

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 5 July 3, 2008

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2008 summer season were presented in the Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 12, 2008)

- Sockeye passage at Bonneville Dam through July 1 totals 193,707 fish. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 25 based on the recent 10-year average.
- Summer Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam totals 32,854 adults during June 16-July 1. Passage is typically 50% complete by July 1 based on the recent 10-year average.
- The counting period for summer Chinook at Priest Rapids Dam is June 14 through August 13. Passage at Priest Rapids is 8,365 summer Chinook through June 29. Passage is typically 50% complete by July 8 based on the recent 10-year average.
- TAC met July 2 and downgraded the summer Chinook run from the previous in-season estimate of at least 60,000 fish to 57,000 fish at the river mouth.
- TAC also upgraded the sockeye run from the previous in-season estimate of at least 200,000 fish to 230,000 sockeye at the river mouth. TAC is scheduled to meet again on July 9.
- Based on the current in-season run estimate (57,000 fish), treaty Indian and non-Indian fisheries are each allocated 13,125 fish.
- Of the Chinook allocated to non-Indian fisheries, 30% are available for harvest below Priest Rapids Dam. These fish are further divided 50/50 between recreational and commercial fisheries (1,968 fish each).

Columbia River Fisheries

Non-Indian fisheries

Recreational Fisheries

- The summer season recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam was open for retention of adult Chinook and sockeye from June 21-28. Based on available data, the estimated kept catch below Bonneville Dam through June 28 is about 1,800 adult Chinook and 300 sockeye. An additional 600 sockeye are estimated to have been released during June 16-28. Sockeye retention is scheduled to continue through July 6.
- The summer season recreational fishery above Bonneville Dam was scheduled to be open from June 16-July 31 for adult Chinook and sockeye. The area from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Hwy. 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington closed for Chinook retention early (July 1) because the allocation for this area had been exceeded. Catch is estimated at 800 adult Chinook through June 30, and 200 sockeye through July 6. Sockeye retention is scheduled to continue through July 6.

- Final catch estimates for all non-Indian recreational fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam will not be available until late next week.

Commercial fisheries

- Non-Indian commercial fishing periods for summer Chinook (large mesh nets) were adopted for the evenings of June 24 and July 1 (10 hours each night). Chinook landings for both fishing periods were below expectations, totaling 1,115 Chinook. An additional 81 sockeye and 378 white sturgeon were also landed.
- Onboard monitoring was conducted on some vessels during the commercial Chinook fishery on July 1. Results included an observed catch of 18 Chinook, 2 steelhead, and 0 sockeye.
- A non-Indian commercial fishing period for sockeye took place on June 30 in Area 2S (upstream of the Sandy River). Participation and catch was low. Landings include 213 sockeye, 2 jack Chinook (0 adults), and 0 white sturgeon.
- Onboard monitoring was conducted during the commercial sockeye fishery. Results included an observed catch of 40 sockeye (20% of total landings), 3 hatchery steelhead and 0 Chinook, which was within expectations.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Three weekly treaty Indian commercial gillnet fishing periods have been adopted during June 23-July 10. Platform hook and line fisheries in Zone 6 have been ongoing since June 16. Yakama Nation tributary and below Bonneville Dam fisheries are also in place.
- Catch estimates from the June 23-25 commercial period include 2,833 summer Chinook, 64 steelhead, and 1,786 sockeye. Catch estimates for the fishing period in progress (July 1- 3) are not available but are expected to be at or below the catch projection of 2,500 Chinook and 4,000 sockeye.
- Zone 6 Platform hook and line catch is estimated at 164 summer Chinook, 138 steelhead and 300 sockeye through June 23.

Impacts

Summer Chinook

- Non-Indian harvest (commercial and recreational) below Priest Rapids Dam is projected to be 3,715 fish through July 1. Based on the in-season run size of 57,000 fish, there are about 223 fish remaining of the 3,938 available for non-Indian harvest below Priest Rapids Dam.
- Treaty Indian harvest is projected at 7,900 fish through July 10. Based on the in-season run size, there are about 5,200 fish remaining for treaty harvest.

Sockeye

- Total sockeye mortalities (kept and released) from non-Indian fisheries are estimated at about 1,000 fish (0.4% impact) of the 2,300 fish limit (1% ESA limit) through July 6.
- Total mortalities from treaty fisheries are projected at 9,400 sockeye through July 10. Based on a total of 16,100 harvestable fish allowed under the ESA, there are about 6,700 sockeye available for additional Treaty harvest.

Steelhead

- Non-Indian impacts on Group A wild summer steelhead average <1% during the winter/spring and summer seasons and are primarily accrued during recreational fisheries above and below Bonneville Dam. To date, observed handle of steelhead has been within expectations.
- Based on landings and the preseason forecast, treaty Indian impacts are minimal for Group A wild steelhead to date.

Recommendations

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fisheries</i>	
Season	9 PM Monday July 7 -5 AM Tuesday July 8, 2008 (8 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy River.
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size.
Estimated Catch	250 Chinook, 10 sockeye, and 150 white sturgeon.
Season # 2:	12 noon - 6 PM Tuesday July 8, 2008 (6 hours)
Area:	Area 2S - True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 4½” maximum mesh size restriction, single wall, unslackened, floater gill net.
Estimated Catch	100 sockeye
Rules for Both Season #1 and Season #2	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, shad and white sturgeon. A maximum of five white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Sturgeon retention in Select Areas remains prohibited.
Multi- Net Rule:	Nets not specifically authorized for use in the 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.
Additional	24 hour Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

- Abundances of Chinook and sockeye are declining throughout the river.
- Given the current estimates of Chinook catch and run size there is some risk of exceeding the available quota for non-Indian fisheries below Priest Rapids Dam.
- Upriver summer steelhead abundance is increasing at Bonneville Dam, which is typical for this time of year.

- Effort in the proposed sockeye fishery is expected to be very low (~ 4 boats). Catch and effort was less than expected in the June 30 fishery. Sockeye abundance is decreasing while steelhead abundance is increasing, meaning that steelhead handled per sockeye landed will likely increase.
- Staff will continue onboard monitoring as budget allows.

Future Hearings

- The Treaty tribes are recommending a Compact hearing for Thursday July 10, 2008 at 11 AM via teleconference to discuss additional commercial fishing periods.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for July 22, 2008 at 10 AM via teleconference to consider fall Select Area fisheries, early fall mainstem commercial fisheries, and the recreational sturgeon fishery above Wauna.