

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
May 31, 2023**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-treaty spring Chinook fisheries
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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 report is the 2023 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2023) available at:

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

STOCK STATUS

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through May 30 totals 108,593 fish, which is 98% of the 10-year (2013-22) average cumulative count and 132% of the 5-year (2018-22) average for this date. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam is May 11.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met most recently on Tuesday, May 30 to review the upriver spring Chinook return and provided an in-season run-size update of 143,000 adults at the Columbia River mouth compared to the pre-season forecast of 198,600 adults. TAC’s next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 5.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Forecasts and management guidelines for 2023 spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheets #5 and #6a.
- 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. Impacts to ESA-listed stocks in fisheries covered by the MA is authorized by National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in the relevant Biological Opinion.
- 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.
- Based on TAC’s current abundance expectation of 143,000 fish, treaty fisheries are allowed a harvest rate of 7.4% and the non-treaty fisheries are allowed a harvest rate of 1.6%. The total allowable harvest rate on ESA-listed spring/summer Snake River Chinook and Upper Columbia spring Chinook is 9.0%.

2023 TREATY AND NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Mainstem fisheries

- Treaty ceremonial and subsistence, platform hook and line, and permit fisheries were open this spring, but the tribes took action to close these fisheries effective Thursday May 18.
- The lower Columbia River recreational spring Chinook fishery downstream Bonneville Dam was open through April 11 and reopened on May 19 through June 4.
- The Zone 6 recreational fishery was open April 1 through May 6 and reopened May 19 through May 24.
- The Snake River recreational spring Chinook fishery was open May 2 through May 12 and May 23 through May 26 on a two days per week per location (Little Goose and Ice Harbor).
- The Select Area commercial fishery opened in February in all four sites on site specific schedules and is planned to be open through the remainder of the spring management period (June 15).
- The Area 2S shad commercial fishery opened on May 10 and runs through June 20 with daily fishing periods on weekdays between 3 PM and 10 PM. To date there have been no landings in this fishery.
- The Wanapum tribal C&S fishery is currently open and scheduled to run through June 9.
- Spring Chinook catches for treaty, non-treaty recreational, and non-treaty commercial fisheries are summarized in the table below:

Accounting of spring Chinook mortalities in 2023 Columbia River Treaty and non-Treaty Fisheries						
Non-Treaty Fisheries	adult Chinook through May 28			Current Upriver Allocation	Percent of Upriver Allocation	Balance
	Total Kept	Upriver Kept	Upriver Mortalities (k+r)			
Downstream of BON Recreational	4,363	2,964	3,021	6,851	44%	3,830
BON - OR/WA border Recreational	1,031	1,031	1,069	979	109%	-90
Snake River (WA waters) Recreational	411	411	418	706	59%	288
Select Area Commercial	13,634	364	364	458	79%	94
Area 2S Commercial Shad	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wanapum Tribal C&S	7	7	7	39	18%	32
Non-Treaty Total	19,446	4,777	4,879	9,033	54%	4,154
Treaty Total (C&S, Platform, Permit)	11,990	11,990	11,990	10,582	113%	-1,408

Catch Balance and ESA

- Catches in all non-treaty fisheries combined through May 31 are projected to remain within the allowable *U.S. vs. OR* upriver spring Chinook catch balance sharing and ESA impact rates (0.71% for Snake River and 0.66% for Upper Columbia as compared to 1.60% allowed).
- Catches in the treaty fisheries through May 18 totaled 11,990 fish with an associated ESA-impact of 8.38% compared to a guideline of 7.40%.

- The table below shows catches of upriver spring Chinook and the associated ESA impacts to Snake River wild spring Chinook.

Upriver Spring Chinook Mortalities and ESA Impacts in 2023 non-Treaty and Treaty Fisheries.						
Projected through May 31						
Sector	Fishery	Status	Upriver Catch (k+rm)	Total Upriver ESA Impact	Upriver ESA Impact Allowed	
Recreational	Downstream of BON*	Open thru June 4	3,388	0.28%	0.78%	
	BON - OR/WA border	Closed	1,069	0.10%	0.11%	
	Snake River (WA waters)**	Closed	418	0.08%	0.17%	
Tribal	Wanapum Band (Upper Columbia)**	Open thru June 9	7	0.02%	0.17%	
<i>subtotal</i>			4,882	0.45%	1.06%	
Commercial	Select Areas	Ongoing	364	0.26%	0.32%	
	Mainstem Shad	Open	0	0.00%	0.00%	
<i>subtotal</i>			364	0.26%	0.32%	
NT TOTAL***			5,246	0.71%	1.60%	
Treaty Platform C&S, H&L, and Permit		Closed	11,990	8.38%	7.40%	
Columbia River NT and Treaty Total			17,236	9.09%	9.00%	
* Includes non-target release mortalities during steelhead season.						
** ESA impacts in Snake River and Wanapum fisheries are not additive as they are single-stock fisheries.						
*** Includes 10% unallocated balance between OR/WA Commission guidance (non-concurrence) and 5% unallocated sport.						

- On Tuesday May 30, NMFS advised treaty and non-treaty fishery managers that action would need to be taken due to the combined treaty and non-treaty fishery impacts exceeding the 9.0% threshold to upriver spring Chinook specified in the Biological Opinion.
- Currently the only non-treaty fisheries that are open and potentially accruing ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook populations are the mainstem Columbia recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam and Youngs Bay Select Area commercial fishery. Based on the past ten years of CWT recoveries in Select Area commercial fisheries, the other sites are not expected to accrue measurable impacts to listed upriver spring Chinook during the remainder of the spring season.

Recommendation: 2023 Mainstem recreational spring Chinook downstream of Bonneville Dam

Effective Thursday June 1 through Thursday June 15, angling for and retention of all salmon and steelhead is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.

Recommendation: 2023 Youngs Bay commercial Select Area

Close the on-going period effective 6:00 AM June 1 and modify the open area to include upper Youngs Bay only from the previously adopted four-day period during the week of June 5.

- Recreational and commercial shad fisheries will remain open as scheduled. Non-treaty summer season salmon and steelhead fisheries are expected to begin June 16 as planned.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. Joint staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.