

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact Hearing
July 6, 2023

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery Yakama Nation Zone 6 tributary fisheries Treaty Below Bonneville Dam platform and hook and line fishery

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 is the 2023 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2023) available at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/compact/other-information#2023> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of July 5, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 141.0 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 219.3 kcfs.
- The current five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 67.4°F compared to the five-year average of 65.3°F.

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook, Sockeye, and Steelhead

- Pre-season salmon and steelhead forecasts applicable to the summer management period were provided in Fact Sheet #1.

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia Summer Chinook are counted at Bonneville Dam from June 16 through July 31. Chinook salmon passing Bonneville Dam or harvested during this time period are managed as Upper Columbia summer Chinook and are not ESA listed. These fish are destined for mainstem and tributary areas from the Yakima River upstream to the Okanagan River as well as Chief Joseph Hatchery. Through July 5, a total of 36,183 adult and 4,533 jack summer Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The adult clip rate is 78.8% which is higher than the recent 10-year average. The run would be expected to be 69% or 67% complete respectively on July 5, based on the 5 or 10-year average run timing.
- TAC has updated the upper Columbia River summer Chinook Run size to 57,000 at the Columbia River mouth (68% of the pre-season forecast).

Sockeye

- Sockeye caught during any management period all count as part of the current year's sockeye run. All sockeye in fisheries and dam counts are treated as adult fish. Through July 5, a total of 264,004 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is the sixth highest count in the last ten years. Based on either the 5 or 10-year average run timing the run is expected to be

83% complete on July 5. TAC has updated the sockeye run size to 331,000 at the Columbia River mouth (141% of the pre-season forecast).

- Sockeye passage at Lower Granite Dam was 102 fish as of July 5.

Steelhead

- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam from April 1 through June 30 or that are caught in this time period in the Bonneville Pool are considered upriver Skamania stock steelhead. The total Skamania steelhead run counted at Bonneville Dam was 3,204 including 1,575 unclipped fish. This was the third lowest Skamania steelhead counts in the last 10 years. The total count was 73% of forecast.
- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam from July 1 through October 31 are considered part of this year's A and B-Index steelhead run. Steelhead caught upstream of The Dalles Dam from January 1 through June 30 are considered part of the previous year's A and B-Index steelhead run. Through July 5, a total of 2,237 steelhead including 1,180 unclipped fish have been counted at Bonneville Dam.

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 pre-season forecasts the harvest rate limit will be 7% for treaty fisheries and 1% for non-treaty fisheries. Based on the pre-season forecast this equates to harvest limits of 23,170 and 3,310 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 the updated forecast, both treaty and non-treaty fisheries expect to be allowed to harvest 15,119 fish each.
- 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.

SUMMER SEASON TREATY FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Summer Management Period Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes allowed commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish on June 16 and expect sales to run continuously through the summer management period and into the fall.
- The treaty tribes began commercial gillnet fisheries on June 19. As a precautionary step, the tribe's authorized two short gillnet openings to start the season compared to the three initial openings authorized last year. Set net effort was less than projected at the beginning of the season and normally begins to decline after the second week of fishing.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in Table 1 below. Last week's opening caught more fish than modeled and therefore projections for this week's fishery have increased.

Table 1. Preliminary Catch to Date and Projected 2023 Summer Season Treaty Harvest Using updated forecasts for Sockeye and Summer Chinook

2023 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries							Adult Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead
Fishery		Start	End	Effort (Set Nets)	Adult Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead		
	Platforms June 16-20				440	0.8%	451	0.1%	88		
Week	Gillnet Fisheries	Start	End	Effort (Set Nets)		0.0%		0.0%			
26	Preliminary	19-Jun	21-Jun	206	2,360	4.1%	1,417	0.4%	11		
27	Preliminary	26-Jun	28-Jun	233	4,210	7.4%	7,088	2.1%	210		
28	Projected	3-Jul	6-Jul	232	4,100	7.2%	4,700	1.4%	590		
	Subtotal Current Fisheries				11,110	19.5%	13,656	4.1%	899		
	Platforms after planned gillnet fishing				2,500	4.4%	3,000	0.9%	450		
	Season Total				13,610	23.9%	16,656	5.0%	1,349		
	Allowed at Updated Forecast				15,119	26.5%	23,170	7.0%			
	Remaining After Planned Fisheries				1,509	2.6%	6,514	2.0%			

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

- The projected total Chinook catch of 13,610 would be within the allowed harvest down to a river mouth run size of 53,000. The projected total sockeye catch of 16,656 would be within the allowed harvest down to a river mouth run size of 238,000.
- If the modeled fisheries for sockeye and Chinook harvest are accurate, the remaining Chinook and sockeye after the current gillnet opening will be sufficient to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the summer management period, but as a precautionary approach, the tribes have decided to discontinue commercial sales of platform and hook and line caught fish as a way to reduce catch rates in the treaty fishery.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

Recommendation: 2023 Summer Season Treaty Platform and Hook and Line Fishery

Fishery Action: Salmon and steelhead harvested in the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery after 6:00 PM Saturday July 8 may not be sold. Sale of miscellaneous species including shad, walleye, bass, carp, and catfish will continue. The Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery remains open for subsistence purposes under existing regulations.

Recommendation: 2023 Summer Season Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery

Fishery Action: Salmon and steelhead harvested in the Yakama Nation Zone 6 tributary fisheries after 6:00 PM Saturday July 8 may not be sold. Sale of miscellaneous species including shad, walleye, bass, carp, and catfish will continue. These fisheries remain open under existing rules for subsistence purposes under existing regulations.

Recommendation: 2023 Summer Season Treaty Below Bonneville Platform and Hook and Line Fishery

Fishery Action: Salmon and steelhead harvested in the treaty platform and hook and line fishery below Bonneville Dam after 6:00 PM Saturday July 8 may not be sold. Sale of miscellaneous species including shad, walleye, bass, carp, and catfish will continue, provided sale does not occur on USACE property. Subsistence regulations for this fishery remain unchanged.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through a tribal creel 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.

Future Meetings

- The tribes do not request another Compact Hearing at this time and will present initial fall season platform and hook and line fishery plans at the upcoming fall season Compact Hearing.