

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
June 15, 2005**

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Treaty Commercial salmon
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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Interim Management Agreement

- The Interim Management Agreement titled "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon" provides specific fishery management guidelines for summer Chinook and sockeye.

Summer Chinook

- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 will be managed based on the abundance of upper Columbia River summer Chinook destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam.
- Upper Columbia River summer Chinook will be managed based on an interim management goal of 29,000 hatchery and natural origin adults as measured at the Columbia River mouth. The following table shows the harvest framework:

<i>Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Fishery Framework</i>		
<i>Run Size at River Mouth</i>	<i>Allowed Treaty Harvest</i>	<i>Allowed Non-Treaty Harvest</i>
<5,000	5%	<100 Chinook
5,000-<16,000	%	<200 Chinook
16,000-<29,000	10%	5%
29,000-<32,000	10%	5-6%
32,000-<36,250 (125% of 29,000 goal)	10%	7%
36,250-50,000	50% of total harvestable ¹	50% of total harvestable ¹
>50,000	50% of 75% of margin above 50,000 plus 10,500 ²	50% of 75% of margin above 50,000 plus 10,500 ²

¹ The total number of harvestable fish is defined as the run size minus 29,000 for run sizes of 36,250 to 50,000.

² The total number of harvestable fish at run sizes greater than 50,000 is to be determined by the following formula: $(0.75 * (runsize - 50,000)) + 21,000$.

- Based on the 2005 run forecast of 62,400 upper Columbia summer Chinook at the mouth of the Columbia River, the allowed harvest rate is 24.3% or 15,150 fish each for treaty Indian fisheries and combined non-treaty fisheries, including sport and tribal fisheries above McNary Dam.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 sockeye at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires a 75,000 run over Bonneville Dam.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- The states submitted a Biological Assessment to NMFS regarding fisheries covered in the "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon". NMFS issued a Biological Opinion on May 9, 2005.
- During the summer season fishery (June 16- July 31) ESA-listed stocks in the Columbia River include Snake River sockeye and wild summer steelhead. Upper Columbia summer Chinook are not listed under the ESA.
- The non-treaty ESA impact limit on listed sockeye is $\leq 1\%$ of the run entering the Columbia River.
- The non-treaty ESA impact limit on wild summer steelhead is 2% from January through July.

STOCK STATUS

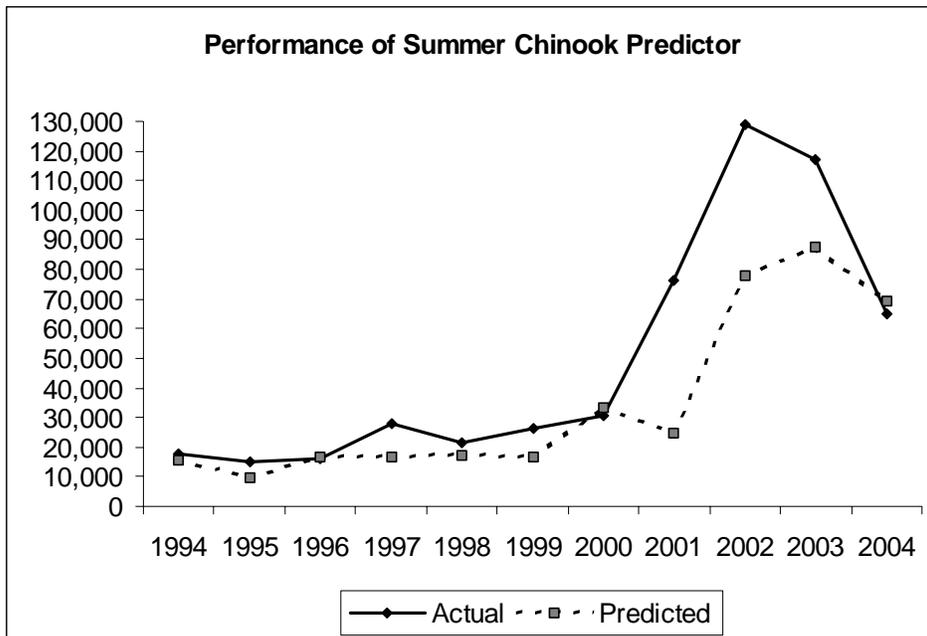
Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

Historically, the summer Chinook run consisted of two components (upper Columbia and Snake River) and the migration timeframe at Bonneville Dam was June 1-July 31. Beginning in 2005, a new management framework for summer Chinook took effect. Based on PIT tag data, the TAC identified a difference in run timing of the two components, with the upper Columbia stock being later timed. The TAC recommended shifting the summer Chinook management period to June 16-July 31 (at Bonneville) in order to better reflect the run timing differences. Upper Columbia summer Chinook are now the only stock in this 'summer run' time period. Snake River summer Chinook are now considered part of the upriver spring Chinook run. The following data reflects these changes.

- During 1979-2000, the summer Chinook adult returns were fairly stable, ranging between 9,800 and 23,600.
- The return in 2001 increased significantly to 54,900 adults and in 2002 a record high 92,800 summer Chinook adults returned to the Columbia River. The 2003 return of 83,000 was the second largest run since 1979.
- The 2004 run size continued the trend, with a total of 65,400 fish, being the third largest since 1979.
- The 2005 pre-season forecast is for a return of 62,400 adults to the Columbia River mouth, which is similar to the 2004 return and would be the 4th largest on record since 1979.
- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam between June 16th and July 31st with no discernable peak in abundance.
- The 5-year average 50% passage date at Bonneville Dam is July 1st.
- Run size updates could occur as early as late June.

Summer Chinook Forecast Accuracy

- The accuracy of the summer Chinook forecast is shown in the graph below. The data includes both upper Columbia and Snake River stocks for 1994-2003, and only upper Columbia stock for 2004.
- The 2005 predictor only includes the upper Columbia component, but the performance should not change since this stock has represented the majority of the run in previous years.
- Overall, pre-season forecasts have generally under-predicted the actual summer run. During 1994-2004, the actual return was over-predicted three times (1996, 2000, and 2004). Actual returns during 2001-2003 were substantially higher than predicted and the 2004 return of 65,200 adults was lower than the preseason forecast of 69,100 fish.



Sockeye

- An estimated 70,800 sockeye are expected to return to the Columbia River in 2005. This return includes 30,400 Wenatchee stock, 40,300 Okanogan stock and 66 Snake River sockeye.
- Based on the pre-season forecast and the management goal of 75,000 sockeye over Bonneville Dam, non-treaty fisheries for sockeye are not expected to occur in 2005, except for minor subsistence tribal fisheries from upstream of Priest Rapids Dam.

SUMMER SEASON FISHERIES

2004 Sport Fisheries

- 2004 marked the third consecutive year a sport fishery allowing retention of adult Chinook was adopted downstream of McNary Dam during the summer season (June 16-July 31). Similar to previous years, the 2004 fishery was selective with a two-Chinook bag limit.
- Below Bonneville Dam, an estimated 39,800 anglers caught 2,400 summer Chinook (1,100 kept /1,300 released). In the area from Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam, an estimated 1,500 anglers caught 12 summer Chinook
- Retention of sockeye was also allowed beginning June 30th.

2004 Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- A 12-hour fishing period took place on June 30th and July 1st in Zones 1-3 (mouth to Longview Bridge). A 4¼-inch mesh size was in effect, and use of recovery boxes was required for fish that were to be released. Retention of sockeye, adipose fin-clipped Chinook and coho, and sturgeon harvest was allowed.
- Landings during this season included 666 sockeye, 186 Chinook and 9 sturgeon. Summer Chinook have not been harvested as a target species since 1964.

2005 Sport fisheries

- Summer Chinook fisheries are scheduled to begin June 16 from the Tongue Pt./Rocky Pt. line upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco. At a Joint State Hearing on June 2,

regulations were adopted to start the season as a selective fishery due to concerns about the accuracy of the run forecast.

- The TAC will meet on June 27th to review the status of the run. The Compact could consider a non-selective fishery at that time.
- In Washington waters, non-selective fisheries are scheduled from above the Hwy 395 Bridge to Priest Rapids Dam between June 16-July 31, and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam beginning July 16 and continuing through Oct 15.

2005 Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Harvest Allocation

- No formal allocation guidelines are in place for 2005 non-Treaty summer fisheries. The states will ask their respective Fish and Wildlife Commissions for guidance in future summer fisheries.
- Non-Treaty fisheries include:
 - Recreational fisheries from Rocky Pt./Tongue Pt. upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.
 - Commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam (Zones 1-5).
 - Wanapum Tribal fisheries.
 - Colville Tribal fisheries.
- The proposed allocation for 2005 non-Treaty fisheries is based on the pre-season run size forecast:
 - 3,200 for recreational fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam.
 - 3,200 for commercial fisheries in Zones 1-5.
 - This structure provides over half (58%) of the allowable non-treaty harvest to the recreational and tribal fisheries occurring in the upper Columbia River.
- Recreational fishing opportunity is anticipated throughout the June 16 - July 31 time frame up to Priest Rapids Dam and from July 16 through October 16 from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam.

FISHERY RECOMENDATION

Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	7 PM Monday June 27 to 5 AM Tuesday June 28 (10 hours). 7 PM Tuesday July 5 to 5 AM Wednesday July 6 (10 hours). 7 PM Tuesday July 12 to 5 AM Wednesday July 13 (10 hours).
Area:	Zones 1-5.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, shad, and sturgeon. All sockeye and steelhead must be released immediately. A maximum of eight sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The eight sturgeon possession/sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Expected Catch:	500-1,000 Chinook per period.
Steelhead Handle:	Total season handle-86, including 20 wild mortalities, based on a 3,200 Chinook harvest.
Miscellaneous	
Regulations:	Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers.

Management Considerations

- Impacts to ESA-listed stocks are within the established guidelines of the Biological Opinion.
- The impact rate to wild summer steelhead from winter/spring/summer season fisheries, including the proposed fishery and the remaining sport fisheries through July, is projected to be 1.00-1.03% of the 2.00% guideline.
- The proposed fishery will provide stability for planning and marketing, and distribute landings over a longer period.
- The July 12th fishing date conflicts with Ocean Halibut commercial fisheries. Fishers who wish to participate in both fisheries prefer all salmon fishing periods to occur on Mondays or Thursdays.
- A total of 1,457 sturgeon remain in the winter-summer 2,000 commercial harvest guideline. With landing limits in place, the sturgeon catch can be spread throughout the season. In-season changes can occur at any time.
- Weekly, one-tide fisheries will restrict harvest and allow managers time to verify landings and estimate catch rates for future fishing periods.
- Nighttime fishing will minimize sport/commercial interactions. Consistent fishing periods each week will provide equal opportunity throughout the river for the season.
- An 8-inch minimum mesh restriction will effectively limit steelhead and sockeye handle.
- Effort is expected to be about 30-50 boats per period. Most of the fleet will leave for Alaska fishing in mid-June (Bristol Bay) and late June (Cook Inlet).
- The expected catch of 500-1,000 Chinook per period is based on the limited fishery conducted in 2004 and the expected effort in 2005.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Additional hearings will occur as needed to modify ongoing fisheries.
- The staff recommends a Joint State Hearing take place at 10:00 am on June 28, via telephone to discuss the on-going sport fisheries.
- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 28, 2005 in the 6th floor Hearing Room of the Clark County Board of Commissioners located at the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA.