

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 27, 2016

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>	<i>3,400</i>	<i>4,436</i>	<i>4,100</i>
	A-run Index (total) <78cm	230,400	128,395	112,100
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	<i>89,100</i>	<i>31,520</i>	<i>33,000</i>
	B-run Index (total) ≥78cm	25,800	42,103	7,300
	<i>(natural origin)</i>	<i>7,400</i>	<i>6,465</i>	<i>1,100</i>
** 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 June 27, 29,642 adult summer Chinook have been counted at Bonneville. The counts to date are somewhat above expectations based on the pre-season forecast, Through June 27, 50,329 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which well below expectations based

on the pre-season forecasts. Additionally, the Skamania steelhead count at Bonneville totals 3,174, including 1,062 unclipped fish through June 27. This is the lowest Skamania steelhead count to date since at least 1970 and the lowest unclipped count to date since 1999.

- TAC met on Monday June 26 and reviewed the upper Columbia summer chinook run size as well as the sockeye run size. Summer chinook counts at Bonneville are tracking above expectations and if the run is normally timed, the run may be larger than forecast. Sockeye counts at Bonneville are tracking below expectations and if the run is normally timed it may be around half of the forecast run size. Because of uncertainty about the timings of these runs, TAC will wait to update the upper Columbia summer chinook and sockeye run sizes. The Skamania daily steelhead counts at Bonneville remain very low and the total cumulative count is the lowest since at least 1970 and the cumulative unclipped count is the lowest since 1999. TAC will meet again on July 5 and expects to provide run size updates then.
- Based on the current forecasts according to the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, treaty Indian fisheries are allocated 17,100 adult summer Chinook and 13,895 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 began the first commercial gillnet opening on June 19 and the second on June 26. 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. Because of the low sockeye counts to date, the tribes have chosen to model sockeye fisheries based on a presumption of a 95,500 sockeye run size at the mouth and based allowed catch on that run size until TAC provides a run size update. This is done as a precautionary approach to management. The set net effort for the first two weeks and the drift net effort for the first week were less than initially projected. Chinook catches were lower than anticipated but sockeye catches were above what would have been expected for a run size of 95,500. Steelhead catches were much less than projected which is not unexpected given the low counts. The model has been scaled to the first week's observed catch rates for the openings this week and next week. It should more accurately predict catches as the season progresses.

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 Preliminary		612	89	14
Jun 19-22 (3 nights) Preliminary	243	3,484	1,288	69
Jun 26-29 (3 nights) Projected	256	3,200	2,000	80
Subtotal #1 through 6/30		6,684	3,427	149
July 3-6 (3 nights) Projected	260	3,000	2,200	110
Subtotal #2 through 7/8		9,684	5,627	259
Allowed at Updated Forecast		17,100	6,685	
Remaining		7,416	1,058	

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 30 Chinook and 20 sockeye caught in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2017 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery	
Season	6 AM Monday July 3 to 6 PM Thursday, July 6 (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" 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.

- In the event of a Washington state Government shutdown in July, the tribes request that the State of Washington implement a temporary rule indicating that during any shutdown period if commercial sales is allowed by tribes in any open treaty mainstem fisheries, that these fish may be sold in Washington. The tribes are flexible on language for such a rule but want Washington buyers to be able to purchase tribal fish.
- The tribes will still coordinate fishing plans with Oregon during any state of Washington shutdown.
- 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 6.