

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 23, 2021

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon Select Area recreational salmon
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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 online. The most recent reports are the 2021 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 14, 2021) and the 2021 Spring/Summer salmon, steelhead, and other species report (February 4, 2021) available at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> or <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

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 Endangered Species Act (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 10. Over the past ten years, adult runs have averaged 165,213 fish (range 73,101 to 288,994).

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, adult returns have averaged 52,746 fish (range 27,292 to 84,532).

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 18,924 fish (range 7,031 to 34,323) to the tributaries and 8,335 fish (range 2,479 to 16,991) to the Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteenmile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Wild populations from the Cowlitz River upstream to Fifteenmile 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 15,200 fish (range 9,440 to 22,379).

Summer Steelhead

Lower Columbia River (LCR) summer steelhead abundance in the mainstem Columbia 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 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 Skamania stock.

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted †				
		2020	2020	2021
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
Spring Chinook	Upriver Total *	81,700	81,300	75,200
	Upper Columbia	13,600	12,815	13,000
	<i>Upper Columbia natural-origin</i>	<i>2,300</i>	<i>2,189</i>	<i>2,200</i>
	Snake River Spring/Summer **	56,400	51,605	40,000
	<i>Snake River natural-origin **</i>	<i>9,600</i>	<i>14,574</i>	<i>11,100</i>
	Lower River Total	54,100	61,194	68,000
	Total Spring Chinook	135,800	142,494	143,200
	<u>Area-specific detail</u>			
	Willamette River	40,800	45,965	50,000
	Sandy River	5,200	7,518	5,300
	Select Areas ***	4,300	3,714	6,300
	Cowlitz River	1,400	908	1,800
	Kalama River	1,000	1,215	2,200
	Lewis River	1,400	1,874	2,400
	Wind River ***	2,000	2,076	1,200
	Drano Lake/Little White Salmon River ***	4,600	3,850	3,900
	Hood River ***	2,300	n/a	n/a
	Klickitat River ***	1,800	1,517	1,500
	Deschutes River ***	n/a	1,015	n/a
	John Day River ***	2,800	2,095	n/a
	Umatilla River ***	900	516	900
	Yakima River ***	2,800	2,830	3,200
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	38,300	65,494	77,600
Winter Steelhead	Wild	10,100	14,435	14,300
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	246,300	345,018	155,600
	Wenatchee	39,400	56,111	27,300
	Okanogan	201,800	273,667	127,300
	Yakima	2,500	11,790	200
	Deschutes	300	n/a	100
	Snake River	2,300	734	700
† All forecasts are rounded to the nearest 100's place				
* Upriver totals are developed by TAC for use in management of <i>U.S. v. OR</i> fisheries. Wild components are included in the stock total. Area-specific estimates for upriver tributaries detailed here are provided by other agencies/entities and may not sum to TAC's upriver abundance estimates.				
** 2020 return is based on current TAC run reconstruction methodology.				
*** Return to tributary mouth.				
				2/18/2021

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2018-2027 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2018-2027 *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 non-treaty and treaty fisheries occurring prior to an in-season run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the forecasted upriver spring Chinook run size.
- The MA includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest rate schedule for upriver spring Chinook. Based on the buffered 2021 pre-season forecasted abundance, the harvest-rate schedule allows for an ESA impact rate of 1.0% for non-treaty fisheries occurring prior to the run update.

Endangered Species Act

- A Biological Opinion (BO) based upon the management actions outlined in the MA was issued by NMFS in 2018.
- 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%.
- Compliance with ESA take authorization for fisheries impacting listed lower Columbia River Chinook (spring run) is determined by the ability to perpetuate these stocks individually over time. Hatchery return expectations are reviewed annually to ensure compliance with escapement goals.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits annual 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 38,260 hatchery spring Chinook, and the FMEP escapement goal of 23,000 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 15,260 hatchery fish.

2021 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

2021 Spring Chinook Management

- OR and WA policies are concurrent on recreational/commercial allocation of ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook (80%/20%). However, sub-allocations specific to recreational fisheries are not concurrent. Under the WA Policy, no more than 70% of the recreational allocation can be allocated to the LCR, and under Oregon rule, no more than 25% can be allocated to recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam. Therefore, staff modelling only utilizes 95% of the

recreational share of upriver spring Chinook impacts. When combined with catch balance provisions in the MA, the following guidelines are available for 2021.

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

- 2,206 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
 - 315 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
 - 243 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (Washington waters)
 - 11 fish for Wanapum tribe (Upper Columbia)
 - 158 unallocated recreational
 - ≤226 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries
- The approach to 2021 fishery structure is consistent with the ESA management strategies in the Columbia River Basin – fisheries are managed to limit the impacts to ESA-listed fish while providing harvest opportunity for healthy and harvestable stocks.
 - Fisheries are also managed by time and area to reduce the potential for handling ESA-listed species or other stocks of concern.
 - For 2021, returns to the Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers are projected to meet the hatchery escapement goals for those systems as outlined in the table below.

2021 Expectations			
Details	Cowlitz	Kalama	Lewis
Forecasted return to Col. R. Mouth	1,830	2,200	2,350
Expected downstream Col. R. harvest for 2021	30	100	50
Forecasted return to tributary mouth	1,800	2,100	2,300
Avg. % natural-origin return	10.4%	3.3%	1.6%
Natural-origin return	188	70	37
Hatchery-origin return to trib. mouth*	1,612	2,030	2,263
Hatchery-origin escapement need to trib. mouth*	1,518	680	1,578
Est. lower river hatchery-origin spawners	181	80	198
Broodstock need at hatchery (from Mitchell Act BIOP when applicable)	1,337	400	1,380
Upstream**	if available	NA	if available
SRKW prey enhancement	if available	if available	if available
Deep River Net Pen off-channel program		200	
Total hatchery-origin broodstock needs	1,337	600	1,380
Harvestable hatchery-origin surplus	94	1,350	685
*Includes fish spawning downriver from hatchery			
**Fish are trucked and released above dams for population recovery			

- Although the 2021 forecasts for the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers are sufficient to provide for the recreational spring Chinook fishery to occur throughout the LCR, staff is proposing a no-boat-angling bubble be implemented near the Cowlitz River mouth to provide additional conservation for this stock.

Spring Salmonid Boat Angling Area Closure: Boat angling for salmon and steelhead is closed within the Columbia River mainstem adjacent to the Cowlitz River, including all of Carrolls Channel as described below.



Downstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore projected through Dolphin Marker J (near Shipping Terminal 9), southerly across the Columbia River to Columbia Park Boat Ramp in Rainier, Oregon.
Upstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore projected through Cottonwood Island Dike Light “31”, southerly across the Columbia River to a deadline marker on the Oregon shore.

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- The Columbia River downstream of the I-5 Bridge is currently open through March 31 for hatchery salmon and hatchery steelhead under permanent regulations.
- The Columbia River from the I-5 Bridge upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA is currently open through March 31 for hatchery steelhead under permanent regulations.
- Spring season fisheries were discussed with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG) on February 10, 2021.

Recommendations: 2021 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery

Downstream of Bonneville Dam

Season:	Monday March 1 through Sunday April 4	35 retention days
Area:	<p>Buoy 10 line upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline, except salmonid angling from a boat is prohibited in the spring salmonid boat-angling area closure adjacent to the Cowlitz River mouth.</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>Spring Salmonid Boat-Angling Area Closure: Defined as the area of the mainstem Columbia River between boundary lines as described and includes all of Carrolls Channel. Downstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore projected through Dolphin Marker J (near Shipping Terminal 9), southerly across the Columbia River to Columbia Park Boat Ramp in Rainier, Oregon. Upstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore projected through Cottonwood Island Dike Light “31”, southerly across the Columbia River to a deadline marker on the Oregon shore.</p>	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Shad may also be retained. All other permanent regulations apply.	

Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border

Season:	Tuesday March 16 through Wednesday May 5	51 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately six 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 hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead) per day, but only one may be a Chinook. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- Catch expectations are approximately 3,025 adult Chinook kept (2,159 upriver mortalities) for the LCR fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam (98% of the pre-update guideline for this fishery) and 292 adult Chinook kept (300 mortalities, all upriver stock) for the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam (95% of the pre-update guideline for this fishery).
- Due to the limited allocation of upriver spring Chinook, the CRRAG generally supported the proposed season for the LCR since few alternatives are available.
- The season recommendation for the fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam is based on the available pre-update allocation, estimated catch rates, and input from the CRRAG. Alternative season structures with later start dates had some support; however, this would result in a gap between the steelhead and Chinook retention seasons and significantly fewer spring Chinook retention days.

- Fishery recommendations were developed to remain within and comply with:
 - Impact limits for species listed under the ESA.
 - ✓ The most constraining stock for both fisheries is upriver spring Chinook. Staff estimates the recommended fisheries will accrue 0.42% impacts to upriver spring Chinook.
 - ✓ Fishery-specific impact rate expectations for other species and stocks are expected to remain within the estimates provided in the 2021 Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report in the Winter, Spring, and Summer Season Expectations section.
 - Run-size buffer and catch balance provisions outlined in the MA.
 - Policy guidance and management objectives provided by the Commissions.
- Similar to the hand-cast bank only regulations on the Washington shore from Bonneville Dam to the Tower Island power lines, WDFW will require that only hand-cast lines may be used from Beacon Rock to the Bonneville Dam deadline.
- The use of barbless hooks is required when angling for salmon or steelhead in mainstem Columbia River waters from the mouth upstream to the OR/WA state line.
- 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 will monitor the fisheries in-season. If they are tracking within preseason expectations, the intent would be to allow the fisheries to run through the proposed end dates. After closure of each fishery, staff will review catches and determine if additional fishing opportunity is warranted.

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 currently open and modifications will be made through emergency rules.
 - Due to the lower run sizes, WDFW expects several tributary fisheries upstream and downstream of Bonneville Dam are likely to have reduced fisheries, including the closure of Chinook retention in the Cowlitz River.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries

- Permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2021 Oregon Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (hatchery only during January 1 – July 31), hatchery steelhead, and hatchery Coho except for some seasonal tributary closures.
- Permanent Washington recreational fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge as open to Chinook salmon (hatchery only during January 1 – July 31), hatchery steelhead, and hatchery Coho the entire year.
- Impacts to non-local Chinook and steelhead (including wild fish) are expected to be minimal since the majority of fishing effort is concentrated in upper tidewater areas or in the tributaries.

- 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.

Recommendation: 2021 Select Area Recreational Fisheries

Effective March 1 – June 15:

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.

On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is closed to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM February 24, 2021 via teleconference to consider the non-treaty mainstem research-level commercial smelt fishery.

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 23, 2021

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Zone 6 treaty commercial fisheries
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The 2021 Winter/Spring/Summer Staff Report is scheduled to be distributed prior to the February 16 Compact hearing which will address Select Area commercial spring Chinook and treaty fisheries.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The current five-day average water temperature at The Dalles Dam as reported by the USACE is 37.8° F compared to a five-year average temperature of 39.0° F.
- The current five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 183 Kcfs compared to a five-year average outflow of 209.4 Kcfs

STOCK STATUS

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- Sturgeon stock status was discussed in Winter Fact Sheet 1b and in the Joint Staff Report.
- Winter steelhead counts at Bonneville Dam through February 19 total 805 including 378 unclipped fish. These are the lowest cumulative counts to date since complete winter season counts became available in the 2002-2003 run year.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF), a joint state/tribal body, met on January 20, 2021 and recommended new harvest guidelines for 2021-2023 in The Dalles Pool (750 fish total guideline, 560 for treaty commercial and 190 for recreational retention) which the states and tribes have adopted based on the improved legal-size population estimate.
- The SMTF did not modify 2021 harvest guidelines for Bonneville (500 each for treaty and recreational) or John Day (210 for treaty and 105 for recreational) pools.
- There is no harvest guideline for the treaty subsistence catch of sturgeon, but these catches are accounted for and used in population assessments. Subsistence harvest typically occurs in association with fisheries targeting other species and is generally low. The 2020 subsistence harvest estimate was 295 fish for all three Zone 6 reservoirs combined.

2021 TREATY INDIAN WINTER FISHERIES

- A setline fishery occurs each January in all three Zone 6 pools under permanent regulations. This fishery generally has low effort and catch. This year’s setline catches were slightly below average in the Bonneville and John Day pools and above average in The Dalles Pool, but they were within past ranges.
- Commercial gillnet fisheries were set from February 1 through February 6 for both the John Day and The Dalles Pools and February 12 through February 15 for the John Day Pool only. Current catch estimates for the season are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and direct to public sales.

2021 Total Treaty Commercial Sturgeon Landings

	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining	% of guideline
Bonneville	34	0	34	500	466	7%
The Dalles	130	393	523	560	37	93%
John Day	18	111	129	210	81	61%
Total	182	504	686			

- Catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase.
- Average recent catch rates indicate the John Day Pool guideline may be reached in about 3 days.
- Steelhead caught upstream of The Dalles Dam from November 1-June 30 are counted as part of the A/B-Index summer steelhead return. There are no specific harvest limits for steelhead in winter season fisheries, but the steelhead catch is low averaging 59 fish annually in The Dalles and John Day pools combined since 2001 with no recorded catch during the winter gillnet fishery in the past eight years. The highest observed catch since 2001 was 306 in 2008. Because of generally low steelhead harvest in the winter gillnet fishery, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected. Chinook are not expected to be present during the winter gillnet fishery. To date, in 2021, there has been no recorded steelhead catch upstream of The Dalles Dam.
- Steelhead caught in the Bonneville Pool from November 1 through March 31 are counted as winter steelhead. Winter steelhead harvest has averaged 107 fish per year since 2001 and was 61 fish in 2020. Because harvest is generally low, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected to be needed. No Chinook are expected to be harvested in the Bonneville Pool during the winter gillnet fishery. The current harvest estimate for winter steelhead in the Bonneville pool from November 1 to present remains at 20 steelhead (all ad-clipped).

The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2021 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery John Day Pool</i>	
Season:	6 AM Wednesday February 24 to 6 PM Friday February 26 (2.5 days)
Area:	The John Day pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in John Day pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

<i>2021 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery Bonneville Pool</i>	
Season:	6 AM Monday March 1 to 6 PM Friday March 5 (4.5 days)
Area:	The Bonneville pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect to set additional fishing time after this period or may extend this period if appropriate. The tribes will take action to close fisheries early if harvest limits are projected to be met early.
- There is no need for Compact action regarding the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes may request a Compact Hearing on Tuesday March 9 if there are remaining fish on the Bonneville Pool guideline and another opening is appropriate.