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# Columbia River Recreational Advisor Group Meeting

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February 10, 2021  
4:00p-5:30p  
Virtual

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*Prepared by: Columbia River Joint Staff*

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# Columbia River Recreational Advisor Group Meeting

## Virtual

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Phone Conference ID: 334 461 542#

**4:00p – 5:30p February 10, 2021**

<b>Agenda</b>	
<b>Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Roll call</li><li>○ Ground rules</li><li>○ Agenda review</li></ul>	(10 minutes)
<b>Spring fishery planning</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Summary of management guidelines</li><li>○ Lower Columbia River modeling</li><li>○ Bonneville-OR/WA state line modeling</li></ul>	(60 minutes)
<b>Additional Topics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Other/General discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Coho forecast</li><li>○ Summer Chinook</li></ul></li></ul>	(15 minutes)
<b>Future Meetings</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Compact (Select Area Commercial), February 16, 10 am</li><li>○ Joint State Hearing, February 23, 10 am</li><li>○ North of Falcon Forecast meeting (WA), February 26</li><li>○ North of Falcon #1, March 17, 10 am</li><li>○ North of Falcon #2, April 1, 10 am</li></ul>	(5 minutes)

## Ground rules

- Focus on the task at hand – *stick to the agenda*
- One person at a time to speak – *speak your name to be added to the speaking list*
  - Non-advisers will observe meeting and stay on mute – *comments may be permitted at the end of the meeting if time permits*
- Be respectful of others
  - Mute phone or line
  - Be tough on issues and questions, not on people or organizations
  - No personal attacks, insults or threats
  - Listen
  - Speak and act professional – *no offensive, disrespectful, or derogatory language, including profanity*
  - Allow for a balance of speaking time – *limit length and number of times to speak on each topic*
- Be a conduit – *share information*

## Spring fishery planning

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted</i> <sup>†</sup>				
		2020	2020	2021
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
<b>Spring Chinook</b>	<b>Upriver Total *</b>	<b>81,700</b>	<b>81,300</b>	<b>75,200</b>
	Upper Columbia	13,600	12,815	13,000
	<i>Upper Columbia natural-origin</i>	2,300	2,189	2,200
	Snake River Spring/Summer **	56,400	51,605	40,000
	<i>Snake River natural-origin **</i>	9,600	14,574	11,100
	<b>Lower River Total</b>	<b>54,100</b>	<b>61,194</b>	<b>68,000</b>
	<b>Total Spring Chinook</b>	<b>135,800</b>	<b>142,494</b>	<b>143,200</b>
	<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
<b>Summer Chinook</b>	<b>Upper Columbia</b>	<b>38,300</b>	<b>65,494</b>	<b>77,600</b>
<b>Sockeye</b>	<b>Total Sockeye</b>	<b>246,300</b>	<b>345,018</b>	<b>155,600</b>
	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 100s 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.				
				12/11/2020

**Spring Chinook Management Guidelines**

**Upriver Chinook Stocks**

- 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 also managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook, which requires that mortalities in non-treaty fisheries not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries. The following table is derived from the harvest schedule within the MA and reflects the allowable catch and associated ESA impacts for treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries.

Spring Management Period Harvest Rate Schedule						
Total Upriver Run Size	SNAKE RIVER Natural Run Size	Treaty Indian Harvest Rate	Treaty Indian Catch Guideline	Non-Treaty Harvest Rate	Non-Treaty Mortality Guideline	Total Harvest Rate
44,000	4,400	6.0%	2,640	1.0%	2,640	7.0%
55,000	5,500	7.0%	3,850	1.5%	3,850	8.5%
82,000	8,200	7.4%	6,068	1.6%	6,068	9.0%
109,000	10,900	8.3%	9,047	1.7%	9,047	10.0%
141,000	14,100	9.1%	12,831	1.9%	12,831	11.0%
217,000	21,700	10.0%	21,700	2.0%	21,700	12.0%
271,000	27,100	10.8%	29,268	2.2%	29,268	13.0%
326,000	32,600	11.7%	38,142	2.3%	38,142	14.0%
380,000	38,000	12.5%	47,500	2.5%	47,500	15.0%
434,000	43,400	13.4%	58,156	2.6%	58,156	16.0%
488,000	48,800	14.3%	69,784	2.7%	69,784	17.0%

- The MA also specifies non-treaty and treaty fisheries occurring prior to a run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the predicted upriver spring Chinook run size. Buffering the 2021 pre-season forecast of 75,200 fish results in an abundance of 52,640 fish for determining pre-update allocations.

**Lower Columbia Chinook Stocks (spring run)**

- ESA authorization for fisheries impacting listed lower Columbia River Chinook requires specific hatchery escapement goals be met.
- From NMFS Guidance letter to the Pacific Fishery Management Council in 2019: “The Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery and Lewis River Salmon Hatchery are being used ... for reintroduction of LCR spring-run Chinook salmon into the upper basins above the existing dams. The hatchery programs are critical to the overall recovery effort. Given the circumstances, maintaining the hatchery brood stocks for the Cowlitz and Lewis River Hatcheries is essential for implementation of specified recovery actions.”
- The 2021 forecasts for the Cowlitz and Lewis rivers are sufficient to provide for the recreational spring Chinook fishery to occur throughout the LCR, except a no-boat-angling bubble is being considered for the Cowlitz River mouth.

**Table X.** Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis River spring Chinook run-size forecasts for 2021 and hatchery escapement needs. Actual annual hatchery escapement needs may vary slightly to account for changes in fecundity, sex ratios, pre-spawn loss, etc.

<b>2021 Expectations</b>			
<b>Details</b>	<b>Cowlitz</b>	<b>Kalama</b>	<b>Lewis</b>
Forecasted return to Col. R. Mouth	1,830	2,200	2,350
Expected CR mainstem 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
<b>Hatchery-origin return</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>2,030</b>	<b>2,263</b>
<b>Hatchery-origin escapement need to trib. mouth*</b>	<b>1,518</b>	<b>680</b>	<b>1,578</b>
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
SAFE Deep River Net Pen off-channel program		200	
Total hatchery-origin broodstock needs	1,337	600	1,380
<b>Harvestable hatchery-origin surplus</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>1,350</b>	<b>685</b>
*Includes fish spawning downriver from hatchery			
**Fish are trucked and released above dams for population recovery			

**Spring Salmonid Boat Angling Area Closure:** Columbia River mainstem adjacent to the Cowlitz River within the described boundary below, including all of Carrolls Channel, is closed to boat angling for Salmon and Steelhead.



Downstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore adjacent to Shipping Terminal 9, Dolphin Marker J, southerly across Columbia River to Columbia Park Boat Ramp in Rainier, Oregon.

Upstream boundary – From a point on the Washington shore adjacent to Cottonwood Island Dike Light “31”, southerly across Columbia River to a red-cap dolphin near the Oregon shore (46°05’04.1”N latitude; 122°54’56.1” W longitude).

## **Willamette Spring Chinook**

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits 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.
- The forecasted hatchery fish surplus for recreational fisheries is 15,000 fish and is not expected to be a constraint.

### ***2021 Mainstem Recreational - preseason management guidelines***

- Based on the MA and the preseason forecast of 75,200 upriver spring Chinook, ESA impacts for 2021 fisheries are limited to 8.5%, with 1.5% for non-treaty fisheries and 7.0% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- To allow for uncertainty in the preseason forecast, the MA requires a 30% reduction from the forecast (i.e. a run-size buffer) to start the season, which equates to 52,640 upriver spring Chinook. At this run size, the MA allows for a non-treaty ESA limit of 1.0%, or an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 3,158 fish prior to a run size update, of which 2,933 are allocated to recreational fisheries (at 80% recreational share of non-treaty impacts as outlined in current Policy guidance).
- The 2021 allocation policies specific to recreational fishery sub-allocations differ between OR and WA and are subject to change. All modeling in this document assumes no more than 70% of the recreational allocation can be allocated to the LCR (WA Policy) and no more than 25% can be allocated to recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam (OR Rule). If additional guidance is provided, staff will modify the modeling results described below and adjust the staff recommendation if necessary for the Joint State Hearing on February 23, 2021.

<b>2021 Spring Chinook Preseason Management Guidelines</b>			
	<b>2020 postseason</b>	<b>2021 preseason</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Upriver CHS abundance (adults)	81,300	75,200	-6,100
ESA impact rate	1.50%	1.00%	-0.5%
Willamette CHS abundance (adults)	45,965	50,000	+4,035

<b>Commission Guidance (ESA impact allocation)</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>Difference</b>
Sport allocation*	75%	80%	+5%
Commercial allocation	25%	20%	-5%
<b>U.S. v OR Catch Balance</b>	<b>2020 preseason</b>	<b>2021 preseason</b>	
30% Buffered Run	57,190	52,640	-4,550
ESA Impact rate	1.50%	1.00%	-0.5%
<b>Catch Balance Available Pre-update</b>	<b>4,003</b>	<b>3,158</b>	<b>-845</b>
Sport Fisheries (LCR, Z6, Snake)	3,686	2,922	-764
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	2,899	2,206	-693
Bonneville to OR/WA border	387	315	-72
Snake River (WA waters)	400	243	-157
Sport unallocated	NA	158	
Commercial Mainstem	TBD	TBD	
Commercial Select Area	≤306	≤226	-80

*\*For 2021, assumes current Commission guidance which is non-concurrent with respect to recreational sub-allocations. Under current Policy guidance, no more than 70% of the recreational share can be allocated to fisheries <Bonneville (WA Policy), and no more than 25% can be allocated to fisheries >Bonneville (OR rule; 10% to fisheries between Bonn-OR/WA border, and 15% to Snake River sport and Wanapum tribal fisheries).*

## **2021 LCR Spring recreational season - preliminary considerations**

- Weekly mainstem test fishing is expected to occur on Monday's beginning March 15 (up to 9 days, March 15-May 10).
  - Provides stock composition, catch rates and bycatch information, and continues long-term data set; test fishing is helpful in setting potential future commercial fisheries.
  - Hatchery fish are sold at fair market value to off-set test fishing operational costs.
  - All information can be found at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/columbia-river-test>.
- A total of 2,206 total upriver spring Chinook mortalities are available prior to an inseason run update under existing OR/WA guidance.
- Since the projected escapement of Lower Columbia Chinook is expected to meet minimum hatchery broodstock needs, modelling assumes the recreational fishery will be open downstream of the Lewis River for the first time since 2018.
- As described above, staff intends to implement a no-boat angling bubble at the Cowlitz River mouth to provide additional protection for that stock during pre-update fisheries.



- Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 season was adopted for March 1-31 and Thursdays-Saturdays beginning April 2 until the catch balance guideline is met. The actual season was limited to March 1-26 and May 5, 7, 9, 13, 15-17, and 20.
- Results from 2018-2020 LCR fisheries are not useful for modelling a fishery in 2021; therefore, staff utilized data from 2007 which had a similar open area and run sizes as expected this year.
- Results from 2019-2020 LCR fisheries are not useful for modeling a fishery in 2021; therefore, staff utilized data from 2018 which had the same open area and similar run sizes as expected this year.
- Assuming a seven-day per week fishery from B10 upstream to Bonneville Dam (bank only upstream of Beacon Rock), model results indicate the season would need to close after April 4 to remain within the pre-update guideline. Staff estimates this season structure could result in 4,066 fish handled (3,024 kept), including 2,159 upriver CHS mortalities (98% of pre-update guideline).
- As always, actual fishery results will be monitored in-season and recommended adjustments to the season will be made as necessary.

**2021 BON-S/L Spring recreational season - preliminary considerations**

- Based on the assumptions described above, the fishery will be managed for 315 total mortalities pre run update (387 in 2020).
- The run update is typically not available until early/mid-May, but wasn't available until later in May the past four years.
- Prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 season was adopted for April 1-May 5. The actual season was limited to May 5, 7, 9, 13, 15-17, and 20.
- Permanent regulations allow steelhead open through March 31, and closed thereafter except when spring Chinook is open. Scenario #3 or #4 would result in a multi-week block where steelhead fishing would be closed.

Season scenarios for the BON-S/L (Zone 6) recreational spring Chinook fishery, 2021						
Scenario	Dates	Total Days	May Weekend days	Kept	Morts	% of Catch Balance
1	Mar 16-May 4	50	2	246	253	80%
2	April 1-May 4	34	2	245	253	80%
3	April 16-May 5	20	2	247	255	81%
4	May 1-5	5	2	264	273	87%

*\*Accounts for steelhead fishery impacts and effort shift.*

## 2021 Snake River Spring recreational season preliminary considerations

- Based on the assumptions described above, the fishery will be managed for 243 total mortalities pre run update (400 in 2020). This total mortality allocation is dependent on the forecasted mark rate; the actual allocation will change if the observed fishery mark rate differs from forecasted.
- Snake River fishery managers to determine the season.
- Fishery typically opens in late April on a days-per-week basis in up to four areas.

POST Season <u>ALLOWED</u> Catch Balance for Adult Upriver Spring Chinook in Non-Treaty Fisheries <sup>1,2</sup>										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 <sup>3</sup>	2019 <sup>3</sup>	2020 <sup>3</sup>
Mainstem salmon Winter/Spring	6,492	4,454	2,439	4,547	5,942	3,053	0			
SAF Commercial Winter/Spring	333	305	185	364	433	282	≤347	≤391	≤219	≤305
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>6,825</b>	<b>4,759</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>4,911</b>	<b>6,376</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>305</b>
Lower Columbia Rec (below Bonn)	12,647	11,260	6,168	15,682	19,316	10,791	6,334	7,264	3,899	3,872
Bonneville to McNary Rec	1,686	1,340	822	2,091	2,615	1,439	845	968	520	516
Snake River Spt/Wanapum Tribal	1,012	1,120	603	1,574	2,904	1,527	582	928	479	997
<b>Recreational Total</b>	<b>15,345</b>	<b>13,720</b>	<b>7,593</b>	<b>19,347</b>	<b>24,836</b>	<b>13,756</b>	<b>7,760</b>	<b>9,160</b>	<b>4,898</b>	<b>5,386</b>
<b>Total allowed</b>	<b>22,170</b>	<b>18,479</b>	<b>10,217</b>	<b>24,258</b>	<b>31,211</b>	<b>17,091</b>	<b>8,107</b>	<b>9,552</b>	<b>5,117</b>	<b>5,691</b>

POST Season <u>USED</u> Catch Balance for Adult Upriver Spring Chinook in Non-Treaty Fisheries <sup>1,2</sup>										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015 <sup>4</sup>	2016 <sup>4</sup>	2017	2018	2019	2020
Mainstem salmon Winter/Spring	3527	4,276	1,498	3,364	5,724	2,954	0	0	0	0
SAF Commercial Winter/Spring	305	329	259	257	804	331	463	311	203	83
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>3,832</b>	<b>4,605</b>	<b>1,757</b>	<b>3,621</b>	<b>6,528</b>	<b>3,285</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>83</b>
Lower Columbia Rec (below Bonn)	9,505	10,428	5,343	13,572	15,689	10,167	7,198	5,868	1,478	1,381
Bonneville to McNary Rec	2,379	886	613	2,231	1,696	1,480	18	623	288	546
Snake River Spt/Wanapum Tribal	1,957	2,377	374	1,546	1,996	1,397	101	773	342	340
<b>Recreational Total</b>	<b>13,842</b>	<b>13,691</b>	<b>6,330</b>	<b>17,349</b>	<b>19,381</b>	<b>13,043</b>	<b>7,316</b>	<b>7,263</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>2,267</b>
<b>Total take</b>	<b>17,674</b>	<b>18,297</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>20,970</b>	<b>25,909</b>	<b>16,328</b>	<b>7,779</b>	<b>7,574</b>	<b>2,311</b>	<b>2,350</b>

1. Includes release mortalities

2. All data subject to change, recent year data preliminary

3. Due to an unused balance from Select Area commercial fisheries, some amount of Catch Balance allocation would have been available for mainstem commercial fisheries.

4. Towards the end of the season, some unused ESA/CB allocations available for non-Indian fisheries shifted to Snake River sport and mainstem commercial fisheries to gain access to harvestable fish.

## Summer Chinook

### 2021 Summer recreational season - preliminary considerations

- Considering the projected 2021 run size (77,600), OR/WA Policy guidance regarding allocation of ESA impacts for 2021 commercial and recreational fisheries are not concurrent. Oregon rule allocates non-treaty sharing downstream of Priest Rapids Dam as 80% recreational and 20% commercial. Washington Policy sharing is for 70% recreational and 30% commercial for the expected return.
- The improved forecast for 2021 should provide for recreational fishing opportunity in all areas.
- The first run update is typically not available until around July 1.
- Discussions regarding 2021 summer Chinook will continue at the North of Falcon meetings. Ocean fishery regulations are set through the Pacific Fishery Management Council process as non-treaty ocean area fisheries are part of the non-treaty share.

### Coho Forecast (Ocean Abundance)

2020 abundance and 2021 forecast of ocean coho run components prior to harvest (thousands of fish)				
	2020			2021
	Pre	Post	Pre/Post	Forecast
Columbia River Early	130.7	240.7	54%	1,014.0
Columbia River Late	50.3	122.9	41%	576.0
<b><i>Columbia River Subtotal</i></b>	<b>181.0</b>	<b>363.6</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>1,590.0</b>
<i>Coast Subtotal</i>	4.70	6.0	78%	17.9
<b>Total (OPI-H)</b>	<b>185.7</b>	<b>369.6</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>1,607.9</b>
<b><i>OCN Rivers</i></b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>99.5</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>116.3</b>
<b><i>OCN Lakes</i></b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>8.7</b>
<b><i>OCN Total</i></b>	<b>83.0</b>	<b>110.0</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>125.0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>268.7</b>	<b>479.6</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>1,732.9</b>