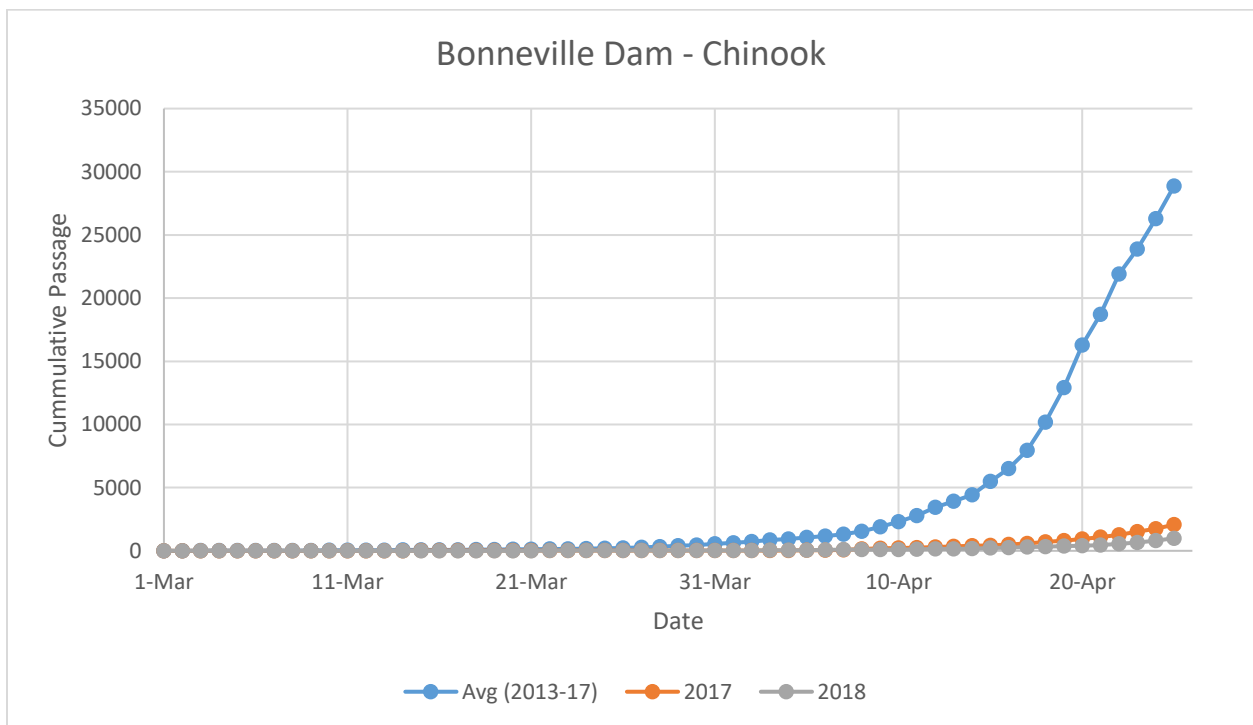


**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – WINTER/SPRING FISHERY UPDATE NO. 1**

April 26, 2018

Dam Passage and River Conditions

Bonneville Dam forebay water temperature is 50.6^oF and outflow is approximately 284 kcfs as of April 25, 2018. Passage of adult spring Chinook at Bonneville Dam through April 25 totals 996 fish, which is the lowest passage count to this date since at least 1980. The respective recent 5-year (2013-17) and 10-year (2008-17) averages are 28,875 and 29,538, and over these same historical time horizons, passage has been 13% complete at this stage.



Recreational and Commercial Fisheries

Based on creel data through April 14, approximately 66,000 angler trips (OR and WA combined) have occurred in the lower Columbia River recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam, resulting in an estimated total catch of 5,712 kept and 835 released Chinook. Of that total, there are an estimated 4,332 total fishing mortalities of upriver fish, including 4,268 kept and 64 release mortalities. For reference, an upriver spring Chinook return of 81,800 would be adequate to cover the mortalities accrued in this fishery, and provide allocation for the other non-treaty fisheries. Based on a 30% buffer on the preseason forecast of 166,700 adult upriver spring Chinook, 7,157 mortalities of upriver fish (kept + released mortalities) are available to this fishery prior to an in-season run-size update. Preliminary estimates can also be found here: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/creel/columbia_river/.

Under current regulations, the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 bridge is open through May 7. The pre-season allocation for this fishery is 954 Chinook (including release mortalities). As is typical for this fishery, catch and effort have been low to date. The states will continue to monitor this fishery as it progresses.

The Snake River recreational fishery in Washington waters is currently open two days per week until further notice. Through April 23, one Chinook has been kept and one released from a total of 331 angler hours. This fishery has 920 mortalities allocated prior to a run-size update.

The winter season Select Area commercial fishery concluded on April 17. Combined landings total 1,110 Chinook, including an estimated 90 upriver spring Chinook. The spring season opener occurred on April 19 with approximately 257 Chinook landed including 36 upriver fish (all sites combined).

No mainstem commercial fishery in the lower Columbia River is currently planned for 2018.

Run monitoring

Test fishing has occurred weekly from March 18 through April 22 (six Sundays), one additional day is planned for April 29. Catch rates were low over the initial three Sundays, but have subsequently increased, peaking on April 22, although catch rates were also good on April 15. These catch rates coincide with timing of passage over Bonneville Dam observed in 2018. Preliminary test fishing summaries can also be found here: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/columbia_river_test.html.

2018 Spring Chinook Test Fishery Preliminary Summary

Month	Date	# of Drifts	Total Handle	Total Release	Mark Rate	% Upriver	Chinook/ Drift
Mar	18	15	4	0	100%	25%	0.3
Mar	25	17	16	5	69%	75%	0.9
Apr	1	15	14	2	86%	71%	0.9
Apr	8	16	36	8	78%	50%	2.3
Apr	15	16	108	15	86%	71%	6.8
Apr	22	16	129	15	88%	67%	8.1

*4.25 inch tangle net test fishery in Zones 2 and 3; adult Chinook.

The *US vs. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will begin meeting regularly on April 30 to consider available data regarding the upriver spring Chinook run-size. TAC typically meets weekly during the spring management period. When sufficient data becomes available, TAC will provide a run-size update. In recent years, the first update has occurred between April 29 (2015) and May 15 (2017).

No Compact or Joint State hearings are currently scheduled, but the Joint Staff will continue to monitor available information and will recommend hearings as necessary.