

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 1, 2021

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	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 2021 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 14, 2021) and the 2021 Spring/Summer salmon, steelhead, and other species report (February 4, 2021) available at: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> or <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of July 1, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 210 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 237 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 68.0°F compared to a five-year average of 64.5°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.8 feet which is greater than the five-year average of 5.2 feet.

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 16-30 totals 30,970 adult Chinook. The run is typically 52% complete as of June 30 (10-year average).
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) downgraded the current return expectation on June 30 to 59,600 adult summer Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. TAC's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday July 6 to review the run.

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.
- Bonneville Dam passage during April 1-June 30 totals 1,917 Skamania summer steelhead, which is the lowest count for this run and 42% of the forecast (4,600). A total of 96,800 upriver summer steelhead are expected to pass Bonneville Dam during July through October this year, which is 48% of the 2011-2020 average of 201,400 fish.

Sockeye

- Bonneville Dam passage through June 30 totals 95,406 sockeye. The average 50% passage date is June 27 (recent 10-year).

- Earlier this week, the *U.S. v. Oregon* TAC reviewed sockeye passage to date and did not modify the preseason sockeye run forecast of 155,600 returning to the Columbia River mouth. TAC's next scheduled meeting is Tuesday July 6 and is expected to update the run size.

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 2021, 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.
- The non-treaty allocation includes the following fisheries:
 - Ocean fisheries south of Canada.
 - Recreational fisheries from the Astoria/Megler Bridge upstream to Chief Joseph Dam.
 - Commercial fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam (Zones 1-5).
 - Colville and Wanapum tribal fisheries.

Sockeye

- The management goal for upper Columbia River sockeye is 65,000 fish at PRD, which typically 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.

2021 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Summer commercial fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel are scheduled to close after July 2. The Youngs Bay summer season continues through July 30.
- Through June 27, 5,787 Chinook have been landed in Select Area fisheries. Landings remained relatively strong last week in Blind/Knappa Slough with approximately 90 Chinook landed per opener. Chinook landings in Tongue Point/South Channel have been low this year but sturgeon landings have improved recently. Preliminary coded-wire tag analysis indicates the Chinook being harvested are primarily of Oregon Select Area origin.

- Given reasonable catches of local-origin fish and decent ex-vessel prices, staff recommends additional Select Area fishing time be considered.
- Under current policies, 20% (1,230 fish) of the overall 2021 white sturgeon harvest guideline (6,160 fish total) is available for commercial harvest. 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 June 27, 398 fish have been landed out of the 615 guideline for Select Areas.

Blind/Knappa Slough Select Areas

- 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: 2021 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	Monday July 5 – Tuesday July 6 (12 hours) Thursday July 8 – Friday July 9 (12 hours) Monday July 12 – Tuesday July 13 (12 hours) Thursday July 15 – Friday July 16 (12 hours)
	Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.
Area:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough fishing areas. The lower (downstream) boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is defined by a line projecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwestern tip of Karlson Island through regulatory markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore.
Gear:	9 ³ / ₄ -inch maximum mesh size restriction. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on headline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the headline is allowed. Nets not specifically authorized for use 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.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except Chum), 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 white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all ongoing Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours. Blind Slough and Knappa Slough have unique catch reporting codes to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for these fisheries.

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation: 2021 Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	Monday July 5 – Tuesday July 6 (12 hours) Thursday July 8 – Friday July 9 (12 hours) Monday July 12 – Tuesday July 13 (12 hours) Thursday July 15 – Friday July 16 (12 hours)
	Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM.
Area:	Tongue Point and South Channel fishing areas. The lower (downstream) boundary of the Tongue Point fishing area is defined as a line from a regulatory marker (46°12'31.1"N latitude 123°45'34.0"W longitude) on the eastern shore of Tongue Point 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.
Gear:	9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear is restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area, gear is restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and no weight restriction on the leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a vessel if properly stored, however, unstored gillnets legal for use in South Channel may be onboard. 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 (except Chum), 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 white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all ongoing Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours.

- These season extensions will provide additional access to late-returning Select Area spring Chinook which are still present in the fishing areas, as well as some opportunity to access the Select Area commercial white sturgeon sub-allocation.
- In accordance with OAR 635-006-0210(2)(h) and WACs 220-352-040(1)(m) and 220-301-010(11)(a-b), commercial fishers are expected, and fish dealers are required, to report landings separately using appropriate area coding.

- The catch expectation is about 300 Chinook and 50 white sturgeon for the proposed season modifications.
- These season modifications do not change the expected Select Area impacts to sockeye, A-Index and B-Index steelhead outlined in the 2021 spring Joint Staff Report (0.01%, 0.01%, 0.01%, respectively). The expected total harvest of summer Chinook in combined Select Area summer fisheries is approximately 50 fish.

Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Summer Chinook Fishery

- The recreational summer Chinook fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam opened June 16 and is scheduled to be open for retention of hatchery adult Chinook through July 5. Through June 27, anglers have kept 1,631 adult Chinook (679 released), 289 sockeye (105 released), and 303 hatchery steelhead (77 released) from 17,019 trips.
- From Bonneville Dam to PRD, the summer Chinook fishery opened June 16 and is scheduled to be open for retention of hatchery adult Chinook through July 31 (end of summer management period). Through June 27, anglers have kept 60 adult Chinook (32 released), 828 sockeye (4 released), and 0 hatchery steelhead (2 released) from 3,289 trips. To note, fisheries downstream of Highway 395 have only kept 6 sockeye (4 released) and 0 hatchery steelhead (2 released).
- Based on fishery performance to date, the LCR fishery will close for adult hatchery Chinook retention on July 6 as scheduled. Hatchery steelhead, sockeye, and hatchery jack Chinook retention is scheduled to remain open through July 31. The Bonneville to PRD recreational fishery is expected to remain open as scheduled through July 31. Joint staff will distribute a fishery update next week.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled for 9:00 AM July 8 to consider summer-season Treaty commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.