

STAFF REPORT
TREATY SUMMER SEASON FACT SHEET
July 18, 2003

Purpose: To review salmon, and steelhead run sizes and consider treaty Indian fishery options.

This Fact Sheet was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

2003 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2001-2003 Interim Management Agreement

- An Interim Management Agreement covering fisheries for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye is in effect for 2001-2003.
- In accordance with the Interim Management Agreement, impacts in Treaty Indian fisheries to upriver summer chinook and sockeye during 2003 were each limited to 5%.
- Impacts to listed upriver summer chinook and sockeye during 2003 were each limited to 1% for non-Indian fisheries. Non-Indian harvest of summer chinook to date has been well below management limits.

STOCK STATUS

Summer Chinook

- The preseason summer chinook run size forecast was for 87,600 to the Columbia River mouth.
- Through July 17, over 102,000 summer chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Average run timing suggests the run would be approximately 85% complete on July 17.
- The TAC updated the summer chinook run size on July 7 to 120,000. TAC reviewed the run on July 18 and made no changes.
- This year's run will be the second largest run size since 1960.

Sockeye

- The preseason forecast was for 22,000 upper Columbia sockeye and 80 Snake River sockeye.
- Through July 17 over 38,000 sockeye have passed Bonneville. 12 sockeye have passed Lower Granite Dam.
- On July 7, TAC updated the sockeye run size to 40,000. TAC also reviewed the sockeye run size on July 18 and made no changes.

Summer Steelhead

- The total upriver Skamania Index summer steelhead forecast was 16,600 including 4,500 wild fish.
- The final Skamania Index Run size at Bonneville was 14,154 of which 1,900 were wild fish.
- Summer A and B Index counts begin July 1, but the vast majority of fish in early July are Group A steelhead. Since July 1, a total of 32,340 steelhead have passed Bonneville of which almost 15,240 were unmarked.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

2003 Summer Season Fisheries

- The platform fishery is currently open for subsistence use. Harvest estimates through July 12 indicate a total summer chinook harvest of 580, total sockeye harvest of 1,040, and total steelhead harvest of 2,380.
- Current projections for the platform fishery estimate a harvest of 850 summer chinook and 1,200 sockeye. The projection for the sockeye harvest is within the 5% harvest rate limit.
- Sturgeon setline fisheries are ongoing in the Bonneville and John Day Pools. For weeks 24-27 the sturgeon catch was 39 for the Bonneville Pool and 26 for the John Day pool. This leaves 870 sturgeon remaining on the Bonneville pool harvest guideline and 107 remaining on the John Day pool guideline.
- Preliminary harvest in the first commercial gillnet opening was 2,107 summer chinook, 326 Steelhead including 65 wild A-Index steelhead and 33 wild B-Index steelhead. 10 sockeye, 26 sturgeon, and 18 walleye were also harvested. The sockeye and sturgeon were not allowed for sale.

Tribal Commercial Fishery Proposal

- Open a commercial gillnet fishery in all of Zone 6 from 6 AM Monday, July 21 to 6 PM Wednesday, July 16. 8" minimum mesh restriction. Allowable sales of Chinook, Steelhead, Walleye Shad and Carp. Sockeye may not be sold. Sturgeon may not be sold. However, Sturgeon between 4 feet and 5 feet in length and sockeye may be kept for subsistence.
- Delay reopening the Sturgeon Setline fishery until 6 AM Monday, July 28. The sturgeon fishery would then remain open until 6 PM Saturday, August 23, or until the Guidelines have been achieved.
- For Yakama Nation tributary fisheries, sales will be allowed from previously scheduled openings in the Klickitat and Big White Salmon Rivers that overlap with the gillnet fishery. Additionally, the previously scheduled opening in the Klickitat River will be modified to open earlier at 6:00 AM, Monday, July 21.
- Quick reporting rule for Washington buyers in place.

- The expected harvest in the Commercial gillnet opening is similar to recent late spring openings when dam counts have been similar. The tribes expect to harvest from 1,500-3,000 summer chinook and 1,000-1,500 steelhead. Sockeye harvest should be minimal.
- The season total projection for tribal summer chinook harvest would be up to 6,000 or 5% of a 120,000. If the harvest in next week's fishery is 2,000. Then the total harvest would be less than 5,000 or 4.2%.
- The season total sockeye harvest projection is less than 1,250 fish or about 3.1% of a 40,000 run size.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
July 18, 2003