

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 7, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon Non-Indian commercial salmon
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2015 summer Chinook fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 10, 2015).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Passage at Bonneville Dam through July 6 includes 72,366 adult Chinook and 434,090 sockeye. On July 6 TAC provided an in-season forecast of 100,000 adult Chinook and 480,000 sockeye returning to the Columbia River. The summer Chinook forecast is the largest since at least 1961 and the sockeye forecast is the third largest on record.
- Based on the current forecast and management agreements for adult summer Chinook, a total of 31,818 fish are available for treaty harvest and 9,988 fish are available for non-Indian in-river harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam.
- Based on the current forecast and ESA limits, a total of 33,600 sockeye are available for treaty harvest and 4,800 sockeye are available for non-Indian harvest downstream of the Highway 395 Bridge.

2015 Summer Season Fisheries

- Treaty commercial fisheries are on-going and have consisted of four weekly periods to date. The fourth period was originally scheduled to conclude July 8. Harvest (and effort) was slightly greater than projected in the first two openings, but less than projected in the third opening. Platform and hook and line harvest is included in each week's reported gillnet catch. Some tribes have fisheries open downstream of Bonneville, but so far there has been no recorded effort or catch.

2015 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	555	na
Jun 16-23 (3 nights)	362	7,916	3,879	120
Jun 23-26 (3 nights)	400	6,969	8,624	165
June 30-July 3 (3 nights)	388	6,117	7,931	175
July 6-9 (3 nights) Projected	400	4,100	6,800	410
<i>Subtotal #1</i>		<i>25,102</i>	<i>27,789</i>	<i>870</i>
July 13-15 (2 nights) Projected	375	3,200	2,700	590
<i>Subtotal #2</i>		<i>28,302</i>	<i>30,489</i>	<i>1,460</i>
Allowed at Updated Forecast		31,818	33,600	
Remaining		3,516	3,111	

- An (8-hr) non-Indian commercial fishing period occurred on June 17. Catch includes 2,101 Chinook and 243 sockeye. Total catch currently represents 70% of the 2,996 adult Chinook allocated. A balance of 895 fish remains available for commercial harvest.

Fishery Recommendations

Treaty Commercial Salmon

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted the following regulations:

<i>2015 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>
Extend the on-going season until 6:00 p.m. Thursday July 9, 2015. All other regulations currently in place for this fishery would remain unchanged.

- Total catch projections for July 6-9 are 4,100 Chinook, 6,800 sockeye and 410 steelhead. Based on current run sizes, a balance of 6,700 Chinook and 5,800 sockeye will remain for tribal harvest after this week’s fishery concludes.

<i>2015 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season	6 AM Monday July 13 to 6 PM Wednesday June 15, 2015 (2.5 days)
Area	Zone 6
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.
Gear:	Gill nets. 7-inch minimum mesh restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, 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 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.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Total catch projections for July 13-15 are 3,200 Chinook, 2,700 sockeye and 590 steelhead. Based on current run sizes, a balance of 3,500 Chinook and 3,100 sockeye will remain for tribal harvest after this week’s fishery concludes which should be plenty to allow platform and hook and line fisheries to continue through the end of the sockeye run.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. The tribes may set additional gillnet fishing as harvest allocations allow. Depending on actual catch and effort in this week’s fishery, the tribes may ask for a Compact early next week to extend next week’s fishery by 24 hours.

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon

Joint Staff Recommendation: 2015 Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery		
Season:	7 PM Wednesday July 8 to 7 AM Thursday July 9, 2015	(12 hours)
	7 PM Wednesday July 15 to 7 AM Thursday July 16, 2015	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.	
Gear:	Drift gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh size. Multiple net rule in place: 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	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, and shad.	
Additional:	A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.	

- Effort is expected to be between 20-40 deliveries each period, with a catch expectation of 550 Chinook the first period and 350 Chinook on the second. Sockeye catch is expected to total around 100 fish for both periods.

Non-Indian Fishery Harvest Summary

2015 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Non-Indian Catch Summary					
Below Priest Rapids Dam	Allowed	Actual	Projected	Proposed	Total
<i>Sport Below Bonneville Dam</i>	5,873	1,770	1,530		3,300
<i>Sport Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam</i>	1,119		700		700
<i>Non-Indian Commercial</i>	2,996	2,101		900	3,001
	9,988				7,001
2015 Sockeye Non-Indian Catch Summary					
Below Hwy 395 Bridge	Allowed	Actual	Projected	Proposed	Total
<i>Sport Below Bonneville Dam</i>	2,860	307	600		907
<i>Sport Bonneville to Highway 395 Bridge</i>	500		400		400
<i>Non-Indian Commercial</i>	1,440	243		100	343
	4,800				1,650

Future Meetings

- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday July 29, 2015 at the Clark Regional Wastewater District (8000 52nd Court, Vancouver, Washington).