

**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT
 SPRING FACT SHEET No. 1
 Columbia River Compact**

April 29, 2004

Purpose: To consider treaty Indian commercial fishing options for the mainstem Columbia River.

Spring Chinook Stock Status

The pre-season forecast for upriver spring chinook was 360,700 at the river mouth. It is becoming increasingly apparent that we are unlikely to reach this run size. Counts at Bonneville Dam through April 28, total 102,059. The count on April 28 dropped to 2,158 which is the lowest count since April 12. The total landed catch of upriver spring chinook in Zone 1-5 fisheries is approximately 23,000 making the total run size to date approximately 125,000.

TAC met on April 26 and discussed a range of possible run sizes at the mouth ranging from 264,000, to 360,700. TAC still is assuming the run timing to be late, but the long term average date that 50% of the run passes Bonneville is about April 25. Previous runs have passed Bonneville as late as May 6 in recent years. TAC will try to update the run size more precisely next week. However as a conservative way to plan current fisheries it may be wise to presume that the run is nearly 50% complete. This could produce a run size around 250,000.

Treaty Indian Spring Chinook Harvest to Date and Projected Impacts

At the Pre Season Run Size the tribes would be allowed a 13% harvest rate. For run sizes between 250,000 and 300,000 the allowed harvest rate is 11%. For run sizes between 200,000 and 250,000 the allowed harvest rate is 10%.

Fishery	Harvest	Impacts with Run Size = 360,700	Impacts with Run Size = 264,000	Impacts with Run Size = 225,000
Winter Season Platform	NA	~0	~0	~0
Winter Season Gillnet	2	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Spring Ceremonial Permits	8,066	2.2%	3.0%	3.6%
Platform Projection Through May 31 = 2-2.7% of run size.	7,000 at 360K 6500 at 264K 6000 at 225K	1.9%	2.5%	2.7%
1 st Commercial Gillnet Opening 2.5 days.	13,900 at 360K 10,000 at 264K 8,400 at 225K	3.9%	3.8%	3.7%
Total Impacts	28,987 at 360K 24,500 at 264K 22,442 at 225K	8.0%	9.3%	10%

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Proposal

Recommendation	
Season:	6:00 AM Tuesday May 4 to 6:00 PM Thursday May 6 (Sale of Platform/Hook and Line caught fish allowed until 6PM Sunday May 9)
Area:	All of Zone 6.
Gear:	There will be no mesh size restriction at this time.
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries remain in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may also be retained for subsistence.
Miscellaneous Rules:	The quick reporting rule for Washington buyers will be in effect.

- The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sale of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries that overlap with this period. The general fishing schedule for these tributaries is:

Tributary	Regularly Scheduled Opening	Allowed Commercial Sales
Wind River	March 8 to June 26 Noon Mon to 6 PM Sat	Noon Tues. May 4 to 6 PM Saturday May 8
Drano Lake	Tuesday Nights	Tuesday Night May 4-5
Big White Salmon River	Closed Sundays	6 AM Tuesday May 4 to 6PM Saturday May 8
Klikitat River	April 6 to June 5 Noon Tue to 6 PM Sat	Noon Tues. May 4 to 6 PM Saturday May 8

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
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