

**STAFF REPORT
TREATY SUMMER SEASON FACT SHEET
July 8, 2003**

Purpose: To review salmon, and steelhead run sizes and consider treaty Indian fishery options.

This Fact Sheet was not reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

2003 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2001-2003 Interim Management Agreement

- An Interim Management Agreement covering fisheries for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye is in effect for 2001-2003.
- In accordance with the Interim Management Agreement, impacts in Treaty Indian fisheries to upriver summer chinook and sockeye during 2003 were each limited to 5%.
- Impacts to listed upriver summer chinook and sockeye during 2003 were each limited to 1% for non-Indian fisheries. Non-Indian harvest of summer chinook to date has been well below management limits.

STOCK STATUS

Summer Chinook

- The preseason summer chinook run size forecast was for 87,600 to the Columbia River mouth.
- Through July 7, over 88,000 summer chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Average run timing suggests the run would be approximately 71% complete on July 7.
- The TAC updated the summer chinook run size on July 7 to 120,000.
- Counts to date make this the second largest dam count since 1969. This years run will be the second largest dam count since 1957.
- Under average run timing as of July 2, 75% of the summer chinook passage at Ice Harbor Dam would be complete and only 25% of the summer chinook passage at Priest Rapids Dam is complete. This indicates that while Snake River summer chinook are present throughout the summer time period, fisheries in July in Zone 1-6 should impact primarily upper Columbia River fish.

Sockeye

- The preseason forecast was for 22,000 upper Columbia sockeye and 80 Snake River sockeye.
- Through July 7 over 34,000 sockeye have passed Bonneville Dam.
- On July 7, TAC updated the sockeye run size to 40,000. Under average run timing, the sockeye run would be 86% complete.

Summer Steelhead

- The total upriver Skamania Index summer steelhead forecast was 25,000 including 9,700 wild fish.
- Summer steelhead counts from April 1 through June 30 were 14,154 of which 4,656 were unmarked.
- Summer A and B Index counts begin July 1, but the vast majority of fish in early July are Group A steelhead. Since July 1, a total of 8,500 steelhead have passed Bonneville of which almost 3,800 were unmarked.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

2003 Summer Season Fisheries

- The platform fishery is currently open for subsistence use. Harvest estimates through July 5 indicate a total summer chinook harvest of 550, total sockeye harvest of 1,470, and total steelhead harvest of 2,640.
- Current projections for the platform fishery estimate a harvest of 970 summer chinook and 2,200 sockeye. The projection for the sockeye harvest is over the 5% harvest rate limit, so it will be necessary to monitor this fishery carefully in order to determine if it will be necessary to take some management action with this fishery.
- Sturgeon setline fisheries are ongoing in the Bonneville and John Day pools. For weeks 24-27 the sturgeon catch was 39 for the Bonneville Pool and 26 for the John Day Pool. This leaves 870 sturgeon remaining on the Bonneville Pool harvest guideline and 107 remaining on the John Day pool guideline.

Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal

- Open a commercial gillnet fishery in all of Zone 6 from 6 AM Monday, July 14 to 6 PM Wednesday, July 16. 7.5" minimum mesh restriction. Allowable sales of Chinook, Steelhead, Walleye, Shad, and Carp. Sockeye may not be sold. Sturgeon may not be sold. However, sturgeon between 4 feet and 5 feet in length and sockeye may be kept for subsistence.
- Close Sturgeon Setline Fishery that has been ongoing in the John Day and Bonneville pools from 6 PM Saturday, July 12. Reopen the Sturgeon Setline fishery from 6 AM Monday, July 21 to 6 PM Saturday, August 23, or until the guidelines have been achieved.
- For Yakama Nation tributary fisheries, sales will be allowed from previously scheduled openings in the Klickitat and Big White Salmon Rivers that overlap with the gillnet fishery. Additionally, the previously scheduled opening in the Klickitat River will be modified to open earlier at 6:00 AM, Monday, July 14.
- The expected harvest in the commercial gillnet opening is similar to recent late spring openings when dam counts have been similar. The tribes expect to harvest from 1,500-3,000 summer chinook and 1,000-1,500 steelhead. Sockeye harvest should be minimal.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
July 8, 2003