

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT: SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact
May 19, 2014

Fisheries under Consideration: Treaty mainstem commercial salmon

Stock status and management guidelines for 2014 Spring Chinook fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 29, 2014).

Stock Status and Management Guidelines

- Bonneville Dam passage through May 18 totals 162,922 adult Chinook. Based on the 10-year average passage is typically 70% complete by this date; however, the run timing appears to be earlier than recent years.
- The U.S. v. Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met this morning did not change their in season run size update of 224,000 adult upriver fish at the Columbia River Mouth. TAC is scheduled to meet again Tuesday May 27.
- Under the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, a Columbia River return of 224,000 adult upriver fish allows for a treaty ESA impact rate of 10.0% and a catch balance limit of 22,400 upriver mortalities.

Treaty Fisheries Update

- The Columbia River treaty tribes have finished their ceremonial permit fishing. Preliminary catch estimates total 6,127 adult Chinook.
- Commercial sales in the Zone 6 platform and hook & line fishery opened on May 6 and are expected to continue until July 31. The catch estimate through May 10 is 3,230 adult Chinook.
- The Yakama Nation Zone 6 tributary fisheries are ongoing and sales are allowed when authorized through Yakama Nation tribal regulations. Catch from these fisheries through May 14 is estimated at 2,136 adult Chinook. Catch estimates for other tribal tributary fisheries are not available at this time.
- The area immediately downstream of Bonneville Dam is currently closed for treaty Indian fishing under tribal regulations. If lawfully enacted tribal regulations are adopted to open the area (in accordance with each tribal MOU/MOA), the Compact has rules in place to allow sales consistent with tribal rules/MOU/MOAs.
- Total catch of upriver spring Chinook through May 10 totals 9,357 fish, or 42% of allowed at the predicted 224,000 run size. Tribal staff predict that additional platform and hook and line catch in Zone 6 will total approximately 1,000 fish from now through June 15. This brings the total expected catch through June 15, minus any gillnet fisheries to 10,357. The table below shows a summary of the spring harvest. Tribal fisheries have harvested less than 100 steelhead to date which is typical for this time of year.

Fishery	Chinook Catch
Winter Gillnet	0
Spring C&S Permit Gillnet	6,127
Zone 6 Platform H&L	3,230
Zone 5 H&L	0
Total Platform H&L	3,230
Expected Z6 Platform H&L through 6/15	1,000
Expected total Platform H&L through 6/15	4,230
Total expected through 6/15	10,357
Allowed Catch (10% of 224,000)	22,400
Remaining	12,043

- Based on the number of fish remaining available for the tribal mainstem fisheries, the tribes have decided to allow a commercial gillnet fishery to access some of the remaining fish.

Tribal Fishery Plan

<i>2014 Treaty Spring Gillnet Commercial Fishery</i>	
Area:	Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam)
Season:	6:00 a.m. Tuesday May 20 until 6:00 p.m. Thursday May 22, 2014
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, carp, catfish, bass, and yellow perch may be sold or kept for subsistence. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches fork length harvested in The Dalles or John Day Pools and sturgeon between 38-54 inches fork length in the Bonneville pool may not be sold but may be kept for subsistence.
Gear:	Gill nets. No mesh restriction
Sanctuaries:	Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries in effect for this gear type except for the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary which is not necessary this time of year.
Miscellaneous:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington wholesale dealers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- Because the predicted run size is close to a breakpoint in the harvest rate schedule in the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement, tribal staff have modeled impacts at run sizes both above and below 217,000. At run sizes less than 217,000 at the river mouth, the run size decreases from 10% to 9.1%. The tribes want to ensure the planned fishery is expected to have catches within the allowed limits even if the run comes in less than the current prediction.
- The table below shows the expected chinook catch and remaining available fish for two possible run sizes. For run sizes close to the predicted 224,000, the gillnet fishery is expected to harvest approximately 8,000 fish with an expected effort of 500 nets. If the run size turns out to be less than forecast, Bonneville counts this week will be less than if the run size is higher. Based on a lower abundance of fish, the tribes predict a catch of approximately 6,000

fish with 500 nets if the run size is 216,000. The expected steelhead harvest is less than 200 fish for either scenario.

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
Run Size	224,000	216,000
Allowed Catch	22,400	19,656
Expected total through 6/15 for platform H&L and permits	10,357	10,357
Gillnets 5/20-22	8,000	6,000
Sub-total	18,357	16,357
Remaining	4,043	3,299

- Under either scenario, the tribal fishery is expected to have remaining available fish which can be thought of as a buffer in the case catch rates or effort are higher than expected. With the planned gillnet fishery, the total expected harvest of 16,357 would be sufficient to keep the tribal fishery within the allowed harvest limit for run sizes down to approximately 180,000.
- Depending on the actual catch in this week’s fishery the tribes may choose to have an additional commercial gillnet fishing period especially if catches this week are less than projected, the tribes may propose additional gillnet fishing periods.
- The tribes will monitor and report harvest. Aerial surveys will also be conducted to count nets to determine fishing effort for every commercial gillnet fishing period.
- The tribes expect that consumer demand for these spring chinook will be high and that the fishery will provide important economic benefits to tribal fishers, tribal communities and the communities along the Columbia River in the Zone 6 area.
- Commercial fishing serves an important purpose to allow consumers in the Northwest and around the country access to the fishery resource that rate payers and tax payers help fund. The tribes also view commercial fisheries to be consistent with overall efforts to restore weak salmon runs throughout the basin.
- The tribes suggest a tentative Compact Hearing on Tuesday May 27 in case there is a need to consider additional commercial gillnet fishing.