

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET 2b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 5, 2018

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial sturgeon setline Treaty 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 reports are the 2018 Joint Staff Report: Stock Status and Fisheries for Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, and Other Species (February 20, 2018) and the 2018 Joint Staff Report Concerning Stock Status and Fisheries for Sturgeon and Smelt (January 18, 2018). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>. An updated fall Joint Staff Report is expected within a few weeks.

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Sturgeon stock assessment and guidelines were discussed in Winter Fact Sheets 1a and 1b from January 30, 2018. Treaty sturgeon catches and guidelines are shown in the table below.

	Jan Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	17	61	78	325	247
The Dalles	63	352	415	415	0
John Day	9	143	152	210	58
Total	89	556	645	950	

- Pre-season salmon and steelhead forecasts applicable to the summer management period are shown in the table below. Chinook and sockeye forecasts are to the Columbia River mouth and steelhead forecasts are to Bonneville Dam.

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmonid Returns: Actual and Forecasted*</i>				
		2017 Forecast	2017 Return	2018 Forecast
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	63,100	68,204	67,300
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	198,500	88,263	99,000
	Wenatchee	54,200	34,861	25,700
	Okanogan	137,900	52,272	72,600
	Yakima	4,000	619	50
	Deschutes	1,000	66	50
	Snake River	1,400	445	600
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	130,700	116,841	190,350
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	11,300	3,491	7,950
	(wild)	4,100	1,236	3,000
	A-Index (total)	112,100	106,776	158,000
	(wild)	33,000	27,909	44,800
	B-Index (total)	7,300	6,574	24,400
	(wild)	1,100	751	3,400

- The summer management period runs from June 16 through July 31. Chinook salmon passing Bonneville Dam or harvested during this time period are managed as Upper Columbia summer Chinook. The sockeye run size includes any Columbia River sockeye no matter when it returns or passes Bonneville Dam. The upriver Skamania steelhead run includes steelhead passing Bonneville between April 1 and June 30. A-Index and B-Index steelhead include steelhead passing Bonneville between July 1 and October 31. Steelhead harvested in the Bonneville Pool between April 1 and June 30 are considered to be Skamania stock steelhead. Steelhead harvested upstream of The Dalles Dam prior to July 1 are considered to be part of the 2017-18 A- and B-Index run. Steelhead harvested in Zone 6 in July are considered to be part of the 2018-19 A- and B-Index run.
- Based on the current forecasts according to the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 20,624 adult summer Chinook and 6,930 sockeye. There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in summer season fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is low in the summer and is expected to remain within recent average rates. TAC will begin to update run sizes in late June or early July. Actual allowed fishery impacts are based on actual not forecast run sizes. Actual allowed catches will be determined in-season.
- Through June 3, there have been a total of 2,196 Skamania steelhead counted at Bonneville including 856 unclipped fish. Based on the 10-year average timing, the total run would normally be about 30% complete and the unclipped run would be about 24% complete at Bonneville on June 3. While TAC has not updated the Skamania run size, the total run is tracking slightly less than forecast and the unclipped run is tracking consistent with the forecast.

SUMMER SEASON COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Commercial Setline Fisheries

- The treaty tribes plan to allow a commercial sturgeon setline fishery in the John Day pool only beginning tomorrow and going through June 15. The tribes expect low effort (~5 fishers) and project that the total catch should be no more than the 58 fish remaining.
- Tribal staff will work closely with state staff to ensure the harvest is tracked carefully and the fishery will be closed earlier if the guideline is expected to be reached prior to June 15.

Treaty Mainstem Summer Management Period Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes plan to allow commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish on June 16 and expect sales to run continuously through the summer management period and into the fall.
- The treaty tribes will begin commercial gillnet fisheries on June 18. The tribes have planned two initial gillnet openings and may schedule additional openings at a later date.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in the table below. The model assumes average recent set net effort along with average weekly harvest rates. The model will be adjusted to account for actual fishery performance as the season progresses. The projected catches for weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries include the expected catch in the platform and hook and line fishery for those weeks.

2018 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries (projected harvest)				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season platforms through 6/15	na	na	50	na
Platforms June 16-17		400	100	50
Gillnet fisheries				
Jun 18-22 (4 nights)	330	6,030	1,130	160
Jun 25-29 (4 nights)	360	6,120	1,780	160
Subtotal through 6/29		12,550	3,060	370
Allowed at Pre-season Forecast		20,624	6,930	
Remaining		8,074	3,870	

Note: projected catches for weeks with gillnet fisheries include platform and hook and line catch for those weeks.

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

2018 Treaty Indian Commercial Sturgeon Setline Fishery	
Season:	6 AM Wednesday June 6 to 6 PM Friday June 15
Area :	John Day Pool only
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to setline gear
Gear:	Setline Gear. Fishers are encouraged to use circle hooks and avoid J-hooks. It is unlawful to use setline gear with more than 100 hooks per set line, with hooks less than the minimum size of 9/0, with treble hooks, without visible buoys attached, and with buoys that do not specify operator and tribal identification.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in the John Day Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon within the legal size limit and caught in the platform and hook and line fishery may only be sold if caught during the open period and open area of the set line fishery. 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 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. It is unlawful to sell, barter, or attempt to sell or barter sturgeon eggs that have been removed from the body cavity of a sturgeon prior to sale of the sturgeon to a wholesale dealer licensed, or to sell or barter sturgeon eggs at retail. It is unlawful to deliver to a wholesale dealer any sturgeon that are not in the round with the head and tail intact.

- Because there is a small chance some legal size sturgeon could be caught with platform and hook and line gear in the John Day pool during the open setline fishery, the four Columbia River treaty tribes allow the sale of any legal size sturgeon caught with these gears during the setline fishery consistent with the following:

<i>2018 Treaty Indian – John Day Pool Sturgeon Platform and Hook and Line</i>	
Season:	6AM Wednesday June 6, through 6PM Friday June 15 only during open sturgeon setline fishery.
Area:	John Day Pool only
Gear:	Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook and line.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length may be sold or kept for subsistence during the open period and open area of the setline fishery, Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Sanctuaries:	Standard closed areas are in place for these gear types.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season	6 AM Monday June 18 to 6 PM Friday, June 22 (4.5 days) 6 AM Monday June 26 to 6 PM Friday, June 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:	Set and Drift Gill nets with a 7” minimum mesh size 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 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Additionally, the tribes have adopted regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery consistent with the following. Some tribal regulations may specify that the platform fishery allows commercial sales “until further notice”. The tribes expect to seek consistent state regulations at the first fall season Compact hearing to extend sales into the fall management period.

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Summer Season Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Zone 6</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM June 16 through 11:59 PM July 31.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and rod and reel with hook and Line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead caught after 6:00 AM on June 16 may be sold or kept for subsistence. Shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may also 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.
Sanctuaries:	Standard sanctuaries in place for this gear type, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect.
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-352-180, and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The tribes may choose to open fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam according to agreements with the States of Oregon and Washington. The harvest downstream of Bonneville is expected to be no more than 200 Chinook and 100 sockeye and very small numbers of steelhead. The catch downstream of Bonneville Dam is counted as part of the total tribal mainstem catch.

<i>2018 Treaty Fishery - Summer Season Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Downstream of Bonneville Dam</i>	
Season	6:00 AM June 16 through 11:59 PM July 31 and only during days and times opened under tribal rules.
Area	Area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
Gear:	Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.
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 retained in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish are not authorized on COE property downstream of Bonneville Dam. Fish must be transported elsewhere for sale. 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 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. COE property at Bonneville Dam has no public trash service and fishers and any other visitors need to remove any trash with them.

- The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of its Zone 6 tributary fisheries for fish caught during open tributary fishing periods that overlap with open sales periods for the mainstem. These are as follows:

<i>2018 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries</i>	
Season:	Beginning 6:00 AM June 16 until further notice, 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:	Wind River, Drano Lake and Klickitat River
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and reel with hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence. Sales of fish are allowed after the open period concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-352-180, and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through a tribal creel program. Set net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. Drift net effort is estimated through the creel monitoring program. Catches for the platform fishery are typically summed with and reported with gillnet catches for any week with a commercial gillnet opening. Any harvest downstream of Bonneville is part of the total allowed catch for any species. Tributary harvest is managed under separate limits.
- Treaty commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal members and their families as well as to communities along the river and on reservations.

Future Meetings

- The tribes request another Compact Hearing during the week of June 25.