

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 9
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 9, 2025

Fisheries under consideration:

Mainstem recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam

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 2025 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (January 31, 2025) 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 April 7, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 195 kcfs compared to the recent five-year average of 138 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 48°F compared to the five-year average of 46°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 3.4 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.1 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through April 7 totals 521 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of 669 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of 415 fish. It is still very early in the return; the recent 5- and 10-year average proportions complete at Bonneville Dam are approximately 0.3% and 0.4%, respectively, by April 7.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 9 this year, with fishing typically occurring on Mondays. Five weeks of test fishing have been completed to date. Weekly observed catch rates have been 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.3, and 1.4 adult Chinook per drift. This week's observed increase in catch rate occurred one week earlier than last year, but the same week as 2023. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2025 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5b and #6.

2025 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area commercial fisheries are on-going in all four sites (Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/ Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep River). Preliminary catch estimates

for the combined Select Areas through April 4 total 1,126 spring Chinook, including an estimated 48 upriver-origin fish (as compared to an allocation of ≤392).

Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under permanent regulations from January 1 – February 28 and temporary regulations from March 1 – April 6.
 - Through Sunday April 6, catches in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam are preliminarily estimated to be 528 adult spring Chinook with 105 released from approximately 25,800 angler trips.
 - Mortalities of upriver-origin Chinook are estimated to be 326 adults, or 8% of the 4,030 available to the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam prior to a run size update.
- The Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington border recreational spring Chinook fishery is open under temporary regulations from April 1–26. The pre-season buffered allocation of upriver spring Chinook is 576 fish. This fishery just recently opened, effort has been low and catches have been minimal.
- Given the balance on the pre-season buffered allocation of upriver spring Chinook (3,704 mortalities remain available) for the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, there is potential for additional angling opportunity.

<i>Recommendation: 2025 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Friday April 11 – Sunday April 13; 6 retention days Tuesday April 15 – Thursday April 17
Area:	Buoy 10 line upstream to Beacon Rock plus only the Oregon and Washington banks 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.

- Modeled kept catch associated with this recommendation is around 4,350 adult Chinook (including 3,619 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities). Total mortalities of upriver Chinook (3,945 adults) would represent 98% of the 4,303 mortalities available to the LCR recreational fishery prior to a run update.
- The staff proposal provides time to assess catch estimates from the initial 3-day opener (Friday April 11 – Sunday April 13) to confirm that the following 3-day block (Tuesday April 15 –

Thursday April 17) can occur within the remaining balance. If catch estimates over the weekend are higher than projected, there is sufficient time to modify the fishery if needed.

- An upriver spring Chinook run size of about 85,750 adults would cover the projected cumulative mortalities for the LCR recreational fishery recommendation, pre-update allocations for other non-treaty fisheries (1,393 total), and the unallocated components from non-concurrent commission guidance. This analysis accounts for the fact that Snake River wild abundance is constraining the allowed harvest rates this year.
- Fishery-specific ESA impact rate expectations for other species and stocks are expected to remain within the estimates provided in the 2025 Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.
- Hand-cast bank-only regulations will be in effect for the Washington shore from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam.
- Staff will monitor the fisheries in-season. If the fisheries are tracking within expectations, the fishery will proceed as scheduled. However, due to the dynamic nature of fisheries and fish runs, in-season action may be necessary to remain within ESA limits and/or catch balancing requirements.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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