

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 18, 2024

<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 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/reports> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of June 17, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 199 kcfs compared to the five-year average of 264 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 60°F compared to the five-year average of 61°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.4 feet compared to the five-year average of 4.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- Chinook passing Bonneville Dam from June 16 through July 31, or harvested during this period, are managed as upper Columbia summer Chinook. Upper Columbia River summer Chinook populations 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.
- The 2024 forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 52,600 adult fish. Through June 17, a total of 3,946 adult summer Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Based on the recent 10-year average run timing the return to Bonneville Dam is 50% complete by June 29. The jack count to date is 628 fish.

Summer Steelhead

- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam between April 1 and June 30 (including Bonneville Pool harvest during this timeframe) are considered upriver Skamania-stock steelhead. The preseason forecast is for a return of 4,000 total upriver Skamania summer steelhead, including 1,800 wild fish. Steelhead caught in the lower Columbia from May 1 to June 30 are managed as lower river Skamania stock steelhead; preseason forecasts are not made for these fish.
- Through June 17 a total of 3,921 upriver Skamania steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam, which is 132% of the 10-year average cumulative count to this date. Based on 10-year average run timing the total Skamania run would be 50% complete on June 18. Passage of unclipped upriver Skamania steelhead totals 1,509 fish as of June 17, which is 39% higher than the 10-year average through this date.

- Steelhead passing Bonneville Dam from July 1 through October 31 are considered part of this year's A- and B-Index steelhead run. The preseason forecast is for a return of 122,100 A-/B-Index steelhead.

Sockeye

- The preseason forecast is for a return of 401,700 sockeye. Through June 17, a total of 69,733 sockeye have been counted at Bonneville Dam which is the second highest count to date in the last ten years and is more than double the recent 10-year average. Based on 10-year average passage timing the run is about 10% complete on June 17 and 50% complete by June 26.

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.
- The Oregon and Washington policies for 2024 specific to commercial-recreational allocation sharing of harvestable summer Chinook are not concurrent. This results in the harvestable surplus available to non-treaty fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam being allocated 70% to recreational fisheries, 20% to commercial fisheries, with 10% unallocated.
- 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.

Summer Steelhead

- Non-treaty fisheries are allowed an ESA-impact rate of up to 2% on wild lower Skamania stock summer steelhead and 2% on wild upriver Skamania summer steelhead. Similarly, non-treaty fisheries have an ESA-impact rate limit of 2% each on wild A-Index and wild B-Index summer steelhead in winter/spring/summer-season fisheries.

2024 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Preliminary combined Select Area winter/spring-season landings totaled 12,435 Chinook. Landings are 74% of last year's total through spring season.
- Summer-season periods began on June 17 in the Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough sites. Landings are not yet available for these initial summer periods.
- Ex-vessel price for Chinook is averaging \$6.80/pound.
- Chinook harvest has been high through the final week of the spring season. Fishers have expressed interest in additional fishing time for the summer-season periods.
- Staff recommends additional fishing time to allow for harvest of late-returning spring Chinook while prices remain good.

Blind Slough/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 action.

Recommendation: 2024 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

Modify the hours for the previously adopted summer-season fishing periods for Blind Slough and Knappa Slough as follows:

- 6 PM Wednesday June 19 to 9 AM Thursday June 20 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday June 20 to 9 AM Friday June 21 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday June 24 to 9 AM Tuesday June 25 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday June 26 to 9 AM Thursday June 27 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday June 27 to 9 AM Friday June 28 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday July 1 to 9 AM Tuesday July 2 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday July 3 to 9 AM Thursday July 4 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday July 4 to 9 AM Friday July 5 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday July 8 to 9 AM Tuesday July 9 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday July 10 to 9 AM Thursday July 11 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday July 11 to 9 AM Friday July 12 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday July 15 to 9 AM Tuesday July 16 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday July 17 to 9 AM Thursday July 18 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday July 18 to 9 AM Friday July 19 (15 hours)

All other previously adopted regulations for these fisheries remain in effect.

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas

Recommendation: 2024 Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery

Modify the hours for the previously adopted summer-season fishing periods for Tongue Point and South Channel as follows:

- 6 PM Wednesday June 19 to 9 AM Thursday June 20 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday June 20 to 9 AM Friday June 21 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday June 24 to 9 AM Tuesday June 25 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday June 26 to 9 AM Thursday June 27 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday June 27 to 9 AM Friday June 28 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday July 1 to 9 AM Tuesday July 2 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday July 3 to 9 AM Thursday July 4 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday July 4 to 9 AM Friday July 5 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday July 8 to 9 AM Tuesday July 9 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday July 10 to 9 AM Thursday July 11 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday July 11 to 9 AM Friday July 12 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Monday July 15 to 9 AM Tuesday July 16 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Wednesday July 17 to 9 AM Thursday July 18 (15 hours)
- 6 PM Thursday July 18 to 9 AM Friday July 19 (15 hours)

All other previously adopted regulations for these fisheries remain in effect.

- These recommendations expand the fishing time from 12 to 15 hours for 14 periods each in Tongue Point/South Channel and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough summer-season fisheries.
- These season extensions would provide additional access to late-returning Select Area spring Chinook which are still present in the fishing areas.
- These season modifications do not change the expected Select Area fishery impacts to sockeye or A-Index and B-Index steelhead outlined in the 2024 spring Joint Staff Report (0.00%, 0.01%, 0.01%, respectively). The expected total harvest of upper Columbia summer Chinook in combined Select Area summer fisheries is approximately 50 fish.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. Joint staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.
- The treaty tribes may request a Compact hearing for June 27 or 28 to consider additional commercial gillnet openings.