

**YAKAMA NATION FISHERIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
 TRIBAL STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3b
 Columbia River Compact
 May 5, 2015**

Fisheries under Consideration: Treaty mainstem commercial salmon

Stock status and management guidelines for 2015 Spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2a (January 28, 2015).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Stock Status and run data are reported in Fact Sheet 3a.

Treaty Fisheries Update

- The Columbia River treaty tribes ceremonial permit fishery has been ongoing since the close of the Winter Gillnet Season in late March. Preliminary catch estimates through today total 7,598 adult Chinook.
- Yakama and Warm Springs have finished their ceremonial permits and the Umatilla and Nez Perce are reporting to still have permits fishing and are close to finishing.
- Under the current forecast run size the allowed harvest rate under the US v Oregon management agreement is 10%, which equates to an allowed catch of 24,100.
- Treaty catch of upriver spring Chinook through May 4 totals 13,467 fish, or 56% of allowed at the predicted 241,000 run size. The table below shows a summary of the spring harvest. Tribal fisheries have harvested less than 100 steelhead to date which is typical for this time of year.

Fishery	Chinook Catch
Winter Gillnet	0
Spring C&S Permit Gillnet	7,598
Expected additional Permit catch	500
Zone 6 Platform H&L through 5/3	1,510
Zone 5 H&L	703
Total Platform H&L	2,213
Expected Z6 Platform H&L through 6/15	2,590
Expected total Z6 Platform H&L through 6/15	4,803
Total expected through 6/15	13,604
Allowed Catch (10% of 241,000)	24,100
Remaining	10,496

- Based on the number of fish remaining available for the tribal mainstem fisheries, the Yakama Nation has decided to authorize commercial sale the ongoing platform/h&l fishery and to allow a commercial gillnet fishery to access some of the remaining fish.

Tribal Fishery Plan

2015 Treaty Indian Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line Fishery	
Season:	Commercial Sales begin at 7:00 PM on May 5, until further notice.
Area:	All of Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop nets, bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook and line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools may be kept for subsistence. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence.
Sanctuaries:	River mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types in effect.
Miscellaneous:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Additionally, the Yakama Nation will be allowing commercial sale from YN Tributary Fisheries in Drano Lake, Wind River, and Klickitat River.

<i>Yakama Nation Tributary Fisheries</i>	
Season	7:00 PM Tuesday May 5 through July 31, 2015, and only during those days and hours when the tributaries listed below are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.
Area	Drano Lake, Wind River and Klickitat River
Gear	Hoop nets, dip bag nets, and rod and reel with hook-and-line. Gill nets may only be used in Drano Lake.
Allowable Sales	Salmon, steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, or yellow perch. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches fork length harvested in tributaries within The Dalles or John Day Pools and sturgeon between 38-54 inches fork length harvested in tributaries within Bonneville pool may not be sold but may be kept for subsistence
Note:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240 and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

2015 Treaty Spring Gillnet Commercial Fishery

Area:	Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam)
Season:	6:00 a.m. Tuesday May 12 until 6:00 p.m. Friday May 15, 2015 (3.5 days)
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, carp, catfish, bass, and yellow perch may be sold or kept for subsistence. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches fork length harvested in The Dalles or John Day Pools and sturgeon between 38-54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool may not be sold but may be kept for subsistence.
Gear:	Gill nets. No mesh restriction
Sanctuaries:	Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries in effect for this gear type except for the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary which is not necessary this time of year.
Miscellaneous:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington wholesale dealers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- The 3.5 gillnet fishery is projected to catch 8,700, which is within the remainder of the Treaty Catch Guideline.
- Depending on the actual catch in these planned fisheries the tribes may choose to have an additional commercial gillnet fishing period especially if catches this week are less than projected, the tribes may propose additional gillnet fishing periods.
- The tribes will monitor and report harvest. Aerial surveys will also be conducted to count nets to determine fishing effort for every commercial gillnet fishing period.
- The tribes expect that consumer demand for these spring chinook will be high and that the fishery will provide important economic benefits to tribal fishers, tribal communities and the communities along the Columbia River in the Zone 6 area.
- Commercial fishing serves an important purpose to allow consumers in the Northwest and around the country access to the fishery resource that rate payers and tax payers help fund. The tribes also view commercial fisheries to be consistent with overall efforts to restore weak salmon runs throughout the basin.
- The tribes suggest a tentative Compact Hearing on Monday May 18 in case there is a need to consider additional commercial gillnet fishing.