

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
July 1, 2026

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Summer Zone 6 Commercial Gillnet Fishery
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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 June 30, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 136 Kcfs compared to the five-year average of 211 Kcfs for the same time period.
- The current five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 65.6°F which is 0.4 degrees higher than the five-year average for this time period.
- Water visibility at Bonneville Dam has averaged 7.0 feet over the past 5 days.

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status information applicable to the summer management period was shown in Summer Fact Sheet #1.

Chinook Salmon

- Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between June 16 and July 31 are counted as upper Columbia summer Chinook and are not ESA listed.
- From June 16 through June 30 a total of 21,419 adult and 2,432 jack summer Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- Based on 10-year average run timing, adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam would be expected to reach 55% completion on June 30.

Sockeye

- Through June 30, a total of 56,610 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam.
- Based on 10-year average run timing the sockeye run would be expected to reach 68% complete on June 30.
- 150 sockeye have been trapped at Bonneville Hatchery as part of new production for future re-introduction into Wallowa Lake. These fish were released from Bonneville Hatchery.
- Only 11 sockeye have been counted at Lower Granite Dam to date.

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.

Through June 30, a total of 5,352 upriver Skamania steelhead (including 1,846 unclipped) have been counted at Bonneville Dam, which is less than the pre-season forecast of 5,700.

- Beginning on July 1, steelhead passing Bonneville Dam are counted as A-Index and B-Index steelhead.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday June 29 to review and discuss information relative to the upper Columbia summer Chinook and sockeye returns.

Based on available passage information and harvest of summer Chinook downstream of Bonneville, and discussion of the output from several Bonneville Dam passage projection models, TAC updated the expected 2026 return of upper Columbia River summer Chinook to meet the pre-season forecast of 40,700 adults at the Columbia River mouth for the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties to use for management of fisheries.

Passage of sockeye at Bonneville Dam has been lower than expected. Based on the information to date and discussion of the output from several Bonneville Dam passage projection models, TAC downgraded the expected return of Columbia River Sockeye from 274,900 to 87,200 fish at the Columbia River mouth for the *U.S. v. Oregon* parties to use for management of fisheries.

TAC will continue to monitor and assess the runs and will provide additional run size updates as necessary. TAC will meet again on Monday July 6.

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 summer Chinook and sockeye are based on the harvest rate framework of the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.
- Any sockeye harvested in mainstem fisheries downstream from the mouth of the Snake River count against the sockeye harvest rate limit. Based on the updated forecasts the harvest rate limit will be 7% for treaty fisheries and 1% for non-treaty fisheries. Based on the updated forecast this equates to harvest limits of 6,104 and 872 respectively. Actual harvest limits are determined based on in-season run sizes.
- Treaty and non-treaty summer Chinook impacts are shared equally. Both PFMC non-treaty ocean fisheries and in-river fisheries count as part of the non-treaty share. Based on current updated forecasts, both treaty and non-treaty fisheries expect to be allowed harvest of 8,626 fish each. Actual harvest limits are based on in-season abundance estimates.
- There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in summer season treaty fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is low in the summer and is expected to remain within recent average rates.

2026 TREATY INDIAN SUMMER FISHERIES FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD

- The treaty tribes previously authorized commercial sales for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery and in any open fisheries downstream of Bonneville. The tribes expect sales

to run continuously through the end of the spring management period, through the summer management period and into the fall.

- The treaty tribes also set three commercial gillnet openings beginning on June 16. The third opening is ongoing.
- Preliminary catches are available for the first two weeks of the summer fishery. Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches for this week and next week are shown in Table 3 below.
- The week 27 set net count was low presumably due to high winds at the fishery opening which made it hard to set gear. This net count may get adjusted if monitoring information suggests more gear is set this week.
- The model assumes the average set net effort similar but with highest recent 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. The model is using maximum recent harvest rates (calculated as catch per net per day divided by the abundance). The tribes are planning fisheries using conservative estimates to minimize risk catches being significantly higher than expected.
- Preliminary catch projections for weeks 25 and 26 along with projected catches for weeks 27 and 28 plus platform fisheries through the summer season are shown in the table below.

2026 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries									
Fishery					Adult Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15					na		29	0.0%	na
Week	Gillnet Fisheries	Start	End	Effort (Set Nets)					
24	Projected	0-Jan	0-Jan	0	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
25	Preliminary	16-Jun	19-Jun	120	1,288	3.0%	410	0.5%	41
26	Preliminary	22-Jun	24-Jun	131	1,603	3.7%	1,190	1.4%	102
27	Projected	29-Jun	1-Jul	90	1,500	3.4%	800	0.9%	190
28	Projected	6-Jul	8-Jul	130	1,500	3.4%	500	0.6%	710
29	Projected (platform only)				200	0.5%	100	0.1%	300
30	Projected (platform only)				200	0.5%	50	0.1%	380
31	Projected (platform only)				100	0.2%	20	0.0%	370
Total Actual and Projected					6,391	14.6%	3,099	3.6%	2,093
Allowed at Updated Chinook and Sockeye Run Sizes					8,626	21.2%	6,104	7.0%	
Remaining After Planned Fisheries					2,235	5.5%	3,005	3.4%	

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

<i>2026 Summer Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season	6:00 AM Monday July 6 to 6:00 PM Wednesday, July 9	(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 during the summer management period.	
Gear:	Set and Drift gillnets 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 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.	

- These projected Chinook catches are expected to produce a total summer Chinook and sockeye harvests that are within the allowed harvest rate limit at the preseason forecast run size. The modeled catches would be within the allowed harvest limit for a Chinook run size as low as 33,800 and a sockeye run size of 50,000.
- 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.
- No Compact action is needed for Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville, or Yakama Nation tributary fisheries.
- 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 may request an additional Summer Season Compact Hearing during the week of July 6.