

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 6, 2017

Fisheries under consideration:	LCR recreational salmon Select Area commercial salmon
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2017 summer Chinook fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #2b (June 28, 2017).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Summer Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during June 16 – July 4 totals 43,160 adult fish. Passage is typically 50% complete on June 30. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 63,100 adult fish. Passage to date has been slightly higher than expected.
- Sockeye passage at Bonneville Dam through July 4 totals 72,479 fish. Passage is typically 50% complete on June 25. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 198,500 fish. Passage to date has been less than expected.
- TAC began weekly stock status reviews for the summer season on Monday June 26. TAC met again yesterday and updated the summer Chinook forecasted return to 74,100 fish and the sockeye return to 90,400 fish.
- Based on the current forecast and management agreements for adult summer Chinook, a total of 21,225 fish are available for treaty harvest and 5,804 fish are available for non-treaty in-river harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam.
- Based on the current forecast and ESA limits, a total of 6,328 sockeye are available for treaty harvest and 904 sockeye are available for non-treaty harvest.

2017 Non-Treaty Fisheries

Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery

- The summer season recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam was open from June 16–30 for retention of adult hatchery Chinook; the fishery remains open for retention of sockeye and hatchery steelhead/jack Chinook. Based on the preseason allocation for this fishery (2,656 mortalities) and observed catch rates, the states of Oregon and Washington took in-season action last week to prohibit Chinook retention effective July 1.
- Preliminary catch estimates include 2,608 adult Chinook kept (1,375 released) from 21,357 angler trips through June 30. Estimated summer Chinook mortalities to date (kept plus release mortality) are approximately 2,820 fish.
- Based on the updated run size, the current allocation of 3,946 summer Chinook mortalities allows for additional harvest opportunity.

Staff Recommendation - 2017 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Fishery

Effective Friday July 7 through Monday July 31, retention of hatchery adult Chinook in the mainstem Columbia River from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam is allowed. Retention of hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead, and sockeye remains open under previously adopted regulations, including the one hatchery steelhead daily bag limit. All other permanent regulations, including bag limits for jack Chinook, apply.

- The recommendation would allow retention of hatchery summer Chinook for the remainder of the summer season.
- If the recommendation is adopted as proposed, staff expects the fishery would accrue an additional 705 kept and release mortalities. This would bring the total mortalities for the lower river fishery to 3,525 (89% of the current allocation). Sockeye harvest is expected to total around 250 fish for the season.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Due to significant late-season landings, Select Area commercial fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel were extended through July 11 to access late-returning Select Area spring Chinook.
- Landings remained relatively strong during the last two weeks of June with 130-230 Chinook landed per period in Blind/Knappa Slough and nearly 200 per period in Tongue Point.
- Given these catch rates and strong ex-vessel prices, staff recommends additional Select Area fishing time be considered.

Blind/Knappa Slough Select Areas

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

Joint Staff Recommendation: 2017 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

Season:	Thursday July 13 – Friday July 14	(12 hours)
	Monday July 17 – Tuesday July 18	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 20 - Friday July 21	(12 hours)
	Monday July 24 – Tuesday July 25	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 27 – Friday July 28	(12 hours)

Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.

Area: Blind Slough and Knappa Slough fishing areas are open.

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:	<p>9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of five white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The five white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.</p>
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect.</p> <p>Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210.</p> <p>A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.</p>

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2017 Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery</i>											
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Area:	<p>Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.</p> <p>Tongue Point and South Channel fishing areas are open.</p> <p>The lower boundary of the Tongue Point fishing area is defined as a line from a marker midway between the red USCG navigation light #2 at the tip of Tongue Point and the downstream (northern most) pier (#8) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility, to the flashing green USCG navigation light #3 on the rock jetty at the west end of Mott Island (fall boundary).</p>										
Gear:	<p>9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction</p> <p>In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom.</p> <p>In the South Channel fishing area, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>										

Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. A maximum of five white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The five white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210. A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- These season extensions will allow additional access to late-returning Select Area spring Chinook which are still present in the fishing areas, as well as providing partial access to the commercial sturgeon allocation. Sturgeon landings have been modest since retention was allowed (June 19) with 108 fish landed through July 3.
- Based on industry request, the Tongue Point fishing area for the proposed fishing periods is expanded from the spring to the fall boundaries (larger) to provide additional fishing area, similar to Knappa Slough.
- The catch expectation is about 800-1,200 spring Chinook and 60 white sturgeon for the proposed season modifications.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No hearings are currently scheduled. The Joint Staff will schedule additional hearings as needed.