

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT – SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact Hearing
June 5, 2024

Fisheries Under Consideration: Summer Treaty commercial gillnet 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
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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 2024 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 1, 2024) available at:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/compact/other-information#2024> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of June 4, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 215 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 308 kcfs for the same time period.
- The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 59°F which is the same as the five-year average.

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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. Upper Columbia River Summer Chinook and Sockeye Forecasts to the Columbia River Mouth

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted Annual Returns *				
		2023 Forecast	2023 Return	2024 Forecast
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	85,400	54,722	52,600
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	234,500	329,040	401,700
	Wenatchee	44,300	146,875	97,000
	Okanagan	187,400	179,655	288,700
	Yakima River	100	443	12,100
	Deschutes River	100	68	100
	Snake River	2,600	1,999	3,800

Table 2. Summer Steelhead Forecasts to Bonneville Dam

	2023 Forecast	2023 Actual Return	2023 Actual / 2023 Forecast	2024 Forecast
Skamania	4,400	3,204	73%	4,000
Total Hatchery	2,300	1,813	79%	2,200
Clip Hatchery	2,100	1,706	81%	2,150
Unclip Hatchery	200	107	54%	50
Wild	2,100	1,391	66%	1,800
A-Index	55,400	90,900	164%	89,900
Total Hatchery	38,100	60,307	158%	57,500
Clip Hatchery	35,700	57,109	160%	53,900
Unclip Hatchery	2,400	3,198	133%	3,600
Wild	17,300	30,593	177%	32,400
B-Index	8,000	19,787	247%	32,200
Total Hatchery	6,700	18,171	271%	28,200
Clip Hatchery	6,000	14,652	244%	24,900
Unclip Hatchery	700	3,519	503%	3,300
Wild	1,300	1,616	124%	4,000
Total A-/B-Index	63,400	110,687	175%	122,100
Total Hatchery	44,800	78,478	175%	85,700
Clip Hatchery	41,700	71,761	172%	78,800
Unclip Hatchery	3,100	6,717	217%	6,900
Wild	18,600	32,209	173%	36,400
Total summer steelhead	67,800	113,891	168%	126,200
Total Hatchery	47,100	80,291	170%	87,900
Clip Hatchery	43,800	73,467	168%	80,950
Unclip Hatchery	3,300	6,824	207%	6,950
Wild	20,700	33,600	162%	38,250

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 29.

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 4, a total

of 282 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is the third lowest count in the last ten years. Based on 10-year average run timing the run is expected less than 1% complete on June 4 and 50% complete on June 27.

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 3, there have been a total of 1,781 upriver Skamania steelhead counted at Bonneville Dam including 953 unclipped fish. The total count is the 4th largest count to date in the last 10 years and the unclipped count is the largest count to date in the last 10 years. 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 26% complete at Bonneville on June 4. Based on 10-year average run timing the total Skamania run would be 50% complete on June 19. 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.

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. Based on the pre-season forecast this equates to harvest limits of 28,119 and 4,017 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 13,411 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.

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 17 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 17. As a precautionary step, the tribes plan to authorize just two initial gillnet openings to start the season.
- Fisheries have been modeled and projected catches are shown in Table 3 below. The model assumes the average recent set net effort but with highest recent 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. The model is using maximum recent harvest rates (calculated as catch per net per day divided by the abundance). The tribes are planning fisheries using conservative estimates to minimize risk catches being significantly higher than expected.

Table 3. Projected 2024 Summer Season Treaty Harvest Using Pre-Season Forecast Abundance

2024 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries									
Fishery					Adult Chinook	Harvest Rate	Sockeye	Harvest Rate	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15					na	na	0	0.0%	na
Week	Gillnet Fisheries	Start	End	Effort (Set Nets)					
25	Projected	17-Jun	19-Jun	240	4,120	7.8%	5,700	1.4%	180
26	Projected	24-Jun	27-Jun	240	6,850	13.0%	12,600	3.1%	200
27	Projected			Platform only	800	1.5%	2,100	0.5%	170
28	Projected			Platform only	190	0.4%	1,250	0.3%	170
29	Projected			Platform only	190	0.4%	510	0.1%	140
30	Projected			Platform only	130	0.2%	210	0.1%	180
31	Projected			Platform only	70	0.1%	100	0.0%	170
Total					12,350	23.5%	22,470	5.6%	1,210
Allowed at Pre-Season Forecast					13,411	25.5%	28,119	7.0%	
Remaining After Planned Fisheries					1,061	2.0%	5,649	1.4%	

- The model projects platform and hook and line fisheries for weeks without current planned gillnet fisheries. With the modeled gillnet fisheries, the remaining Chinook and sockeye after these planned gillnet openings would be sufficient to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the summer management period leaving a small buffer to address uncertainties in catch projections.
- 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 Monday 17 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.

Recommendation: 2024 Zone 6 Summer Season Treaty Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Fishery

Season:	Fish harvested after 6:00 AM Monday June 17 through 11:59 PM Wednesday July 31 may be sold.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and rod and reel with hook and Line.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead caught after 6:00 AM on June 17 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.
Sanctuaries:	Standard closed areas for these gear types.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be 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 100 Chinook and 300 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.

Recommendation: 2024 Summer Season Treaty Commercial Platform and Hook and Line Downstream of Bonneville Dam Fishery

Season	6:00 AM Monday June 17 through 11:59 PM Wednesday July 31 and only during days and times opened under tribal rules.
Area	Area defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
Gear:	Hook and line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp caught after 6:00 AM on June 17 may 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 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.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- 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:

Recommendation: 2024 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery	
Season:	Beginning 6:00 AM Monday June 17 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.
Area:	Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River
Gear:	Hoop Nets/Bag Nets, Dip Nets, and Rod and reel with hook and Line. Gillnets may only be used in Drano Lake.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Sales of fish are allowed after the open period concludes, as long as the fish were landed during the open period. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

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

Recommendation: 2023 Summer Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Season	6:00 AM Monday June 17 to 6:00 PM Wednesday, June 19 (2.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday June 24 to 6:00 PM Thursday, June 27 (3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6
Sanctuaries:	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.
Gear:	Set and Drift Gill nets with a 7” minimum mesh size restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may 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.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above 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 may request another Compact Hearing on June 27 or 28 to consider additional commercial gillnet openings that may begin on July 1 assuming sufficient impacts remain.