

# OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

## JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2 May 13, 2009

**Purpose:** *Review Salmon Stock Status and Columbia River Non-Indian Fisheries*

*Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2009 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #3 (February 11, 2009)*

### Stock Status

- The upriver spring Chinook count through May 12 at Bonneville Dam totaled 73,529 spring Chinook. Typically, passage through this date is 69% complete based on the 10-year average and 58% complete based on the 2006-2008 average. With fishery removals below Bonneville Dam, the total return to date is 94,545 upriver fish.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has met several times to review the upriver spring Chinook run. On May 11, TAC downgraded the run to a range of 120,000 to 150,000 upriver spring Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. TAC met this morning and maintained that range, but some TAC members felt that the lower and upper bounds of the range should be increased. However, some TAC members were hesitant to alter the previous range based on only two additional counting days. TAC is scheduled to review the run again Monday, May 18.

### Fishery Updates

#### *Non-Indian Fisheries*

- Columbia River commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam were complete on April 14 and Select Area (SAFE) commercial fisheries closed May 1. Typically SAFE fisheries are ongoing in terminal areas through mid-June
- Columbia River recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam closed for retention of spring Chinook effective April 23 and recreational fisheries in Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam) closed for retention of Chinook effective May 1. Washington State recreational fisheries in the Snake River and the bank fishery at Ringold Hatchery remain open for retention of spring Chinook.

2009 Winter/Spring Non-Indian Fisheries Summary		
Fishery	Status	Upriver Chinook
Mainstem Commercial Fishery	Closed	4,453 *
SAFE Commercial Fishery	Closed	123
Mainstem Shad Fishery	Pending	(3)
<b>Commercial Total</b>		<b>4,579</b>
LCR Sport <BON (Chinook)	Closed	15,669 *
LCR Sport - Below I-5 (Steelhead)	Pending	(27)
Z6 Sport	Closed	290 *
Snake River Sport	Ongoing	101 *
Ringold Sport	Ongoing	41 *
Wanapum Tribal	No Season	0
<b>Recreational Total</b>		<b>16,128</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>20,707</b>
* Includes kept and release mortalities of only upriver origin spring Chinook		

- Additional non-Indian fisheries that are typically ongoing or scheduled to begin that may incidentally handle upriver spring Chinook include:
  - SAFE commercial fisheries.
  - The lower river recreational steelhead and shad fishery opens under permanent rules May 16 below I-5 Bridge. For 2009, sockeye retention was planned to be allowed May 16-July 31.
  - The lower river commercial shad fishery typically opens in mid-May and continues (4-5 days per week) through June.

### ***Non-Indian ESA-Impacts***

- Based on the preseason forecast of 298,900 upriver spring Chinook, non-Indian fisheries were restricted to an ESA impact limit of 2.2%. The states allocated a total of 1.496% impacts (68% of the total available) for non-Indian fisheries prior to a run update. At a run size of 298,900 upriver Chinook, non-Indian fishery impacts through May 10 total 0.984%, or 45% of the 2.2% limit.
- For runs of 109,000 to 141,000 fish the ESA impact limit is 1.7%. For runs of 141,000 to 217,000 fish the ESA impact limit is 1.9%.
- Estimated non-Indian impacts through May 10 range from 1.96% to 2.45% based on the current forecast range of 120,000 to 150,000 upriver fish.

### ***Non-Indian Fishery Recommendations***

The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to fisheries:

- ✓ Delay recreational fisheries for steelhead, jack Chinook, and sockeye downstream of the I-5 Bridge until further notice (but no later than June 16). Review fishery options at a hearing next week.
  - ✓ Expected incidental handle of Chinook in the steelhead fishery for May 16-31 is 200 fish, and for June 1-15 is 100 fish. Sockeye retention from May 16-June 15 was scheduled to be allowed only as incidental to steelhead fisheries.
- ✓ Re-open Select Area commercial fisheries May 18 with reduced areas and hours.
  - ✓ Impacts to wild ESA fish are expected to be zero due to run timing, stock composition, reduced fishing areas, and reduced fishing hours. These fisheries maintain a high sampling rate for estimation of stock composition.
- ✓ Delay opening commercial shad until May 26. Review fishery options at a hearing next week.
- ✓ Close the Ringold Hatchery recreational fishery effective 12:01 AM May 18, 2009.
- ✓ No modifications proposed to the Snake River recreational fishery at this time. Review fishery options at a hearing next week.
  - ✓ Impacts for this fishery are included in current estimates. Creel estimates are ongoing in the fishery. This fishery can also be reviewed next week and action taken if needed.

- ✓ Staff will continue to monitor passage at Bonneville Dam and update the spring Chinook run size.
- ✓ Staff recommends a Joint State/Compact hearing for next week to modify the following fisheries, depending on the status of the spring Chinook forecast: summer steelhead and sockeye recreational, Select Area commercial, and commercial shad.

<b><i>Recommendations - Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area</i></b>	
	Monday and Thursday nights from May 18 through June 12 (8 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Blind Slough area <b>only</b> through May 22.  Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas May 25 – June 12.  The lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size.  Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon (43-54 inches fork length) may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect.  <b>24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers</b>

<b><i>Recommendations – Deep River Select Area</i></b>	
Spring Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from May 18 through June 12 (8 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Deep River fishing area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge (all concurrent water).
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size.  Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon (43-54 inches fork length) may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. A sampling station will be established downstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at Stephen’s dock.  <b>24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers</b>

<b><i>Recommendations - Youngs Bay Select Area</i></b>	
Spring Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from May 18 through June 12 (8 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Old Youngs Bay Bridge upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers during May 18 through June 5 and the entire Youngs Bay fishing area during June 8-12.
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size.  Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.  Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed upstream of markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon (43-54 inches fork length) may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation rules will be in effect.

<b><i>Recommendations – Recreational Fisheries</i></b>	
Summer Steelhead	Postpone the opening of the summer steelhead recreational fishery downstream of the I-5 Bridge until further notice.  Incidental fisheries for jack Chinook and sockeye would also be closed in conjunction with steelhead.
Ringold Hatchery Spring Chinook season	Close the Ringold Hatchery spring Chinook fishery effective 12:01 AM Monday, May 18, 2009.

### **Future Hearings**

- The joint staff is recommending a hearing for 1 PM Wednesday May 20, 2009 to review stock status and non-Indian fisheries.