

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
June 11, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon Treaty Indian commercial salmon
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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 2014 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 22, 2014). <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 2014 forecast of 67,500 adults to the Columbia River is similar to the 2013 return (67,600 adults) and slightly greater (107%) than the 10-year average return of 62,900 adults.

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 281,000 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year, which is 81% of the 2004-2013 average of 346,300 fish. Lower river summer steelhead returns have averaged 66,900 fish over the past ten years.
- Bonneville Dam passage during April 1-June 9 totals 4,433 summer steelhead, which is greater than expected (3,200) based on the forecast and 10-year average run timing. The 50% passage date is around June 17 for upriver Skamania stock.

Sockeye

- The 2014 forecast for sockeye is for a very strong return of 347,100 fish to the Columbia River. The forecast includes 63,400 Wenatchee stock, 282,500 Okanogan stock, and 1,200 Snake River stock.
- Bonneville Dam passage through June 9 totals 3,480 sockeye, which is similar to expectations 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.
- Based on the preseason forecast and the harvest rate schedule in the MA, a total of 37,135 adult summer Chinook are available for harvest, and are to be shared equally between treaty and non-Indian fisheries (18,563 each).

Non-Indian Summer Chinook Harvest Allocation

- The non-Indian 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.

2014 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation	
Preseason Run Size	67,500
Non-Indian Ocean Harvest	4,000
Total Abundance (with ocean harvest)	71,500
Available Treaty Indian Harvest	18,563
Available Non-Indian Harvest (in-river)	14,563
Recreational below Priest Rapids Dam	2,840
<i>Below Bonneville Dam</i>	2,414
<i>Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam</i>	426
Non-Indian Commercial	1,893

- Based on the preseason forecast and the UCMA, the portion of in-river harvestable fish allocated downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 32.5%, equating to 4,733 adult fish. Commission guidance allocates these fish 40% to commercial and 60% to recreational fisheries.

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 2014 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.

2014 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Based on preseason forecasts and corresponding impact limits under the MA, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 18,563 adult summer Chinook and 24,297 sockeye. Steelhead harvest is expected to remain within recent year averages.
- Commercial gillnet openings 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.
- Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through the summer season. The area below Bonneville Dam opens June 16 and is expected to continue through July 31. The Compact has adopted rules allowing sales in these areas consistent with tribal regulations and MOUs/MOAs. The 24-hour quick-report is in effect for all of these fisheries.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2014 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday June 16 to 6 PM Thursday June 19, 2014 6 AM Monday June 23 to 6 PM Thursday June 26, 2014	(3.5 days) (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. 7-inch minimum mesh restriction	
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. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.	
Additional:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Submission of a report is not complete until the report arrives at the designated department location. Reports can be made via fax at 360-906-6776 or 360-906-6777; via e-mail at crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov ; or via phone at 1- 866-791-1281. Faxing or reporting electronically in portable document format (PDF) a copy of each fish receiving ticket used, within the previously indicated time frames specified per area, satisfies the quick reporting requirement.	

- Presuming effort of 225 nets – near recent week’s effort, catch projections total approximately 5,500 Chinook and 3,000 sockeye for two weekly periods. If effort increases to 350 nets, catch projections would increase to 8,000 Chinook and 4,000 sockeye. Both of these catch projections are well within the 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. Effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week
- The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fishing time after these two periods. The tribes request a Compact Hearing on Thursday afternoon on June 26

2014 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, preseason forecasts, and allocation guidelines.
- Summer recreational fisheries are scheduled to be open from June 16 through June 30 from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam, and June 16 through July 31 from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam. These fisheries are mark-selective for Chinook, allowing the retention of adipose fin-clipped hatchery Chinook only. The daily bag limit includes two hatchery adult Chinook.
- Sockeye retention will be allowed as part of the adult daily salmonid bag limit beginning June 16. In the area from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam sockeye retention is allowed through June 30. In the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam retention is allowed through July 31.
- Summer Chinook commercial fisheries will utilize large mesh (8-inch minimum) gear to minimize incidental steelhead handle.

<i>2014 Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>		
Season	9 PM Monday June 16 to 5 AM Tuesday June 17, 2014	(8 hours)
Area	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-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, and shad.	

Additional: A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.
Submission of a report is not complete until the report arrives at the designated department location.
Reports can be made via fax at 360-906-6776 or 360-906-6777; via e-mail at crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov; or via phone at 1- 866-791-1281.
Faxing or reporting electronically in portable document format (PDF) a copy of each fish receiving ticket used, within the previously indicated time frames specified per area, satisfies the quick reporting requirement. .

- Based on deliveries during the past three years, effort is expected to be high (~125 deliveries), with a catch expectation of 1,800 Chinook. Sockeye catch is expected to be well within the 1,040 fish allocated to commercial fisheries.
- The recommendation was developed based on discussions with constituents and the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group during the North of Falcon process.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact is recommended for 1 PM Thursday June 26, 2014 to review stock status non-Indian fisheries, and to consider additional treaty commercial fisheries.
- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday July 29, 2014 at the Clark Regional Wastewater District (8000 52nd Court, Vancouver, Washington).