

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 7 June 7, 2006

Purpose:	Consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal
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STOCK STATUS

- The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. The spring management timeframe is January 1 through June 15.
- The upriver spring Chinook count through June 6 at Bonneville Dam totaled 103,382 spring Chinook. On June 5, TAC updated the adult upriver spring Chinook forecast to 120,000 fish to the river mouth, which exceeds the preseason expectation of 88,400 fish.
- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31. These Chinook are not listed under the ESA and the population is considered healthy.
- Non-treaty fisheries were last updated in Fact Sheet #6.

TRIBAL FISHERIES UPDATE

2006 Treaty Spring Chinook Fishery

- At a river mouth run size of 120,000, the allowed total harvest rate agreed to in the 2005-7 Interim Management Agreement is 8% (a harvest of 9,600).
- Tribal fisheries to date have consisted of Ceremonial and Subsistence Permit fisheries and a subsistence Platform/hook and line fishery. No Chinook were harvested in the winter season gillnet fishery.
- The following table shows the harvests to date.

TAC Updated Run size	120,000
Allowed Harvest Rate	8%
Allowed Harvest	9,600
Total Permit Harvest to date:	5,221
Expected additional Permit Harvest	400
Expected total Permit Harvest	5,621
Total Platform/hook and line Harvest to date	2,950
Expected additional Platform Harvest	300
Expected Total Platform Harvest	3,250
Expected Total Spring Season Chinook Harvest	8,871
Difference	729

- The tribes would expect that permit fisheries for C&S use would total no more than about 400 additional Chinook.
- The platform fishery is not expected to harvest more than about 300 fish between now and June 15. Whether or not these fish are used for commercial purposes is not expected to result in significant changes in the total catch. Most productive platform sites are assumed to be currently in use and will continue to be used whether or not fish are sold. Platform effort is not predicted to increase significantly
- With the catch projections through June 15, the tribal fishery is expected to harvest about 7.4% of the upriver Chinook run. The remaining 729 fish can serve as a buffer in case the run comes in a bit below forecast or catches are a bit higher than predicted.
- The following table shows the tribal commercial fishery proposal.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Dates:	The tribes will allow the sale of platform and hook and line caught Chinook and steelhead. 6:00 AM Thursday June 8, 2006 until further notice.
Area:	All of Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop Nets, Dip Nets and hook and line
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. 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.

- Additionally, the Yakama Nation will propose that commercial sales of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries be allowed when the tributary openings overlap with commercial openings in Zone 6. The general fishing schedule for these tributaries is:

Tributary	Regularly Scheduled Opening	Allowed Commercial Sales
Wind River	Noon Monday to 6 PM Saturday Through June 24.	Beginning 6 AM June 8 through 6 PM June 10 and then each weekly opening Noon Tues. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)
Drano Lake	Tuesday June 13 9:00 PM through Wednesday June 14 at Noon.	Tuesday June 13 9:00 PM through Wednesday June 14 at Noon.
Big White Salmon River	Closed Sundays	Beginning 6 AM June 8 through 6 PM June 10 and then each weekly open 6:00 AM Mon. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)
Klickitat River	Noon Tuesday to 6 PM Saturdays Through December 23	Beginning 6 AM June 8 through 6 PM June 10 and then each weekly opening Noon Tues. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)

- This proposal is consistent with the 2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement and provides some minimal commercial opportunity prior to the summer management period. The tribes anticipate that almost all sales prior to June 15 would be over the bank.
- The intent is to allow commercial sales of platform caught fish into the summer management period. The tribes may propose some summer season commercial gillnet fisheries at the June 15 Compact Hearing.

FUTURE HEARINGS

There is a Columbia River Compact Hearing scheduled to consider non-treaty and possibly treaty commercial summer Chinook fishing periods at 10:00 AM on Thursday June 15 at the WDFW office located at 2108 Grand Boulevard, Vancouver, Washington 98661.