

COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3a
Columbia River Compact
July 15, 2020

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty commercial gillnet
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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 for salmon are the 2020 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 7, 2020). Links to the on-line reports are at:

*<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbiariver> and
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Columbia River conditions as measured at Bonneville Dam are cooler with higher flow than the recent 5-year averages for early July. Current 5-day average outflow is 228 kcfs, compared to the recent 5-year average of 161 kcfs. Water temperature currently measures 65° F which is much cooler than the 5-year average of 69° F.

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

STOCK STATUS

- Pre-season forecasts were presented in Spring Fact Sheet 4b.

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 and are destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam. These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- Bonneville passage during June 16–July 14 totals 52,606 adult and 7,047 jack Chinook. The ad-clip rate is 66.5%. The adult and jack counts are both the 6th largest to date in the last 10 years.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday, June 29 and updated the summer Chinook return expectation to 65,000 Chinook at the Columbia River mouth and maintained this expectation at their July 6 and July 13 meetings.

Summer Steelhead

- Upriver stocks of summer steelhead migrate past Bonneville Dam between April 1 and October 31. Summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam between July 1 and October 31 are classified by length as either A-Index or B-Index.
- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam from July 1 through October 31 are considered part of the A and B-Index steelhead run. A total of 95,500 A-Index and B-Index summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year July through October, which is 44% of the 2010-2019 average of 219,400 fish.
- The steelhead passage at Bonneville from July 1 through July 14 is 8,795 which includes 4,941 unclipped fish (56% unclipped). The total count to date is the 7th largest in the last 10 years.

Sockeye

- Bonneville Dam passage of sockeye through July 14 totals 330,367 sockeye. The cumulative count to date is the 6th largest run in the last 10 years and the 6th largest Bonneville count on record.
- During their meeting on July 6, the *U.S. v. Oregon* TAC reviewed sockeye passage to date and updated the forecast to 343,400 sockeye returning to the Columbia River this prediction was maintained at the July 13 meeting.
- 160 sockeye have been counted at Lower Granite Dam which indicates another very poor return for this run.

Summer Management Limits

- 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 river mouth run size, the harvest rate limit will be 7% for treaty fisheries. This equates to a harvest limit of 24,038 at the current projected run size. 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 the updated run size of 65,000 at the Columbia River mouth and expectations for non-Treaty PFMC area ocean impacts, both treaty and non-treaty fisheries expect to be allowed harvest of 18,639 fish each. Actual harvest limits are based on in-season abundance estimates.
- There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in spring or summer season treaty fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is low in the summer and is expected to remain within recent average rates.

SUMMER SEASON TREATY FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Summer Management Period Fisheries

- The treaty tribes issued a small number of ceremonial gillnet permits during June 16-June 19 before commercial openings began.
- The treaty tribes began commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish on June 22 and expect sales to run continuously through the summer management period and into the fall.
- The treaty tribes began the first commercial gillnet fishery on June 22. The first two openings are complete and the third is ongoing.
- Preliminary harvests to date are shown in Table 1 below.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in Table 1 below. The model assumes average recent set net effort along with average weekly harvest rates to predict current and future catches. The model is 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. Effort has been below average in 2020. There has been no observed effort or catch in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Table 1. Projected 2020 Summer Season Treaty Harvest and Projected Catches

2020 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries						
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15 Platforms June 16-20 Permit Fishery	na	na		119	0.0%	na
	na	165	0.3%	209	0.1%	22
	na	228	0.4%	100	0.0%	0
June 22-24 (2 nights) Preliminary	241 (actual)	2,387	3.7%	2,051	0.6%	28
July 1-3 (2.5 days) Preliminary	150 (actual)	1,472	2.3%	1,925	0.6%	27
July 6--9 (3.5 days) Preliminary	173 (actual)	1,048	1.6%	4,637	1.4%	208
Subtotal Through July 11		5,300	8.2%	9,041	2.6%	285
July 13-16 (3.5 days) Projected	175 (predicted)	1,000	1.5%	2,100	0.6%	180
Total including Current Week's Fishery		6,300	9.7%	11,141	3.2%	465
July 20-23 (3.5 days)	175 (predicted)	1,000	1.5%	700	0.2%	350
Total		7,300	11.2%	11,841	3.4%	815
Allowed at Updated Forecast		18,639		24,038		
Allowed Harvest Rate		28.7%		7.0%		
Remaining After Planned Fisheries		11,339		12,197		

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

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2020 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season	6 AM Monday July 20 to 6 PM Thursday, July 23	(3.5 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 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 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. Fish ticket data are used as a supplement to the 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 Dam is part of the total allowed catch for any species. Tributary harvest is managed under separate limits.
- The platform and hook and line fishery and the fishery downstream of Bonneville do not require any action at this time.
- 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 will request another Compact Hearing if needed.