

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – WINTER/SPRING FACT SHEET
2008 IN-SEASON SUMMARY
August 15, 2008

Stock Status

Total Spring Chinook

- The total spring Chinook run is comprised of upriver, Willamette, Lower Columbia (Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, Sandy) and Select Area spring Chinook.
- The total spring Chinook preseason forecast was 322,550 fish to the Columbia River.

Upriver Spring Chinook

- The preseason forecast was 269,300 adult upriver fish. The final run size is estimated to be 178,800 adults (66% of forecast).
- Bonneville Dam counts between January 1 and June 15 totaled 151,895 adult Chinook.
- Jack counts totaled 22,352 which is the highest seen since 2000 (24,400 jacks).

Willamette Spring Chinook

- The preseason forecast for Willamette spring Chinook was 34,000 adult fish, with an estimated 15% of the return being wild.
- The Willamette Falls counts between January 1 and July 17 totaled 13,554 adult and 322 jack Chinook. So far, wild Chinook have made up about 33% of the Willamette Falls passage.

Wild Winter Steelhead

- The preseason forecast for wild winter steelhead was 15,300 fish. The actual run size will be determined in December.

Management Guidelines and Considerations

- Fisheries operated under management guidelines included in:
 - The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (2008-2017 MA).
 - The Willamette River Fisheries Management and Evaluation Plan (FMEP)
 - 2008 Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission guidelines.
 - 2005-2007 sturgeon management agreement

Fisheries Review

Recreational Fisheries

- Recreational spring Chinook fisheries below Bonneville Dam
 - During January 1 through February 24 the Columbia River was open for Chinook retention from the mouth upstream to the I-5 Bridge with a 2 fish daily limit. A 12-day fishery (March 24-April 4) also occurred from the mouth upstream to Hayden Island (1 fish daily limit). Catch from these fisheries totaled 2,800 Chinook kept and 500 released from 34,000 angler trips.
 - During March 16 through April 20 (~six days per week) the Columbia River was open from Hayden Island upstream to Bonneville Dam (1 Chinook daily limit). This

fishery closed 10 days prior to the scheduled closure date of April 30, as the catch guideline had been reached. Catch in this area totaled 17,300 Chinook kept and 2,700 released from 69,000 angler trips.

- During March 16 through May 10 the area from Bonneville Dam to the Highway 395 Bridge was open (except for specific fishing sanctuaries) for Chinook retention (2 fish daily limit). Catch in this fishery is estimated at 1,000 Chinook kept.
- The Ringold sport fishery was open during May 1 through May 12. The fishery closed prior to the scheduled closure date of June 16 in response to a run size down grade for upriver Chinook. Catch is estimated at 30 Chinook kept.
- The Snake River sport fishery was during mid-April through May 12. The fishery closed prior to the scheduled closure date of June 16 in response to a run size down grade for upriver Chinook. Catch is estimated at 500 Chinook kept.
- The steelhead (and Chinook jack) fishery scheduled to open below the I-5 Bridge on May 16 was delayed until June 16 in an effort to avoid additional handle of upriver spring Chinook.

Non-Indian Commercial White Sturgeon Fisheries

- A total of 11 fishing periods (18-24 hours) were conducted from January 8 through February 29 (9" minimum mesh). Fishing periods through February 13 occurred in Zones 1-5, and the three remaining periods occurred during February 21-29 in Zones 4-5 (to avoid Chinook handle). Landings totaled 14 Chinook and 869 white sturgeon.

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fisheries

- A total of three fishing periods (10-16 hours) occurred during April 1-15 in Zones 4-5 (west Hayden Island power lines to Beacon Rock). Tangle-net gear (4 ¼ - inch mesh) was used in all three periods. Landings totaled 5,938 Chinook and 17 white sturgeon.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Sturgeon setline fisheries are open under permanent regulations January 1-31. No catch occurred for this fishery.
- A gillnet season occurred from February 1 through March 21. No mesh restrictions were in place and sales of platform caught fish were allowed. Landings include zero Chinook, 151 steelhead and 1,591 white sturgeon (compared to the 1,285 treaty sturgeon guideline for all of Zone 6).
- Ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) permit fisheries occurred for spring Chinook. Total C&S harvest was 6, 867 Chinook. Steelhead harvest has not been reported to date.
- Commercial fishing periods were conducted during May 5-8 (3.5 days) and resulted in 12,100 Chinook landed. An additional 1,500 Chinook were landed from mainstem platform/hook and line fisheries. Steelhead harvest has not been reported to date.
 - Yakima Nation conducted C&S fisheries immediately below Bonneville Dam on the Washington shore as prescribed in a Memo of Agreement (MOA) between Yakama Nation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Catch accounted for about half of the total Chinook landed from platform/hook and line fisheries mentioned above. Sales of salmon were allowed.
 - Landing from Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are estimated at 3,200 Chinook from fisheries occurring in the Wind, Klickitat and Icicle rivers and Drano Lake.

Summary of ESA Impacts

- Preseason ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook were limited to 2.0% for non-Indian and 10% for treaty Indian fisheries. By early May, the run was downgraded to less than 200,000 fish, which triggered a reduction in the impact limit to 1.9% for non-Indian fisheries and 9.1% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Post-season, non-Indian impacts to listed upriver spring Chinook are estimated to be 1.4% in sport fisheries and 0.7% in commercial fisheries, for a total of 2.1%, which is 110% of the 1.9% guideline. Impacts to upriver spring Chinook post-season were 66% sport and 34% commercial.
- Wild winter steelhead impacts are estimated at 0.39%, compared to the 2.0% ESA limit.
- Impacts to upriver spring Chinook in treaty Indian fisheries are estimated to be 11.46% compared to the guideline of 9.1%.
- ESA impacts for upriver spring Chinook (treaty Indian and non-Indian combined) are estimated at 13.6 %, compared to the 11.0% allowed.

*WDFW/ODFW
Preliminary data*