

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
June 11, 2013

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon Treaty Indian commercial salmon
--------------------------------	---

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2013 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 24, 2013). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam. These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- The 2013 forecast of 73,500 adults to the Columbia River mouth is 126% of the 2012 return of 58,300 adults, and would represent the fifth highest return since at least 1980.

Summer Steelhead

- Upriver stocks of summer steelhead migrate above Bonneville Dam during April 1 through October 31. Summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam prior to July 1 are considered Skamania stock, and steelhead passing between July 1 and October 31 are classified as either Group A or Group B fish, depending on length.
- Summer steelhead handled in Columbia River fisheries below Bonneville Dam are considered lower river stock during May-June and upriver stock during July-October.
- A total of 339,200 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year, which is 95% of the 2003-2012 average of 358,900 fish. Lower river summer steelhead returns have averaged 70,400 fish over the past ten years.
- Bonneville Dam passage during April 1-June 9 totals 2,289 summer steelhead, which is less than expected based on the forecast and 10-year average run timing. The 50% passage date is around June 17 for upriver Skamania stock.

Sockeye

- The 2013 forecast for sockeye is for a strong return of 180,350 fish to the Columbia River mouth. The forecast includes 44,600 Wenatchee stock, 134,500 Okanogan stock, and 1,250 Snake River stock.
- Bonneville Dam passage through June 9 totals 3,493 sockeye, which is similar to expectations (1,800) based on the forecast and 10-year average run timing. The 50% passage date is June 25, but has been as late as July 1.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management Agreements

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for treaty Indian and non-Indian summer season fisheries.
- The Upper Columbia Management Agreement (UCMA) provides additional harvest and management guidelines for sharing of upper Columbia summer Chinook among non-Indian and non-treaty tribal fisheries.

Summer Chinook

- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 are managed based on a minimum interim escapement goal of 29,000 hatchery and natural origin adult upper Columbia summer Chinook, as measured at the Columbia River mouth.

2008-2017 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Harvest Rate Schedule		
Run Size at River Mouth	Allowed Treaty Indian Harvest	Allowed Non-Treaty Harvest
<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 (125% of 29,000 goal)	10%	7%
36,250-50,000	50% of total harvestable ¹	50% of total harvestable ¹
>50,000	50% of 75% of margin above 50,000 plus 10,500 ²	

¹The total number of harvestable fish is defined as the run size minus 29,000 for run sizes of 36,250 to 50,000.
²For the purposes of this Agreement, the total number of harvestable fish at run sizes greater than 50,000 is to be determined by the following formula: $(0.75 * (\text{runsize}-50,000)) + 21,000$.

Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Harvest Allocation

- Non-treaty fishery allocation includes the following fisheries:

- Ocean fisheries south of Canada.
- Recreational fisheries from Astoria/Megler Bridge upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.
- Commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam (Zones 1-5)
- Colville and Wanapum tribal fisheries.

2013 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation	
Preseason Run Size	73,500
Ocean Harvest	4,260
Total Abundance (with ocean harvest)	77,760
Available Treaty Indian Harvest	20,910
Available Non-Treaty Harvest (in-river)	16,650
Recreational below Priest Rapids Dam*	3,160
<i>Below Bonneville Dam</i>	2,525
<i>Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam</i>	635
Non-treaty Commercial	2,585

**Includes fish provided from fisheries upstream of PRD*

- The management guideline for non-treaty summer Chinook fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam prior to the run update is 5,745 fish. Following guidance for 2013 from the Oregon and Washington commissions and subsequent Director negotiations, 45% of these fish are allocated for commercial harvest and 55% for recreational harvest.
- If the run size is tracking at preseason expectations through the end of June, additional fish may become available for harvest via transfer from the upper Columbia recreational fishery.

Summer Steelhead

- The non-Indian ESA impact limit on wild summer steelhead is 2% during January through July. For non-Indian fisheries occurring during May and June below Bonneville Dam, wild steelhead impact rates have averaged less than 0.5%, and are expected to be similar for 2013 fisheries. Treaty Indian fisheries have no specified harvest rate limit on steelhead through July.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam. The escapement goal for the Wenatchee River system is 23,000 sockeye.
- The impact limit on the Columbia River return of ESA-listed sockeye is 1% for non-Indian fisheries and 7% for treaty Indian fisheries.

2013 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Based on preseason forecasts and corresponding impact limits under the MA, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 20,910 adult summer Chinook and 12,625 sockeye. Actual harvest limits will depend on the actual river mouth run sizes. While there are not specific steelhead harvest rate limits in summer season fisheries, steelhead catch is expected to remain within recent year averages.
- Commercial gillnet opening are expected to occur weekly throughout the summer season. Effort is expected to be high the first few weeks of the season, averaging around 400 nets; and then decrease as the season progresses. The tribes will utilize a mesh size restriction for the first two openings and may continue mesh size limits if appropriate.
- The Compact addressed the Zone 6 platform and Hook and Line fishery previously and does not need to take action on this fishery.
- Yakama Nation tributary fisheries which include the Little White Salmon River (Drano Lake), and the Wind, White Salmon, Klickitat, and Yakima rivers are ongoing for both commercial and subsistence purposes in accordance with tribal regulations, and expected to continue through the summer season. Sales of fish caught from Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are allowed only for Yakama Nation enrolled members, and only when those areas are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation rules.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following recommendations:

<i>2013 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - recommendation</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday June 17 to 6 PM Friday June 21, 2013	(4.5 days)
	6 AM Monday June 24 to 6 PM Thursday June 27, 2013	(3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.	
Gear:	Gill nets. There is a 7 inch minimum mesh restriction for these two openings.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish 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 fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sales of fish caught during open gillnet periods are allowed after the end of the open period, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.	
Additional:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.	

- The expected harvest for the two proposed commercial gillnet openings is up to 11,200 Chinook and 3,500 sockeye. Catch projections are based on recent year average catch and effort.
- If the Chinook and sockeye runs are near forecast levels, these first two gillnet openings are expected to be well within the allowed harvest limits. Steelhead catch rates are normally very low in the beginning of the summer management period.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Gillnet fishing effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week
- The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fisheries after these two openings. The tribes request a Compact Hearing on Thursday June 27.

<i>2013 Treaty Indian Platform Hook and Line below Bonneville Dam_ Recommendation</i>	
Season	6 AM Sunday June 16, 2013 until 11:59 PM Wednesday July 31.
Area:	Below Bonneville Dam, as prescribed in tribal MOUs/MOAs and all other tribal regulations.
Gear:	Hoop nets, dip bag nets, and rod and reel with hook and line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon retention is prohibited; sturgeon may not be sold or retained for ceremonial or subsistence purposes. Sales may not occur on USACE property.
Additional:	Tribal members fishing below Bonneville Dam must carry an official tribal enrollment card. <u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- The tribes expect low effort and low catches in the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam during the summer management period based on past years' harvest.

2013 Non-Indian Fisheries

- Non-Indian summer Chinook fisheries were discussed with constituents during the North of Falcon (NOF) and Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meetings occurring in March and April. Summer salmon fisheries are based on the results of these meetings, management agreements, pre-season forecasts, and allocation guidelines.
- Summer recreational fisheries are mark-selective for Chinook, allowing the retention of adipose fin-clipped hatchery Chinook only. The area from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to be open from June 16 through June 30. The area from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam is scheduled to be open from June 16 through July 31. The daily bag limit includes a two (hatchery) Chinook.
- Sockeye retention will be allowed as part of the adult daily salmon bag limit beginning June 16 through June 30 in area from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam. The area from Bonneville Dam upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge (at Pasco, WA) is open through July 31.
- Summer Chinook commercial fisheries will utilize large mesh (8" min.) gear to minimize incidental handle of steelhead. A total of 300 white sturgeon from the commercial allocation were set aside for the summer season.

<i>2013 Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>		
Season	9 PM Sunday June 16 to 5 AM Monday June 17, 2013	(8 hours)
Area	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.	
Gear:	Drift gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh size. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. The Youngs Bay Select Area remains open under a 2 white sturgeon weekly retention limit.	
Additional:	A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

- Based on deliveries during the past three years, effort is expected to be high (~125 deliveries), with a catch expectation of 2,500 Chinook and 280 sturgeon.
- Nighttime fishing will minimize commercial interactions with sport fishers and other recreational boaters.
- Considering the available guideline and expected catch for the initial period, staff recommends only setting one fishing period at this time.
- Staff has received numerous phone calls requesting 1) a change in start time, including delaying one day to avoid Sunday sport fishing and Father's Day or 2) delaying for a week or more to break the season into more days.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact is recommended for Thursday June 27 to consider additional commercial fisheries.
- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday July 25 in Cathlamet, Washington.