

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 1, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Zone 6 recreational sturgeon LCR recreational salmon Non-Indian commercial salmon
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2014 summer Chinook fisheries were presented in Summer Fact Sheet #1 (June 11, 2014).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Summer Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during June 16-30 totals 35,382 adult fish. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 29. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 67,500 adult fish.
- Sockeye passage at Bonneville Dam through June 30 totals 316,297 fish. Passage is typically 50% complete by June 25. The preseason forecast was for a Columbia River return of 347,100 fish.
- TAC began weekly stock status reviews for the summer season on Monday June 30. TAC maintained the preseason summer Chinook forecasted return of 67,500 fish and updated the sockeye return to 425,000 fish.
- Based on the current forecast and management agreements, a total of 14,563 adult summer Chinook are available for non-Indian in-river harvest. Fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam are allocated 32.5% (4,733 fish) of the total and shared 60% sport/40% commercial.
- The impact limit on ESA-listed sockeye is 1% for non-Indian fisheries. Based on the current forecast, a total of 4,250 sockeye are available for harvest in non-Indian fisheries downstream of the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington. These fish are shared 70% sport/30% commercial.

2014 Non-Indian Fisheries

Recreational Salmon

- Summer recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam were open from June 16 through June 30 for retention of adult hatchery Chinook and sockeye. Catch estimates include 1,720 adult Chinook kept (2,056 released) from 26,100 angler trips. Kept and release mortalities through June 30 are estimated at 2,028 Chinook (84% of the 2,414 allocated) and 650 sockeye.
- Summer recreational fisheries from Bonneville Dam upstream to Priest Rapids Dam are scheduled to be open from June 16 through July 31 for hatchery Chinook and sockeye retention. Catch estimates to date are minimal, which is typical for this area.

<i>2014 Mainstem Columbia River Summer Chinook Recreational Fishery- Recommendation</i>	
Season:	July 4-July 7, 2014
Area:	Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.
Daily Bag	Two adult salmonids per day. Sockeye are included in the adult daily limit.
Limit:	Chinook and steelhead must be adipose fin-clipped. All other permanent regulations apply.

- The recommendation would re-open the fishery for the holiday weekend.
- Catch expectations include 350 Chinook mortalities and 110 sockeye. If adopted, kept and release mortalities would total 2,378 Chinook (98% of the allocation) for the season.

<i>2014 Mainstem Columbia River Sockeye Recreational Fishery- Recommendation</i>	
Effective July 4-July 31, 2014: retention of sockeye is allowed from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. Sockeye are included in the adult salmonid daily limit. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- Given the upgraded sockeye return and corresponding harvest guideline, total sockeye harvest through July 31 is expected to remain well within the 2,975 sockeye allocated to recreational fisheries.

Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon

- Fishery status for Zone 6 pools are as follows:

2014 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest in Zone 6				
Pool	Guideline	Catch	Balance	Season
<i>Bonneville Winter</i>	--	241	--	<i>Jan 1-Mar. 9*</i>
<i>Bonneville Summer</i>	--	391	--	<i>Jun 13-14, 20-21</i>
Bonneville Pool	1,100	632	468	Closed
The Dalles (<i>through June 29</i>)	300	101	199	Ongoing
John Day	500	465	35	Closed June 14

* Closed Jan 20-31 and Feb 18-23

- Bonneville Pool closed in early March with the majority of the guideline being reserved for the summer season. Two 2-day summer periods were adopted with an expected catch of 200 kept fish per day (800 fish total). Actual catch during the summer periods was less than projected; averaging around 100 fish per day.
- The John Day Pool fishery closed June 14 with 93% of the harvest guideline used.
- Uncertainty exists as to the status of the population in The Dalles Pool, which has been producing poorer than expected catch rates in the past three years. The population is being assessed this summer with final results due by January 2015.
- Similar to the past two years, catch rates in The Dalles Pool have been low, and the fishery remains open with 32% of the guideline used through June 22.
- Under Washington permanent regulations the fishery is scheduled to close on August 1. In past years the fishery has been extended beyond the scheduled closure date, but catch and effort remained very low. In 2013, The Dalles Pool closed on November 12.

- With the onset of the fall season, angling effort and agency staffing priorities shift to salmonid fisheries.
- Based on these factors, staff is recommending the sturgeon retention fishery in The Dalles Pool not be extended into the fall timeframe.

<i>2014 The Dalles Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery – Oregon Recommendation</i>
Effective 12:01 AM Friday August 1, 2014, close The Dalles Pool and adjacent tributaries to white sturgeon retention.

- The proposed action considers the issues identified above and will align the season with permanent regulations in Washington.
- Catch and release would be allowed after the retention period closes.
- Given the catch to date and the 2014 guideline for Bonneville Pool, sturgeon remain available for recreational harvest.

<i>2014 Bonneville Pool Summer Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery - Recommendation</i>	
Season:	July 11-12 (Fri-Sat) and July 18-19 (Fri-Sat), 2014 (4 days)
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam, including adjacent tributaries. <u>Sturgeon Spawning Sanctuary:</u> Angling for sturgeon prohibited from The Dalles Dam downstream 1.8 miles to a line from the east (upstream) dock at the Port of The Dalles boat ramp straight across to a marker on the Washington shore during May 1 through July 31.
Allowable Catch	White sturgeon between 38-inches and 54-inches fork length.

- The balance of fish is sufficient to accommodate two Friday-Saturday periods with catch expected to range from 105-115 fish/day.
- An alternative season of two Saturday-Sunday periods could be considered but would increase the risk of exceeding the guideline.
- Catch and release is allowed during non-retention periods.

Commercial Salmon

- An 8-hour period occurred in Zones 1-5 with large mesh gear on June 16. Total catch included 1,385 Chinook (83% of the 1,893 fish guideline) and 184 sockeye.
- Just over 500 Chinook remain available for commercial harvest. As the summer season progresses, Chinook abundance and catch per opening decreases.

2014 Non-Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery - Recommendation		
Season	7 PM Monday July 7 to 7 AM Tuesday July 8, 2014	(12 hours)
Area	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.	
Gear:	Drift gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh size. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the 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	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, and shad.	
Additional:	A 24-hour quick reporting rule is in effect for Washington buyers	

- Catch expectation is 300-400 Chinook. Sockeye catch is expected to be well within the 1,275 fish allocated to commercial fisheries.
- Average weight of Chinook is expected to be around 15 pounds per fish and ex-vessel value is estimated at \$5 per pound for Grade-A adult size fish.

Non-Indian Fisheries Harvest Accounting

- Based on actual and estimated catch from ongoing and proposed non-Indian fisheries, Chinook catch (including release mortalities) is projected to total 4,529 adult Chinook from fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam. A run size of 66,200 summer Chinook would be needed to cover non-Indian fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam.

2014 Upper Columbia Summer Chinook Non-Indian Catch Summary					
Below Priest Rapids Dam	Allowed	To Date	Projected	Proposed	Total
<i>Sport Below Bonneville Dam</i>	2,414	2,028		350	2,378
<i>Sport Bonneville to Priest Rapids Dam</i>	426		426		426
<i>Non-Indian Commercial</i>	1,893	1,385		350	1,735
	4,733				4,529

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A fall Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday July 29, 2014 at the Clark Regional Wastewater District (8000 52nd Court, Vancouver, Washington).