

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact
April 26, 2010

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty Commercial Fisheries

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam passage of adult Chinook through April 25 totals 95,512. This is the highest cumulative count to date since 2003 and the 3th highest count to date since 1977.
- With the total Bonneville count plus upriver impacts in treaty and non-treaty fishing below Bonneville Dam, 129,679 upriver spring Chinook can be accounted for.
- TAC met today and says it is still too early to update the run size. TAC will be meeting regularly to review dam counts and harvest data.

Tribal Fisheries

- No Chinook were harvested in the tribal winter gillnet fishery.
- Tribal ceremonial permit fishing has been occurring since late March. Ceremonial permit fishing concluded last weekend. The preliminary total ceremonial permit catch for all tribes is 8,600.
- Platform and hook and line fishing for subsistence purposes has been occurring both in Zone 6 and below Bonneville Dam. The harvest to date includes 2,480 Chinook and 160 steelhead. 1,970 Chinook have been harvested downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The tribes currently estimate that as many as 10,000 fish could be harvested in platform and hook and line fisheries throughout the spring management period if the run size is high.
- Tribal fisheries will be managed based on the harvest rate schedule in the 2008-2017 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement.
- The tribes have elected to propose their initial commercial fisheries based on a 300,000 run size until TAC updates the actual run.
 - Based on a 300,000 run size the allowed tribal catch would be 32,400 (10.8% harvest rate)
 - Reserving 10,000 fish for platform and hook and line fisheries and accounting for a ceremonial permit harvest of 8,600, provides 13,800 fish available for commercial purposes.
- The tribes propose a 2.5 day fishery with an estimated catch of 12,000 Chinook. The tribes harvested 12,600 Chinook in their last 3.5 day commercial gillnet opening in early May 2008.
- The projected total harvest at the end of this week is approximately 23,500. This harvest is within the total allowable catch at a 300,000 run size and would not exceed a the allowable harvest rate limit unless the total river mouth run were less than 235,000.
- If a TAC run size update indicates the run is high enough to support additional commercial harvest, the tribes will propose additional commercial gillnet fishing.

Staff Recommendation – Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line Fisheries

PLATFORM/SCAFFOLD/HOOK AND LINE SALES

AREA: All of Zone 6

DATES: Fish harvested after 6:00 AM Tuesday April 27, 2010 may be sold until further notice.

GEAR: Hoop Net, Dip Net, and Hook and Line.

ALLOWABLE SALES: Chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho, walleye, shad, yellow perch, bass, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches total length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes.

SANCTUARIES: All dam sanctuaries for these gear types shall remain in effect.

- The tribes anticipate allowing commercial sales of platform and hook and line caught fish continuously through the spring summer and fall as run sizes permit.

Staff Recommendation – Zone 6 Commercial Gillnet Fisheries

COMMERCIAL GILLNET SEASON

AREA: All of Zone 6

DATES: 6:00 AM Tuesday April 27, 2010 through 6:00 PM Thursday April 29 (2.5 days).

GEAR: There will be no minimum mesh size restriction.

ALLOWABLE SALES: Chinook, steelhead, walleye, shad, yellow perch, bass, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches total length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sales of fish caught during the open period for gillnet fishing are allowed after the end of the open period as long as the fish were landed during the open period.

SANCTUARIES: All standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries shall remain in effect, with the exception of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary, which is not necessary this time of year.

The quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington commercial fish buyers.

Staff Recommendation – Below Bonneville Dam Platform and Hook and Line Fisheries

PLATFORM/HOOK AND LINE FISHERIES DOWNSTREAM OF BONNEVILLE DAM

The Yakama Nation, Warm Springs Tribes, and Umatilla Tribes will allow sale of fish caught in their platform and hook and line fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam

GEAR and AREA: As agreed to in each tribe's MOU's

DATES: 6:00 AM Tuesday April 27, 2010 until further notice (on days when the fishery is open and sales are allowed in Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries)

ALLOWABLE SALES: Chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho, walleye, shad, yellow perch, bass, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be retained in this fishery.

No Sales are allowed on USACE property at Bonneville Dam.

Staff Recommendation – Yakama Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries

The Yakama Nation proposes that sales of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries when those fisheries are open concurrent with allowed sales in Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries. These fisheries and their schedules are:

1. Wind River: noon Mondays through 6:00 PM Saturdays until June 26.
2. Drano Lake Permit Gillnet fishery: Tuesday 9 PM through Wed noon each week through June 9.
3. Big White Salmon River: noon Mondays through 6:00 PM Saturday all year.
4. Klickitat River: noon Tuesdays through 6:00 PM Saturdays until May 29, then resuming no later than July 6 until December 25.

Weekly fishing schedules are subject to modification based on catches and run sizes.

- The tribes will monitor and report harvests
- A net flight will occur during each commercial gillnet opening to estimate the fishing effort.

Future Meetings

The tribes may recommend a Compact Hearing on Monday May 3.