

**COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACT
FACT SHEET
May 7, 2002**

Purpose: To consider Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal.

TAC has not reviewed this fact sheet, but has reviewed the first and second commercial opening catches.

STOCK STATUS

- The preseason expectation was for a return of 333,700 spring chinook destined for above Bonneville Dam.
- Through May 6 about 200,000 adult spring chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- The TAC met yesterday and updated the upriver spring chinook run size. The updated run size is now forecasted to be 309,000 at the mouth of the Columbia.
- The spring chinook run typically peaks at Bonneville Dam during mid to late April. TAC expects the run timing this year to be late. The run had its peak count of 26,430 on April 30 and should be 65-70% complete right now.

SPRING CHINOOK MANAGEMENT

- Non Indian fisheries are estimated to have a 1.38% impact on wild upriver spring chinook through April 30, compared to the 1.7% management objective. These impacts are based on the updated forecast. This is within the 2% allowed impact under the Interim Management Agreement.
- Treaty fisheries for 2001 will now be managed according to the Interim Management Agreement to not to exceed a 12% impact rate on upriver wild spring chinook.
- Given the current forecast, the tribes expect to harvest 37,080 spring chinook. The Tribes have chosen to utilize their harvest in three fishery sectors: A ceremonial gillnet fishery, a subsistence platform fishery, and a commercial fishery. Estimated harvests for these sectors are shown in Table 1.
- Steelhead harvest has been minimal with an estimated catch of 200 in the platform fishery and very few in the permit fishery. The estimated harvest in the first commercial opening was 143. Only a very small proportion of the 2002 summer steelhead run has entered Zone 6 so far. The tribes anticipate continued very low steelhead impacts in commercial openings as occurred in 2001.

Table 1

<i>Preliminary Treaty Fishery Impacts For Upriver Spring Chinook</i>		
Fishery	Impacts	
	Catch Expectation to date	Projection to end of spring season
Winter Gillnet Fishery	45	45
Winter Subsistence Catch	118	118
Ceremonial Gillnet Fishery (through 5/6)	6,700	6,800
Subsistence Platform Fishery (through 5/4)	1,350	3,100
First Commercial Fishery Opening (4/17-4/19)	8,148	8,148
Second Commercial Fishery Opening (5/2-5/4)	8,195	8,195
Proposed 3 rd Commercial Opening		8,000
Total to Date	<u>24,556</u>	<u>34,406</u>
Projected Total to End of Season		34,406
Allowable Impacts	37,080	37,080
Remaining Available Harvest	12,524	2,674

ZONE 6 COMMERCIAL FISHERY PROPOSAL

- The tribes will propose a commercial gillnet fishery opening that is projected to harvest up to 8,000 spring chinook. This opening combined with the other fishery impacts to date will not exceed the total allowable impacts for the tribal fishery.
- Additionally, the Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of fish harvested in their tributary fisheries in the Klickitat River, Wind River and Big White Salmon River.
- Tribal staff will monitor the tributary fisheries as well as the Zone 6 gillnet and platform fisheries in order to assure proper total catch accounting.
- The tribes intend to use an aerial survey to measure effort during the next gillnet opening. The catch sold to buyers will be sampled for CWT's by state staff.
- After this opening, the tribes may propose additional fisheries dependant on the number of fish left available for harvest.

<i>Proposed Commercial Fishery</i>	
Area:	All of Zone 6
Dates:	6:00 AM Thursday May 9 to 6:00 PM Saturday May 11
Restrictions:	Allowable sales include chinook salmon, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Commercial sales of platform caught fish are allowed during commercial openings. Sturgeon between 4 and 5 feet may be retained for subsistence use. All standard sanctuaries remain in effect with the exception of the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary, which is not necessary at this time of year.