

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3b**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**July 15, 2020**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Mainstem recreational salmon/steelhead
--	--

*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**

- River conditions are presented in Summer Fact Sheet 3a.

**STOCK STATUS**

***Upper Columbia Summer Chinook***

- Passage of upper Columbia River summer Chinook at Bonneville Dam totals 52,606 adults through July 14. 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 13 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 20.

***Summer Steelhead***

- Bonneville Dam passage of Skamania summer steelhead (April 1-June 30) was 4,101 fish, 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 14 total 8,795 fish.

***Sockeye***

- Bonneville Dam passage through July 14 totals 330,367 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 2<sup>nd</sup> latest over the last 20 years (2011 50% passage was July 1).
- On Monday, July 13, the *U.S. v. Oregon* TAC reviewed sockeye passage to date and maintained the current sockeye run expectations of 343,400 fish returning to the Columbia River mouth and 340,000 fish 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 Priest Rapids Dam (PRD).
- Based on the preseason forecast, the harvest rate schedule in the MA, and guidelines in the WDFW 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 for harvest in non-treaty fisheries, including those downstream of PRD (see table below).

<b>2020 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Allocations</b>		
	<b>Preseason</b>	<b>In-season</b>
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	<b>254</b>	<b>3,779</b>
<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	<b>2,286</b>	<b>8,156</b>
<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 when open.

### *Sockeye*

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at PRD, 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. All salmon and steelhead fishing in the mainstem was closed effective June 25 when it was estimated that the allowed non-treaty ESA take limit of 2,463 sockeye mortalities (based on the preseason forecast) had been exceeded.
- Chinook retention opened from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco during July 4-8, and was extended to include July 9-15, since sockeye handle was expected to be low enough to not accrue any additional Snake River sockeye mortalities. Steelhead retention remained closed during both periods, and shad retention was prohibited in the Bonneville Pool from July 9-15 to further minimize sockeye handle.
- The estimated catch for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam during July 4-12 includes 938 summer Chinook kept (623 released) from approximately 16,780 angler trips. An estimated 1,017 summer steelhead and 199 sockeye were released during this timeframe.
- In the Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam) recreational fishery, anglers kept 8 Chinook (6 released), 23 sockeye (237 released), and 0 steelhead (0 released) through July 12 from an estimated 1,002 angler trips.
- Catch in the Hanford Reach recreational fishery through July 12 includes 113 summer Chinook adults kept (175 released), 5,560 sockeye kept (7 released), and 12 steelhead released.
- Total non-treaty summer Chinook mortalities for recreational fisheries from Tongue Point/Rocky Point upstream to PRD through July 15 are projected to be 1,332 fish, or 44% of available allocation.
- Upstream of PRD, projected catch in the recreational fishery through July 15 includes 2,323 summer Chinook adults kept (127 released), 7,892 sockeye kept (18 released), and 0 steelhead. Recreational fisheries currently open, or planned to open, in Washington State waters are listed below:
  - Upstream of the Interstate 182 Bridge upstream to PRD from July 4-31 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye 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.
- Wanapum tribal subsistence fisheries from June 23 to July 10 have harvested 0 adult summer Chinook and 146 sockeye. A harvest estimate for the Colville tribal subsistence fishery is not yet available.
- Based on the sockeye return expectation and actual/projected sockeye handle through July 15, non-treaty fisheries are expected to remain at 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 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 16 through July 31, 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.

- The recommended fishery is expected to accrue an additional 500 adult summer Chinook mortalities.
- Combined summer Chinook mortalities in recreational fisheries downstream of PRD through July 31 are expected to be approximately 1,825 fish, which is 60% of the available guideline. Staff expects sockeye handle will remain low with abundances continuing to decline. In 2014, sockeye passage at Bonneville Dam was 96% complete as of July 15. River flows are projected to drop throughout the month of July which will further reduce bank angling success.
- Even though shad fishing in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam is scheduled to re-open July 16, sockeye handle in Zone 6 recreational fisheries is expected to be minimal due to low effort and the waning shad run.
- The expected cumulative sockeye handle of 34 fish associated with the proposed fishery should not result in any additional mortality to ESA-listed Snake River sockeye.
- Fall fisheries begin August 1 based upon the 2020 pre-season plan developed during the North of Falcon and Pacific Fishery Management Council process. Regulations are available on agency websites.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The first fall season Compact Hearing is scheduled for Thursday July 30 at 10 AM via teleconference to consider treaty and non-treaty commercial fisheries.