

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
June 13, 2012

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon Treaty Indian commercial salmon
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STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam. These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- The 2012 forecast of 91,200 adults to the Columbia River mouth is 113% of the 2011 return of 80,600 adults, and would represent the highest return since at least 1980.
- Based on the 2012 forecast, daily counts at Bonneville Dam are expected to average about 2,900 Chinook per day during June 16-30 and then steadily decrease to 500 fish per day by the end of July. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 28.

Summer Steelhead

- Upriver stocks of summer steelhead migrate above Bonneville Dam during April 1 through October 31. Summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam prior to July 1 are considered Skamania stock, and steelhead passing between July 1 and October 31 are classified as either Group A or Group B fish, depending on length.
- Summer steelhead handled in Columbia River fisheries below Bonneville Dam are considered lower river stock during May-June and upriver stock during July-October.
- A total of 380,300 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year, which is similar to the 2002-2011 average of 383,700 fish. Lower river summer steelhead returns have averaged 78,500 fish over the past ten years.
- Bonneville Dam passage during April 1-June 11 totals 4,336 summer steelhead, which is slightly less than expected based on the forecast and average run timing. The 50% passage date is around June 18 for upriver Skamania stock.

Sockeye

- The 2012 forecast for sockeye is for a record return of 462,000 fish to the Columbia River mouth. The forecast includes 28,800 Wenatchee stock, 431,300 Okanogan stock, and 1,900 Snake River stock.
- Bonneville Dam passage through June 11 totals 9,562 sockeye, which is the highest to date since at least 1974 and consistent with the forecast. The 50% passage date is around June 24, but has been as late as July 1.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management Agreements

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for treaty Indian and non-Indian summer season fisheries.
- The Upper Columbia Management Agreement (UCMA) provides additional harvest and management guidelines for sharing of upper Columbia summer Chinook among non-Indian and non-treaty tribal fisheries.

Summer Chinook

- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 are managed based on a minimum interim escapement goal of 29,000 hatchery and natural origin adult upper Columbia summer Chinook, as measured at the Columbia River mouth.

2008-2017 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Harvest Rate Schedule		
Run Size at River Mouth	Allowed Treaty Indian Harvest	Allowed Non-Treaty Harvest
<5,000	5%	<100 Chinook
5,000-<16,000	5%	<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	
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 For the purposes of this Agreement, the total number of harvestable fish at run sizes greater than 50,000 is to be determined by the following formula: $(0.75 * (\text{runsize}-50,000)) + 21,000$.		

Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Harvest Allocation

- Non-treaty fishery allocation includes the following fisheries:

- Recreational fisheries from Astoria/Megler Bridge upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.
- Commercial fisheries below Bonneville Dam (Zones 1-5)
- Ocean fisheries south of Canada.
- Colville and Wanapum tribal fisheries.

2012 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation	
Preseason Run Size	91,200
Ocean Harvest	4,700
Total Abundance (with ocean harvest)	95,900
Available Treaty Indian Harvest	27,725
Available Non-Treaty Harvest (in-river)	23,000
Recreational below Priest Rapids Dam	4,600
<i>Below Bonneville Dam</i>	3,800
<i>Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam</i>	800
Non-treaty Commercial Escapement after fisheries	4,600
Escapement after fisheries	40,500
*Includes fish provided by Colville Tribe	

- The management guideline for non-treaty summer Chinook fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 9,200 fish prior to a run-size update. This includes a portion of the allowable harvest allocated upstream from Priest Rapids Dam which, based on an agreement between WDFW and the Colville Tribe, may be used in non-treaty fisheries downstream from Priest Rapids. Following guidance from the Oregon and Washington commissions, half of these fish (4,600) are allocated for commercial harvest and half (4,600) for recreational harvest.

Summer Steelhead

- The non-Indian ESA impact limit on wild summer steelhead is 2% during January through July. For non-Indian fisheries occurring during May and June below Bonneville Dam, wild steelhead impact rates have averaged less than 0.5%, and are expected to be similar for 2012 fisheries.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam. The escapement goal for the Wenatchee River system is 23,000 sockeye.
- The impact limit on the Columbia River return of ESA-listed sockeye is 1% for non-Indian fisheries and 7% for treaty Indian fisheries.

2012 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Based on preseason forecasts and corresponding impact limits under the MA, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 27,725 adult summer Chinook and 32,340 sockeye. While there are not specific steelhead harvest rate limits in summer season fisheries, steelhead catch is expected to remain within recent year averages.
- The platform and hook and line fishery in Zone 6 is ongoing for both commercial and subsistence purposes and expected to continue through the summer season.
- Yakama tributary fisheries which include the Little White Salmon River (Drano Lake), and the Wind, White Salmon, Klickitat, and Icicle rivers are ongoing for both commercial and subsistence purposes in accordance with tribal regulations, and expected to continue through the summer season.
- The platform and hook and line fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam is ongoing for both commercial and subsistence purposes in accordance with the appropriate MOA or MOU specific to each tribe, and expected to continue through the summer season.
- Commercial gillnet opening are expected weekly throughout the summer season. Effort is expected to be high the first few weeks of the season, averaging around 400 nets; and then decrease as the season progresses. The tribes may utilize mesh size restrictions if appropriate.

<i>2012 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - recommendation</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday June 18 to 6 PM Thursday June 21, 2012	(3.5 days)
	6 AM Monday June 25 to 6 PM Thursday June 28, 2012	(3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. No Spring Creek sanctuary necessary	
Gear:	Gill nets. No mesh restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. 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.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

- The expected harvest for the two proposed commercial gillnet openings is up to 9,800 Chinook and 13,500 sockeye. Catch projections are based on a four-year average weekly catch rates, assuming approximately 400 nets.
- Based on these catch projections, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed impacts for Chinook run sizes as low as 50,000 fish, and sockeye run sizes as low as 193,000 fish, which should provide sufficient buffer if run sizes are lower than expected.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Additional weekly openers are anticipated.

2012 Non Indian Fisheries

- Non-Indian summer Chinook fisheries were discussed with constituents during the North of Falcon (NOF) and Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) meetings occurring in March and April. Seasons relating to Columbia River summer salmon fisheries are based on the results of these meetings, management agreements, preseason forecasts, and allocation guidelines.
- Summer Chinook recreational fisheries are scheduled to open from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Priest Rapids Dam beginning June 16. The fisheries will be mark-selective for summer Chinook, allowing the retention of adipose fin-clipped hatchery fish only. Sockeye retention will be allowed throughout the summer Chinook season unless the guideline is reached earlier. The area downstream of Bonneville is scheduled to be open through July 1; the area from Bonneville upstream to Priest Rapids Dam is scheduled to remain open through July 31. Both areas have a two (hatchery) Chinook daily bag limit. Recreational summer Chinook fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam begin July 1 with a daily limit of 3 fish/1 wild Chinook.
- Summer Chinook commercial fisheries will utilize large mesh (8" min.) gear to minimize incidental handle of steelhead. Based on the summer Chinook harvest allocation, the fishery

is expected to consist of at least two fishing periods. A total of 200 white sturgeon from the commercial allocation were set aside for the summer season. A balance of 423 fish remain available from the winter/spring guidelines.

<i>2012 Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - Recommendation</i>		
Season	9 PM Sunday June 17 to 5 AM Monday June 18, 2012	(8 hours)
Area	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers as applicable.	
Gear:	Drift gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh size.	
Multi- Net Rule:	Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of five white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. The Youngs Bay Select Area remains open under a two white sturgeon weekly retention limit.	
Additional:	A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

- During NOF discussions, nearly all the fishers supported an opening date as proposed; however, input received since then has been mixed.
- The Joint Staff is recommending that a total of 623 sturgeon be made available for harvest during the summer season, which would include the summer allocation, plus 100% of the balance from the winter/spring season.
- Based on deliveries during the last two years, effort is expected to be high (~125 deliveries), with a catch expectation of 2,500 Chinook and 325 sturgeon.
- Nighttime fishing will minimize commercial interactions with sport fishers and other recreational boaters.
- Considering the available guideline and expected catch for the initial period, staff recommends only setting one fishing period at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact is recommended for 2:00 p.m. Monday June 25 to review catches and consider additional commercial fisheries.
- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday July 26 in Cathlamet, Washington at The River Street Room (12 River Street)

<i>Columbia River Mouth Adult Fish Returns Actual and Forecasts**</i>					
			2011 Forecast	2011 Return	2012 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Total Spring Chinook		331,800	320,900	423,200
	Willamette		104,100	80,200	83,400
	Sandy		5,500	4,300	4,800
	Cowlitz*		6,600	4,100	8,700
	Kalama*		600	800	700
	Lewis*		3,400	1,400	2,700
	Select Areas		13,200	8,900	8,700
	Lower River total		133,400	99,700	109,000
	Wind*		4,900	7,800	8,400
	Drano Lake*		12,600	12,200	9,500
	Klickitat*		2,100	1,400	2,100
	Yakima*		10,300	13,400	12,000
	Upper Columbia	Total	22,400	16,500	32,600
	<i>Upper Columbia</i>	<i>Wild</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>2,800</i>
	Snake River	Total	91,100	127,500	168,000
	Spring/Summer				
	<i>Snake River</i>	<i>Wild</i>	<i>24,700</i>	<i>31,600</i>	<i>39,000</i>
	Upriver Total		198,400	221,200	314,200
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	Total	91,100	80,600	91,200
Fall Chinook	LRH - Lower River	Hatch.	128,600	109,000	128,400
	LRW - Lower River	Wild	13,100	15,200	16,200
	BPH - Bonneville Pool	Hatch.	116,400	70,600	60,000
	URB - Upriver Bright		399,600	322,200	353,000
	<i>Snake River Wild</i>	<i>Wild</i>	<i>17,500</i>	<i>14,900</i>	<i>15,100</i>
	MCB - Mid Col. Bright		100,300	87,300	90,700
	<i>BUB - Bonn. Upr. Br.</i>	<i>Hatch.</i>	<i>36,600</i>	<i>26,700</i>	<i>23,900</i>
	<i>LRB - L. River Brights</i>	<i>Wild</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>1,900</i>	<i>700</i>
	<i>PUB - Pool Upr. Br.</i>	<i>Hatch.</i>	<i>62,600</i>	<i>58,700</i>	<i>66,100</i>
	SAB - Select Area Br.	Hatch.	8,300	16,400	6,600
	Total Fall Chinook		766,300	620,700	654,900
Coho	Early stock		168,500	246,700	184,600
	Late stock		102,300	105,400	56,200
	Total Coho		270,800	352,100	240,800
Sockeye	Wenatchee		33,000	41,800	28,800
	Okanogan		126,800	143,500	431,300
	Snake River	<i>Wild</i>	<i>2,100</i>	<i>1,900</i>	<i>1,900</i>
	Total Sockeye		161,900	187,200	462,000
Steelhead					
Winter	Wild winter steelhead	Wild	15,200	16,800	15,300
Upriver Summer (to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index	Total	24,100	9,700	15,700
		<i>Wild</i>	<i>6,400</i>	<i>2,800</i>	<i>4,600</i>
	Group A-run Index	Total	312,700	318,200	311,800
		<i>Wild</i>	<i>92,700</i>	<i>101,300</i>	<i>91,800</i>
	Group B-run Index	Total	54,100	37,000	52,800
		<i>Wild</i>	<i>12,900</i>	<i>7,800</i>	<i>13,400</i>
	Total Upriver Steelhead	Total	390,900	364,900	380,300
		<i>Wild</i>	<i>112,000</i>	<i>111,900</i>	<i>109,800</i>

*Return to tributary mouth

**Totals may not sum due to rounding; forecasts not available for all upriver spring Chinook tributaries.