

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 20, 2025

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational spring Chinook Select Area commercial salmon
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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 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

- Through May 18, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 215 kcfs which is lower than the five-year average of 285 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 55°F, and the current five-day average visibility is 5 feet. Both are comparable to their recent five-year averages.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through May 18 totals 102,025 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of approximately 84,000 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of nearly 78,000 fish. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam is May 12.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 19 to review the 2025 upriver spring Chinook return. Based on the information to date and discussion of the output from several Bonneville Dam passage projection models, TAC updated the expected return of adult upriver-origin spring Chinook from the preseason forecast of 122,500 adults to 155,500 fish at the Columbia River mouth. TAC's next scheduled meeting is May 27.
- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam between April 1 and June 30 (including harvest in Bonneville Pool during this timeframe) are managed as upriver Skamania stock steelhead. Steelhead caught in the lower Columbia through April are considered to be winter steelhead and from May 1 – June 30 are lower river Skamania stock steelhead for fishery management purposes. Through May 18 a total of 623 upriver Skamania steelhead (including 328 unclipped) have been counted at Bonneville Dam, which is 61% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. On average, upriver Skamania passage is about 20% complete on May 18.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 9 this year, with fishing typically occurring on Mondays. Weekly observed catch rates have been 0.1, 0.2, 0.4, 0.3, 1.4, 3.1, 6.6, 5.9, 1.7, and 2.6 adult Chinook per drift. This week's test fishery results

are not yet available. The two peak adult Chinook per drift values (6.6 and 5.9) are the highest observed since 2022. All test fishing results are available on the WDFW test fishing webpage ([click here](#)).

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Preseason forecasts and management guidelines for 2025 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5b and #6.
- The Oregon and Washington allocation policies for 2025 specific to commercial/recreational ESA-impact sharing and within-recreational 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 per guidance to Oregon staff, 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).
- Recently, the directors from both agencies met to discuss the recreational sub-allocations and agreed to allocate 30% of the available recreational fishery ESA impacts to fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam for 2025: 13% will be allocated to the Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line fishery and 17% to Washington's lower Snake River fishery.
- At TAC's current in-season upriver spring Chinook abundance expectation, and commission guidance for ESA-impact sharing, allocation of upriver-origin spring Chinook (including release mortalities) for non-treaty fisheries is:
 - 1,291 unallocated non-treaty
 - 8,493 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
 - 1,577 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
 - 973 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (Washington waters)
 - 44 fish for Wanapum tribe (upper Columbia)
 - 529 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

2025 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational spring Chinook fishery, downstream of Bonneville Dam, was open under permanent regulations from January 1 – February 28 and temporary regulations from March 1 – April 6. The fishery was reopened April 11–13, April 15–17, and May 9–22.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates through May 18 are 6,552 kept and 773 released from about 62,600 angler trips.

- The Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington border recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under temporary regulations from April 1–26 and reopened on May 10 and May 13.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates through May 13 are 704 kept and 211 released from about 5,300 angler trips.
- The Snake River recreational fishery (Washington waters) opened under temporary regulations from May 6–23 on a two day per week schedule (Tuesdays and Fridays) at Little Goose and May 21–22 at Ice Harbor.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates through May 18 are 309 kept and 54 released from about 1,100 angler trips.
- Upriver-origin adult spring Chinook catches in these fisheries are summarized in the table below:

Accounting of upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2025 recreational fisheries through May 18						
Fishery	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)	Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance
downstream of BON	6,552	5,072	5,124	8,493	60%	3,369
BON - OR/WA border	704	704	725	1,577	46%	852
SNAKE RIVER (WA waters)	309	309	314	973	32%	659
<i>Total</i>	<i>7,565</i>	<i>6,085</i>	<i>6,163</i>	<i>11,043</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>4,880</i>

- Given the balances of upriver-origin spring Chinook available to mainstem Columbia River recreational fisheries, staff modeled additional fishing opportunities that allow for in-season adjustment as needed to remain within the allowable ESA-impacts and catch-sharing guidelines. Modeling included recent-year observed May/June effort and catch rates. Chinook abundance, passage expectations, and current river conditions were also incorporated.
- Staff considered angler interest for additional and continuous days of fishing through the remaining spring management period.

<i>Recommendation: 2025 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Friday May 23 – Thursday June 12 21 retention days
Area:	Tongue Point/Rocky Point 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 Adult 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.

Bonneville Dam to Oregon/ Washington state line		
Season:	Thursday May 22 – Sunday June 15	25 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately six miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to the Oregon/Washington border, plus only the Oregon and Washington banks from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Tower Island power lines.	
Daily Adult 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 mortalities associated with these recommendations are around 3,240 adult Chinook (including 2,703 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities) in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, and 822 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities in the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Given this recommendation and fisheries that are ongoing or have occurred, the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to use 99% of its upriver-origin spring Chinook allocation, and the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to use 98% of its allocation.
- Hand-cast bank-only regulations will be in effect for the Washington shore from Beacon Rock to Bonneville Dam, and the Oregon and Washington banks from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Tower Island power lines.
- Staff will monitor the fisheries in-season. If the fisheries are tracking within expectations, the fisheries 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.

Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- No landings have occurred in the Area 2S commercial shad fishery to date.
- Combined Select Area landings through May 16 total 8,694 spring Chinook. Cumulative Chinook landings are similar to 2024 and about 45% greater than the recent 5-year average total for the same timeframe. Select Area fisheries have accrued an estimated 335 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 16. Ex-vessel price remains good at about \$9.00 per pound.
- Given the current upriver spring Chinook run size projection and usage to date in Select Area commercial fisheries, staff recommends an expansion of open fishing hours in the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel sites for the remainder of the spring season.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Areas

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the railroad bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action. Oregon state waters extend upstream of the railroad bridge and require Oregon action.

Recommendation: 2025 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

Modify the hours for the previously-adopted spring-season fishing periods for Blind Slough and Knappa Slough as follows:

6 PM Thursday May 22 to 9 AM Friday May 23 (15 hours)
6 PM Monday May 26 to 9 AM Tuesday May 27 (15 hours)
6 PM Tuesday May 27 to 9 AM Wednesday May 28 (15 hours)
6 PM Wednesday May 28 to 9 AM Thursday May 29 (15 hours)
6 PM Thursday May 29 to 9 AM Friday May 30 (15 hours)
6 PM Monday June 2 to 9 AM Tuesday June 3 (15 hours)
6 PM Tuesday June 3 to 9 AM Wednesday June 4 (15 hours)
6 PM Wednesday June 4 to 9 AM Thursday June 5 (15 hours)
6 PM Thursday June 5 to 9 AM Friday June 6 (15 hours)
6 PM Monday June 9 to 9 AM Tuesday June 10 (15 hours)
6 PM Tuesday June 10 to 9 AM Wednesday June 11 (15 hours)
6 PM Wednesday June 11 to 9 AM Thursday June 12 (15 hours)
6 PM Thursday June 12 to 9 AM Friday June 13 (15 hours)

All other previously adopted regulations for these fisheries remain in effect.

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas

- All waters in the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area are under concurrent Oregon and Washington jurisdiction and require Compact action.

Recommendation: 2025 Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery

Modify the hours for the previously-adopted spring-season fishing periods for Tongue Point and South Channel as follows:

6 PM Thursday May 22 to 9 AM Friday May 23 (15 hours)
6 PM Monday May 26 to 9 AM Tuesday May 27 (15 hours)
6 PM Tuesday May 27 to 9 AM Wednesday May 28 (15 hours)
6 PM Wednesday May 28 to 9 AM Thursday May 29 (15 hours)
6 PM Thursday May 29 to 9 AM Friday May 30 (15 hours)
6 PM Monday June 2 to 9 AM Tuesday June 3 (15 hours)
6 PM Tuesday June 3 to 9 AM Wednesday June 4 (15 hours)
6 PM Wednesday June 4 to 9 AM Thursday June 5 (15 hours)
6 PM Thursday June 5 to 9 AM Friday June 6 (15 hours)
6 PM Monday June 9 to 9 AM Tuesday June 10 (15 hours)
6 PM Tuesday June 10 to 9 AM Wednesday June 11 (15 hours)
6 PM Wednesday June 11 to 9 AM Thursday June 12 (15 hours)
6 PM Thursday June 12 to 9 AM Friday June 13 (15 hours)

All other previously adopted regulations for these fisheries remain in effect.

- These recommendations expand the fishing time from 12 to 15 hours for 13 periods each in Tongue Point/South Channel and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough spring-season fisheries.

- These season extensions would provide additional access to Select Area spring Chinook at a time when ex-vessel price remains fairly high.
- Any steelhead encountered in this fishery would be classified as lower river Skamania stock. Based on observations in prior year 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 within the preseason estimate.

Catch Balance and ESA

- Catches in all non-treaty fisheries combined are projected to remain within the allowable *U.S.* vs. *OR* catch-balance sharing and ESA impact rate (1.280% as compared to the allowed 1.7%) on the upriver spring Chinook run.

Expected upriver spring Chinook mortalities in 2025 non-treaty fisheries.							
Fishery	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Projected Balance	Projected ESA Impact
	Current ¹	Recommendation	Total Expected				
Downstream of BON ²	5,691	2,703	8,405	8,493	99%	88	0.619%
BON - OR/WA border	725	822	1,547	1,577	98%	30	0.119%
Snake River (WA waters)	314	na	973	973	100%	0	0.202%
Wanapum Band (upper Columbia)	6	na	44	44	100%	0	0.202%
<i>Recreational & NT tribal subtotal</i>	<i>6,736</i>		<i>10,969</i>	<i>11,087</i>	<i>99%</i>	<i>118</i>	<i>0.940%</i>
Select Areas	335	na	529	529	100%	0	0.340%
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>335</i>		<i>529</i>	<i>529</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.340%</i>
<i>Unallocated subtotal</i> ³				<i>1,291</i>		<i>1,291</i>	<i>0.170%</i>
TOTAL	7,071		11,498	12,907	89%	1,409	1.280%
¹ Includes completed and ongoing fisheries							
² Includes non-target release mortalities during steelhead season.							
³ Unallocated balance between OR/WA Commission guidance (non-concurrence) resulting from 10% difference							

- 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.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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