

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
June 15, 2006**

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-treaty commercial salmon
--------------------------------	------------------------------

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Interim Management Agreement

- The Interim Management Agreement titled "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon" provides specific fishery management guidelines for summer Chinook and sockeye.

Summer Chinook

- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 will be managed based on the abundance of upper Columbia River summer Chinook destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam.
- Upper Columbia summer Chinook will be managed based on an interim management goal of 29,000 hatchery and natural origin adults as measured at the Columbia River mouth. The following table shows the harvest framework:

<i>Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Fishery Framework</i>		
<i>Run Size at River Mouth</i>	<i>Allowed Treaty Harvest</i>	<i>Allowed Non-treaty Harvest</i>
<5,000	5%	<100 Chinook
5,000-<16,000	5%	<200 Chinook
16,000-<29,000	10%	5%
29,000-<32,000	10%	5-6%
32,000-<36,250	10%	7%
(125% of 29,000 goal)		
36,250-50,000	50% of total harvestable¹	50% of total harvestable¹
>50,000	50% of 75% of margin above 50,000 plus 10,500 ²	50% of 75% of margin above 50,000 plus 10,500 ²

¹ The total number of harvestable fish is defined as the run size minus 29,000 for run sizes of 36,250 to 50,000.

² The total number of harvestable fish at run sizes greater than 50,000 is to be determined by the following formula: $(0.75 * (\text{runsize}-50,000)) + 21,000$.

- Based on the 2006 run forecast of 49,000 upper Columbia summer Chinook at the mouth of the Columbia River, the number of harvestable fish totals 20,000 which allows for 10,000 fish each for treaty Indian fisheries and combined non-treaty fisheries, including sport and tribal fisheries above McNary Dam.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 sockeye at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- The states submitted a Biological Assessment to NMFS regarding fisheries covered in the "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon".
- During the summer season fishery (June 16- July 31), ESA-listed stocks in the Columbia River include Snake River sockeye and wild summer steelhead. Upper Columbia summer Chinook are not listed under the ESA.
- The non-treaty ESA impact limit on listed sockeye is $\leq 1\%$ of the run entering the Columbia River.
- The non-treaty ESA impact limit on wild summer steelhead is 2% from January through July.

2006 Non-treaty Summer Chinook Harvest Allocation

- Commission guidance and management objectives are in place through 2007.

Mainstem Columbia River Summer Chinook Allocation For Non-Indian Fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam, 2006-2007
Guiding Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the conservation requirements for summer Chinook, expressed as the escapement goal of 20,000 natural and hatchery spawners • Meet treaty /non-treaty sharing objectives in the 2005-2007 <i>U.S. v Oregon</i> Management Agreement. • Address Colville and Wanapum tribal subsistence and ceremonial harvest needs. • Provide recreational fishing opportunity above Priest Rapids Dam as the highest recreational fishery priority (WDFW).
Fisheries Management Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available. • Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-treaty summer Chinook harvest to meet the objective of both fisheries. • In shaping fisheries, consult with stake holders to recognize economic benefits of sport and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River
Recreational and Commercial Allocation of Summer Chinook Impacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allocation of available harvest downstream of the Priest Rapids Dam shall be 50% for the recreational fishery and 50% for the commercial fishery. The Commission recognizes that when allowable harvest is either very large or very small, adjustments may need to be made to the allocation based on the capabilities of each fleet.

- Non-treaty fisheries include:
 - Colville Tribal fisheries.
 - Wanapum Tribal fisheries.
 - Recreational fisheries from Rocky Pt./Tongue Pt. upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.
 - Commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam (Zones 1-5).
- The allocation for 2006 non-treaty fisheries is based on the pre-season run size forecast, the 2005-2007 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement and is consistent with Commission guidance and management objectives:

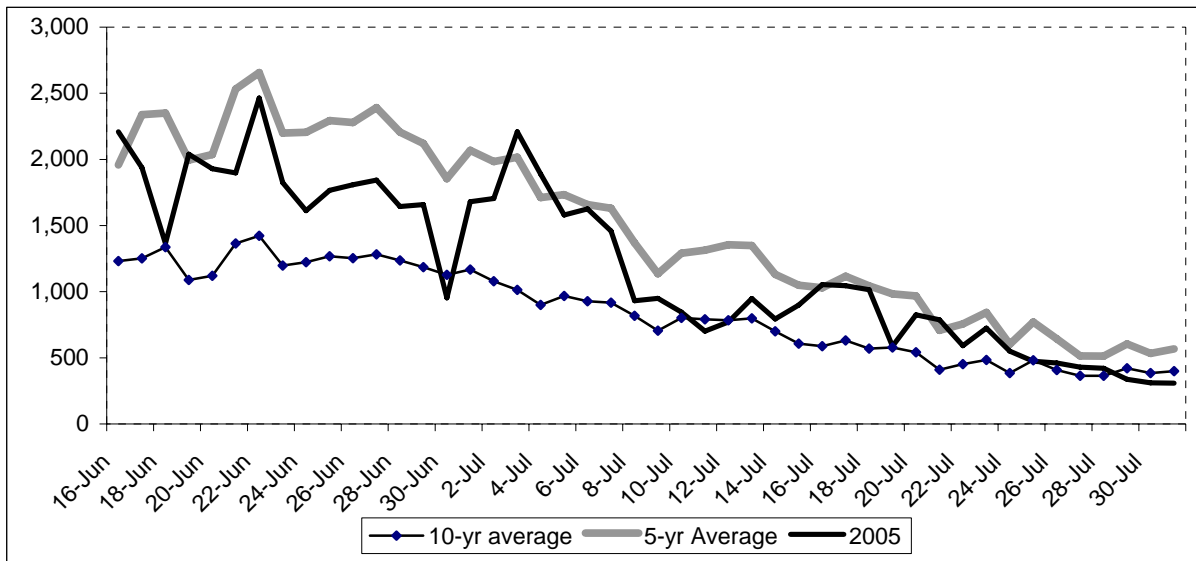
2006 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation		
Preseason Run Size	49,000	
Available Non-treaty Harvest		10,000
Colville / Wanapum Tribal fisheries	37%	3,750
Sport above PRD	33%	3,250
	70%	7,000
<i>Remaining</i>	30%	3,000
Sport below PRD	50%	1,500
Commercial	50%	1,500

- This allocation structure provides a majority (70%) of the allowable non-treaty harvest to the recreational and tribal fisheries occurring in the upper Columbia River.

STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- 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.
- Upper Columbia summer Chinook are destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam.
- The 2006 forecast to the Columbia River mouth totals 49,000 fish.
- In 2005 the actual return was 60,000 fish, compared to 62,400 forecasted. Overall, pre-season forecasts have generally under-predicted the actual summer run.
- Daily passage over Bonneville dam is typically fairly stable with no significant peak. Based on the 10-year average, daily counts are about 1,000 Chinook per day through mid-July and decrease to about 500 fish per day for the remainder of the season. Passage is typically 50% complete around July 1.



Sockeye

- An estimated 31,100 sockeye are expected to return to the Columbia River in 2006. This return includes 7,800 Wenatchee stock, 23,300 Okanogan stock and 21 Snake River sockeye.
- Bonneville Dam passage through June 13 totals 2,475 sockeye. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 23.
- Based on the pre-season forecast and the management goal of 75,000 sockeye over Bonneville Dam, non-treaty fisheries for sockeye are not expected to occur in 2006, except for minor subsistence tribal fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam.

SUMMER SEASON FISHERIES

2005 Non-treaty Sport Fisheries

- 2005 marked the fourth consecutive year a sport fishery allowing retention of adult Chinook was adopted downstream of McNary Dam during the summer season (June 16-July 31).
- Below Bonneville Dam, an estimated 38,500 anglers caught 2,071 adult summer Chinook (1,571 kept /500 released). In the area from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam, anglers made 350 trips and caught 74 adult summer Chinook.

2005 Non-treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Six, 10-hour fishing periods took place between June 23 and July 26 in Zones 1-5 with an 8-inch mesh size and retention of Chinook, coho, and sturgeon allowed.
- Landings during this season included 2,787 Chinook and 1,369 white sturgeon. This was the first targeted summer Chinook commercial harvest since 1964.

2006 Non-treaty Sport fisheries

- Summer Chinook sport fisheries are non-selective and are scheduled from the Tongue Pt./Rocky Pt. line upstream to Priest Rapids Dam between June 16-July 31, and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam during July 16 through October 15.
- Sport fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam are allocated 3,250 fish and 1,500 fish are allocated to sport fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam.
- Considering the 1,500 fish guideline for the sport fishery below Priest Rapids Dam, current catch rates, and angler success in the 2005 summer fishery, there is the possibility that in-season management action may be required for the area below Bonneville Dam.

2006 Non-treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Commercial fisheries occurring below Bonneville Dam are non-selective and are allocated 1,500 fish.

2006 Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 10,000 summer Chinook based on the 2005-2007 Management Agreement.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
The joint staff recommends adoption of the following non-Indian commercial fishing periods:	
Season:	7 PM Monday June 26 to 5 AM Tuesday June 27 (10 hours). 7 PM Wednesday July 5 to 5 AM Thursday July 6 (10 hours).
Area:	Zones 1-5.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, shad, and sturgeon. All sockeye and steelhead must be released immediately. A maximum of three sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The sturgeon possession/ sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Expected Catch:	500-800 Chinook per period.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers.

Management Considerations

- A total of 500 sturgeon are allocated for summer commercial harvest.
- Weekly, one-tide fisheries will restrict harvest and allow time to verify landings and estimate catch rates prior to future fishing periods.
- Nighttime fishing will minimize sport/commercial interactions. Consistent fishing periods each week will provide equal opportunity throughout the river.
- An 8-inch minimum mesh restriction will effectively limit steelhead and sockeye handle.
- Effort is expected to be about 75 boats per period. A portion of the fleet will leave for Alaska fishing from mid to late June.
- The expected catch of 500-800 Chinook per period is based on the 2005 fishery results and the 2006 preseason forecast.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Additional hearings will occur as needed to modify ongoing fisheries or consider additional fishing options.
- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 27, 2006 located at 25 River Street in Cathlamet, Washington. The purpose of the hearing will be to review stock status of fall Chinook and consider non-Indian commercial fisheries.