

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 23, 2017

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon fisheries Select Area recreational fisheries
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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 on-line. The most recent report is the 2017 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 30, 2017): <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

The 2017 Winter/Spring/Summer Report is in preparation and will be distributed when complete. The 2016 version can be found at the websites listed above.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between January 1 and June 15 are managed as upriver spring Chinook. Snake River wild spring/summer Chinook and upper Columbia wild spring Chinook are components of this run and are federally-listed under the ESA. Spring Chinook returning to other tributaries above Bonneville Dam are part of this run but are not ESA-listed. Based on the recent ten-year average, Bonneville Dam passage is usually 50% complete by May 7. Over the past ten years, adult runs have averaged around 201,600 (range 86,000 to 315,000).

Willamette Spring Chinook

Willamette River spring Chinook exhibit broader migration timing than upriver spring Chinook. Wild spring Chinook destined for portions of the Willamette River and its tributaries are ESA-listed. Over the past ten years, runs (adults and jacks) have averaged around 59,900 fish (range 27,000 to 111,000).

Lower Columbia Spring Chinook

Spring Chinook returning to the tributaries of the lower Columbia River are destined for the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Sandy rivers and the Select Areas. Wild components of this group are ESA-listed, with the exception of the Select Area fish. Over the past ten years, the combined adult return of these lower river stocks has averaged around 19,000 fish (range 10,300 to 31,700) to the tributaries and 7,700 fish (including jacks; range 2,200 to 21,100) to the Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Wild populations from the Cowlitz River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek and from specific areas above Willamette Falls are ESA-listed. Steelhead handled downstream of Bonneville Dam during November through April are managed as winter steelhead. Over the past ten years, wild winter steelhead returns have averaged around 16,800 fish (range 11,600 to 22,400).

Summer Steelhead

Lower Columbia summer steelhead abundance in the Columbia River peaks during May and June. The Skamania stock hatchery summer steelhead are widely planted in the lower Columbia tributaries, including the Willamette Basin. Skamania stock hatchery fish are also released annually in some tributaries upstream of Bonneville Dam. Wild lower river summer steelhead are present in the Kalama, Lewis, Washougal, and Wind rivers in Washington and in the Hood River in Oregon. The lower Columbia River steelhead DPS is listed as threatened by the NMFS. All steelhead handled in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam during May and June are managed as lower river stock.

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted</i> **				
		2016	2016	2017
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
Spring Chinook	Total Spring Chinook	297,800	274,652	227,890
	Willamette	68,700	47,225	38,090
	Sandy*	na	4,151	3,600
	Select Areas*	9,200	8,605	4,900
	Cowlitz*	25,100	22,407	17,100
	Kalama*	4,900	3,980	3,100
	Lewis*	1,100	468	700
	Lower River Total	109,000	86,836	67,490
	Wind*	6,500	3,200	3,600
	Drano Lake*	9,800	6,500	7,500
	Klickitat*	1,600	2,000	2,100
	Yakima*	4,600	5,500	5,510
	Upper Columbia (total)	27,600	26,632	19,300
	<i>Upper Columbia wild</i>	<i>5,000</i>	<i>1,660</i>	<i>3,700</i>
	Snake River Spring/Summer (total)	124,800	116,282	95,800
	<i>Snake River wild</i>	<i>23,700</i>	<i>24,840</i>	<i>15,100</i>
	Upriver Total	188,800	187,816	160,400
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	93,300	91,048	63,100
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	101,600	354,466	198,500
	Wenatchee	57,800	na	54,200
	Okanogan	41,700	na	137,900
	Yakima	na	na	4,000
	Deschutes	na	na	1,000
	Snake River	2,100	944	1,400
Winter Steelhead	Wild	16,900	22,379	11,900 ***
* Return to tributary mouth				
** Components may not sum to totals shown since individual forecasts are not available for all upriver spring Chinook tributaries. Wild components are included in the stock total.				
*** Preliminary				

2/22/2017

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides the treaty Indian and non-treaty fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Fisheries are managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook which requires upriver mortalities in non-treaty fisheries to not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries.

- The MA also specifies fisheries occurring prior to a run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the predicted upriver spring Chinook run size.
- A 30% reduction to the preseason forecast equates to a run size of 112,280 fish, which allows for an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 9,319 upriver spring Chinook and an ESA limit of 1.7% for non-treaty fisheries prior to a run size update.

Endangered Species Act

- A Biological Opinion (BO) based upon the management actions outlined in the MA was issued by NMFS in 2008.
- Impacts to wild winter steelhead are limited to 2% for all mainstem Columbia River non-treaty fisheries. Impacts to wild LCR summer steelhead are also limited to 2%.
- ESA authorization for fisheries impacting listed lower Columbia River Chinook requires specific hatchery escapement goals be met. In 2017, the Lewis River spring Chinook return is forecasted to be less than the hatchery escapement goal of 1,380 adult fish.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to $\leq 15\%$.
- The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish which determines the allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls. The escapement goals are also intended to allow for full recreational fisheries in the upper Willamette River.
- Based on FMEP guidance, an expected return of 32,550 hatchery spring Chinook, and the FMEP escapement goal of 23,000 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 9,875 hatchery fish. This surplus is allocated 9,550 for recreational fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls (including the mainstem Columbia River) and 325 to commercial fisheries.

2017 Spring Chinook Management

- The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions have provided guidance on spring Chinook management. Allowed ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook are allocated 80% to recreational fisheries and 20% to commercial fisheries and Select Area commercial impact allocations are not subject to the *U.S. v OR* run-size buffer provision. This direction combined with catch balance provisions in the MA, result in the following guidelines:

Prior to the run update, allocation of upriver fish (including release mortalities) for non-treaty fisheries will be:

- 6,905 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
- 921 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
- 863 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (Washington waters)
- 20 fish for Wanapum tribe (Upper Columbia)
- ≤ 610 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

2017 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- The Columbia River downstream of the I-5 Bridge is currently open for hatchery salmon and steelhead under permanent regulations through March 31.
- The Columbia River from the I-5 Bridge upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge is currently open for hatchery steelhead under permanent regulations through March 31.
- Staff modeled a lower river spring Chinook season for 2017 similar to the approach used since 2011. The modeled season was discussed with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG), with no better alternatives identified.
- Due to the Lewis River stock ESA issue, staff recommends the Lewis mouth sanctuary implemented in May 2016 also be in place for 2017 recreational fisheries.

<i>2017 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery Recommendations</i>	
Downstream of Bonneville Dam	
Season:	Wednesday March 1 through Thursday April 6 37 retention days
Area:	<p>Buoy 10 upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Except no angling is allowed within a closure area near the mouth of the Lewis River. This closure area is defined as: A line from a marker on the lower end of Bachelor Island through USCG buoy Red #4 to the Oregon shore, downstream to a line from the lower (north) end of Sauvie Island across the Columbia River to the downstream range marker (0.7 miles downstream of the Lewis River) and continuing along the wing jetty to the Washington shore.</u></p>
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border	
Season:	Thursday March 16 through Friday May 5 51 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 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 salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.

- Catch expectations are approximately 8,900 adult Chinook kept (6,860 upriver mortalities) for the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam and 850 adult Chinook kept (all upriver stock) for the fishery upstream of Bonneville.
- With the implementation of a sanctuary at the mouth of the Lewis River for the full pre-run-update season, staff does not anticipate significant interception of Lewis River spring Chinook.
- Fishery recommendations were developed to remain within and comply with:
 - ✓ Impact limits for species listed under the ESA.
 - Staff estimates the recommended fisheries will accrue 0.59% impact to upriver spring Chinook and 0.20% impact to wild winter steelhead.
 - ✓ Buffers and catch balance provisions outlined in the MA.
 - ✓ Policy guidance and management objectives provided by the Commissions.
- The proposed season for below Bonneville Dam received unanimous support from the CRRAG.
- The season for the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam is based on the available pre-update allocation and estimated catch rates and is identical to the structure used in recent years. Staff discussed alternative scenarios to extend the fishery further into May with the CRRAG but did not identify a new season structure.
- Although a key management goal is to minimize the need for in-season emergency action, due to the dynamic nature of fisheries and fish runs, none of the seasons recommended guarantee that in-season action will not be necessary in order to remain within ESA limits and/or catch balancing requirements.
- Staff is recommending a Joint State hearing be scheduled for Wednesday April 5 to review the ongoing lower Columbia recreational spring Chinook fishery and consider an extension if enough fish remain available for harvest. Staff will also monitor the above Bonneville fishery and will recommend a hearing on or about May 3 if warranted.

Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Recreational Fishery

- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA closes to steelhead retention April 1. The area downstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens May 16 and the area upstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens June 16.
- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River is open for shad angling all year, except closed downstream of Bonneville Dam from April 1 through May 15.

<i>Retention of Hatchery Steelhead and Shad During Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries Recommendation</i>
Effective March 16 – May 15, 2017, the Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead from Buoy 10 to the Highway 395 Bridge and shad from Buoy 10 to Bonneville Dam ONLY during days and in areas open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

- Beginning May 16 permanent rules resume: hatchery steelhead retention is allowed from the Tongue Point – Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge and shad retention is allowed river-wide.

- Shad retention upstream of Bonneville will be allowed consistent with permanent regulations (open year round).

Tributary Spring Chinook Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- No changes to permanent regulations are recommended for spring Chinook recreational fisheries in the Sandy, Clackamas, and Willamette rivers.
- Washington tributary seasons are in the 2016-2017 Fishing in Washington pamphlet and are currently the same as in 2016. Washington will close the Lewis River for Chinook retention effective March 1.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries

- Except as noted below, permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2017 Oregon Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (adipose fin-clipped only during January 1 – July 31), adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped Coho except for some seasonal tributary closures.
- Effective February 1, 2017, the use of barbed hooks is allowed when angling for salmon, steelhead, or trout in the Youngs Bay Select Area from the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to markers at confluence of Youngs and Klaskanine rivers, including lower Lewis and Clark River upstream to Alternate Highway 101 Bridge and lower Walluski River upstream to Highway 202 Bridge; and in the Knappa/Blind Slough Select Area from markers at the west end of Minaker Island upstream to markers at the mouth of Blind Slough and continuing up Blind Slough/Gnat Creek to the Aldrich Point Road Bridge.
- Permanent Washington recreational fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge are open to Chinook salmon (adipose fin-clipped only during January 1 – July 31), fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped Coho the entire year.
- In order to ease enforcement of co-occurring recreational fisheries in Select Areas and the mainstem Columbia River, staff recommends that daily bag limits in Select Area recreational fisheries be modified to match those of the mainstem when the fisheries are open concurrently.

<i>2017 Select Area Recreational Fisheries - Recommendation</i>
<p>Effective March 1 – June 15:</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is <u>closed</u> to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply.</p>

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends a Joint State hearing be scheduled for April 5, 2017.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration</i>		
	Page(s)	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring Chinook recreational fisheries	4-5	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shad and hatchery steelhead retention	6	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select Area recreational fisheries	7	Joint State