

**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT
 SPRING FACT SHEET No. 4
 Columbia River Compact**

May 25, 2004

Purpose: To consider treaty Indian commercial fishing options for the mainstem Columbia River.

Spring Chinook Run Size

TAC did not formally update the Spring Chinook run size this week. But several TAC members discussed the run on Monday May 24 and concurred with the following estimates. The count of upriver spring chinook at Bonneville Dam through May 24 is 160,736. There are 7 count days remaining in May. Late in any run, an average run-timing proportion is usually an adequate predictor of the final count. Based on 10 year average run timing, the final count at Bonneville should be about 169,000. Another reasonable forecast method is to use an assumed average count per day for the remainder of the season. The average count in the last 5 days has been about 1,600. If an average of 1,000 per day are counted through the end of May the final count would also be just over 167,000. For the purposes of this proposal, the more conservative estimate of 167,000 will be used.

The current total mortality estimate for zone 1-5 harvest of up-river spring chinook is 23,221. This provides a total run size forecast of upriver spring chinook of 190,200.

Treaty Indian Spring Chinook Harvest to Date and Projected Impacts

At the updated Run Size the tribes are allowed a 9% harvest rate.

Fishery	Net Counts	Harvest Total Allowable catch = 17,118	Impacts with Run Size = 190,200
Winter Season Platform		NA	~0
Winter Season Gillnet		2	0.0%
Spring Ceremonial Permits		8,066	4.2%
Platform Projection Through May 31.		1200 (1060 through 5/22)	0.6%
1 st Commercial Gillnet Opening 2.5 days.	277	3,172	1.7%
2 nd Commercial Gillnet Opening (5/11-5/14; 3.5 days)	204	2,549	1.3%
3 rd Commercial Gillnet Opening (5/19-5/21; 2.5 days)	130	1,032 (preliminary)	0.5%
Subtotal Impacts to date with platforms through May		16,022	8.4%
4 th Commercial Gillnet Opening (5/26-5/28; 2.5 days)	(Assumes 150)	1,030	0.5%
Projected Total Impacts		17,052	8.97%
Remaining Impacts		65	0.03%

Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Proposal

Recommendation	
Season:	6:00 AM Wednesday May 26 to 6:00 PM Friday May 28 (Sale of Platform/Hook and Line caught fish allowed until 6PM Monday May 31)
Area:	All of Zone 6.
Gear:	There will be no mesh size restriction at this time.
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries remain in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. 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 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may also be retained for subsistence.
Miscellaneous Rules:	The quick reporting rule for Washington buyers will be in effect.

- The Compact previously took the needed action to deal with tributary fishing. The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sale of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries that overlap with this period. The general fishing schedule for these tributaries is:

Tributary	Regularly Scheduled Opening	Allowed Commercial Sales
Wind River	March 8 to June 26 Noon Mon to 6 PM Sat	Each weekly opening Noon Tues. May 11 to 6 PM Monday May 31. (no fishing Sundays)
Drano Lake	Tuesday Nights	Tuesday Nights May 11-12, May 18-19, and May 25-26.
Big White Salmon River	Closed Sundays	Each weekly opening 6:00 AM Tues. May 11 to 6 PM Monday May 31. (no fishing Sundays)
Klikitat River	April 6 to June 5 Noon Tue to 6 PM Sat	Each weekly opening Noon Tues. May 11 to 6 PM Monday May 31. (no fishing Sundays)

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
May 17, 2004