

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
June 26, 2014

| | |
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| Fisheries under consideration: | 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.
- The Bonneville Dam passage through June 25 totals 24,795 adult summer Chinook. The run is typically about 38% complete at Bonneville on June 25 and the 50% passage date is about June 29 based on 10 year average run timing.
- Based on subsampling of the window counts at Bonneville Dam, approximately 39% of the adult summer Chinook are adipose fin clipped. Since the clip rate for hatchery summer Chinook from brood years 2008-2011 averaged 84%, this means that a substantial portion of the run is comprised of natural origin fish.

Summer Steelhead

- Bonneville Dam passage during April 1-June 25 totals 9,994 summer steelhead.

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 194,414 sockeye, which is greater than 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 or as early as June 22.

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. Actual catches depend on actual run sizes.

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.
- The tribal fishery has had two commercial gillnet openings. The current opening ends at 6:00 PM today.
- The Zone 6 and the below Bonneville platform and hook and line fisheries and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are ongoing and expected to continue through the summer season. 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 first commercial gillnet opening occurred during June 16-19 and the second weekly opener began on June 23 and ends at 6 PM June 26. Net counts were slightly less than projected for the first week, but picked up on the second week. Actual catch has been more than modeled for the first week.
- Additionally, the tribes are reserving 200 Chinook and 1,000 sockeye for fisheries after the conclusion of gillnet fisheries to keep platform fishing open for the remainder of the summer period.

| 2014 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries | | | | |
|--|---------------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Fishery | Effort (Nets) | Chinook | Sockeye | Steelhead |
| Spring season through 6/15 | na | na | 451 | na |
| Jun 16-19 | 246 | 4,226 | 1,346 | 382 |
| Jun 23-26 (projected) | 301 | 4,500 | 4,250 | 575 |
| Subtotal #1 | | 8,726 | 6,047 | 957 |
| Late summer Platforms (reserved for after gillnet fisheries) | | 200 | 1,000 | 1,000 |
| Subtotal #2 | | 8,926 | 7,047 | 1,957 |
| Allowed at Preseason Forecast | | 18,563 | 24,297 | |
| Remaining | | 9,637 | 17,250 | |

- Based on the preseason run size and current catch estimates, a balance of 9,637 Chinook and 17,250 sockeye remain available for treaty Indian harvest.
- The tribes have modeled fisheries for the next two weeks. The projected catches are shown in the table below.

| Projected harvest in planned fisheries | | | | |
|--|------|---------|---------|-----------|
| Dates | Nets | Chinook | Sockeye | Steelhead |
| 6/30-7/3 | 300 | 4,300 | 5,000 | 1,000 |
| 7/7-7/11 | 300 | 3,000 | 2,650 | 1,000 |
| Subtotal | | 7,300 | 7,650 | 2,000 |
| Previous fisheries and late summer platforms | | 8,926 | 7,047 | 1,957 |
| Total | | 16,226 | 14,697 | 3,957 |
| Allowed at Pre-season forecast | | 18,563 | 24,297 | |
| Remaining | | 2,337 | 9,600 | |

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have met and agreed to regulations consistent with the following:

| <i>2014 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i> | |
|---|--|
| Season | 6 AM Monday June 30 to 6 PM Thursday July 3, 2014 (3.5 days) 6 AM Monday July 7 to 6 PM Friday July 11, 2014 (4.5 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. |

- Season total commercial, ceremonial and subsistence harvest is projected to remain within the allowed harvest rates for treaty Indian fisheries based on preseason forecasts. The tribes will continue to monitor and report the harvest in their fisheries.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact is recommended for 3 PM Tuesday July 1, 2014 to review salmonid stock status and consider non-Indian fisheries.
- The tribes may request an additional Compact Hearing on Wednesday or Thursday July 9 or 10 to consider additional treaty commercial fisheries.