

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3 June 19, 2008

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	<i>Non-Indian Commercial Shad Treaty Indian commercial/C&S Non-Indian commercial and recreational</i>
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Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2008 summer season were presented in the Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 12, 2008)

Non-Indian Commercial Shad Fishery

- Through June 18, about 666,000 shad have passed Bonneville Dam, with the highest daily count of nearly 100,000 shad passing on June 17. Shad passage is typically 50% complete around June 12. During the most recent 10 years, shad passage at Bonneville has average 3.1 million fish, ranging from 1.2 to 5.4 million.
- Commercial shad fishing periods were adopted at the February 15 Compact hearing. The season adopted was similar to that of recent years for the Area 2S fishery. Due to lack of participation, no Washougal Reef fishery has been adopted for the last few years.
- The 2008 season takes place daily from 3PM-10PM on Mondays through Fridays. The fishery is open May 12 through June 20.
- Catch to date has been minimal. Through June 6, a total of 6,400 shad have been landed. For the 2007 season, landings totaled 14,125 shad, with peak catches occurring the first week of June.
- Encounters of salmon, including sockeye, in this fishery are typically very low.
- Effort in this fishery is typically market-driven. Commercial shad fishermen and shad buyers have coordinated to ask for a short extension of the season. Since shad in the Columbia are over abundant, the agencies have encouraged the commercial industry to find viable markets for shad. Availability of shad on the market plays a role in securing buyers for future years.

<i>Recommendation - 2008 Commercial Shad fishing periods</i>	
Season:	3 PM - 10 PM daily June 23 and June 25 (2 days)
Area:	True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslackened, floater gill net; 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ "- 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ " mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length or 40 meshes in depth.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water unharmed.

Sockeye

- The non-treaty ESA impact limit on listed sockeye is 1% of the run entering the Columbia River. The treaty Indian impact limit ranges from 5% – 7% (dependant on run size).
- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 sockeye at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam
- The preseason forecast for the 2008 Columbia River sockeye return is 75,600 fish. The 2008 forecast includes 13,700 Wenatchee stock, 61,200 Okanogan stock, and 700 Snake River sockeye.
- Bonneville Dam passage through June 18 totals 50,925 sockeye. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 24 based on the recent 10-year average, and 28% complete based on the earliest timing.
- TAC met this morning and reported that the run is tracking ahead of preseason expectations and is expected to be greater than forecast. TAC concluded that if the run were already 50% complete, then the river mouth return would be at least 100,000 fish. TAC is scheduled to meet again on Thursday morning, June 26.
- ESA-listed sockeye return to the Snake River and are adipose fin-clipped. In addition, a minimal number of upper Columbia sockeye are also adipose fin-clipped. Mark rates at Bonneville Dam are around 1%.
- Based on this information, the Joint Staff is recommending modifications to non-Indian commercial and recreational retention regulations and the treaty Indian tribes are recommending changes their current regulations regarding sockeye retention.

<i>Recommendation - 2008 Treaty-Indian fishery modification</i>	
Gillnet and platform hook and Line	Effective 6AM Saturday June 21: allow the sale of platform and hook and line caught sockeye. Additionally the sale of sockeye caught in the gillnet fishery will be allowed. The tribes will not modify the 7” mesh restriction in the commercial gillnet fishery at this time. Current regulations for this fishery would be modified to allow the sale of sockeye as follows:
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, sockeye , steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 42-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may also be retained for subsistence

Recommendation – 2008 non-Indian fishery modification

Commercial Salmon Fisheries

Allowable Sales: Allow retention of sockeye in the two previously adopted summer Chinook commercial fishing periods scheduled for June 24-25 and July 1-2, 2008. Current regulations would be modified to allow the sale of sockeye as follows: Chinook, **sockeye**, coho, white sturgeon, and shad. All steelhead must be released immediately. 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.

Expected Catch: Less than 50 sockeye.

Recreational Fisheries

Rocky Point/Tongue Point line to Bonneville Dam:

Allow the retention of sockeye effective 12:01 AM Saturday June 21 through June 28, 2008.

Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam:

Allow the retention of sockeye effective 12:01 AM Saturday June 21 through July 31, 2008.

Daily Bag Limit Regulations for Both Areas Would be Modified as Follows:

All sockeye are considered adults and part of the adult bag limit regardless of size.

Expected Catch: Up to 1,000 sockeye handled.

- Based on a conservative run size estimate of 100,000 sockeye and the non-Indian impact limit of 1%, a minimum of 1,000 sockeye are available for harvest by non-Indian fisheries.
- Catch (and release mortalities) are expected to remain within the ESA limits.
- Due to the 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction, catches of sockeye in the commercial are expected to be minimal.
- Sockeye handle in the lower river sport fishery has already begun to taper off.
- This regulation allows sport anglers and commercial fishers the opportunity to keep sockeye during the summer Chinook fisheries. The 2008 sockeye return is shaping up to be very robust.

Future Hearings

- A Compact is scheduled for 11AM Friday June 27 to consider additional treaty Indian fishing periods and discuss the recreational sturgeon fishery below Wauna powerlines.
- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing on July 22, 2008 at 10AM via teleconference to consider early fall season commercial fisheries.