

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 28, 2017

Fisheries under consideration:	Mainstem recreational salmon
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STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam. These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- The 2017 forecast of 63,100 adults to the Columbia River is less than the 2016 return (91,048 adults) and less than the 10-year average return of 72,100 adults.
- Bonneville passage during June 16–27 totals 29,642 adult Chinook which is 122% of expected based on the forecast and 5-year average run timing. The run is typically 50% complete by July 1 (5-year average).

Summer Steelhead

- Upriver stocks of summer steelhead migrate past Bonneville Dam during April 1 through October 31. Summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam prior to July 1 are considered Skamania stock, and steelhead passing between July 1 and October 31 are classified by length as either A-Index or B-Index.
- Summer steelhead handled in Columbia River fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam are considered lower river stock during May-June and upriver stock during July-October.
- Bonneville Dam passage during April 1-June 26 totals 3,174 summer steelhead, which is much less than expected based on the forecast (11,300). The 5-year average 50% passage date is June 16 for upriver Skamania stock. A total of 119,400 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year during July through October, which is 38% of the 2007-2016 average of 315,100 fish.

Sockeye

- The 2017 sockeye forecast of 198,500 fish returning to the Columbia River is about 63% of the recent 10-year average. The forecast includes 54,200 Wenatchee stock, 137,900 Okanogan stock, and 1,400 Snake River stock.
- Bonneville Dam passage through June 27 totals 50,329 sockeye, which is about 45% of expected (112,700) based on the forecast and 5-year average run timing. The average 50% passage date is June 26, but has been as late as July 1.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management Agreements

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for treaty Indian and non-treaty summer season fisheries.
- Washington’s Upper Columbia Management Agreement (UCMA) provides additional harvest and management guidelines for sharing of upper Columbia summer Chinook among non-treaty recreational and commercial fisheries and non-treaty tribal fisheries.

Summer Chinook

- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 are managed based on a minimum interim escapement goal of 29,000 hatchery- and natural-origin adult upper Columbia summer Chinook, as measured at the Columbia River mouth.
- Based on the preseason forecast and the harvest rate schedule in the MA, a total of 34,200 adult summer Chinook are available for harvest, and are to be shared equally between treaty and non-treaty fisheries.

Non-Treaty Summer Chinook Harvest Allocation

- The non-treaty allocation includes the following fisheries:
 - Ocean fisheries south of Canada.
 - Recreational fisheries from Astoria/Megler Bridge upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.
 - Commercial fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam (Zones 1-5).
 - Colville and Wanapum tribal fisheries.
- Based on the preseason forecast and the UCMA, the portion of in-river harvestable fish allocated to non-treaty fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 31%, equating to 3,906 adult fish. For 2017, Commission guidance allocates these fish 80% to recreational fisheries and 20% to commercial fisheries.

2017 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocation	
Preseason Run Size	63,100
Non-Treaty Ocean Harvest	4,500
Total Abundance (with ocean harvest)	67,600
Available Treaty Indian Harvest	17,100
Available Non-Treaty Harvest (in-river)	12,600
Recreational below Priest Rapids Dam	3,125
<i>Below Bonneville Dam</i>	2,656
<i>Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam</i>	469
Non-Treaty Commercial	781

Summer Steelhead

- The non-treaty ESA impact limit on wild summer steelhead is 2% during January through July. For non-treaty fisheries occurring during May and June below Bonneville Dam, wild steelhead impact rates have averaged less than 0.5%, and are expected to be lower for 2017 fisheries.
- Due to the low projected returns for upriver summer steelhead, additional protective regulations have been implemented for this summer and fall. In summer-season fisheries

between the Astoria/Megler Bridge and the Highway 395 Bridge (near Pasco, WA) the daily bag limit may not contain more than one hatchery steelhead.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam. The escapement goal for the Wenatchee River system is 23,000 sockeye.
- The impact limit on the Columbia River return of ESA-listed sockeye is 1% for non-treaty fisheries and 7% for treaty Indian fisheries. For 2017, Commission guidance allocates the non-treaty impacts 20% to commercial and 80% to recreational fisheries.

In-season Run Updates

- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (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. TAC also noted that the Skamania daily steelhead counts at Bonneville Dam 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's next in-season run update meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 5.

2017 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery

- Summer recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam are scheduled to be open from June 16 through July 31 for retention of adult and jack hatchery Chinook, hatchery steelhead, and sockeye.
- Catch estimates through June 25 include 2,045 adult Chinook kept (1,056 released), 167 steelhead kept (32 released), and 124 sockeye kept (30 released) from 15,800 angler trips. Catch rates are tracking higher than modeled and the mark rate is higher than observed during the past few years, averaging 66% to date.
- Combined mortalities through June 25 total 2,203, or 83% of the available allocation.
- Based on past fishery performance, catches are expected to remain high through June. Given current catch rates, staff projects the quota for this fishery has been achieved.

<p><i>Staff Recommendation - 2017 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Fishery</i></p> <p>Effective Friday June 30, retention of adult Chinook in the mainstem Columbia River from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam is <u>prohibited</u>. Retention of jack hatchery Chinook, hatchery</p>

steelhead, and sockeye remains open under current regulations. All other permanent regulations, including bag limits for jack Chinook, apply.

- Catch projections for June 26-29 include an additional 740 adult Chinook kept (385 released). Projected kept and release mortalities through Thursday June 29 are approximately 3,000 Chinook (113% of the 2,656 allocated) and about 180 sockeye.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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