

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 5
Compact Hearing
July 11, 2012

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty mainstem fisheries
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2012 summer season fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 13, 2012).

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam counts of sockeye total 500,355 fish through July 10. Based on the 10-year average, passage is typically 94% complete by July 10.
- Bonneville Dam counts of upper Columbia summer Chinook total 39,459 adults through July 10. Based on the ten year average, passage is typically about 77% complete by July 10.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met July 10 to review Chinook and sockeye returns. TAC estimated the sockeye return at 535,000 fish to the Columbia River mouth and estimated the Upper Columbia Summer Chinook return at 54,000 fish to the Columbia River mouth.
- Based on current run size estimates and management agreements, allowable sockeye harvest is 5,350 for non-Indian fisheries and 37,450 for treaty fisheries, and the allowable Chinook harvest is 13,050 for treaty fisheries and 10,250 for in-river non-treaty fisheries.

Treaty Fisheries

- Treaty summer season fisheries have included platform and hook and line fishing which is open for both commercial and subsistence use. There have also been four weekly commercial gillnet openings with 13 days of fishing. This week's gillnet fishery closes at 6:00 PM today.
- Harvest estimates for treaty fisheries total 7,700 Chinook and 44,500 sockeye. Platform and hook and line catch is included in the weekly estimates. Although Chinook harvest is within the allowable limit, the sockeye harvest is projected to exceed the harvestable limit.
- The tribes took action on July 10 to close their mainstem fisheries effective at 6:00 PM on July 12. Fisheries affected included the mainstem platform and hook and line fisheries both upstream and downstream of Bonneville Dam and the ongoing shad fishery. The tribes have not set a re-opening date at this time but will be reviewing sockeye run information to determine an appropriate re-opening time.

2012 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season			396	
Jun 18-21	358	3,744	9,675	284
Jun 25-28	401	1,704	17,803	293
Jul 3-6	411	1,320	13,123	397
Subtotal		6,768	40,997	974
Jul 9-11 (proj.)	279	900	3,500	725
Total as of 7/11		7,668	44,497	1,699
Allowed		13,050	37,450	
Remaining		5,382	-7,047	

- Yakama Nation tributaries will remain open for commercial and subsistence purposes, consistent with Yakama Nation regulations.

<i>Tribal Recommendation - Treaty Mainstem Fisheries</i>
<p>Effective 6 PM, Thursday July 12, 2012:</p> <p>Close the ongoing mainstem Columbia River treaty Indian Platform and Hook and Line fisheries in Zone 6 and downstream of Bonneville Dam.</p> <p>Close the ongoing experimental tribal shad fishery in Zone 6</p>

- Sales of fish caught during open gillnet periods are allowed after the end of the open period, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.
- Because no permits were issued for the experiment shad fishery, closing the fishery prior to the July 31 scheduled closing date will not affect tribal fishers.

Non-Indian Fisheries

- The sport fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam is closed to adult Chinook and sockeye retention, but remains open to hatchery steelhead retention.
- The sport fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam is open through July 31 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery steelhead. Sockeye retention is only open upstream of the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington.
- Catch estimates (actual and projected) for all non-Indian fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam include 5,600 adult Chinook and 5,300 sockeye (kept plus release mortalities).

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday July 26 in Cathlamet, Washington at The River Street Room (25 River Street)