

COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4b
Columbia River Compact
June 8, 2020

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Treaty commercial gillnet Treaty commercial Zone 6 platform and hook and line Treaty commercial platform and hook and line downstream of Bonneville Dam
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent reports for salmon are the 2020 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 7, 2020). Links to the on-line reports are at:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbiariver> and
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Columbia River conditions as measured at Bonneville Dam are cooler with higher flow than the recent 5-year averages for early June. Current outflow is 364 kcfs, compared to the recent 5-year average of 287 kcfs. Water temperature currently measures 58° F which is considerably cooler than the 5-year average of 62° F. Visibility is 3.0 feet, compared to the 5-year average of 4.1 feet. The river stage at Vancouver is currently about 11.0 feet and is forecasted to remain relatively stable for the next several days (Action Stage is 15.0 feet and Flood Stage is 16.0 feet).

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Pre-season salmon and steelhead forecasts applicable to the summer management period are shown in tables 1 and 2 below. Chinook and sockeye forecasts are to the Columbia River mouth and steelhead forecasts are to Bonneville Dam.

Table 1. Columbia River Summer Chinook and Sockeye Forecasts to Columbia River Mouth

		2019 Forecast	2019 Return	2020 Forecast
Summer Chinook - Upper Columbia		36,340	34,619	38,000
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	94,400	63,209	246,300
	Wenatchee	18,300	7,900	39,400
	Okanogan	74,500	54,300	201,800
	Yakima	200	600	2,300
	Deschutes	1,300	200	2,500
	Snake River	100	341	300

Table 2. The 2020 forecasted abundance of summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam

Group	2019 BON Forecast	2019 BON Actual Return	2019 Actual / 2019 Forecast	2020 BON Forecast
Upriver Skamania Index	8,750	3,134	36%	4,400
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	5,600	1,612	29%	2,600
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	5,300	1,495	28%	2,500
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	200	117	59%	100
<i>Natural Origin</i>	3,200	1,522	48%	1,800
A Index	110,200	66,174	60%	85,900
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	76,300	35,874	47%	52,600
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	71,900	33,507	47%	49,900
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	4,500	2,367	53%	2,700
<i>Natural Origin</i>	33,900	30,300	89%	33,300
B Index	8,000	6,292	79%	9,600
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	7,000	5,394	77%	8,200
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	5,900	4,214	71%	6,800
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	1,100	1,180	107%	1,300
<i>Natural Origin</i>	950	899	95%	1,400
Total A/B Index	118,200	72,466	61%	95,500
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	83,400	41,267	49%	60,800
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	77,800	37,721	48%	56,800
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	5,600	3,546	63%	4,000
<i>Natural Origin</i>	34,800	31,199	90%	34,800
All summer steelhead	127,000	75,600	60%	99,900
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	88,900	42,879	48%	63,400
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	83,100	39,216	47%	59,200
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	5,800	3,663	63%	4,100
<i>Natural Origin</i>	38,000	32,721	86%	36,500

Rounded numbers of each component may not sum to the rounded totals.

Upriver Spring and Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook

- Upriver spring and Snake River spring/summer Chinook are counted at Bonneville Dam through June 15. Through June 7 a total of 66,395 adult and 6,307 jack Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The cumulative adult count to date is larger than in 2019, but the cumulative jack count is the smallest since 2006. The estimated passage of clipped and unclipped adults is 45,490 and 20,905, respectively (31.5% unclipped).

- Through June 7 a total of 18,741 adult and 1,896 jack spring/summer chinook have been counted at Lower Granite Dam. The estimated passage of clipped and unclipped adults is 14,076 and 4,665, respectively (25.9% unclipped).
- On June 8, TAC updated the expected run size for Chinook in the spring management period to 79,200 at the Columbia River mouth with an expectation of approximately 77,600 at Bonneville Dam
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Production Advisory has been tracking expectations for reaching spring run chinook hatchery broodstock needs for upriver programs and has indicated that several programs are expecting shortfalls.
- IDFG and the Nez Perce Tribe are projecting that broodstock needs may not be met for all chinook programs in the Clearwater basin, McCall Hatchery, and Pahsimeroi Hatchery.

Steelhead

- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam from April 1 through June 30 or that are caught in this time period in the Bonneville Pool are considered upriver Skamania stock steelhead. Through June 7, there have been a total of 1,212 Skamania steelhead counted at Bonneville including 664 unclipped fish (slightly ahead of 2019). Based on the 10-year average timing, the total run would normally be about 35% complete and the unclipped run would be about 29% complete at Bonneville on June 7. While TAC has not updated the Skamania run size, the tribes project that the total run is tracking less than forecast based on average timing and the unclipped run is tracking similar to forecast.
- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam from July 1 through October 31 are considered part of this year's A and B-Index Steelhead run. Steelhead caught upstream of the Dalles Dam from January 1 through June 30 are considered part of the previous year's A and B-Index steelhead run.

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia Summer Chinook are counted at Bonneville Dam from June 16 through July 31. Chinook salmon passing Bonneville Dam or harvested during this time period are managed as Upper Columbia summer Chinook and are not ESA listed. These fish are destined for mainstem and tributary areas from the Yakima River upstream to the Okanagan. Based on 10-year average run timing the run at Bonneville will be 50% complete on June 30.

Sockeye

- Sockeye caught during any management period all count as part of the current year's sockeye run. All sockeye in fisheries and dam counts are treated as adult fish. Through June 7, a total of 2,311 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is just less than the 10-year average cumulative count to date of 2,728. Based on 10-year average run timing the run is expected less than 1% complete on June 7 and 50% complete on June 26.

Summer Management Limits

- Any sockeye harvested in mainstem fisheries downstream from the mouth of the Snake River count against the Sockeye harvest rate limit. Based on the pre-season forecasts the harvest rate limit will be 7% for treaty fisheries and 1% for non-treaty fisheries. This equates

to harvest limits of 17,241 and 2,463 respectively. Actual harvest limits are determined based on in-season run sizes. TAC expects to begin to update in season run sizes in late June or early July.

- Treaty and non-treaty summer chinook impacts are shared equally. Both PFMC non-treaty ocean fisheries and in-river fisheries count as part of the non-treaty share. Based on current pre-season forecasts, both treaty and non-treaty fisheries expect to be allowed harvest of 6,460 fish each. Actual harvest limits are based on in-season abundance estimates.
- There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in spring or summer season treaty fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is low in the summer and is expected to remain within recent average rates.

SPRING SEASON TREATY FISHERIES

- The Platform and Hook and Line fishery has been open in Zone 6 for subsistence use in all of Zone 6. The platform and hook and line fishery is ongoing. No subsistence fishing occurred downstream of Bonneville.
- Ceremonial Permit fishing has occurred in Zone 6 and to a small degree downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The current and projected catches are shown in Table 3.

Table 3. Treaty Spring Season Harvest

2020 Treaty Indian Spring Season Fisheries			
Fishery	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Platforms Through 6/6	1,790	10	27
Ceremonial Permit Fishery	2,357	0	0
Subtotal to Date	4,147	0	27
Platforms 6/7-15 Projected	140	50	20
Season Total	4,287	50	47
Harvest Rate	5.5%	0.02%	
Allowed	5,544	17,241	
Allowed Harvest Rate	7%	7%	
Remaining	1,257	17,191	

SUMMER SEASON TREATY FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Summer Management Period Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes have agreed to a period for where they may issue ceremonial gillnet permits June 16-June 19 before commercial openings begin. The exact number of permits to be issued has not been determined, but it will be a small portion of the available fish.

- The treaty tribes plan to allow commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish on June 22 and expect sales to run continuously through the summer management period and into the fall.
- The treaty tribes will begin commercial gillnet fisheries on June 22. The tribes plan to authorize one gillnet opening at first but hope to provide opportunity to schedule additional openings.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in Table 4 below. The model assumes average recent set net effort along with average weekly harvest rates. The model will be adjusted to account for actual fishery performance as the season progresses. The projected catches for weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries include the expected catch in the platform and hook and line fishery for those weeks.

Table 4. Projected 2020 Summer Season Treaty Harvest

2020 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	50	na
Platforms June 16-20	na	100	100	10
Permit Fishery	na	500	50	10
Jun 22-24 (2 nights)	275	2,700	3,800	110
Total		3,300	3,950	120
Harvest Rate		8.7%	1.6%	
Allowed at Pre-season Forecast		6,460	17,241	
Allowed Harvest Rate		17.0%	7.0%	
Remaining		3,160	13,291	

Note: projected catches for statistical weeks with gillnet fisheries include platform and hook and line catch for those weeks.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2020 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Season	6 AM Monday June 22 to 6 PM Wednesday, June 24 (2.5 days)
Area	Zone 6
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect during the summer management period.
Gear:	Set and Drift Gill nets with a 7" minimum mesh size restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.

Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.
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- Additionally, the tribes have adopted regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery consistent with the following recommendation. The tribes will authorize sales beginning on June 22. Some tribal regulations may specify that the platform fishery allows commercial sales “until further notice”. The tribes expect to seek consistent state regulations authorizing platform sales at the first fall season Compact hearing to extend sales into the fall management period.

***2020 Treaty Indian Summer Season Commercial Platform and Hook and Line
Zone 6***

Season:	6:00 AM June 22 through 11:59 PM July 31.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and rod and reel with hook and Line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead caught after 6:00 AM on June 22 may be sold or kept for subsistence. Shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may also be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Sanctuaries:	Standard sanctuaries in place for this gear type, except the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not in effect.
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-352-180, and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The tribes may choose to open fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam according to agreements with the States of Oregon and Washington. The harvest downstream of Bonneville is expected to be no more than 50 Chinook and 100 sockeye and very small numbers of steelhead, and these catches are included in the platform/hook and line projections. The catch downstream of Bonneville Dam is counted as part of the total tribal mainstem catch.

***2020 Treaty Fishery - Summer Season Commercial Platform and Hook and Line
Downstream of Bonneville Dam***

Season	6:00 AM June 22 through 11:59 PM July 31 and only during days and times opened under tribal rules.
Area	Area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
Gear:	Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.

Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be retained in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish are not authorized on COE property downstream of Bonneville Dam. Fish must be transported elsewhere for sale. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. COE property at Bonneville Dam has no public trash service and fishers along with any other visitors need to remove any trash with them.

- The Yakama Nation will allow commercial sales of its Zone 6 tributary fisheries for fish caught during open tributary fishing periods that overlap with open sales periods for the mainstem. These are as follows:

<i>2020 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries</i>	
Season:	Beginning 6:00 AM June 22 until further notice, and only during those days and hours when the tributaries listed below are open under lawfully enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members.
Area:	Wind River, Drano Lake and Klickitat River
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and reel with hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence. Sales of fish are allowed after the open period concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period.
Additional:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-352-180, and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through a tribal creel program. Fish ticket data are used as a supplement to the creel program. Set net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. Drift net effort is estimated through the creel monitoring program. Catches for the platform fishery are typically summed with and reported with gillnet catches for any week with a commercial gillnet opening. Any harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam is part of the total allowed catch for any species. Tributary harvest is managed under separate limits.
- Treaty commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal members and their families as well as to communities along the river and on reservations.

Future Meetings

The tribes request another Compact Hearing on June 30.