

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 30, 2016

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>

Treaty Commercial Gillnet fishery

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

- The stock status and management guidelines were presented in summer Fact Sheet #1.
- Through June 29, 39,310 upper Columbia Summer Chinook, 276,491 sockeye and 11,429 summer steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam.
- TAC met on June 27 and updated the sockeye run size to 400,000 fish at the Columbia River mouth. TAC expects to update the summer Chinook run size on July 5, but to date, Bonneville Dam counts are consistent with a run close to the forecast run size.
- Approximately 52% of the summer Chinook are unclipped. Since nearly 90% of the Upper Columbia summer Chinook hatchery fish are ad-clipped, this is a sign that the run contains a significant number of wild fish.
- The river temperature at Bonneville has ranged from approximately 64 degrees to 66 degrees over the last week and is increasing. The temperature is currently lower than last year at this time which had reached 70 degrees. The current temperature is higher than the average of 62-64 degrees for this time of year.

2016 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Based on the summer Chinook preseason Columbia River mouth forecast of 93,300 and the updated forecast of 400,000 sockeye, the corresponding impact limits under the MA for treaty Indian fisheries are 29,175 adult summer Chinook and 28,000 sockeye. Actual allowed catches will be based on actual run sizes. Steelhead harvest is expected to remain within recent year averages.
- So far the tribes have set three 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 three periods and may continue mesh size limits if appropriate.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

2016 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery		
Season	6 AM Tuesday July 5 to 6 PM Friday July 8 6 AM Monday July 11 to 6 PM Thursday July 14	(3.5 days) (3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect.	
Gear:	Gill nets. 7-inch minimum mesh restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes	
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.	

- Catch has been estimated to total 8,080 Chinook and 13,540 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 5,600 Chinook and 6,900 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	200	na
Jun 16-18 (2.5 days)	357	2,692	2,180	108
Jun 20-23 (3.5 days)	282	2,888	5,460	291
June 27-June 30 (3.5 days)	283	2,500	5,700	460
Subtotal #1		8,080	13,540	859
Allowed at Updated Forecast		29,175	28,000	
July 5-8 (3.5 days)	300	2,500	4,300	940
July 11-14 (3.5 days)	300	3,100	2,600	1,780
Subtotal #2		13,680	20,440	3,579
Remaining		15,495	7,560	

- 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.
- Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries opened for commercial use on June 16 and will remain open for both subsistence and commercial use through the summer season.

- Yakama Nation tributary fisheries opened at 6 AM June 16 consistent with Yakama regulations and are expected to continue through the summer season.
- Compact action for Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries, Yakama Nation tributary fisheries, and fisheries in the area below Bonneville Dam is not necessary at this time.
- The tribes will request a Compact Hearing during the week of July 11 to consider possible additional commercial gillnet openings.