

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 5**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**July 18, 2017**

Fisheries under consideration:    Treaty 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>. 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
<b>Summer Chinook</b>	<b>Upper Columbia</b>	<b>93,300</b>	<b>91,048</b>	<b>63,100</b>
<b>Sockeye</b>	<b>Total Sockeye</b>	<b>101,600</b>	<b>354,466</b>	<b>198,500</b>
	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
<b>Summer Steelhead</b>	<b>Total Upriver Steelhead</b>	<b>265,400</b>	<b>184,044</b>	<b>130,700</b>
(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	99,744	112,100
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	89,100	29,146	33,000
	B-run Index (total) ≥78cm	25,800	39,447	7,300
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	7,400	3,469	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 17, 56,584 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 17, 85,954 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is well below expectations based on the pre-season forecast.

- Preliminary analysis of the age composition of the 2017 sockeye run suggests that the 1-ocean and 3-ocean age components of the run were similar if not slightly above their preseason forecasts, but the 2-ocean age component was less than a third of its preseason forecast. These 2-ocean age sockeye would have encountered the poor ocean conditions of 2015 in their migration year.
- TAC met on Monday July 18 and slightly downgraded the in-season projections for a return of 68,700 upper Columbia summer Chinook and 88,200 sockeye to the Columbia River mouth. Both runs are nearing completion and TAC does not expect to meet again during the summer management period. TAC will reconvene in early August to begin reviewing salmonid returns for the fall management period.
- Based on the updated run sizes according to the U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 19,200 adult summer Chinook and 6,174 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. So far the steelhead run is tracking below the expectation for a normally timed run at the preseason forecast size (112,100 A-index and 7,300 B-Index steelhead). The actual run size will be difficult to estimate until the run is closer to 50% complete which typically occurs near the middle of August.

## **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 four 3-night commercial gillnet openings beginning on the Mondays of June 19, June 26, and July 3. The fourth opening occurred last week starting on Wednesday (July 12-15). The tribes have planned two additional gillnet openings to complete the commercial gillnet season.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in the table below. This model is based on the updated run sizes 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 most recent two weeks' observed catch rates for the two projected openings this week and next week.

<b>2017 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries</b>				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	50	na
Platforms June 16-18		612	80	14
Jun 19-22 (3 nights- 7" mesh) Preliminary	243	3,782	1,472	101
Jun 26-29 (3 nights- 7" mesh) Preliminary	256	4,389	1,335	34
July 3-6 (3 nights) Preliminary	329	2,719	904	65
July 12-15 (3 nights- 7" mesh) Preliminary	244	1,755	409	121
Subtotal #1 through 7/15		13,257	4,250	214
July 19-22 (3 nights- no mesh) Projected	241	1,900	600	200
July 24-28 (4 nights- no mesh) Projected	187	1,200	200	400
Subtotal #2 through 7/28		16,357	5,050	814
<b>Allowed at Updated Forecast</b>		19,200	6,174	
Remaining		2,843	1,124	

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 130 Chinook and 250 sockeye caught in treaty fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The four Treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<b>2017 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</b>	
<b>Season</b>	6 AM Wednesday July 19 to 6 PM Saturday, July 22 (3.5 days) 6 AM Monday July 24 to 6 PM Friday, July 28 (4.5 days)
<b>Area</b>	Zone 6
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect.
<b>Gear:</b>	Set and Drift Gill nets with NO minimum mesh size restriction
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	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.
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The tribes anticipate that the planned openings will leave enough harvestable summer chinook and sockeye remaining for the platform fisheries through the rest of the summer period and will leave enough sockeye impacts for the fall period Treaty fishery. The lifting of mesh restrictions was projected to result in approximately 500 additional sockeye harvested relative to the harvest projected under a continuation of the 7" mesh restriction. The run of sockeye

and the set net effort is expected to continue to decline rapidly during the weeks of these openings and these trends will act to further limit the numbers of sockeye that are harvested.

- 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 do not anticipate requiring another Compact Hearing for the summer season.