

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact Hearing
July 20, 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 19, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 151.1 kcfs compared to the ten-year average of 173.2 kcfs.
- The current five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 71.3°F compared to the five-year average of 71.5°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 Summer 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 19, a total of 47,051 adult and 6,528 jack summer Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The 10-year average adult clip rate is 78.8% which is higher than average. The run would be expected to be 89% complete on July 19, based on the 10-year average run timing.
- TAC has updated the upper Columbia River summer Chinook Run size to 54,100 at the Columbia River mouth (63% 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 19, a total of 323,794 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is the sixth highest count in the last ten years. Based on 10-year average run timing the run is expected to be 98% complete

on July 19. 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 957 on fish as of July 19.

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 19, a total of 15,627 steelhead including 8,083 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 14,032 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 commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish began June 16 and was closed on July 8 due to higher than projected catches.
- The treaty commercial gillnet openings began June 19 and ended July 6 with 8.5 fishing days over 3 weeks. Set net effort was less than projected during the first weekly opening and increased slightly to a less than average consistent level.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in Table 1 below. Last weeks' platform/h&l fishery caught less fish than modeled and projections for remaining weeks' have been modeled conservatively given the lateness in run timing for both summer chinook and sockeye.

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									
Fishery					Adult Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead
Platforms June 16-17					440	0.8%	451	0.1%	88
Week	Fishery	Start	End	Set GN					
26	Preliminary	19-Jun	21-Jun	206	2,360	4.4%	1,417	0.4%	21
27	Preliminary	26-Jun	28-Jun	233	3,957	7.3%	6,087	1.8%	188
28	Preliminary	3-Jul	6-Jul	232	2,466	4.6%	7,833	2.4%	264
29	Preliminary	Week of July 10 Platform/H&L			264	0.5%	1,717	0.5%	
Projected Platforms through end of July					2,400	4.9%	2,700	1.4%	450
Total Projected					11,887	22.0%	20,259	6.1%	1,011
Allowed at Updated Forecast					14,032	25.9%	23,170	7.0%	
Remaining After Planned Fisheries					2,145	4.0%	2,911	0.9%	

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 11,887 would be within the allowed harvest down to a river mouth run size of 47,500. The projected total sockeye catch of 20,259 would be within the allowed harvest down to a river mouth run size of 289,400.
- If the modeled fisheries for sockeye and Chinook harvest are accurate, the remaining Chinook and sockeye will be sufficient to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the summer management period.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2023 Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery – Zone 6 Platform and Hook-and-Line</i>	
Season:	6 AM July 21 through 11:59 PM July 31.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook-and-line.
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 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.
Sanctuaries:	Standard closed areas applicable to these gear types are in place.

Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.
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<i>2023 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery</i>	
Season:	Beginning 6 AM July 21 through 11:59 PM July 31, 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 and when commercial sales are authorized for Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries.
Area:	Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River
Gear:	Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook-and-line.
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 from 38 to 54 inches fork length may be kept for subsistence purposes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

<i>2023 Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery – Downstream of Bonneville Dam: Platform and Hook-and-Line</i>	
Season:	6 AM July 21 through 11:59 PM July 31.
Area:	Area as defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
Participants:	Enrolled members of the Yakama, Warm Springs, Nez Perce, and Umatilla tribes when lawfully permitted by Treaty regulations under provisions of the agreements with the states of Oregon and Washington. Tribal members fishing below Bonneville Dam must carry an official tribal enrollment card.
Gear:	Hook-and-line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. 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. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except 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. 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

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Wednesday, August 16, 2023 to consider Treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.