

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**June 30, 2015**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon LCR recreational salmon Bonneville Pool recreational sturgeon
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*Stock status and management guidelines for 2015 summer Chinook fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 10, 2015).*

**Stock Status and Management Guidelines**

- Summer Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during June 16-29 totals 59,670 adult fish. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 29. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 73,000 adult fish.
- Sockeye passage at Bonneville Dam through June 29 totals 339,816 fish. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 25. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 394,000 fish.
- TAC began weekly stock status reviews for the summer season on Monday June 29. TAC upgraded the summer Chinook forecasted return to 85,000 fish and the sockeye return to 450,000 fish.
- Based on the current forecast and management agreements for adult summer Chinook, a total of 25,808 fish are available for treaty harvest and 7,395 fish are available for non-Indian in-river harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam.
- Based on the current forecast and ESA limits, a total of 31,500 sockeye are available for treaty harvest and 4,500 sockeye are available for non-Indian harvest downstream of the Highway 395 Bridge.
- The 2015 non-Indian Bonneville Pool white sturgeon harvest guideline is 1,100 fish. A balance of 945 sturgeon are available for harvest during the summer period.

**2015 Summer Season Fisheries**

- Summer recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam are open from June 16 through July 6 for retention of adult hatchery Chinook and sockeye. Catch estimates include 1,603 adult Chinook kept (1,112 released) from 16,805 angler trips through June 28. Catch rates are tracking slightly less than modeled and the mark rate is improved over 2014, averaging around 59% for June.
  - Catch projections for June 29-July 6 include an additional 512 adult Chinook kept (401 released). Projected kept and release mortalities through July 6 are estimated to be 2,342 Chinook (54% of the 4,348 allocated) and 600 sockeye.

- Summer recreational fisheries from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam are scheduled to be open from June 16 through July 31 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye retention. Catch estimates to date are minimal, which is typical for this area.
- The Bonneville Pool recreational fishery is scheduled for three 3-day retention periods. Catch from June 19-21 and June 26-28 totaled 576 sturgeon). Catch per day averaged 123 fish the first period and 74 fish per day on the second period. A balance of 355 fish remain for the upcoming July 3-5 retention period, which would allow for an average of 118 fish kept per day. Staff is not recommending any modifications to the upcoming retention season.
- An (8-hr) commercial fishing period on June 17. Catch includes 2,108 Chinook and 243 sockeye. Total catch currently represents 95% of the 2,218 adult Chinook allocated.
- Treaty commercial fisheries are on-going and have consisted of three weekly periods to date. The third period is scheduled to conclude July 2. Harvest (and effort) has been slightly greater than projected. Harvestable fish remain available to the tribes.

<b>2015 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries</b>				
Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	555	na
Jun 16-19 (3.5 days)	362	7,916	3,879	65
Jun 22-25 (3.5 days)	400	6,969	8,624	110
June 29-July 2 (3.5 days) projected	400	6,200	9,800	180
Subtotal #1		21,098	22,858	352
July 6-8 (2.5 days) projected	400	3,800	6,100	280
Subtotal #2		24,885	28,958	635
<b>Allowed at Updated Run Size</b>		25,500	31,500	
Remaining		615	2,542	

### Fishery Recommendations

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<b>2015 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</b>	
Season	6 AM Monday July 6 to 6 PM Wednesday July 8, 2015 (2.5 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. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools

Additional:	and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.
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- Catch projections for a 2.5 day fishery next week total 3,800 Chinook and 6,100 sockeye and 280 steelhead. Based on current run sizes, 615 Chinook and 2,542 sockeye will be remaining after next week’s planned fishery.
- 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 may set additional gillnet fishing time after these periods.

<i>2015 Mainstem Columbia River Summer Chinook Recreational Fishery- Recommendation</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	Extend the season through July 31, 2015
<b>Area:</b>	Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.
<b>Daily Bag Limit:</b>	Two adult salmonids per day. Sockeye are included in the adult daily limit. Chinook and steelhead must be adipose fin-clipped. All other permanent regulations apply.

- The recommendation would continue the fishery beyond the scheduled July 7 closure date and through the remainder of the summer season.
- If adopted, kept and release mortalities would total 2,865 Chinook (66% of the allocation) for the season. Sockeye harvest is estimated at around 900 fish.
  - Options to provide access to a greater portion of the allocation are limited to changes in the daily bag limit. Some options staff looked at are provided in the table below:

2015 summer LCR recreational season scenarios with different retention regulations			
	Recommended MSF 6/16- 7/31	Scenario #1 MSF June 16-July 3; Non-MSF July 4-31	Scenario #2 MSF June 16-July 3; Non- MSF July 4-31 1+1 bag
Guideline	4,348	4,348	4,348
Kept	2,581	3,097	3,071
total mortalities	2,865	3,304	3,282
wild mortalities	284	723	701
allocation balance	1,483	1,045	1,067
Unused balance (% of allocation)	34%	24%	25%

- Scenario #1 assumes MSF regulations are lifted on July 4. The daily bag limit would remain in place (2 adult Chinook). Under this scenario 24% of the allocation would remain.
- Scenario #2 assumes beginning July 4, the daily bag limit would allow for retention of one unmarked adult chinook. Under this scenario 25% of the allocation would remain.
- Other viable alternatives exist, which would fall within the range of the scenarios provided.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The tribes may request a hearing for July 6 or July 7 if TAC provides another summer Chinook run size upgrade.
- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday July 29, 2015 at the Clark Regional Wastewater District (8000 52nd Court, Vancouver, Washington).