

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact
July 23, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty-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

- For Chinook, the summer management period goes from June 16 through July 31.
- Through July 22, 67,639 adult Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam in the Summer Management Period and 607,499 sockeye have passed Bonneville Dam. The sockeye run is the largest sockeye run since at least the construction of Bonneville Dam. Most of the run is destined for the Okanagan River in Canada and are primarily natural origin fish. Through July 22, 2,166 sockeye have passed Ice Harbor Dam in the Snake.
- The adipose fin clip rate for summer Chinook is approximately 36% at Bonneville Dam. Since the clip rate for hatchery summer Chinook from brood years 2008-2011 averaged 84%, this means that a substantial portion of the run is comprised of natural origin fish. If the run makes 78,000 at the river mouth it will be the fifth highest run since 1957.
- The adipose fin clip rate for summer steelhead at Bonneville is approximately 43%. Given the very high clip rates for hatchery steelhead, this also is an indication of good numbers of natural origin fish in the run.
- On Monday July 14, TAC updated the sockeye run size to 615,000 and the chinook run size in the summer management period to 78,000 at the river mouth
- Treaty fisheries are allocated 22,733 summer Chinook (29.1% harvest rate) and 43,050 sockeye (7%) at the current updated run sizes. Tribal fisheries do not have a specific harvest rate limit for steelhead during the summer season; although there is an expectation that harvest rates will be similar to recent year averages.

2014 Treaty-Indian Fisheries

- Summer season treaty salmon fisheries have been ongoing since June 16. There have been 6 weekly commercial gillnet fishing periods
- Catches to date are shown in the table below. Catch data combines gillnet and platform and hook and line harvest in the weekly estimates. The tribal catch downstream of Bonneville has been minimal and is included in the weekly estimates as well.

2014 Treaty Indian Summer Season Fisheries				
Fishery	Effort (Nets)	Chinook	Sockeye	Steelhead
Spring season through 6/15	na	na	451	na
Jun 16-23 (3 nights)	246	4,116	1,346	382
Jun 23-26 (3 nights)	301	4,156	6,356	371
June 30-July 3 (3 nights)	344	2,613	5,473	415
July 7-11 (4 nights)	266	2,618	10,313	961
July 14-18 (4 nights)	266	2,844	5,374	2,081
Subtotal #1		16,347	29,313	4,210
July 22-25 (4 nights) (projected)	250	1,700	2,100	3,800
Allowed at Updated Forecast		22,733	43,050	
Projected 7/28-7/31 (4 nights)	250	1,600	1,100	3,800
Remaining		3,086	10,537	

Projected catches are rounded.

Treaty Fishery Plan

- The tribes met and agreed to the following fishery for next week:

<i>2014 Treaty Indian Summer Chinook Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season	6 AM Monday July 28 to 6 PM Thursday July 31, 2014 (3.5 days)
Area	Zone 6
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.
Gear:	Gill nets with no minimum mesh restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (including chinook, sockeye, and coho) steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	<p><u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.</p> <p>Submission of a report is not complete until the report arrives at the designated department location.</p> <p>Reports can be made via fax at 360-906-6776 or 360-906-6777; via e-mail at crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov; or via phone at 1- 866-791-1281.</p> <p>Faxing or reporting electronically in portable document format (PDF) a copy of each fish receiving ticket used, within the previously indicated time frames specified per area, satisfies the quick reporting requirement.</p>

- Catch expectations in the proposed fishery total 1,600 Chinook and 1,100 sockeye along with 3,800 steelhead presuming similar effort to this week. The sockeye catch will be dependent on how much small mesh gear fishers choose to use.

- The tribes will continue to monitor and report harvest on a weekly basis and will do net counts during each week of commercial gillnet fishing.
- Prices remain relatively strong and this fishery continues to represent an important economic benefit to tribal fishers as well as to communities and businesses along the Columbia River.