

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 11, 2017

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty commercial salmon

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>. An updated Joint Staff Report is expected within a few weeks.

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Pre-season forecasts are shown in the table below.

Table 1. Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Pre-season Forecasted **				
		2016 Forecast	2016 Return	2017 Forecast
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	93,300	91,048	63,100
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	101,600	354,466	198,500
	Wenatchee	57,800	na	54,200
	Okanogan	41,700	na	137,900
	Yakima	na	na	4,000
	Deschutes	na	na	1,000
	Snake River	2,100	944	1,400
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	265,400	184,044	130,700
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	9,200	12,238	11,300
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	3,400	4,436	4,100
	A-run Index (total) <78cm	230,400	128,395	112,100
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	89,100	31,520	33,000
	B-run Index (total) ≥78cm	25,800	42,103	7,300
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	7,400	6,465	1,100
** Natural Origin components are included in the stock total.				

- The summer management period runs from June 16 through July 31. Chinook salmon passing Bonneville Dam or harvested during this time period are managed as Upper Columbia summer Chinook. The sockeye run size includes any Columbia River sockeye no matter when it returns or passes Bonneville Dam. The upriver Skamania steelhead run includes steelhead passing Bonneville between April 1 and June 30. A-Index and B-Index steelhead include steelhead passing Bonneville between July 1 and October 31.
- Through July 10, 51,036 adult summer Chinook have been counted at Bonneville Dam. The counts to date are somewhat above expectations based on the pre-season forecast. Through July 10, 82,034 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is well below expectations based on the pre-season forecast. Additionally, the final Skamania steelhead run

size (April 1 to June 30) at Bonneville Dam was 3,491 including 1,236 unclipped fish. This is the lowest total run since at least 1970 and the lowest unclipped run since 1999.

- TAC met on Monday July 10 and maintained the current in-season projections for a return of 74,100 upper Columbia summer Chinook and 90,400 sockeye to the Columbia River mouth. TAC will meet again on July 17 and will provide another run size update for summer Chinook and sockeye.
- However, the sockeye run does appear to be coming in a bit lower this week from the TAC updated run size, and the tribes have chosen to use a lower management run size of 89,000 to be conservative. Based on the updated run sizes according to the U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 21,225 adult summer Chinook and 6,230 sockeye (based on the conservative run size estimate of 89,000 sockeye). There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in summer season fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is low in the summer and is expected to remain within recent average rates. Actual allowed fishery impacts are based on actual not forecast run sizes.

SUMMER SEASON COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes allowed commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish caught after 6 AM June 16 and expect sales to run continuously through the summer Management Period and into the fall.
- The treaty tribes have opened three 3-night commercial gillnet openings beginning on the Mondays of June 19, June 26, and July 3. The tribes have planned one additional gillnet opening and may consider more should run sizes and catches make it feasible.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in the table below. This model of sockeye fisheries is based on a sockeye run size of 89,000 at the Columbia River mouth. The set net effort for the first three weeks and the drift net effort for the first week were less than initially projected. Chinook catches were lower than anticipated and sockeye catches were above what would have been expected for a run size of 90,400. Steelhead catches were much less than projected which is not unexpected given the low counts. The model has been scaled to an average of the first three observed catch rates for the opening this week.

2017 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	50	na
Platforms June 16-18		612	89	14
Jun 19-22 (3 nights) Preliminary	243	3,657	1,472	101
Jun 26-29 (3 nights) Preliminary	256	4,362	1,335	34
July 3-6 (3 nights) Preliminary	329	2,900	900	70
Subtotal #1 through 7/8		11,531	3,846	219
July 12-15 (3 nights) Projected	325	3,700	900	200
Subtotal #2 through 7/15		15,231	4,746	419

Allowed at Updated Forecast	21,225	6,230
Remaining	5,994	1,484

Note: Platform and hook and line harvest is included in gillnet catch estimates for weeks with Commercial gillnet fishing periods.

- These catches include a preliminary estimate of 110 Chinook and 210 sockeye caught in treaty fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The four Treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2017 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season	6 AM Wednesday July 12 to 6 PM Saturday, July 15	(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:	Set and Drift Gill nets with a 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), 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 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.	
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.	

- The tribes anticipate that the planned opening will leave enough harvestable fish remaining for the platform fisheries through the rest of the summer period.
- The platform and hook and line fishery, the fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and the Yakama Nation tributary fisheries do not require Compact Action at this time.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through the tribal creel program. Set net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. Drift net effort is estimated through the creel monitoring program. Catches for the platform fishery are typically summed with and reported with gillnet catches for any week with a commercial gillnet opening. Any harvest downstream of Bonneville is part of the total allowed catch for any species. Tributary harvest is managed under separate limits.
- Commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal people and communities along the Columbia River as well as providing food for consumers.

Future Meetings

- The tribes may request another Compact Hearing on July 18.