

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 3**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**June 8, 2021**

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Spring and Summer Treaty commercial Zone 6 platform and hook and line Spring and Summer Treaty commercial platform and hook and line downstream of Bonneville Dam Summer Treaty commercial gillnet
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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 2021 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 4, 2021). Links to the on-line reports are at:  
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and  
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

Columbia River conditions as measured at Bonneville Dam are similar in temperature but with lower flows than the recent 5-year averages for early June. Current outflow is 284.8 kcfs, compared to the recent 5-year average of 337 kcfs. The recent 5-day average water temperature currently measures 60.9° F which is just above than the 5-year average of approximately 60.0° F<sup>1</sup>.

**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**

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted Annual Returns</i> *				
		2020 Forecast	2020 Return	2021 Forecast
<b>Summer Chinook</b>	<b>Upper Columbia</b>	<b>38,000</b>	<b>65,494</b>	<b>78,800</b>
<b>Sockeye</b>	<b>Total Sockeye</b>	<b>246,300</b>	<b>345,018</b>	<b>155,600</b>
	Wenatchee	39,400	56,111	27,300
	Okanagan	201,800	237,667	127,300
	Yakima River	2,500	11,790	200
	Deschutes River	300	na	100
	Snake River	2,300	734	700

<sup>1</sup> Temperature data from: <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/ops/temp/202106.lcol.html>

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

	<b>2020 Forecast</b>	<b>2020 Actual Return</b>	<b>2020 Actual / 2020 Forecast</b>	<b>2021 Forecast</b>
<b>Skamania</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>4,101</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>4,600</b>
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	2,600	2,047	79%	2,500
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	2,500	1,591	64%	2,200
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	100	456	456%	300
<i>Natural Origin</i>	1,800	2,054	114%	2,100
<b>A Index</b>	<b>85,900</b>	<b>75,392</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>89,200</b>
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	52,600	47,260	90%	61,700
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	49,900	42,542	85%	57,700
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	2,700	4,718	175%	4,000
<i>Natural Origin</i>	33,300	28,132	84%	27,500
<b>B Index</b>	<b>9,600</b>	<b>32,199</b>	<b>335%</b>	<b>7,600</b>
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	8,200	26,921	328%	6,600
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	6,800	23,001	338%	5,600
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	1,300	3,920	302%	1,000
<i>Natural Origin</i>	1,400	5,278	377%	1,000
<b>Total A/B Index</b>	<b>95,500</b>	<b>107,591</b>	<b>113%</b>	<b>96,800</b>
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	60,800	74,181	122%	68,300
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	56,800	65,543	115%	63,300
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	4,000	8,638	216%	5,000
<i>Natural Origin</i>	34,800	33,410	96%	28,500
<b>All summer steelhead</b>	<b>99,900</b>	<b>111,692</b>	<b>112%</b>	<b>101,400</b>
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	63,400	76,228	120%	70,800
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	59,200	67,134	113%	65,500
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	4,100	9,094	222%	5,300
<i>Natural Origin</i>	36,500	35,464	97%	30,600

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 74,976 adult and 13,259 jack Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The cumulative adult count to date is only the 8<sup>th</sup> largest in the last 10 years, but the cumulative jack count is the fifth largest in the last 10 years. The estimated passage of clipped and unclipped adults is 56,118 and 18,858, respectively (25.2% unclipped).
- Through June 7 a total of 26,716 adult and 5,944 jack spring/summer chinook have been counted at Lower Granite Dam. The estimated passage of clipped and unclipped adults is 21,722 and 4,994, respectively (18.7% unclipped). The unclipped counts include some unclipped hatchery origin fish.

- On June 8, TAC met and maintained the expected run size for Chinook in the spring management period of 91,800 at the Columbia River mouth with an expectation of approximately 87,200 at Bonneville Dam.

### ***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 600 Skamania steelhead counted at Bonneville including 322 unclipped fish. These are the lowest steelhead counts on record. 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. Based on 10-year average run timing the Skamania run would be 50% complete on June 17. While TAC has not updated the Skamania run size, the tribes project that the total run and the unclipped run are tracking much less than forecast based on average timing.
- 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 River as well as Chief Joseph Hatchery. 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 459 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is the second lowest count in the last ten years. Based on 10-year average run timing the run is expected less than 1% complete on June 7 and 50% complete on June 27.

### ***Spring Management Limits***

- The harvest rate schedule in the Management Agreement determines the allowed upriver spring and Snake River spring summer chinook harvest rate limit. There is a provision that if the Snake River natural origin run size is less than 10% of the total run that this run size will determine the allowed harvest rate. Because of concerns that this provision may be in effect this year, the tribes are managing for a 7% harvest rate which equates to an allowed catch of 6,426 chinook.
- There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in spring season treaty fisheries, but harvest of steelhead is low in the summer and is expected to remain within recent average rates.

**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 10,892 and 1,556 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 24,077 fish each. Actual harvest limits are based on in-season abundance estimates.
- There is no specific harvest rate limit for steelhead in 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 has occurred yet this year downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- 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. The projection includes doubling current effort levels after June 8 which the tribes consider to be very conservative. No sockeye have been observed in the tribal catch to date.

Table 3. Treaty Spring Season Harvest

<b>2021 Treaty Indian Spring Season Fisheries</b>			
Fishery	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Platforms Through 6/5	1,860	0	60
Ceremonial Permit Fishery	2,050	0	6
Fish retained from test fishery	13	0	0
Subtotal to Date	3,923	0	66
Platforms 6/6-15 Projected	500	80	20
Season Total	4,423	80	86
Harvest Rate	4.8%	0.1%	
<b>Allowed</b>	6,426	10,892	
<b>Allowed Harvest Rate</b>	7%	7%	
Remaining	1,257	10,812	

## SUMMER SEASON TREATY FISHERIES

### *Treaty Mainstem Summer Management Period Commercial Fisheries*

- The treaty tribes plan to allow commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish on June 8 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 16. 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 2021 Summer Season Treaty Harvest

2021 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries									
Fishery					Adult Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead
Projected Spring season through 6/15					na		80	0.1%	na
Week	Gillnet Fisheries	Start	End	Effort (Set Nets)					
25	Projected	16-Jun	19-Jun	320	6,300	8.0%	2,400	1.5%	140
26	Projected	21-Jun	24-Jun	340	7,600	9.6%	3,500	2.2%	150
Total					13,900	17.6%	5,900	3.8%	290
<b>Allowed at Pre-season Forecast</b>					<b>24,077</b>	<b>30.6%</b>	<b>10,892</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	
Remaining After Planned Fisheries					10,117	12.9%	4,992	3.2%	

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:
  - The tribes have adopted regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery consistent with the following plan. The tribes will authorize sales for fish caught after 9:00 PM on June 8 (today). 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.

<b><i>2021 Treaty Indian Spring and Summer Season Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Zone 6</i></b>	
<b>Season:</b>	9:00 PM Tuesday June 8 through 11:59 PM July 31.
<b>Area:</b>	Zone 6
<b>Gear:</b>	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and rod and reel with hook and Line.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead caught after 9:00 PM on June 8 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.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Standard closed areas for these gear types.
<b>Additional:</b>	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 in both the remainder of the spring and in the summer management period. 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.

<b><i>2021 Treaty Fishery – Spring and Summer Season Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Downstream of Bonneville Dam</i></b>	
<b>Season</b>	9:00 PM Tuesday June 8 through 11:59 PM July 31 and only during days and times opened under tribal rules.
<b>Area</b>	Area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
<b>Gear:</b>	Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp caught after 9:00 PM on June 8 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.
<b>Additional:</b>	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:

<b>2021 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries</b>	
<b>Season:</b>	Beginning 9:00 PM Tuesday June 8 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.
<b>Area:</b>	Wind River, Drano Lake and Klickitat River
<b>Gear:</b>	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and reel with hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	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.
<b>Additional:</b>	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.

<b>2021 Treaty Indian Summer Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</b>	
<b>Season</b>	6 AM Wednesday June 16 to 6 PM Saturday, June 19 (3.5 days) 6 AM Monday June 21 to 6 PM Thursday, June 24 (3.5 days)
<b>Area</b>	Zone 6
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	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.
<b>Gear:</b>	Set and Drift Gill nets with a 7" minimum mesh size restriction
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	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.
<b>Additional:</b>	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 during the week of June 21 to consider additional commercial gillnet openings that may begin on June 28.