

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact Hearing
April 23, 2014

Fisheries under Consideration: Select Area Commercial

Stock status and management guidelines for 2014 Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 29, 2014). Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are also presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available online. The most recent report is the 2014 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 22, 2014).

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

- Bonneville Dam passage of Chinook through April 22 totals 23,057 adults. On average the run is around 11% complete by April 22 and the 50% passage date is May 7, ranging from April 27 to May 12.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) began meeting weekly on April 21 to review status of the upriver spring Chinook run. TAC did not update the run on Monday but did note that it appears to be tracking within expectations.
- Commercial fisheries in the Select Areas harvested approximately 475 spring Chinook during the winter seasons which ended March 14 in Tongue Point/South Channel, March 26 in Youngs Bay, and April 1 in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Deep River. Landings included 61 upriver stock spring Chinook.
- Spring seasons opened on April 17 in all sites except Tongue Point/South Channel. Catches for the first spring periods were poor with about 574 spring Chinook landed. The catches include approximately 123 upriver stock spring Chinook.
- A relatively high river, coupled with a strong storm system, may have led to a higher than expected number of upriver spring Chinook present in the Select Area fishing sites for the spring season openers.
- Based on the pre-update buffered run size, Select Area commercial fisheries are allocated 238 upriver spring Chinook. Fisheries to date have accrued 184 upriver spring Chinook mortalities.

Summary of Non-Indian impacts in 2014 commercial fisheries					
Fishery	Pre-update			Post-update (at 227K)	Increase from Pre-update allowance
	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>To-date</u>	<u>Balance</u>		
Mainstem	1,735	1,511	224	4,266	2,531
Select Areas	238	184	54	341	103
Total	1,973	1,694	278	4,606	2,635

- The two periods originally scheduled for this week in Youngs Bay were rescinded by Oregon State action on Monday, April 21.
- Based on past performance of the fisheries, the allowable upriver spring Chinook cap of 238 fish is projected to be exceeded without modification of the currently adopted seasons.

Staff Recommendation: Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Compact Action:

- The Joint Staff is recommending that the Select Area commercial fishing periods currently scheduled to occur between April 24–29 plus May 5-6, 2014 be rescinded. This includes Tongue Point/South Channel, Deep River, and concurrent waters in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough.
- Additionally, we recommend the open hours in Tongue Point/South Channel be adjusted to 7PM–1AM (six hours) for the periods beginning on Thursday May 1 and Thursday May 8.
- We recommend the lower deadline of Knappa Slough remain at the east end of Minaker Island for the May 1 and May 8 periods.

Oregon State Action:

- Oregon Staff is recommending that the Select Area commercial fishing periods currently scheduled to occur between April 24–30 plus May 5-6, 2014 in Oregon waters of Blind Slough and Youngs Bay be rescinded.
- Additionally, we recommend the open hours in Youngs Bay be adjusted to 7PM–11PM (four hours) for the period on Thursday May 1 and to 1PM–7PM (six hours) for the period beginning on Thursday May 8.

- ✓ The recommendation would result in the closure of four fishing periods in Youngs Bay and three each in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Deep River, and Tongue Point/South Channel. Additionally, the open hours would be reduced significantly for two periods each in Youngs Bay and Tongue Point/South Channel.
- ✓ Continuing with the smaller area in Knappa Slough reduces the risk of encountering upriver stock spring Chinook in this timeframe.
- ✓ These modifications to the season structure will help ensure the Select Area fisheries do not exceed their pre-update allowance of upriver spring Chinook but does maintain some weekly fishing opportunity prior to a run-size update.
- ✓ It is expected that abundance of upriver spring Chinook will decline after May 9, allowing the fisheries to resume as originally adopted. The recommendation for weekly fishing periods will provide fishery data to inform any potential management decision prior to fisheries resuming as planned for the week of May 12.

Future Hearings

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled.
- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.