

**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT
SUMMER FACT SHEET No. 3
Columbia River Compact**

July 13, 2004

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

Summer Chinook and Sockeye Forecasts and Run Size

The summer management period runs from June 1 to July 31.

Dam Counts to date in the summer season have been good for Chinook and sockeye and steelhead. Through July 12, 78,864 adult chinook, 119,982 sockeye, 20,945 Skamania steelhead, and over 16,000 A and B Index steelhead have passed Bonneville. At Lower Granite Dam at least 83 sockeye have passed. This year represents the largest sockeye count at Bonneville since 1987 and the second largest sockeye count at Lower Granite since 1983. About 7,800 summer season chinook have been counted at Lower Granite. Over 35,000 summer chinook have passed Priest Rapids Dam.

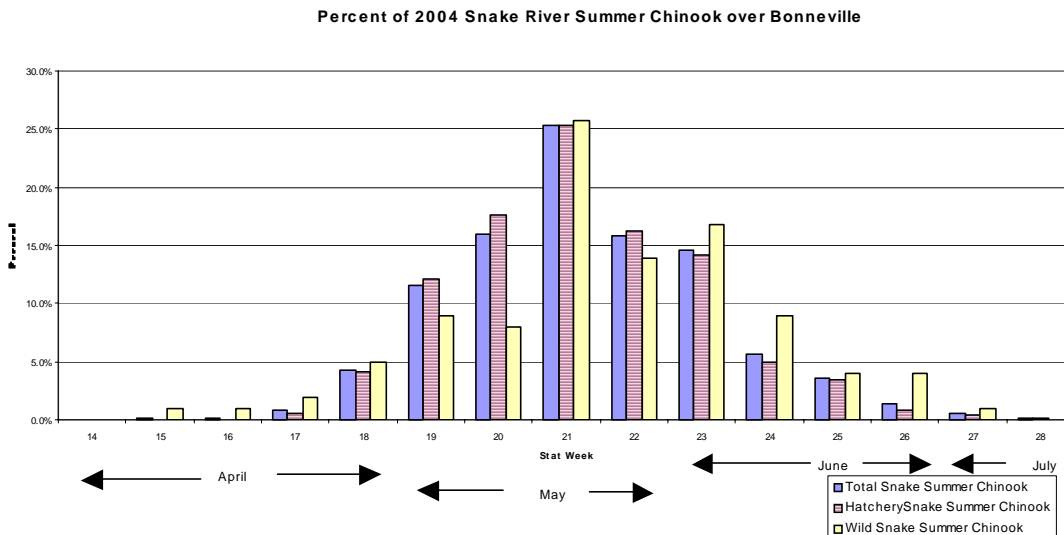
The updated forecast for sockeye is 124,700. At this run size (runs >75,000) the tribes will manage for no more than 7% harvest rate. This equates to an allowable catch of 8,729. At this time of year with this run size it will not be possible for the tribal fishery to achieve a 7% harvest rate.

The updated forecast for summer Chinook is 9,640. Under the Interim management agreement, the tribes would manage for a 5% impact on summer season Chinook which was designed to limit impacts on the Summer Component of the Snake River Spring/Summer ESU to 5%. 5% of 96,400 equals 4,280.

Tribal staff previously estimated that the tribal spring and summer season fisheries likely exceeded a 5% impact on the summer component of the Snake River Spring/Summer ESU. This was based on an analysis of PIT tagged Snake River summer chinook returns that showed the majority of the return (and presumably the harvest) occurred in mid to late May. Very likely the 5% impact was exceeded during the spring season fisheries. This analysis used both Imnaha and South Fork Salmon River summer Chinook which had very similar run timing in 2004.

Analysis of PIT tag data shows that at least 99% of the Snake River summer chinook have passed both Bonneville and McNary dams. The last observed adult Snake River summer chinook at Bonneville was on July 7. The last observed Snake River summer chinook at McNary was July 13.

A graph of the run timing for summer chinook is shown below. Figure 1.



Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries and Harvest to Date

Currently the platform/hook and line fishery is open for subsistence and commercial use in all of Zone 6.

There have been two 2.5 day commercial gillnet periods.

Catches are shown in the July 12 TAC update.

The platform harvest estimates are 800 summer Chinook and 2,800 sockeye over the summer management period. The preliminary platform catch update through July 10 is 620 summer chinook and 3,180 steelhead and 2,450 sockeye.

The total Summer season chinook harvest to date is 5,034 which is a 5.2% harvest rate on the summer season Chinook run.

Tribal staff estimate that an additional 3.5 day gillnet fishery this week would likely harvest no more chinook (~2,000) than the previous 2.5 day openings due to lower dam counts and warmer weather. The sockeye catch would likely be no more than a few hundred sockeye due to rapidly declining sockeye counts.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Proposal

Recommendation	
Dates:	Commercial Gillnet Fishery (3.5 days) 6:00 AM Wednesday July 14 until 6:00 PM Saturday July 17
Area:	All of Zone 6.
Gear:	Seven inch minimum mesh size restriction
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. Sockeye may not be sold but may be retained for subsistence. 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 Compact previously took action to allow the sale of platform caught chinook and steelhead.
- The Compact also previously took action on tributary sales. 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
Big White Salmon River	Closed Sundays	Each weekly opening 6:00 AM Tues. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)
Klickitat River	April 6 to Dec. 25 Noon Tue to 6 PM Sat	Each weekly opening Noon Tues. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
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