

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 8, 2020**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon/steelhead Select Area commercial
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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 online. The most recent reports are the 2020 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 17, 2020) and the 2020 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 7, 2020). Links to the online reports are <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- Columbia River conditions as measured at Bonneville Dam are tracking higher and colder than the recent 5-year average for early-July. Current outflow is 233 kcfs, compared to the recent 5-year average of 161 kcfs. Water temperature currently measures 63° F which is much cooler than the 5-year average of 68° F. Visibility is 5.0 feet, compared to the 5-year average of 6.4 feet. The river stage at Vancouver is currently about 6.2 feet and is forecasted to fluctuate between 4-6 feet through July 12.

STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31 destined for areas above Priest Rapids Dam (PRD). These Chinook are not listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the population is considered healthy.
- Bonneville passage during June 16-July 7 totals 45,167 adult Chinook. The run is typically 50% complete by June 29 (5-year average).
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday, July 6 and maintained the current in-season summer Chinook return expectation of 65,000 Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. TAC’s next scheduled meeting is Monday, July 13.

Summer Steelhead

- Upriver stocks of summer steelhead migrate past Bonneville Dam during April 1 through October 31. Summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam prior to July 1 are considered Skamania stock, and steelhead passing between July 1 and October 31 are classified by length as either A-Index or B-Index.
- Summer steelhead handled in Columbia River fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam are considered lower river stock during May-June and upriver stock during July-October.

- Bonneville Dam passage April 1-June 30 was 4,101 Skamania summer steelhead, which is 93% of the forecast (4,400). A total of 95,500 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year during July through October, which is 44% of the 2010-2019 average of 219,400 fish. Upriver summer steelhead counts started July 1 and through July 7 total 3,285.

Sockeye

- Bonneville Dam passage through July 7 totals 302,096 sockeye. The average 50% passage date is June 24 (recent 5-year) and June 26 (recent 10-year). The 2020 return timing is similar to 2014 which was 50% complete on June 29. The 2014 return timing is the 2nd latest over the last 20 years (2011 50% passage was July 1).
- On Monday, July 6, the *U.S. v. Oregon* TAC reviewed sockeye passage to date and upgraded the sockeye run expectation to 343,400 returning to the Columbia River mouth and 340,000 to Bonneville Dam.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management Agreements

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for treaty Indian and non-treaty summer season fisheries.
- Washington's Upper Columbia Management Agreement (UCMA) provides additional harvest and management guidelines for sharing of upper Columbia summer Chinook among non-treaty recreational and commercial fisheries and non-treaty tribal fisheries.

Summer Chinook

- Mainstem Columbia River Chinook fisheries occurring from June 16 through July 31 are managed based on an escapement goal of 29,000 hatchery- and natural-origin adult upper Columbia summer Chinook, as measured at the Columbia River mouth.
- For 2020, guidance from the directors of WDFW and ODFW allocates sharing of harvestable summer Chinook as 80% to recreational fisheries and 20% to commercial fisheries for non-treaty fisheries downstream of PRD.
- Based on the preseason forecast, the harvest rate schedule in the MA, and guidelines in WA's UCMA, there were not enough summer Chinook allocated to consider targeted summer Chinook fisheries downstream of PRD in 2020. However, the June 29 run upgrade provided substantially more fish are available for harvest in non-treaty fisheries, including those downstream of PRD (see table below).

2020 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocations		
	Preseason	In-season
Run Size	38,000	65,000
Non-treaty Ocean Harvest	3,919	6,704
Total Abundance (w/ocean harvest)	41,919	71,704
Available Treaty Indian Harvest	6,460	18,639
Available Non-Treaty Harvest (in-river)	2,541	11,935
Below Priest Rapids Dam Allocation	254	3,779
<i>Recreational below Bonneville</i>	173	2,570
<i>Recreational BON to PRD</i>	30	454
<i>Non-treaty Commercial</i>	51	756
Above Priest Rapids Dam Allocation	2,286	8,156
<i>Wanapum Tribal</i>	30	176
<i>Colville Tribal</i>	1,601	4,078
<i>Recreational PRD to Chief Joseph Dam</i>	656	3,902

Summer Steelhead

- The non-treaty ESA impact limit on wild summer steelhead is 2% during January through July. For non-treaty fisheries occurring during May and June below Bonneville Dam, wild steelhead impact rates are expected to be 0.51% for 2020 recreational and commercial fisheries combined.
- Due to the low projected returns for upriver summer steelhead, additional protective regulations have been implemented in 2020. In summer-season fisheries in the mainstem between the Astoria/Megler Bridge and the Highway 395 Bridge (near Pasco, WA) the daily bag limit cannot include more than one hatchery steelhead.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at Priest Rapids Dam, which under average migration conditions requires passage of 75,000 fish over Bonneville Dam. The escapement goal for the Wenatchee River system is 23,000 sockeye.
- The impact limit on the Columbia River return of ESA-listed sockeye is 1% for non-treaty fisheries and 7% for treaty Indian fisheries. For 2020, Commission guidance allocates the non-treaty impacts approximately 20% to commercial and 80% to recreational fisheries.

2020 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Columbia River Recreational Fisheries

- Recreational fisheries opened for sockeye and hatchery steelhead on May 16 downstream of the I-5 Bridge and June 16 upstream. Harvest rates for sockeye in the lower river were consistent with expectations through mid-June but increased during June 16-24, resulting in an estimated 3,344 sockeye kept and 108 released downstream of Bonneville Dam through June 24. Since the allowed non-treaty ESA take limit 2,463 mortalities based on the

preseason forecast) had been exceeded, all salmon and steelhead fishing closed effective June 25.

- Chinook retention opened from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco during July 4-8 since sockeye handle was expected to be low enough to not accrue any additional Snake River sockeye mortalities during the five-day opener. Steelhead retention remained closed as a precautionary approach to minimize sockeye handle.
- The estimated catch for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam during July 4-5 included 411 summer Chinook kept (249 released) from 6,036 angler trips. An additional 246 summer steelhead and 80 sockeye were released. In the Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam) recreational fishery, anglers kept an estimated 4 Chinook (6 released) from an estimated 146 angler trips. An additional 214 sockeye and 0 summer steelhead were handled. All of the above Bonneville sockeye handle has occurred in Bonneville Pool, primarily by anglers targeting shad.
- Recreational fisheries currently open in Washington State waters are listed below but catch estimates are not yet available:
 - Upstream of the Interstate 182 Bridge upstream to PRD from July 4-31 for hatchery Chinook retention.
 - PRD to Rock Island Dam from July 4 – August 31 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye
 - Rock Island Dam to Wells Dam from July 4 – October 15 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye
 - Wells Dam to HWY-173 (at Brewster) open July 16 through September 15 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye
 - HWY-173 to Foster Creek open from July 4 through October 15 hatchery Chinook and sockeye
- Total non-treaty summer Chinook mortalities for recreational fisheries from Tongue Point/Rocky Point upstream to PRD through July 8 are expected to be 847 fish, or 28% of available allocation.
- Based on the upgraded sockeye return expectation and actual/projected sockeye handle through July 8, non-treaty fisheries are expected to utilize 100% of the 1.0% allowed ESA take-limit for sockeye. Virtually all of the take has occurred in recreational fisheries (Select Area commercial fisheries have landed one sockeye).
- Given the significant available balance of harvestable summer Chinook, harvest potential in fisheries downstream of PRD continues; however, fishery planning needs to account for ESA-listed Snake River sockeye given that allowed impacts have been fully utilized.

Joint Staff Recommendation - 2020 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Salmonid Fishery

Effective July 9 through July 15, retention of hatchery steelhead and hatchery Chinook (adults and jacks) is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Tongue Point-Rocky Point line upstream to the Highway 395 at Pasco, WA. The daily bag limit includes two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook and steelhead only) of which only one may be a steelhead. All salmon except hatchery Chinook must be released. All other permanent regulations, including bag limits for jack Chinook, apply.

- Catch projections of adult summer Chinook for the proposed fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam are 375 fish kept and 185 released (403 mortalities). Harvest from Bonneville Dam upstream to PRD is not expected to exceed 100 adult Chinook which is well within the available guideline for that river section.
- Combined summer Chinook mortalities in recreational fisheries downstream of PRD through July 15 are expected to be 1,323 fish, or 44% of the available guideline.
- Staff expects sockeye handle will remain low with abundances declining rapidly in the lower river. Also, river flows are projected to drop throughout the month of July which will further reduce bank angling success. However, some handle of sockeye will still occur, primarily by shad anglers in Bonneville Pool. Therefore, to minimize additional sockeye handle, staff recommends that shad angling close in Bonneville Pool.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation - 2020 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Shad Fishery</i>
Effective July 9 through July 31 angling for, and retention of, shad is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam (Bonneville Pool).

- The expected sockeye handle of 212 fish should not result in any additional mortality to ESA-listed Snake River sockeye.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Summer commercial fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point closed July 3. The Youngs Bay summer season continues through July 30.
- Landings increased last week with approximately 50-60 Chinook in Blind/Knappa Slough and 20 Chinook in Tongue Point. Preliminary coded-wire tag analysis indicates the fish being harvested are primarily of Select Area origin.
- Given reasonable catches of local-origin fish and relatively high ex-vessel prices, staff recommends additional Select Area fishing time be considered.
- Under current policy, 20% (1,140 fish) of the overall 2020 white sturgeon harvest guideline (5,720 fish total) is available for commercial harvest, with ~50% (570 fish) for Select Area commercial fisheries. Sturgeon retention in Select Area commercial fisheries has been allowed since the start of the winter season with a three fish per vessel weekly landing limit. Through July 7, 495 fish have been landed, leaving a balance of 75 fish for SAFE commercial fisheries.

Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action. Oregon State waters extend upstream of the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2020 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	Thursday July 9 – Friday July 10	(12 hours)
	Monday July 13 – Tuesday July 14	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 16 – Friday July 17	(12 hours)
	Monday July 20 – Tuesday July 21	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 23 – Friday July 24	(12 hours)

	Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.
Area:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are open. The lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The three white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-352-315.

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area

- All waters in the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area are under concurrent Oregon and Washington jurisdiction and require Compact action.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2020 Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	Thursday July 9 – Friday July 10	(12 hours)
	Monday July 13 – Tuesday July 14	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 16 – Friday July 17	(12 hours)
	Monday July 20 – Tuesday July 21	(12 hours)
	Thursday July 23 – Friday July 24	(12 hours)
	Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.	
Area:	Tongue Point and South Channel fishing areas are open. The lower boundary of the Tongue Point fishing area is defined as a line from a marker midway between the red USCG navigation light #2 at the tip of Tongue Point and the downstream (northern most) pier (#8) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility, to the flashing green USCG navigation light #3 on the rock jetty at the west end of Mott Island (fall boundary).	

Gear:	<p>9³/₄-inch maximum mesh size restriction</p> <p>In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom.</p> <p>In the South Channel fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. A maximum of three white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The three white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.</p>
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect.</p> <p>Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210.</p> <p>A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers pursuant to WAC 220-352-315.</p>

- White sturgeon landings for the proposed fisheries are projected to be approximately 50 fish, which should result in the Select Area commercial sub-allocation being reached by the end of the summer season.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No hearings are currently scheduled. The Joint Staff will schedule additional hearings as needed. The first fall 2020 Compact is tentatively planned for Thursday July 30 at 10 AM via teleconference to consider treaty and non-treaty commercial fisheries.