

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FISHERY UPDATE #1
July 7, 2021

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River, measured at Bonneville Dam is lower, warmer and clearer than average for this time of year. As of July 7, the recent 5-day average outflow is 181.5 kcfs compared to the recent 5-year average of 196.2 kcfs. The current 5-day average water temperature is 68.0°F compared to a 5-year average of 65.6°F. The 5-day average visibility is 7.0 feet which is greater than the 5-year average of 5.5 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 and are destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam (PRD). These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- Bonneville passage during through July 6 totals 39,313 adult Chinook. The run is typically 67% complete as of July 6 (recent 10-year average).
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Tuesday July 6 and maintained the current in-season run size expectation of 59,600 adult summer Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. TAC's next scheduled meeting is Monday July 12.

Summer Steelhead

- Upriver stocks of summer steelhead migrate past Bonneville Dam during April 1 through October 31. Summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam prior to July 1 are considered upriver Skamania stock, and steelhead passing between July 1 and October 31 are classified by length as either A-Index or B-Index.
- Bonneville Dam passage from April 1 – June 30 was 1,917 upriver Skamania summer steelhead, which was only 42% of the preseason forecast (4,600). A total of 96,800 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year during July through October, which is 50% of the 2011-2020 average return of 192,019 A-/B-Index steelhead. Passage from July 1 through July 6 totals 1,128 upriver summer steelhead.

Sockeye

- Bonneville Dam passage through July 6 totals 124,733 sockeye. The recent 5-year average 50% passage date is June 25.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* TAC reviewed sockeye passage to date and downgraded the return expectation to 149,600 fish to the Columbia River mouth; the preseason forecast was 155,600 sockeye. TAC noted that passage appeared to be about two days late, compared to the recent 5-year average timing. TAC will review the return again during their next scheduled meeting.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management Agreements

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for treaty Indian and non-treaty summer season fisheries.
- Washington's Upper Columbia Management Agreement (UCMA) provides additional harvest and management guidelines for sharing of upper Columbia summer Chinook among non-treaty recreational and commercial fisheries and non-treaty tribal fisheries.

Summer Chinook

- Escapement goals and policy guidance for 2021 summer Chinook fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #2.
- Based on the updated run size, the harvest rate schedule in the MA, and guidelines in WA's UCMA, the portion of in-river harvestable fish allocated to non-treaty fisheries downstream of PRD is ~29%, equating to 3,097 adult fish (see table below):

2021 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation	
In-season Run Size	59,600
Non-Treaty Ocean Harvest	5,592
Total Abundance (with ocean harvest)	65,192
Available Treaty Harvest	16,197
Available Non-Treaty Harvest (in-river)	10,605
Recreational below Priest Rapids Dam	3,097
Below Bonneville Dam	2,106
Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam	372
Non-Treaty Commercial	619

Sockeye

- Escapement goals and ESA impact limits for 2021 sockeye fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #2.

Sturgeon

- Abundance estimates and harvest guidelines for 2021 white sturgeon fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #6.

2021 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Summer-season commercial fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel are scheduled to close after July 16. The Youngs Bay summer season continues through July 29.

- Through July 3, an estimated 6,114 Chinook have been landed in Select Area winter-, spring- and summer-season fisheries. Preliminary coded-wire tag analysis indicates the Chinook being harvested are primarily of Oregon Select Area origin.
- Under current commission policies, 20% (1,230 fish) of the overall 2021 white sturgeon harvest guideline (6,160 fish total) is available for commercial harvest. Sturgeon retention in Select Area commercial fisheries has been allowed since the start of the winter season with a three-fish-per-vessel weekly landing limit. Through July 3, an estimated 410 sturgeon have been landed out of the 615 fish guideline for Select Areas.

Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Summer Chinook Fisheries

Downstream of Priest Rapids Dam

- The recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam was open June 16 through July 5 for hatchery summer Chinook, hatchery steelhead, and sockeye retention. Through July 5, anglers kept 2,072 adult Chinook (835 released), 391 sockeye (115 released), and 443 hatchery steelhead (175 released) from 23,565 trips. Hatchery steelhead, sockeye, and hatchery jack Chinook retention is scheduled to remain open through July 31.
- From Bonneville Dam to Hwy. 395 at Pasco, WA, the summer Chinook fishery opened June 16 and is scheduled to be open for retention of hatchery adult Chinook through July 31 (end of summer management period). Through July 4, anglers have kept 17 adult Chinook (19 released), 186 sockeye (4 released), and 0 hatchery steelhead (2 released) from 711 trips.
- From Hwy. 395 to PRD (Hanford Reach), the summer Chinook fishery opened June 16 and is scheduled to be open for retention of hatchery adult Chinook through July 31. Through July 4, anglers have kept 59 adult Chinook (25 released), 1,632 sockeye (4 released), and 0 hatchery steelhead (12 released) from 5,525 trips.
- The projected non-treaty catch is expected to use nearly all of the recreational summer Chinook allocation at the current run size for fisheries downstream of PRD, and there is insufficient catch remaining for additional opportunities.

Accounting of upper Columbia summer Chinook mortalities in 2021 in-river non-treaty fisheries							
Fishery	adult Chinook through July 4		projected season total total morts (k+r)	current allocation	percent of allocation	balance	
	total kept	total morts (k+r)					
Rec. downstream of BON	2,072	2,197	2,242	2,106	106%	-136	
Rec. BON - PRD	76	83	140	372	38%	232	
<i>Rec. below PRD</i>	<i>2,148</i>	<i>2,280</i>	<i>2,382</i>	<i>2,477</i>	<i>96%</i>	<i>95</i>	
Rec. above PRD	na	na	3,504	3,504	100%	0	
Comm. downstream of BON	na	na	50	619	8%	569	
Colville and Wanapum tribal fisheries	13	13	4,004	4,004	100%	0	
<i>Total in-river non-treaty</i>	<i>2,161</i>	<i>2,293</i>	<i>9,941</i>	<i>10,605</i>	<i>94%</i>	<i>665</i>	

- For fisheries downstream of Hwy. 395, impacts to sockeye are not expected to exceed 0.50%. For recreational fisheries downstream of Hwy. 395 during the month of July, impacts to A-Index and B-Index steelhead are not expected to exceed 0.51% and 0.13%, respectively.

Upstream of Priest Rapids Dam

- Recreational fisheries currently open in Washington State waters are listed below but catch estimates are not yet available:
 - PRD to Rock Island Dam from July 1 – August 31 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye.
 - Rock Island Dam to Wells Dam from July 1 – October 15 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye.
 - Wells Dam to Hwy. 173 (at Brewster) open July 16 – September 30 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye.
 - Hwy. 173 to Chief Joseph Dam open from July 1 – October 15 hatchery Chinook and sockeye.

Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries

- The recreational white sturgeon retention fishery in the Columbia River estuary (waters downstream of the Wauna Powerlines) was open May 10 through June 5, and June 12 (13 days) on a Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday rotation with a catch guideline of up to 2,960 legal-sized white sturgeon. The harvest estimate for this fishery is 2,473 kept from approximately 17,505 angler trips. The kept catch represents 84% of the 2,960 fish harvest guideline for this fishery. Anglers have also released an estimated 3,376 sublegal and 5,980 over-legal sized white sturgeon.
- The lower Willamette River (including Multnomah Channel and Scappoose Bay) was open to retention of white sturgeon on June 12 and June 19 (Saturdays). An estimated 87 white sturgeon were retained with an additional 1,827 sublegal and 121 over-legal fish released from approximately 2,800 angler trips.
- The recreational white sturgeon retention fishery in the above Wauna Powerlines area is scheduled to be open on September 11 and 18 (Saturdays) with a catch guideline up to 1,230 legal-sized white sturgeon.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled for 9:00 AM July 8 to consider summer-season Treaty commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.