

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 28, 2018

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Treaty commercial– Select Area Commercial– Mainstem recreational 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 Concerning Stock Status and Fisheries for Sturgeon and Smelt (January 18, 2018) and the 2018 Spring/Summer report (February 20, 2018):

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01973/wdfw01973.pdf> or http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports/18_reports/2018_spring_jsr.pdf
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports/18_reports/2018_wssjsr.pdf or <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01959/>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Columbia River conditions as measured at Bonneville Dam currently show similar flow, visibility, and water temperature compared to recent 5-year averages for this date in June. Current outflow is 264 kcfs (96 kcfs is spill), which is slightly higher than the recent 5-year average of 231 kcfs. Water temperature currently measures 65° F, which is the same as the recent 5-year average. Visibility is currently at 5.0 feet compared to the average of 5.8 feet. The river stage at Vancouver is currently about seven feet and is forecasted to remain similar--or slightly less--at around five to seven feet over the next few days.

STOCK STATUS and MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Summer Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during June 16 – 27 totals 20,870 adult fish. Passage is typically 50% complete on June 30. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 67,300 adult fish. Passage to date has been less than expected.
- Sockeye passage at Bonneville Dam through June 27 totals 120,577 fish. Passage is typically 50% complete on June 26. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 99,000 fish. Passage to date has been greater than expected.
- Through June 27, there have been a total of 5,141 Skamania steelhead counted at Bonneville including 2,181 unclipped fish. Based on the 10-year average timing, the total run would normally be about 79% complete and the unclipped run would be about 72% complete at Bonneville on June 3. While TAC has not updated the Skamania run size, the total run is tracking less than forecast and the unclipped run is tracking consistent with the forecast. Steelhead harvested in the Bonneville Pool from April 1-June 30 are considered upriver Skamania Stock steelhead. Steelhead harvested in the lower Columbia River (LCR) from May 1-June 30 are considered lower river Skamania stock steelhead. Beginning July 1, steelhead harvested in the LCR are considered A- and B-Index upriver steelhead. The preseason forecast for Skamania wild steelhead is 3,000 fish. The non-treaty limit for unclipped Skamania stock steelhead is 2%.

- TAC began weekly stock status reviews for the summer season on Monday June 25. The TAC upgraded the sockeye run to 209,000 fish but did not officially update the summer Chinook return. However, in subsequent discussion, TAC agreed the river mouth run size for adult upper Columbia River summer Chinook will likely be close to 52,000 fish. The TAC will meet again July 2 to review available data.
- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 are managed based on a minimum interim escapement goal of 29,000 hatchery- and natural-origin adult upper Columbia summer Chinook, as measured at the Columbia River mouth.
- Based on the preseason forecast, the 2018-27 *U.S. v OR* Management Agreement, and WDFW/Colville Tribe (CCT) agreements for adult summer Chinook, a total of 20,624 fish would be available for treaty harvest and 3,541 fish would be available for non-treaty in-river harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam (PRD). Based on TACs preliminary in-season estimated adult run size, revised allocations are 14,059 fish for treaty fisheries and 919 fish (184 non-treaty commercial, 625 recreational below Bonneville, and 110 recreational from Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam) for non-treaty fisheries downstream of PRD. The significant reduction for fisheries downstream of PRD is a result of the reduced run size and the increased allocations above PRD. A higher proportion of the non-treaty harvest is allocated to fisheries upstream of PRD at lower run sizes.
- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam. The escapement goal for the Wenatchee River system is 23,000 sockeye.
- The impact limit on the Columbia River return of ESA-listed sockeye is 1% for non-treaty fisheries and 7% for treaty Indian fisheries. For 2018, Commission guidance allocates the non-treaty impacts approximately 80% to recreational fisheries and the balance to commercial fisheries.
- Based on the current forecast and ESA limits, a total of 14,630 sockeye are available for treaty harvest and 2,090 sockeye are available for non-treaty harvest downstream of the Snake River.
- The ESA limit for non-treaty fisheries on wild Skamania stock steelhead is 60 fish.

TREATY FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Summer Management Period Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes previously allowed commercial sales beginning on June 16 and extending through the summer management period and into the fall.
- The treaty tribes began two weeks of commercial gillnet fisheries on June 18.
- Preliminary harvest estimates are available through Week 25. 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				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	3	na
Week 24 Platforms June 16-17		245	89	11
Week 25 Jun 18-22 (4 nights) Preliminary	359	4,527	1,755	136
Week 26 Jun 25-29 (4 nights) Projected	302	3,600	2,400	100
Week 27 July 2-6 (4 nights) Projected	300	2,800	2,300	130
Subtotal through 7/6		10,922	6,547	367
Allowed at Updated Forecast		14,059*	14,560	
Remaining after Week 27		2,887	8,013	

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

* harvestable number based on 10-year average run timing projection until TAC run size update is available.

- The tribes have met and agreed to the following fishery plan.

2018 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery	
Season	6 AM Monday July 2 to 6 PM Friday July 6 (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. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. 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.
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.

- 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.
- The Compact previously addressed Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries therefore these fisheries do not require additional action at this time.

NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Summer commercial fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point are scheduled to close after June 29. The Youngs Bay summer season continues through July 26.
- Landings remained relatively strong last week with approximately 70-110 Chinook landed per opener in Blind/Knappa Slough and 60-70 per opener in Tongue Point. Preliminary coded-wire tag analysis indicates the fish being harvested are primarily of Select Area origin.
- Given reasonable catches of local-origin fish and relatively high ex-vessel prices, staff recommends additional Select Area fishing time be considered.
- Under current policies, 20% (1,230 fish) of the overall 2018 white sturgeon harvest guideline (6,160 fish total) is available for commercial harvest. Sturgeon retention in Select Area commercial fisheries has been allowed since the start of the spring season with a two fish per vessel weekly landing limit. Through June 22, 198 fish have been landed.

Blind/Knappa Slough Select Areas

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action. Oregon State waters extend upstream of the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2018 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	Monday July 2 – Tuesday July 3	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 5 – Friday July 6	(12 hours)
	Monday July 9 – Tuesday July 10	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 12 – Friday July 13	(12 hours)
	Monday July 16 – Tuesday July 17	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 19 – Friday July 20	(12 hours)
	Monday July 23 – Tuesday July 24	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 26 – Friday July 27	(12 hours)
Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.		

Area:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are open. 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 Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. 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 (0.375) inches or greater.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The three white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210. A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2018 Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	Monday July 2 – Tuesday July 3 Thursday July 5 – Friday July 6 Monday July 9 – Tuesday July 10 Thursday July 12 – Friday July 13 Monday July 16 – Tuesday July 17 Thursday July 19 – Friday July 20 Monday July 23 – Tuesday July 24 Thursday July 26 – Friday July 27	(12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours)
	Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.	
Area:	Tongue Point and South Channel fishing areas are open. The lower boundary of the Tongue Point fishing area is defined as a line from a marker midway between the red USCG navigation light #2 at the tip of Tongue Point and the downstream (northern most) pier (#8) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility, to the flashing green USCG navigation light #3 on the rock jetty at the west end of Mott Island (fall boundary).	

Gear:	<p>9³/₄-inch maximum mesh size restriction</p> <p>In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom.</p> <p>In the South Channel fishing area, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The three white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.</p>
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect.</p> <p>Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210.</p> <p>A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.</p>

Youngs Bay Select Areas

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2018 Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery</i>	
<p>Effective July 2, modify allowable sales for the Youngs Bay Select Area fishery to allow white sturgeon retention as described below:</p>	
Allowable Sales:	<p>Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The three white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.</p>

- These season extensions will allow access to late-returning Select Area spring Chinook which are still present in the fishing areas, as well as providing partial access to the commercial sturgeon allocation.
- Based on industry request, the Tongue Point fishing area for the proposed fishing periods is expanded from the spring to the fall boundary (larger) to provide additional fishing area, similar to Knappa Slough.
- The catch expectation is about 800-1,200 Chinook for the proposed season modifications, and less than 100 white sturgeon. These modifications do not change the expected impacts to sockeye, A-Index and B-Index steelhead, and wild Willamette spring Chinook outlined in the 2018 spring Joint Staff Report (0.01%, 0.01%, and 1.74%, respectively). The expected harvest of upper Columbia River summer Chinook in combined Select Area summer fisheries is approximately 50 fish.

Mainstem Recreational Salmon

- The recreational summer Chinook fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam opened June 22 and is scheduled to continue through July 4. Catch estimates during June 22-24 include 455 adult Chinook kept (113 released), 100 steelhead kept (28 released), and 24 sockeye released. Including release mortalities during June 16-21, combined kept and release mortalities of adult summer Chinook through June 24 are estimated at 480 fish.
- From Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam), retention of adult summer Chinook opened June 16 and is scheduled to continue through July 31. Through June 24, and estimated 9 adult summer Chinook have been kept (0 released) from less than 300 angler trips. No other salmonids were reported as handled.
- For the area from OR/WA border upstream to PRD, retention of adult summer Chinook opened June 16 and is scheduled to continue through July 31. Catch through June 24 includes 5 adult Chinook kept and 5 released.
- Sockeye retention in 2018 mainstem recreational summer fisheries was prohibited due to concerns regarding Wenatchee River escapement. However, escapement goals are now expected to be met.
- Based on the upgraded sockeye return, approximately 1,670 sockeye are available for mainstem recreational fisheries downstream of the Snake River.
- Given the expected 2018 summer Chinook run size (~52,000), the allocation for recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam (625 fish) is less than the expected mortalities (~1,300 fish) for the currently adopted season (June 22-July 4), which doesn't include release mortalities during non-retention periods (~50 fish).

Staff Recommendation - 2018 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Fishery

Effective Sunday July 1 through Tuesday July 31, 2018, modify the ongoing summer recreational fishery as follows:

- Retention of adult Chinook is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam.
- Retention of sockeye is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Astoria- Megler Bridge upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam).

The daily adult bag limit remains at two adult fish (hatchery steelhead and sockeye only). All sockeye are considered adults and must be recorded as adults on the combined angling tag. All other permanent regulations apply, including bag limits for hatchery jack Chinook.

- The proposed modification to the summer Chinook retention season downstream of Bonneville Dam is needed to meet sharing expectations outlined in the WDFW/CCT agreement. Including release mortalities for non-retention periods, total adult mortalities for adult summer Chinook in the LCR recreational fishery would be 986, or 158% of the revised allocation.
- Closing at the end of the day on June 30 allows for adequate notice to fishers of the closure.
- Although the revised summer Chinook allocation for Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam is low, current catch rates indicate the fishery can remain open.

- The improved sockeye forecast provides an unexpected retention opportunity, especially upstream of Bonneville Dam. The kept catch is expected to be considerably less than the 1,672 allowable harvest.
- WDFW intends to open sockeye fisheries above HWY-395 to Chief Joseph Dam beginning July 1, 2018.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. The joint staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed. The tribes request another Compact Hearing during the week of July 2, preferably on July 5.