

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 26, 2013

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty Indian commercial
 John Day Sturgeon recreational

Stock status and management guidelines for 2013 summer season fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 11, 2013).

Stock Status

- Bonneville Dam counts of adult upper Columbia Summer Chinook total 22,855 fish (June 16-25). Based on the 10-year average, passage is 41% complete by June 25 and 50% complete by June 29. Currently, passage is tracking behind expectations. The preseason forecast is 73,500 adult fish at the Columbia River mouth.
- Bonneville Dam counts of sockeye total 80,165 fish through June 25. Based on the 10-year average, passage is typically 50% complete by June 25. Currently, passage is tracking behind expectations. The preseason forecast is 180,350 adult fish at the Columbia River mouth.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met Monday morning (June 24) to review salmon returns. TAC reported that it is still too early to update the Chinook and sockeye returns. TAC is scheduled to meet again Monday July 1.
- Based on preseason run size estimates and management agreements, 20,910 adult summer Chinook are available for treaty Indian fisheries and 16,650 for non-Indian in-river fisheries. Allowable sockeye harvest totals 12,625 for treaty Indian fisheries and 1,800 for non-treaty Indian fisheries. These values would be reduced if actual run sizes were less.
- Although TAC did not update the Chinook and sockeye data, the Joint Staff estimates the runs will be less than forecast based on passage to date at Bonneville Dam and catch rates in the lower river fisheries. The following table describes harvest allocations at various run sizes.

2013 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation Scenarios based on various Run sizes						
Run Size	73,500	70,000	68,500	65,000	62,500	60,000
Ocean Harvest	4,260	4,057	3,970	3,767	3,622	3,478
Total Abundance (with ocean harvest)	77,760	74,057	72,470	68,767	66,122	63,478
Available Treaty Indian Harvest	20,910	19,521	18,926	17,538	16,546	15,554
Available Non-Treaty Harvest (in-river)	16,650	15,464	14,956	13,770	12,923	12,077
Recreational below Priest Rapids Dam	3,160	2,835	2,701	2,401	2,189	1,993
<i>Below Bonneville Dam</i>	2,525	2,281	2,181	1,956	1,797	1,649
<i>Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam</i>	635	554	520	445	392	343
Non-treaty Commercial	2,585	2,320	2,210	1,964	1,791	1,630

Treaty Indian Fisheries

- The first tribal summer season gillnet fishery occurred June 17-21 and the second weekly opener began June 24 and ends at 6:00 PM June 27.
- For the first weekly period a total of 367 nets were counted. Harvest is estimated at 4,819 adult Chinook and 2,109 sockeye. For the second period (June 24-27), effort picked up a bit from last week (373 nets) and catch projections include 3,400 Chinook and 3,900 sockeye along with 260 steelhead. Fisheries downstream of Bonneville have harvested 50 adult Chinook and no sockeye and are included in the totals..
- Additionally, the tribes are reserving 700 Chinook and 1,000 sockeye for fisheries after the conclusion of gillnet fisheries to keep platform fishing open for the remainder of the summer period.

2013 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15		na	352	
Jun 17-21	367	4,819	2,109	107
Jun 24-27	373	3,400	3,900	260
Subtotal 1		8,219	6,361	367
Platforms Through Aug.		700	1,000	800
Subtotal 2		8,919	7,361	1,167
Allowed at Preseason Forecast		20,910	12,635	
Remaining		11,991	5,274	
Allowed at Reduced Run sizes		17,538	11,270	
Remaining		8,619	3,909	

- Based on the preseason run size and current catch estimates, a balance of 11,991 Chinook and 5,274 sockeye remain available for treaty Indian harvest.
- Based on lower than anticipated Chinook and sockeye dam counts at Bonneville, the tribes are concerned that there is some possibility that the Chinook and sockeye runs will be less than forecast. Based on this, the tribes are choosing to manage for a 65,000 river mouth run size for Chinook and 161,000 river mouth run size for sockeye until TAC updates the actual run sizes next week. The allowed catches and reduced run sizes in the above box are based on these run sizes.
- The four Columbia River Treaty Indian tribes have decided that a 2.5 day gillnet fishery is appropriate for next week when combined with a change in platform and hook and line regulations.
- The tribes will modify their platform and hook and line fisheries, including fisheries downstream of Bonneville so that they are closed on Sundays and Mondays through the end

of July. Sales of fish caught outside these periods will be allowed even during closed fishing periods.

- This action with the platform and hook and line fishery is being taken in order to reduce the chance that the 7% harvest rate for sockeye will be reached prior to the end of the sockeye run in which the entire tribal fishery could need to be closed.
- The four Columbia Treaty Indian tribes have adopted the following regulation:

<i>2013 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - recommendation</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday July 1 to 6 PM Wednesday July 3, 2013	(2.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. No Spring Creek sanctuary necessary	
Gear:	Gill nets. 7- inch minimum mesh size.	
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 are allowed after the open period concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers.	

<i>2013 Treaty Indian Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line Fishery and Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville - recommendation</i>
Effective June 28 through July 31 - The Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line fisheries and tribal fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam will be closed each Sunday and Monday. Fish harvested in open fishing periods may continue to be sold during closed periods.

- Catch estimates for next week’s combined gillnet and platform fisheries total 2,800 Chinook and 3,800 sockeye.
- Season total commercial, ceremonial and subsistence harvest is projected to remain within the allowed harvest rates for treaty Indian fisheries based on pre-season forecasts and on presumed lower actual run sizes.
- The tribes will continue to monitor and report the harvest in their fisheries.

Non-Indian Fisheries

Mainstem Commercial

- An eight-hour fishery occurred on June 16-17 in Zones 1-5 with an eight-inch minimum mesh restriction. Catch from the fishery included 1,700 Chinook, 150 sockeye and 300 sturgeon.
- Staff estimates around 700 Chinook would be needed to conduct a fishery on June 30. Estimated catch would decrease with time, as Chinook abundance decreases.

Recreational Salmon Fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam

- The area from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam is open from June 16-30 with a two adult fish daily bag limit. Hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead and sockeye retention is allowed.
- Through June 23, kept and release mortalities are estimated at 1,270 adult Chinook and 204 sockeye. Catch projections for June 24-30 total an additional 1,100 Chinook and 350 sockeye. Season total actual and projected catch is 2,370 summer Chinook and 550 sockeye
- Additional fish allocated to Non-Indian fisheries upstream of Priest Rapids Dam may be transferred to the lower river if the summer Chinook run size is significantly downgraded.

Recreational Salmon Fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam

- The area from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam is open June 16-July 31 with a two adult fish daily bag limit. Hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead and sockeye retention is allowed.
- Catch and effort in this fishery is typically minimal with annual catches averaging around 400 Chinook for the season. Preliminary data suggests catch and effort remains low.

Non-Indian Chinook and Sockeye Harvest Summary

- Chinook harvest projections for current and ongoing non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam is projected to be 4,320 Chinook and remain within allowed harvest allocations for runs as low as 65,000 without any additional transfer of fish from above Priest Rapids.
- Sockeye harvest projections for current and ongoing non-Indian commercial and sport fisheries below Hwy 395 is projected to be 900 sockeye and stay within allowed ESA limits for runs down to 90,000.

Recreational Sturgeon Fishery in Zone 6

- Fishery status for Zone 6 pools are as follows:

2013 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest in Zone 6				
Pool	Guideline	Catch ¹	Balance	Season
Bonneville	1,100	1,021	79	Closed Jun 22
The Dalles	300	69	231	Ongoing
John Day	500	432	68	Ongoing

¹ *Bonn. Pool through June 21, The Dalles Pool through May 31, and John Day Pool through June 23.*

- Catch rates in The Dalles Pool have been low similar to recent years and the fishery remains open with 23% of the guideline used through May 31. In 2012, The Dalles Pool closed on November 4.
- The John Day Pool fishery has used 86% of the harvest guideline with half (51%) of the catch occurring during June 1-23. At the current rate, harvest is projected to reach the harvest guideline on or about June 28. In 2012, the John Day Pool closed on May 21.
- Considering the balance of harvestable sturgeon remaining on the John Day Pool guideline (68) and expected catch rates, staff proposes the following recommendation:

Staff Recommendation: John Day Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery
Effective 12:01 AM Saturday June 29, 2013, close the John Day Pool and adjacent tributaries to white sturgeon retention.

- Catch and release would be allowed after the retention period closes.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Joint Staff may request a hearing early next week dependant on TAC’s runsite update on Monday.
- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday July 25 in Cathlamet, Washington.