

**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT
SUMMER FACT SHEET No. 4
Columbia River Compact**

July 20, 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 19, 86,393 adult chinook, 122,202 sockeye, 20,945 Skamania steelhead, and over 40,500 A and B Index steelhead have passed Bonneville. At Lower Granite Dam at least 106 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 8,400 summer season chinook have been counted at Lower Granite. Over 54,200 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 96,400. 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. Some jack summer chinook have passed both dams in the past few days.

Based on this analysis and the run timing of Snake River summer Chinook, additional treaty fishing is not expected to increase the existing impact on this ESU.

Harvestable Summer Chinook

The 2001-3 Interim Management Agreement stipulates an interim management goal for upriver summer chinook of 85,000 at Bonneville during the summer management period. The goal was proposed at a time when there was less available data showing that much of the listed Snake River summer chinook run passes Bonneville during the current spring management period and a very high proportion has passed prior to June 15 (the end of the proposed new spring management period).

Currently the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties are considering an escapement goal at Priest Rapids Dam of about 20,000, and may equate to an corresponding goal at Bonneville Dam of 24,000. This goal is presumed to provide adequate natural spawning plus hatchery broodstock needs. Through July 19, 86,393 adult summer chinook have crossed Bonneville Dam. Since June 16, the time frame when Upper Columbia summer chinook dominate the run at Bonneville Dam, over 58,400 chinook have crossed the dam. Based on an escapement goal of 24,000 at Bonneville Dam, at least 34,400 Upper Columbia summer chinook are currently surplus to escapement needs.

Through July 19, 53,689 adult summer chinook have passed Priest Rapids Dam. TAC has not analyzed an appropriate methodology for determining the harvestable surplus for upper Columbia Summer chinook, nor have the *U.S. v. Oregon* Parties reached final agreement on an escapement goal. There is more than one reasonable way to estimate the number of

harvestable fish. Using a very simplistic approach that will provide an estimate that is certainly biased quite low, one can simply look at Priest Rapids dam passage. Based on a 20,000 goal, and a run of at least 54,200, there are actually at least 34,200 harvestable fish above Priest Rapids dam at this time. This method fails to consider current harvest to date and fish yet to pass Priest Rapids and is therefore a very low estimate. Simply using this number shows that there are more than 17,100 harvestable fish available for the states and for the tribal fisheries¹. It is unlikely that either the states or tribes could at this point harvest even this very low estimate of harvestable fish.

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 and one 3.5 day period. Catches are shown in Table 1.

The platform harvest estimates are 780 summer Chinook and 2,610 sockeye over the summer management period (through July 31 assuming the platform fishery continues through the end of the month). The preliminary platform catch update through July 17 is 700 summer chinook and 3,630 steelhead and 2,590 sockeye.

The total Summer season chinook harvest to date is 6,663 which is a 6.9% harvest rate on the summer season Chinook run. With the estimated platform catch through July 31, the total harvest of 6,743 would be 7.0%. The sockeye harvest rate to date is estimated to be 3.5%. Through July 31 the harvest rate would still round to 3.5%.

Tribal staff estimate that an additional 3.5 day gillnet fishery this week would likely harvest less chinook (~1,000-1,500) than the previous openings due to lower dam counts and warmer weather and declining effort. The sockeye catch would likely be less than two hundred sockeye due to rapidly declining sockeye counts. Similar catches would be expected for a 5.5 day fishery the following week assuming dam counts continue to decline.

TABLE 1. Treaty Zone 6 Summer Season Harvest

Fishery	Dates	Nets	Chinook to date	Chinook through 7/31	Sockeye to date	Sockeye through 7/31	Steelhead to date	Steelhead through 7/31
Platform	Through 7/17		700	780	2,590	2,610	3,630	na
Gillnet #1	6/23-6/25	204	2,299	completed	469	completed	85	completed
Gillnet #2	6/30-7/2	271	2,115	completed	1,102	completed	322	completed
Gillnet #3	7/14-7/17	161	1,549	completed	148	completed	655	completed
Subtotal			6,663	6,743	4,309	4,329	4,692	
Proposed Gillnet #4	7/21-7/24	~150	1,500	1,500	100	100	800	
Proposed Gillnet #5	7/26-7/31	~150	1,500	1,500	100	100	1,000	
Total			(10.0%) 9,663	(10.1%) 9,743	(3.6%) 4,509	(3.6%) 4,529	6,492	

Presuming that the next two weeks' fisheries harvest approximately 1,500 chinook each week, the total treaty catch after this weeks fishery (assuming the platform fishery runs through July) would total just over 9,700 chinook. This is just over half the previously estimated minimum 17,100 harvestable Chinook.

¹ The U.S. v. Oregon parties have not reached final agreement on an escapement goal for Summer Chinook. Nor has TAC done any analysis converting a goal to a Bonneville run size. This harvestable surplus estimate is provided with the understanding that TAC has not discussed any appropriate methodologies for calculating harvestable surplus of upper Columbia Summer chinook.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Proposal

Recommendation	
Dates:	Two Commercial Gillnet Fisheries (3.5 days and 5.5days) 6:00 AM Wednesday July 21 until 6:00 PM Saturday July 24 6:00 AM Monday July 26 until 6:00 PM Saturday July 31
Area:	All of Zone 6
Gear:	No 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, sockeye, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or 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
July 20, 2004