

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – WINTER/SPRING FACT SHEET
2009 PRELIMINARY SUMMARY
August 4, 2009**

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 353,700 fish to the Columbia River.

Upriver Spring Chinook

- The preseason forecast was 298,900 adult upriver fish. The current run size estimate is 169,998 adults (57% of forecast).
- Bonneville Dam counts between January 1 and June 15 totaled 147,489 adult Chinook.
- Jack counts totaled 81,800 fish, which is a record high.

Willamette Spring Chinook

- The preseason forecast for Willamette spring Chinook was 37,600 adult fish, with an estimated 27% of the return being wild.
- The Willamette Falls counts between January 1 and June 12 totaled 19,741 adult and 1,810 jack Chinook. The spring Chinook counting period continues through August 15.

Wild Winter Steelhead

- The preseason forecast for wild winter steelhead was 15,200 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)
 - 2009 Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission guidelines
 - 2006-2008 sturgeon management agreement (extended through 2009)

Fisheries Review

Recreational Fisheries

- Recreational spring Chinook fisheries below Bonneville Dam
 - Under permanent rules, the Columbia River was open for Chinook retention 7 days per week during January and February from the mouth upstream to the I-5 Bridge with a two fish daily limit. Catch totaled 34 Chinook kept and 1 released from 4,539 angler trips.
 - Under temporary rules, the area from Buoy 10 upstream to the Hayden Island powerlines (west towers) was open 7 days per week for Chinook retention with a one Chinook daily bag limit from March 1-15 and 3 days per week (Thu-Sat) from March

- 19-April 18. Catch (March-April) totaled 9,037 Chinook kept and 1,693 released from 75,564 angler trips.
- Under temporary rules, the area from Hayden Island upstream to Bonneville Dam was open 7 days per week with a one Chinook daily bag limit from March 1-22 and 4 days per week (Wed-Sat) from March 25 - April 22. Catch totaled 7,852 Chinook kept and 1,544 released from 62,190 angler trips.
 - No emergency action was necessary in-season for recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam. Total Chinook catch below Bonneville includes 16,923 kept and 3,238 released from 142,293 angler trips.
 - During February through April 22, winter steelhead catch included 568 kept and 145 released.
- During March 16 - April 30 the area from Bonneville Dam to the Highway 395 Bridge was open (except for specific fishing sanctuaries) for Chinook retention (2 fish daily limit). The fishery was not extended as intended preseason due to weak passage and concerns about the run size. Catch in this fishery is estimated at 284 Chinook kept and 58 released.
 - The Ringold sport fishery was open during May 1 through May 17. 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 117 Chinook kept and 25 released.
 - The Snake River sport fishery was open to Chinook retention during April 24 through May 17. The fishery closed prior to the scheduled closure date of June 16 in response to a run size downgrade for upriver Chinook. Catch is estimated at 498 Chinook kept and 103 released.
 - The steelhead (sockeye and Chinook jack) fishery scheduled to open below the I-5 Bridge on May 16 was delayed until June 12 to avoid additional handle of upriver spring Chinook.

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fisheries

- Commercial fishing periods (4-10 hours) occurred on March 29, April 7, and April 14 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 from these three fishing periods totaled 4,354 Chinook and 24 white sturgeon. Wild winter steelhead mortalities total four fish.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Sturgeon setline fisheries are open under permanent regulations January 1-31. No catch occurred for this fishery.
- A gillnet season occurred from February 2 through March 6. No mesh restrictions were in place and sales of platform caught fish were allowed. Landings include 1,602 white sturgeon, zero Chinook or steelhead, and one walleye. The 2009 treaty sturgeon guideline for all of Zone 6 was 1,735 white sturgeon.
- Ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) permit gillnet fisheries occurred for spring Chinook. Total C&S harvest was 8,523 Chinook and 45 steelhead. An additional 2,560 adult Chinook were landed from platform and hook and line in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam (Zone 6). Permit fisheries concluded around May 9, and sales of platform and hook and line caught fish (except sturgeon) were allowed beginning May 16.
- Yakima Nation conducted C&S fisheries on the mainstem Columbia River 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. Landings included 1,970 adult and 1,855 jack Chinook, and no steelhead.

- Preliminary landing from Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are estimated at 5,720 adult and 1,307 jack Chinook, and 122 steelhead. These totals include 85 adults and 56 jack Chinook (no steelhead) from the Wind River, 162 adults Chinook (no jacks) and 120 steelhead from the Klickitat River, 150 adult Chinook (no jacks) and no steelhead from the Icicle River and 5,323 Chinook adults, 1,251 Chinook jacks and 2 steelhead from Drano Lake. Sales of fish were allowed, concurrent with mainstem sales.

Summary of ESA Impacts

- Preseason ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook were limited to 2.2% for non-Indian and 10.8% for treaty Indian fisheries. By mid 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 1.26% in sport fisheries and 0.54% in commercial fisheries, for a total of 1.8%, or 95% of the 1.9% limit. Actual sharing of upriver spring Chinook impacts were 70% sport and 30% commercial.
- Wild winter steelhead impacts from non-Indian fisheries are estimated at 0.26% compared to the 2.0% ESA limit.
- Impacts to upriver spring Chinook in treaty Indian fisheries are estimated at 7.68% compared to the guideline of 9.1%.
- Upriver spring Chinook impacts for treaty Indian (7.68%) and non-Indian fisheries (1.80%) total 9.49 % impact, or 86% of the total ESA limit of 11.0%.

*WDFW/ODFW
Preliminary data*