

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 13, 2016**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon Select Area 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 2016 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 20, 2016). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Through July 12, 64,385 summer chinook and 331,073 sockeye have passed Bonneville Dam. Additionally, 12,228 summer steelhead have passed Bonneville since April 1.
- TAC met Monday and provided an in-season forecast of 91,000 adult Chinook and 340,000 sockeye returning to the Columbia River.
- Based on the current forecasts and management agreements, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 28,252 adult summer Chinook and 23,800 sockeye.

SUMMER SEASON COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- A total of four weekly commercial gillnet periods are complete, and the fifth weekly period is scheduled to close tomorrow evening. Catch estimates include 18,206 Chinook, 20,333 sockeye, and 1,709 steelhead for these five weekly periods (shown as subtotal #1 in table below). These catches include preliminary estimates of 70 chinook, 580 sockeye and 190 steelhead harvested in bank fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Based on an expected effort of 260 nets next week and 250 the following week, catch projections for two additional weekly periods total 5,500 Chinook, 2,640 sockeye, and 2,800 steelhead. All catch estimates include projections of both gillnet and platform gear. Although relatively low, steelhead harvest gradually increases as the summer management period progresses.

2016 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	165	na
Jun 16-18 (2 nights)	357	2,703	2,180	108
Jun 20-23 (3 nights)	282	3,047	5,700	301
June 27-30 (3 nights)	283	4,393	4,987	261
July 5-8 (3 nights) Preliminary	277	3,763	2,701	319
July 11-14 (3 nights) Projected	259	4,300	4,600	720
Subtotal #1 through 7/14		18,206	20,333	1,709
July 18-22 (4 nights) Projected	260	3,500	1,870	1,500
July 25-29 (4 nights) Projected	250	2,000	770	1,300
Fall season Projected			50	
Subtotal #2		23,706	23,023	4,509
Allowed at Updated Forecast		28,252	23,800	
Remaining		4,546	777	

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

2016 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery		
Season	6 AM Monday July 18 to 6 PM Friday July 22	(4.5 days)
	6 AM Monday July 25 to 6 PM Friday July 29	(4.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect.	
Gear:	Gill nets. no minimum mesh restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.	
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.	

- There is no need for Compact Action regarding the Zone 6 platform fishery, bank fishery downstream of Bonneville, or Yakama tributary fisheries at this time.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week.

Select Area Fisheries

- The spring seasons in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel were scheduled to close after June 14. The fisheries were extended multiple times in response to the continued presence of hatchery spring Chinook and strong market value for these Chinook.
- One to two periods per week have occurred in both these sites since June 14. The last scheduled fishing periods concluded this morning.
- Mark rates and coded-wire tag results continue to indicate the fish being harvested are primarily hatchery Chinook of Select Area origin.
- Interest in this fishery continues and the ex-vessel price for Chinook remains above average.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2016 Select Area Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	7 PM Thursday July 14 to 7AM Friday July 15 7 PM Monday July 18 to 7 AM Tuesday July 19
Area #1:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough. The lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction Gear restricted to a maximum net length of 100 fathoms with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Area #2:	Tongue Point and South Channel.
Gear:	9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. <u>Tongue Point</u> : Gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. <u>South Channel</u> : Gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
The following applies to the areas listed above	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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. Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets (pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 and OAR 635-006-0210).

- These season extensions will allow continued access to late-returning Select Area spring Chinook which are still present in the fishing areas.
- The catch expectation is about 200 Chinook for the proposed season modifications.
- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action. In Blind Slough, Oregon State waters extend upstream of the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.

Future Meetings

- No additional summer hearings are currently scheduled. The joint staff will schedule hearings as needed based on run forecast updates and available harvestable fish.
- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 AM Wednesday July 27, 2016 in Gaiser Hall (room 213) at Clark Community College (1933 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver, Washington).