

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 4, 2025

Fisheries under consideration:

Zone 6 spring treaty commercial platform and hook and line
Mainstem recreational spring Chinook

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 June 2 the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 228 kcfs which is lower than the recent five-year average of 283 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 60°F which is higher than the five-year average of 58°F. The current five-day average visibility is 6.6 feet which is higher than the five-year average of 4.9 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through June 2 totals 123,173 adult fish, compared to the recent 10-year average of approximately 108,400 fish and the recent five-year average cumulative adult count of nearly 96,800 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 June 2 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 to 153,800 fish at the Columbia River mouth. TAC's next scheduled meeting is June 9.
- 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 June 2 a total of 926 upriver Skamania steelhead (including 449 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 28% complete on June 3.
- Weekly test fishing in the lower Columbia River using tangle nets began on March 9 and continued through May 27 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, 2.6, 1.6, and 0.8 adult Chinook per drift. 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.
- There are no specific annual steelhead catch limits in treaty spring season fisheries although ESA impact rates are limited to recent year averages. Impact limits on spring Chinook are based on the harvest rate framework of the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement. At the updated forecast, the treaty harvest rate is 8.3% of the river mouth return assuming the Snake River natural origin spring/summer Chinook run size is greater than 10,900 at the Columbia River mouth. If the Snake River natural origin spring/summer Chinook run size is less than that, the allowed treaty harvest rate would be 7.4%.
- The Oregon and Washington allocation policies for 2025 specific to non-treaty 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).
- The directors from both state agencies agreed to allocate 30% of the available recreational fishery ESA impact sub-allocations 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:
 - 1,276 unallocated non-treaty
 - 8,400 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
 - 1,560 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
 - 962 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (Washington waters)
 - 44 fish for Wanapum tribe (upper Columbia)
 - 523 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

2025 TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- Treaty subsistence platform and hook and line fisheries are currently open in Zone 6 and are planned to remain open through the remainder of the spring management period. The table below shows the preliminary total mainstem treaty harvest through May 31.

Treaty Fisheries	Adult Chinook Catch	Harvest Rate (based on updated run size)
Zone 6 Platform & Hook-and-Line	4,385	2.85%
Zone 6 Permit Gillnet	2,195	1.43%
Total Zone 6	6,580	4.28%
Below Bonneville C&S	439	0.29%
Fish retained from test fishery	4	0.00%
Total Below Bonneville	443	0.29%
Total Treaty to-date	7,023	4.57%
Allowed at Updated Run Size (8.3%)	12,765	8.30%
Remaining Available	5,742	3.73%
Allowed at 7.4%	11,381	7.40%
Remaining Available at 7.4%	4,358	2.83%

- Additionally, 170 steelhead have been harvested in platform and hook-and-line fisheries, and 7 steelhead have been harvested in permit gillnet fisheries.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes have or will issue regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2025 Zone 6 Spring Treaty Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Fishery</i>	
Season:	Fish harvested after 6:00 AM Thursday June 5 through 11:59 PM Sunday June 15 may be sold.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and rod and reel with hook and Line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead caught after 6:00 AM on June 5 may be sold or kept for subsistence. Shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may also be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes.
Sanctuaries:	Standard closed areas for these gear types.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Allowing fish to be sold is expected to result in an increase in fishing effort and catch. The tribes have estimated weekly Chinook harvest rates for the Zone 6 platform fishery under subsistence only rules for 2025 and compared those to maximum past weekly platform harvest rates. In the last month, weekly platform harvest rates (based on weekly Bonneville counts) have been less than recent year averages.
- Chinook catch projections for weeks 23-25 are shown in the table below. Catches are based on the maximum observed weekly harvest rates from past years.

Stat Week	Fishery	Chinook Catch	Harvest Rate (based on updated run size)
14-22	Preliminary Combined Treaty	7,023	4.57%
23	Modeled Zone 6 Platform	900	0.59%
24-25	Modeled Zone 6 Platform	1,900	1.24%
Total		9,823	6.40%

- These projected Chinook catches are expected to produce a total spring harvest that is within the allowed harvest rate limit at either a 7.4% or 8.3% harvest rate limit.
- The planned fisheries through the end of the spring management period are expected to harvest no more than 40 additional steelhead and 100 sockeye.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through a tribal creel program. Fish ticket data are used as a supplement to the creel program.
- Treaty commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal members and their families as well as to communities along the river and on reservations.

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 – June 12.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates through May 31 are 7,912 kept and 1,092 released from about 74,600 angler trips.
- The Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington border recreational spring Chinook fishery was open under temporary regulations from April 1–26. The fishery then reopened on May 10, May 13, and May 22 – June 15.
 - Preliminary adult Chinook catch estimates through June 1 are 895 kept and 315 released from about 8,000 angler trips.
- The lower 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 23 are 616 kept and 122 released from about 3,800 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 June 1							
Fishery	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)	Current Allocation	Percent of Allocation	Balance	
downstream of BON	7,912	5,765	5,843	8,400	70%	2,557	
BON - OR/WA border	895	895	926	1,560	59%	634	
Snake River (WA waters)	616	616	628	962	65%	334	
<i>Total</i>	<i>9,423</i>	<i>7,276</i>	<i>7,397</i>	<i>10,922</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>3,525</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 incorporated current-year fishery performance and recent-year observed June effort and catch rates. Chinook abundance, passage expectations, and current river conditions were also considered.

<i>Recommendation: 2025 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery</i>
Downstream of Bonneville Dam
Modify the end date for the ongoing fishery to Sunday June 15. Effective Friday June 6 through Sunday June 15, the upstream boat boundary is the Bonneville Dam deadline and the daily adult salmon/steelhead bag limit may include up to two hatchery Chinook. All previously adopted and other permanent regulations apply.
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/ Washington state line
Effective Friday June 6 through Sunday June 15, the daily adult salmon/steelhead bag limit may include up to two hatchery Chinook. All previously adopted and other permanent regulations apply.

- Given this recommendation and fisheries that are ongoing or have occurred, total expected mortalities are around 10,550 adult Chinook (including 7,600 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities) in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam. This fishery is expected to use 90% of its upriver-origin spring Chinook allocation.
- Total expected mortalities in the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam are 1,014 upriver-origin Chinook mortalities representing 65% of the allocation for this fishery.
- Hand-cast bank-only regulations will be in effect for 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 30 total 10,810 spring Chinook. Cumulative Chinook landings are similar to 2024 and about 37% greater than the recent 5-year average total for the same timeframe. Select Area fisheries have accrued an estimated 393 upriver spring Chinook mortalities through May 30. Ex-vessel price remains good at about \$9.00 per pound.

Non-Treaty 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 (1.201% 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	6,759	841	7,600	8,400	90%	800	0.573%
BON - OR/WA border	1,002	12	1,014	1,560	65%	546	0.086%
Snake River (WA waters)	628	na	962	962	100%	0	0.202%
Wanapum Band (upper Columbia)	12	na	44	44	100%	0	0.202%
<i>Recreational & NT tribal subtotal</i>	<i>8,401</i>		<i>9,620</i>	<i>10,966</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>1,346</i>	<i>0.861%</i>
Select Areas	393	na	523	523	100%	0	0.340%
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>393</i>		<i>523</i>	<i>523</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0.340%</i>
<i>Unallocated subtotal</i> ²				<i>1,276</i>		<i>1,276</i>	<i>0.170%</i>
TOTAL	8,794		10,143	12,765	79%	2,622	1.201%
¹ Includes mortalities from completed and ongoing fisheries							
² 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.