

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 6, 2016**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon Mainstem commercial salmon Select Area commercial salmon
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2016 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 20, 2016). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- TAC met yesterday and provided an in-season forecast of 91,000 adult Chinook and 350,000 sockeye returning to the Columbia River. The summer Chinook forecast is slightly less than the preseason forecast of 93,300 fish. The sockeye forecast is well above the preseason forecast of 101,600 fish.
- Based on the current forecasts and management agreements a total 8,371 summer Chinook are available for non-Indian in-river harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam and 3,500 sockeye are available for non-Indian harvest downstream of the Highway 395 Bridge. Treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 28,313 adult summer Chinook and 24,500 sockeye

SUMMER SEASON COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- So far the tribes have set five summer season Commercial gillnet openings. Effort is expected to decrease as the season progresses. The tribes have utilized a mesh size restriction for the first four periods but have decided to remove mesh size limits for the upcoming fifth period (July 11 to July 14).
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2016 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>
Effective 6 AM Monday July 11 to 6 PM Thursday July 14: The 7-inch mesh restriction for gillnets will be removed . There will be no mesh size restriction on gillnets during this time period

- Catch has been estimated to total 9,847 Chinook and 12,766 sockeye for the first three weekly periods. Based on an effort of 300 nets per week, the projected catch that would result from the next two scheduled weekly periods is estimated to be 9,295 Chinook and 9,711 sockeye. Estimates of catch to date and projected catches are shown in the table below. These catches include projections of both gillnet catches and platform catches for the entire weeks with gillnet fisheries. Steelhead harvest has been relatively low as is expected for the beginning of the summer management period.

2016 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	165	na
Jun 16-18 (2 nights)	357	2,692	2,180	108
Jun 20-23 (3 nights)	282	2,916	5,482	293
June 27-June 30 (3 nights)	283	4,239	4,939	267
Subtotal #1		9,847	12,766	668
Allowed at Updated Forecast		28,313	24,500	
July 5-8 (3 nights)	300	4,186	3,442	604
July 11-14 (3 nights)	300	5,109	6,269	1,144
Subtotal #2		9,295	9,711	1,748
Grand Total		19,142	22,477	2,416
Remaining		9,171	2,023	

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fishing time after these periods.

Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- A non-Indian commercial fishing period occurred on June 16. The fishery was an 8-hour period in Zones 1-5. Catch included 1,945 Chinook and 343 sockeye from 90 deliveries. Catch to date represents 77% of the 2,511 adult Chinook currently allocated.
- A balance of 566 summer Chinook remain available for harvest. Catch estimates for a fishing period this week range from 620-660 fish, which is greater than the allocated balance.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2016 Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	9 PM Monday July 11 to 5 AM Tuesday July 12 (8 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 (0.375) inches or greater.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, and shad.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets. (pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 and OAR 635-006-0210).

- Catch expectations include 500 Chinook and less than 200 Sockeye from around 50 deliveries.

Select Area Fisheries

- The spring seasons in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel were scheduled to close after June 14. The fisheries were extended in response to the continued presence of hatchery spring Chinook and strong market value for these Chinook.
- One to two periods per week have occurred in both these sites since June 14. The last scheduled fishing periods concluded this morning.
- Preliminary mark rates and coded-wire tag analysis continue to indicate the fish being harvested are hatchery Chinook primarily of Select Area origin.
- Interest in this fishery continues and the ex-vessel price for Chinook remains high.

Joint Staff Recommendation: 2016 Select Area Commercial Fishery	
Season:	7 PM Thursday July 7 to 7AM Friday July 8 7 PM Tuesday July 12 to 7 AM Wednesday July 13
Area #1:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough. The lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Area #2:	Tongue Point and South Channel.
Gear:	9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. <u>Tongue Point:</u> and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. <u>South Channel:</u> Gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
The following applies to the areas listed above	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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. Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets (pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 and OAR 635-006-0210).

- These season extensions will allow access to late-returning Select Area spring Chinook which are still present in the fishing areas.
- The catch expectation is about 200 Chinook for the proposed season modifications.

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action. In Blind Slough, Oregon State waters extend upstream of the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.

Future Meetings

- No hearings are currently scheduled. The Columbia River treaty tribes will likely request a hearing for the week of July 11. The joint staff will schedule additional hearings as needed, determined by run forecast updates and available harvestable fish.