

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4a**  
**Columbia River Compact Hearing**  
**June 2, 2022**

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Spring and Summer Treaty commercial Zone 6 platform and hook and line Summer Treaty commercial platform and hook and line downstream of Bonneville Dam Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fisheries 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 online. The most recent report is the 2022 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2022) available at:*

*<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

- Please refer to Fact Sheet 4b for river conditions.

**STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***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 1 a total of 149,031 adult and 19,941 jack Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The cumulative adult and jack counts are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> largest to date in the last 10 years, respectively. The estimated passage of clipped adults is 114,618 and unclipped adults is 34,413 (23.1% unclipped).
- Through June 1 a total of 49,006 adult and 5,466 jack spring/summer Chinook have been counted at Lower Granite Dam. The estimated passage of clipped and unclipped adults is 36,973 and 9,156, respectively (24.6% unclipped). The unclipped counts include some unclipped hatchery origin fish.
- On May 31, TAC met and upgraded the expected run size for upriver spring Chinook in the spring management period of 192,600 at the Columbia River mouth with an expectation of approximately 181,600 at Bonneville Dam.

***Upper Columbia Summer Chinook, Sockeye, and Steelhead***

- 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>				
		2021 Forecast	2021 Return	2022 Forecast
<b>Summer Chinook</b>	<b>Upper Columbia</b>	<b>78,800</b>	<b>56,800</b>	<b>56,300</b>
<b>Sockeye</b>	<b>Total Sockeye</b>	<b>155,600</b>	<b>152,309</b>	<b>198,700</b>
	Wenatchee	27,300	41,219	19,200
	Okanagan	127,300	105,493	175,700
	Yakima River	200	3,531	3,500
	Deschutes River	100	n/a	100
	Snake River	700	953	200

**Table 2. The 2022 forecasted abundance of summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam**

Group	2021 BON Forecast	2021 BON Return	2021 Return as a percent of the Forecast	2022 BON Forecast
<b>Skamania</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>1,917</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>3,100</b>
Total Hatchery	2,500	798	32%	1,500
Clip Hatchery	2,200	798	36%	1,300
Unclip Hatchery	300	0	0%	200
Wild	2,100	1,119	53%	1,600
<b>A-Index</b>	<b>89,200</b>	<b>56,256</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>81,000</b>
Total Hatchery	61,700	37,185	60%	52,900
Clip Hatchery	57,700	35,723	62%	49,800
Unclip Hatchery <sup>a</sup>	4,000	1,462	37%	3,100
Wild <sup>a</sup>	27,500	19,071	69%	28,100
<b>B-Index</b>	<b>7,600</b>	<b>11,496</b>	<b>151%</b>	<b>15,600</b>
Total Hatchery	6,600	9,806	149%	13,700
Clip Hatchery	5,600	8,505	152%	11,600
Unclip Hatchery <sup>b</sup>	1,000	1,301	130%	2,100
Wild <sup>b</sup>	1,000	1,690	169%	1,900
<b>Total A/B Index</b>	<b>96,800</b>	<b>67,752</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>96,600</b>
Total Hatchery	68,300	46,991	69%	66,600
Clip Hatchery	63,300	44,228	70%	61,400
Unclip Hatchery <sup>c</sup>	5,000	2,763	55%	5,200
Wild <sup>c</sup>	28,500	20,761	73%	30,000
<b>All summer steelhead</b>	<b>101,400</b>	<b>69,669</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>99,700</b>
Total Hatchery	70,800	47,789	67%	68,100
Clip Hatchery	65,500	45,026	69%	62,700
Unclip Hatchery	5,300	2,763	52%	5,400
Wild	30,600	21,880	72%	31,600

Rounded numbers of each component may not sum to the rounded totals.

## ***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 1, there have been a total of 1,197 Skamania steelhead counted at Bonneville Dam including 744 unclipped fish. The total count is the fourth lowest steelhead count to date in the last 10 years but over twice last year's count to date. The unclipped count is the fourth highest count to date in the last 10 years and 126% of the 10-year average. Based on the 10-year average timing, the total run would be expected to be about 29% complete and the unclipped run would be about 25% complete at Bonneville on June 1. Based on 10-year average run timing the Skamania run would be 50% complete on June 18. While TAC has not updated the Skamania run size, the tribes project that the total run and the unclipped run are tracking higher 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 would be expected to 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 1, a total of 136 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is the fourth highest count in the last ten years. Based on 10-year average run timing the run is expected less than 1% complete on June 1 and 50% complete on June 26.

## ***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. Based on the current projected river mouth run size, the treaty fishery manages for a 9.1% harvest rate with an allowed total harvest of 17,554 adult Chinook. There is a provision that if the Snake River natural origin run size is less than 10% of the total run, this will determine the allowed harvest rate. However, the Snake River natural origin run size would need to be less than 14,100 before the harvest rate would be reduced which is unlikely at this time.
- 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 13,909 and 1,987 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 15,835 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. Limited permit fishing and fishing under special regulations has occurred this year downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Ceremonial Permit fishing has occurred in Zone 6.
- 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.

**Table 3. Treaty Spring Season Harvest**

<b>Treaty Fisheries</b>	<b>Chinook Catch to Date</b>	<b>Harvest Rates</b>	<b>Summer Steelhead Catch to Date</b>
Permit downstream of Bonneville	275	0.1%	0
Zone 6 Permit	3,948	2.0%	6
Zone 6 Platform	8,870	4.6%	60
Fish retained from Test fishery	9	0.0%	0
<b>Total to Date (through 5/28)</b>	<b>13,102</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	66
Allowed Catch at Updated Run Size (Assuming 9.1% limit)	17,554	9.1%	
<b>Remaining Available harvest</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>2.3%</b>	

- Zero sockeye have been reported harvested to date.
- Based on past year’s Zone 6 platform catch data, the highest estimate of future catch would be approximately 3,000. Tribal staff currently estimate that based on the performance of the platform fishery to date, that the platform fishery will harvest approximately 1,400 additional fish without commercial sales and possibly 2,000 to 3,000 additional fish with the addition of commercial sales. These projections are well within the 4,452 fish remaining available and leave a buffer in case the run comes in somewhat less than currently projected. Tribal staff

estimate an additional 40 steelhead and 80 sockeye may be harvested in spring season fisheries through June 15.

### 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 4 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 three gillnet openings to start the season.
- 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. Historically, the summer model tends to over predict harvest early in the season which is viewed as a precautionary approach.

**Table 4. Projected 2022 Summer Season Treaty Harvest**

2022 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries									
Fishery					Adult Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead
Projected Spring season through 6/15					na		80	0.0%	na
Week	Gillnet Fisheries	Start	End	Effort (Set Nets)					
25	Projected	16-Jun	18-Jun	320	3,900	6.9%	2,400	1.2%	60
26	Projected	20-Jun	24-Jun	320	6,000	10.6%	4,300	2.1%	80
27	Projected	27-Jun	1-Jul	310	4,400	7.8%	4,500	2.3%	120
Total					14,300	25.4%	11,200	5.6%	260
<b>Allowed at Pre-season Forecast</b>					<b>15,835</b>	<b>28.1%</b>	<b>13,909</b>	<b>7.0%</b>	
Remaining after planned fisheries					1,535	2.7%	2,709	1.4%	

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

- The modeled remaining Chinook and sockeye after these planned openings would be sufficient to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the summer management period.
- As a test of what the planned fisheries would catch if the run sizes are less than expected, tribal staff modeled Chinook and sockeye impacts assuming run sizes 20% less than the preseason forecasts. Both Chinook and sockeye impacts would still be within the allowed limits under these conditions.

- 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 6:00 AM on June 4 (Saturday) through July 31. 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>Recommendation: 2022 Zone 6 Spring and Summer Season Treaty Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Fishery</i></b>	
<b>Season:</b>	Fish harvested after 6:00 AM Saturday June 4 through 11:59 PM July 31 may be sold.
<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 6:00 AM on June 4 may be sold or kept for subsistence. Shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may also be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. 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.
<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 the summer management period. These catches are included in the total weekly projections. The catch downstream of Bonneville Dam is counted as part of the total tribal mainstem catch.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2022 Summer Season Treaty Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Downstream of Bonneville Dam Fishery</i></b>	
<b>Season</b>	6:00 AM Thursday June 16 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 6:00 AM on June 16 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><i>Recommendation: 2022 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery</i></b>	
<b>Season:</b>	Beginning 6:00 AM Saturday June 4 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.

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

<b><i>Recommendation: 2022 Summer Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i></b>	
<b>Season</b>	6:00 AM Thursday June 16 to 6:00 PM Saturday, June 18 (2.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday June 20 to 6:00 PM Friday, June 24 (4.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday June 27 through 6:00 PM Friday, July 1 (4.5 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.

- If early summer catches or run size information warrant, action could be taken to modify the third summer commercial gillnet period if needed.
- 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 27 to consider additional commercial gillnet openings that may begin on July 4 assuming sufficient impacts remain.