

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3  
 Columbia River Compact  
 May 27, 2025**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Spring Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line fishery Spring Treaty commercial platform and hook and line downstream of Bonneville Dam Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries
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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 online. The most recent report relevant to this fishery is the 2026 Joint Staff Report: Stock Status and Fisheries for Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, and Other Species Report (February 2, 2026) available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

- As of May 26, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 183 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 253 kcfs for the same time period.
- The current five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 59.3°F which is the approximately 2 degrees higher than the five-year average for this time period.

**STOCK STATUS**

***Chinook Salmon***

- Adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through May 26 totals 84,607 adult fish. The clip rate for adult Chinook totals 78.5% indicating a passage of 18,216 unclipped fish to date.
- The jack count at Bonneville totals 5,629 fish through May 26 which is the second lowest count to date in the last 10 years.
- Passage at Lower Granite Dam through May 26 includes 18,482 adult and 1,496 jack Chinook including 3,977 unclipped adult fish (78.5 clip rate). Based on 10-year average run timing, the run at Lower Granite would be expected to reach 43% complete on May 26.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on May 26 to review passage at Bonneville Dam and harvest of adult Chinook during the spring management period. Based on information to date and output from several passage projection models, TAC maintained the expectation of 111,900 fish at the Columbia River mouth for the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties to use for management of fisheries during the spring management period.
- If the Snake River natural spring/summer chinook run is less than its pre-season forecast of 12,500 by the same proportion as the total run, it would be 9,500 at the Columbia River mouth.

***Steelhead***

- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam between April 1 and June 30 (including harvest in Bonneville Pool during this timeframe) are managed as upriver Skamania stock steelhead. Steelhead caught in the lower Columbia through April are considered to be winter steelhead

and from May 1 – June 30 are lower river Skamania stock steelhead for fishery management purposes. Through May 26, a total of 1,067 upriver Skamania steelhead (including 407 unclipped) have been counted at Bonneville Dam, which is 94% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. On average, upriver Skamania passage is about 23% complete on May 26. While TAC has not updated the Skamania steelhead run, tribal staff note that based on average run timing, the run appears to be tracking about 15% less than forecast.

**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***Salmon and Steelhead***

- There are no specific annual catch limits for steelhead in spring season fisheries although ESA impact rates are limited to recent year averages. Impact limits on Spring Chinook are based on the harvest rate framework of the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement. At the updated forecast, the treaty harvest rate would be 7.4% of the river mouth return assuming the Snake River natural origin spring/summer Chinook run size is greater than 8,200 at the Columbia River mouth.

**2026 TREATY INDIAN SPRING FISHERIES FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD**

- Treaty subsistence platform and hook and line fisheries are currently open in Zone 6 and are planned to remain open through the remainder of the spring management period. Ceremonial permit gillnet fisheries have been concluded. Fisheries downstream of Bonneville have been concluded. The table below shows the preliminary total Mainstem treaty harvest through May 23.

<i>Fishery</i>	<i>Catch</i>	<i>Harvest Rate</i>
Zone 6 Ceremonial Permits To-Date	2,232	2.0%
Below BON Permits and Elders/Youth Day	461	0.4%
Fish Retained from Test Fishery	2	0.0%
Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line Catch To-Date	2,267	2.0%
Total Catch To-Date	4,962	4.4%
Total Allowed Catch	8,281	7.4%
Total Remaining Available	3,319	3.0%

- Additionally, 120 steelhead have been harvested in platform and hook-and-line fisheries, and 3 steelhead have been harvested in permit gillnet fisheries.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes have or will issue regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2026 Zone 6 Spring Season Treaty Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Fishery</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	Fish harvested after 6:00 AM Thursday May 28 through 11:59 PM Monday June 15 may be sold.
<b>Area:</b>	Zone 6
<b>Gear:</b>	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and rod and reel with hook and Line.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead caught after 6:00 AM May 28 may be sold or kept for subsistence. Shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may also 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.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Standard closed areas for these gear types.
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- 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>2026 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	Beginning 6:00 AM Thursday May 28 through 11:59 PM Monday June 15, 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.
<b>Area:</b>	Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River
<b>Gear:</b>	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and reel with hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sales of fish are allowed after the open period concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence.
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The tribes currently do not have plans to open fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam prior to June 16. But in case these plans change and any fishery is opened, the tribes would authorize commercial sales of salmon and steelhead consistent with the Zone 6 platform and

hook and line fishery. The standard Compact action for fisheries downstream of Bonneville is as follows:

<i>2026 Spring Season Treaty Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Fishery Downstream of Bonneville Dam</i>	
<b>Season</b>	6:00 AM Thursday May 28 through 11:59 PM Monday June 15 and only during days and times opened under tribal rules.
<b>Area</b>	Area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
<b>Gear:</b>	Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp caught after 6:00 AM on May 28 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 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.
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- Allowing fish to be sold is expected to result in an increase in fishing effort and catch. The tribes have estimated weekly chinook harvest rates for the Zone 6 platform fishery under subsistence only rules for 2026 and compared those maximum past weekly platform harvest rates. In the last month, weekly platform harvest rates (based on weekly Bonneville counts) have been less than recent year averages although catches last week approached average rates.
- Chinook Catch projections for weeks 22-25 are shown in the table below. Catches are based on the maximum observed weekly harvest rates from past years.

Stat Week	Fishery	Chinook Catch	Harvest Rate (based on updated run size)
14-21	Preliminary Combined Treaty to date	4,962	4.4%
22	Modeled Zone 6 Platforms	700	0.6%
23	Modeled Zone 6 Platforms	700	0.6%
24-25	Modeled Zone 6 Platforms	1,300	1.2%
Total		7,662	6.8%

- These projected Chinook catches are expected to produce a total spring harvest that is within the allowed harvest rate limit at a 7.4% harvest rate limit. The modeled catches would be within the allowed harvest limit for a run size as low as 103,500.
- The planned fisheries through the end of the spring management period are expected to harvest no more than 50 additional steelhead and 50 sockeye.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through a tribal creel program. Fish ticket data are used as a supplement to the creel program.
- 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 do not request an additional Spring Season Compact Hearing at this time and will present initial summer season fishery plans at a later Hearing.