

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 10, 2018

Fisheries under consideration: 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). <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

- 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.
- Through July 9, a total of 182,458 sockeye have passed Bonneville dam. TAC met on July 9 and maintained the current in-season forecast of 209,000 sockeye to the river mouth. However, to be conservative, the tribes modeled fisheries based on a river mouth run size of 200,000. Based on this run size, according to the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 14,000 sockeye.
- Through July 9, a total of 32,029 adult summer Chinook and 2,236 jack summer chinook have been counted at Bonneville Dam. The clip rate for Chinook observed at Bonneville Dam is approximately 78%. Adult counts are less than expected based on the pre-season forecast and jack counts are the lowest to date since 1999. On July 2, TAC downgraded the river mouth summer Chinook run size to 44,000. This run size would result in an allowed 10,627 harvestable summer Chinook for treaty fisheries.
- Through June 30, there were a total of 6,843 Skamania steelhead counted at Bonneville including 2,854 unclipped fish. The A- and B-Index count through June 9 was 4,507. There is no specific annual harvest limit for steelhead in spring or summer treaty fisheries, but generally steelhead harvest is low in both seasons.

SUMMER SEASON COMMERCIAL 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 three weeks of commercial gillnet fisheries on June 18.
- Preliminary harvest estimates are available through Week 26. 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. Catch estimates for weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries include the 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	--	--	170	--
Platforms June 16-17		357	183	44
Jun 18-22 (4 nights) Preliminary	359	3,963	2,313	199
Jun 25-29 (4 nights) Preliminary	302	2,928	2,531	179
July 2-6 (4 nights) Preliminary	248	1,690	1,557	244
Subtotal #1 through 7/6		8,938	6,754	666
July 11-13 (2 nights) Modeled	200	1,100	2,700	250
Subtotal #2 through 7/15		10,038	9,454	916
Allowed at Updated Forecast		10,627	14,000*	
Remaining		589	4,546	

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

* assumes a river mouth run size of 200,000.

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

2018 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery		
Season	6 AM Wednesday July 11 to 6 PM Friday, July 13	(2.5 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 no 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. There has been no observed harvest below Bonneville to date. 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 and these fisheries do not require additional action at this time.

Future Meetings

- The tribes may request another Compact Hearing next week once new harvest data are available.