

COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1a
Columbia River Compact
June 30, 2020

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty commercial gillnet
--

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>

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
STOCK STATUS

- Stock status information is provided in Summer Fact Sheet 1b.

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 updated river mouth run size, the harvest rate limit will be 7% for treaty fisheries. This equates to harvest limits of 17,241 at the current projected run size. Actual harvest limits are determined based on in-season run sizes.
- 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 the updated run size of 65,000 at the Columbia River mouth and expectations for non-Treaty PFMC area ocean impacts, both treaty and non-treaty fisheries expect to be allowed harvest of 18,639 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.

SUMMER SEASON TREATY FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Summer Management Period Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes issued a small number ceremonial gillnet permits June 16-June 19 before commercial openings began.
- The treaty tribes allowed 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 began the first commercial gillnet fishery on June 22.
- Preliminary harvests to date are shown in the table 1 below.

- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in Table 2 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 1. Projected 2020 Summer Season Treaty Harvest and Projected Catches

2020 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	119	na
Platforms June 16-20	na	165	209	22
Permit Fishery (6/16-19)	na	230	100	0
July 22-24 (2 nights) <i>Preliminary</i>	241	2,434	2,051	50
Subtotal to Date		2,829	2,360	72
Harvest Rate		4.4%	1.0%	
Allowed at Current Run Size		18,639	17,241	
Allowed Harvest Rate		28.7%	7.0%	
Harvest Rate to Date				
Remaining to Date		15,810	14,881	

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

Table 2. Expected catches for proposed fisheries

Fishery	Effort (Set Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Subtotal Current Harvest To-Date		2,829	2,360	72
July 1-3 (2.5 days) Projected	250	3,300	2,800	114
July 6--9 (3.5 days) Projected	250	3,200	5,400	220
Total		9,329	10,560	406
Harvest Rate		14.4%	4.3%	
Allowed at Pre-season Forecast		18,639	17,241	
Allowed Harvest Rate		28.7%	7.0%	
Harvest Rate to Date				
Remaining after proposed fisheries		9,310	6,681	

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

<i>2020 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season	6 AM Wednesday July 1 to 6 PM Friday, July 3	(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.	

<i>2020 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season	6 AM Monday July 6 to 6 PM Thursday, July 9	(3.5 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 no 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.	

- 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 in the afternoon of July 8 or on July 9.