

**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT
SUMMER FACT SHEET No. 2
Columbia River Compact**

June 18, 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.

The pre-season forecast for summer Chinook is 102,800. Under the Interim management agreement, the tribes would manage for a 5% impact on summer Chinook. This equates to an allowable catch of 5,140.

The pre-season forecast for sockeye is 80,654. At this run size (runs >75,000) the tribes will manage for a 7% harvest rate. This equates to an allowable catch of 5,645.

The average date at which 50% of either the summer Chinook or sockeye run has passed Bonneville is June 26. It will be difficult to reliably update either run prior to that date. The summer Chinook run does not generally see a definitive peak in dam counts. Rather, it is relatively stable with counts generally being somewhat higher in June rather than July. The sockeye run often has a sharp peak with a large portion of the total run passing Bonneville within a few days in late June or possibly early July.

Dam Counts to date in June have been good for Chinook and sockeye and steelhead. Through June 17, 31,746 adult chinook, 27,459 sockeye and 10,338 Skamania steelhead have passed Bonneville. The chinook count to date represents the third largest cumulative count through June 17 since at least 1981 and over twice the ten year average cumulative count. This suggests that the run is tracking well to come in the range of the runs in the last three years with were from 76,000 to 127,000 at Bonneville. The cumulative sockeye count represents the largest cumulative count through June 17 since at least 1975. The 2001 return which totaled 114,000 only had 22,500 past Bonneville by June 17.

Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries and Harvest to Date

Currently the platform/hook and line fishery is open for subsistence and commercial use (no sale of sockeye) in all of Zone 6. The compact previously authorized commercial sale of platform caught chinook and steelhead beginning June 17.

Based on recent year catch rates, having the platform fishery open for subsistence use for the entire two month summer management period at these run sizes is not expected to harvest the full allowable catch of either Chinook or sockeye. Tribal staff have updated the estimated that the platform/hook and line fishery which would harvest about 1.4% of the summers and 4.2% of the sockeye runs respectively (assumes sockeye run is one week early).

The platform harvest estimates are 1,480 summer Chinook and 3,350 sockeye over the summer management period.

The preliminary catch update through June 19 is 400 summer chinook and 720 steelhead and 1,410 sockeye.

In 2003 the tribes had two gillnet openings for summer chinook in July. They were both 2.5 day fisheries. The first opening caught 2,107 chinook and 326 steelhead with 201 nets. The second

opening caught 1,480 chinook and 279 steelhead with 147 nets. While we have little experience in predicting chinook harvest in summer season gillnet fishery, if the run size came in much lower than expected (~80,000) the allowable harvest would be less (~4,000), then the expected platform catch should drop to less than 1,000. Even if the gillnet fishery catches more fish than last year's highest catch (~3000), it appears that this opening presents little risk of exceeding the allowed harvest limit for summer chinook. By using a seven inch minimum mesh restriction, there should be almost no incidental sockeye catch in this fishery.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Proposal

<i>Recommendation</i>	
	Commercial Gillnet Fishery (2.5 days)
Dates:	6:00 AM Wednesday June 23 until 6:00 PM Friday June 25
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
Wind River	March 8 to June 26 Noon Mon to 6 PM Sat	Each weekly opening Noon Tues. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)
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)

- Depending on run sizes and harvest, the tribes may propose at a later date some additional gillnet fisheries. The tribes would tentatively request another Compact hearing on the afternoon of June 28.