

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 20, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon Non-Indian commercial salmon
--------------------------------	--

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

- TAC met today and provided an in-season forecast of 120,000 adult summer Chinook and 507,500 sockeye returning to the Columbia River. The summer Chinook forecast is the largest since at least 1960 and the sockeye forecast is the third largest on record.
- Based on the current forecast and management agreements a total 12,645 summer Chinook are available for non-Indian in-river harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam and 5,075 sockeye are available for non-Indian harvest downstream of the Highway 395 Bridge. Treaty fisheries are allocated 39,832 summer Chinook and 35,525 sockeye for harvest.

2015 Summer Season Fisheries

- Treaty commercial fisheries are on-going and have consisted of five weekly periods to date. Platform and hook and line harvest (above and below Bonneville Dam) is included in each week's reported gillnet catch.

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	120
Jun 23-26 (3.5 days)	400	6,969	8,624	165
June 29-July 2 (3.5 days)	388	6,660	7,931	175
July 6-9 (3.5 days)	308	5,557	4,458	312
July 13-16 (3.5 days)	240	5,975	2,139	398
Subtotal #1		33,077	27,586	1,170
Allowed at Updated Forecast		39,832	35,525	
Projected July 21-24 (3.5 days)	250	5,000	2,400	700
Remaining		1,755	5,539	

- The tribes have adopted a fishery for this week for 6:00 AM Tuesday July 21 through 6:00 PM Friday July 24.
- Two non-Indian commercial fishing periods have occurred to date. Catch includes 3,298 Chinook and 315 sockeye. Catch to date currently represents 87% of the 3,794 adult Chinook allocated. A balance of 496 fish remain for commercial harvest.

Fishery Recommendations

Treaty Commercial Salmon

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

<i>2015 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Tuesday July 21 to 6 PM Friday July 24, 2015	(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. No 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 and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes.	
Additional:	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.	

- Total catch projections for July 21-24 are 5,000 Chinook, 2,400 sockeye and 700 steelhead.

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2015 Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	7 PM Tuesday July 21 to 7 AM Wednesday July 22, 2015	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.	
Gear:	Drift gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh size. Multiple net rule in place: 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	
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.	

- Catch is estimated to be about 500 Chinook and effort is expected to remain low.
- Total non-Indian harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam including actual, projected and proposed fishery harvest is expected to total 9,500 summer Chinook compared to the

allocation of 12,645 harvestable Chinook. Sockeye harvest downstream of the Hwy 395 Bridge is expected to total 2,200 fish for the season.

Future Meetings

- Depending on catch and effort this week, the tribes may ask for a Compact early next week.
- 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).