

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 5a
Columbia River Compact
July 10, 2013

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty Indian commercial

Stock status and management guidelines for 2013 summer season fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 11, 2013).

Stock Status

- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met July 8 to review salmon returns. TAC updated the in-season run size forecasts to 64,000 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook and 165,000 sockeye to the Columbia River. Both of these estimates are less than pre-season, but improved over the estimates TAC provided last week.
- Based on updated in-season run size estimates and management agreements, a total of 17,141 adult summer Chinook and 11,550 sockeye are available for treaty Indian fisheries.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

- The tribal summer season gillnet fishery has been ongoing since June 16. Weekly fishing periods have been ranged from 2 ½ to 3 ½ days per period. All openers have had a 7-inch minimum mesh restriction. The fourth weekly period is currently open and scheduled to close 6:00 p.m. Thursday July 11.
- Platform hook & line (PH&L) fisheries are ongoing 7-days per week above and below Bonneville Dam consistent with tribal regulations and MOUs/MOAs. An additional 700 Chinook and 1,000 sockeye are reserved for PH&L harvest after the gillnet fisheries conclude. Harvest from PH&L is included the gillnet totals.
- Aerial net counts have been conducted once a week since June 17. The number of nets has been decreasing since the peak count of 373 nets observed during the second weekly period (Jun 24-27).
- Harvest has been within or slightly less than expectations. Typical for the summer season, catch (and effort) declines as the season progresses.
- Based on the in-season run sizes and current catch estimates, a balance of 5,900 Chinook and 2,000 sockeye remain available for treaty Indian harvest.

2013 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries			
Gillnet Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Adult Chinook	Sockeye
Spring Platforms			352
Jun 17-21	367	4,819	2,109
Jun 24-27	373	2,352	2,119
Jul 1-3	326	1,884	1,814
Jul 8-11 (proj.)	326	1,500	2,200
Gillnet (actual & projected)		10,555	8,594
Platform/H & L (Season)		700	1,000
Total actual/projected/planned		11,255	9,594
Total allowed		17,141	11,550
Balance remaining		5,886	1,956

- The four Columbia River Treaty tribes have decided that a 3.5 day gillnet fishery is appropriate for next week and have adopted the following regulation:

<i>2013 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - recommendation</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday July 15 to 6 PM Thursday July 18, 2013	(3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and Dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear are in place, except no Spring Creek.	
Gear:	Gill nets. 7- inch minimum mesh size.	
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 are allowed after the open period concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

- Catch estimates for next week’s combined gillnet and platform fisheries total 1,700 Chinook and 1,500 sockeye.
- Catch is expected to remain within ESA and harvest allocation limits given the current run size estimates.
- The tribes will continue to monitor and report harvest from treaty fisheries.
- The tribes will likely request TAC run updates for Chinook and sockeye, and will also likely request a Compact next week to consider possible additional gillnet opportunity.
- The treaty tribes have also been discussing re-opening tribal C & S permit fishing. Harvestable fish will likely remain and the C&S needs have not been met. Although no formal decisions have been, the tribes are discussing potential permits, which may be issued after the gillnet periods conclude. The tribes will relay any information as it becomes available.