fishery on May 26 and May 28. The catch for these two days was 104 adult spring Chinook kept (93 released) from 1,259 angler trips.
- There is potential for additional recreational angling opportunity in recreational fisheries both upstream and downstream of Bonneville Dam given the balance remaining on the upriver spring Chinook allocation at the current run size projection. Staff continues to update fishery expectations based upon current fishery performance.

<i>Recommendations: 2022 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Effective Saturday June 4 through Wednesday June 15, the upstream boat boundary is the Bonneville Dam deadline and the daily adult salmonid bag limit may include up to two hatchery Chinook. All previously adopted regulations remain in effect.		
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border		
Season:	Saturday June 4 through Wednesday June 15	12 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately six miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- For the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, this recommendation extends the open area for boat angling and increases the daily adult spring Chinook bag limit. The additional expected handle is 563 adult Chinook, including 318 kept, and would accrue 335 additional upriver mortalities. Projected season total upriver mortalities would be 9,377 or 86% of the current Catch Balance allocation for this fishery.
- Given these expectations for the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, staff projects a balance of 1,538 fish from this fishery's allocation.
- Considering the catch estimated for the recent open days in the Bonneville Dam to OR/WA border fishery, staff projects the recommended extension would result in a handle of 1,417 adult Chinook, including 749 kept, and would accrue 816 additional upriver mortalities. Projected season total upriver mortalities for this fishery be 2,472.
- These recommendations would provide for additional opportunity from Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the OR/WA border and are expected to utilize much of the remaining balance.

Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Combined Select Area landings through May 29 total 9,320 Chinook and 103 white sturgeon. Select Area fisheries have accrued 546 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 29. Given

the currently adopted season structure, Select Area commercial fisheries are projected to accrue up to 608 upriver mortalities (0.315% ESA impact rate) through June 15, which is less than the upriver spring Chinook commercial allocation (0.380% ESA impact rate) at the current run size projection.

- Area 2S commercial shad fishery landings through May 29 total 402 shad.
- The most recent WDFW tangle net test fishery occurring in Zone 2/3 on May 29/31 resulted in 1.8 Chinook, 0.3 steelhead, and 110 shad handled per drift; no sockeye were handled.
- Landings from the mainstem fishery on May 23 total 19 adult Chinook, 3,201 shad, and no sturgeon. Staff estimates there were 40 adult Chinook released, 6 released steelhead (4 unmarked), and 1 released sockeye. Total upriver spring Chinook mortalities are estimated to be 25 (0.004% ESA impact rate) and total steelhead mortalities was 1 fish.
- Given the current upriver spring Chinook run size projection, allocation sharing guidance, the post-update timeframe, and expected usage in Select Area commercial fisheries, additional periods can be considered at this time given the commercial balance (0.061% ESA impact rate) available for a mainstem fishery.

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	4:00 PM Monday June 6 to 12:00 AM Tuesday June 7, 2022 (8 hours) (2 periods) 4:00 PM Wednesday June 8 to 12:00 AM Thursday June 9, 2022 (8 hours)
Area:	Reduced Zones 4-5. Hayden Island power lines (west towers) upstream to the upper commercial fishing deadline at Beacon Rock.
Sanctuaries:	Sandy and Washougal river sanctuaries in effect.
Gear:	Drift tangle nets only. 4¼-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Single-wall multi-filament net only. Monofilament tangle nets are not allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers. An optional use of a steelhead excluder panel of mesh may be hung between the corkline and the 4¼-inch maximum mesh size tangle net. The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12-inch stretched measure when taut under hand tension. Monofilament mesh is allowed for the excluder panel only. The excluder panel must be a minimum of five feet in depth and must not exceed ten feet in depth as measured from the corkline to the upper margin of the tangle net mesh as the net hangs naturally from a taut corkline. Weedlines or droppers (bobber type) may be used in place of the steelhead excluder panel. A weedline-type excluder means the net is suspended below the corkline by lines of no less than five feet in length between the corkline and the upper margin of the tangle net. A dropper-type excluder means the entire net is suspended below the surface of the water by lines of no less than five feet in length extending from individual surface floats to a submersed corkline. The corkline cannot be capable of floating the net in its entirety (including the leadline) independent of the attached floats. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of five feet above the 4¼-inch maximum mesh size tangle net. Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers must have two red corks at each end of the net, as well as the red corks as required below. Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension, and the measurement is taken from the inside of one vertical knot to the inside of the opposite vertical

knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact.

There are no restrictions on the use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net and is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.

Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.

Allowable Sales:

Adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of twenty (20) adult adipose fin-clipped Chinook may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel. The first twenty (20) adult hatchery fish must be retained and no additional drifts may be conducted once the Chinook limit has been retained. Jacks (Chinook less than 24-inches in total length) do not count against the adult landing limit. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.

Regulations:

Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the web is deployed into the water until the web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes. Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required.

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Each chamber of the recovery box(es) must include an operating water pumping system capable of delivering a minimum flow of 16 gallons per minute, not to exceed 20 gallons per minute of freshwater per chamber. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Each chamber of the recovery box must meet the following dimensions as measured from within the box: the inside length measurement must be at or within 39 ½ inches to 48 inches; the inside width measurements must be at or within 8 to 10 inches; and the inside height measurement must be at or within 14 to 16 inches. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water inlet hole between ¾ inch and 1 inch in diameter, centered horizontally across the door or end wall of the chamber and 1¾ inches from the floor of the chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water outlet hole that is at least 1½ inches in diameter located on either the same or opposite end as the inlet. The center of the outlet hole must be located a minimum of 12 inches above the floor of the box or chamber. The fisher must demonstrate to WDFW and ODFW employees, fish and wildlife enforcement officers, or other peace officers, upon request, that the pumping system is delivering the proper volume of fresh river water into each chamber.

All non-legal sized sturgeon not lawful to possess, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box. Any salmonid that is bleeding or lethargic

must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

Additional Rules:

Observer program: As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department. Additionally, cooperation with department personnel prior to a fishing period is expected.

Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours.

- Given the timing, location, and potential for shad encounters in the proposed fishery, effort is expected to be low and likely similar to the effort seen during the prior opener.
- This fishery is expected to result in a kept catch of no more than 316 adult spring Chinook, with a maximum of 347 upriver mortalities.
- Additional dark time was requested by fishery participants to potentially improve catch rates given water conditions have been clearer than normal this year.
- Staff intends to conduct onboard observation of this fishery.
- Since the commercial allocation of Willamette hatchery spring Chinook at the preseason forecast is low, and some of those fish have been harvested in Select Area fisheries, the staff recommendation again includes a reduced area to minimize the interception of Willamette-origin spring Chinook.
- Any steelhead encountered in this fishery would be classified as lower river Skamania stock. Based on observations in prior fisheries during May, few steelhead are expected to be impacted in this fishery and aggregate impacts to wild lower river Skamania steelhead are expected to remain well within the 2.0% ESA limit for non-Treaty fisheries.
- The proposed mainstem fishery overlaps all Select Area fisheries, therefore staff recommends the following action:

Recommendation: 2022 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Retention and sales of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook from ongoing Select Area commercial fisheries is prohibited from 4:00 PM Monday June 6 through 12:00 PM (noon) Tuesday June 7 and 4:00 PM Wednesday June 8 through 12:00 PM (noon) Thursday June 9.

Catch Balance and ESA

- Catches in all non-treaty fisheries combined are projected to remain within the allowable *U.S. v. OR* Catch Balance and ESA impact rate (1.39% as compared to the allowed 1.90%) of the upriver spring Chinook run.

Expected upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2022 non-treaty fisheries.							
Fishery	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Projected Balance	
	through May 29	Recommendation	Total Expected				
Downstream of BON*	7,131	335	9,377	10,915	86%	1,538	
BON - OR/WA border	1,656	816	2,472	1,559	159%	-913	
Snake River (WA waters)	1,369	na	1,511	1,511	100%	0	
Wanapum Band (Upper Columbia)	7	na	53	53	100%	0	
<i>Recreational subtotal</i>	<i>10,163</i>		<i>13,413</i>	<i>14,038</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>625</i>	
Select Areas	546	na	608	608	100%	0	
Mainstem	25	347	372	372	100%	0	
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>571</i>		<i>980</i>	<i>980</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>Unallocated subtotal**</i>				<i>2,535</i>		<i>2,535</i>	
TOTAL	10,734		14,393	17,553	82%	3,160	

* Includes non-target release mortalities during steelhead season. Total Expected includes previously adopted May 30-June 15 fishery catch projections (1,911 upriver mortalities).

** Unallocated balance between OR/WA Commission guidance (non-concurrence) resulting from 10% difference between recreational/commercial (1,755 fish) and 5% difference within recreational (780 fish).

- 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.

Estuary Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery

- The recreational white sturgeon retention fishery in the Columbia River Estuary (waters downstream of the Wauna Powerlines) is open May 11 through June 4 on a Wednesday and Saturday rotation, plus Monday, May 30 (9 days) with a catch guideline of up to 1,920 legal-sized white sturgeon.
- The preliminary 2022 harvest estimate for this fishery is 312 kept from approximately 6,200 angler trips through May 30. The kept catch represents 16% of the 1,920 fish harvest guideline for this fishery.
- Catch and effort to date has been well below preseason expectations.
- Considering catch/effort to date, the updated catch projection through June 4 is 834 kept fish, or 43% of the guideline. Based on a projected balance of 1,086 fish remaining on the harvest guideline after June 4, additional retention opportunity exists for this fishery.

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Sturgeon Recreational Fishery for Below Wauna Powerlines</i>		
Season:	Wednesday, June 8 and Saturday, June 11	2 days
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay, and all adjacent Washington tributaries.	
Allowable Catch:	Up to 1,086 white sturgeon Legal size: 44-inch minimum and 50-inch maximum fork length (Fork length is measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork in the caudal fin (tail) with the fish laying on its side on a flat surface, with the tape measure/ruler positioned flat <u>under</u> the fish) Daily bag limit: One fish Annual bag limit: Two fish Retention of green sturgeon is prohibited.	
Additional Regulations:	On days open to white sturgeon retention, angling for sturgeon (including catch and release) is prohibited after 2 PM.	

- The addition of Wednesday, June 8 and Saturday, June 11 will provide improved fishing opportunity for anglers, in terms of higher predicted catch rates, and continues the Wednesday/Saturday rotation. Flights are scheduled to count effort and staff are available to sample the fishery for these dates.
- Although recent data for a mid-June retention fishery is limited, the expected kept catch for the proposed two-day season extension, considering actual results to date, is about 851 fish. Season total harvest would be approximately 1,685, or 88% of the harvest guideline. Based on the current catch projection, no additional retention opportunity would be expected for the 2022 estuary fishery.
- June 4-5 is an Oregon Free Fishing Weekend and June 11-12 is a Washington Free Fishing Weekend. Washington does require catch record cards to be filled out during a Free Fishing day, therefore we expect no additional complications with the associated extension.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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