

04/29/20

Nez Perce Tribe Fish and Wildlife Commission

Zone 6 - Ceremonial & Spring Salmon Fishery 2020

The Nez Perce Tribe Fish and Wildlife Commissions is encouraging additional precautionary measures at this time, to protect tribal members who participate in the Zone 6 spring chinook ceremonial gillnet fishery. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Nez Perce Tribe and the States have issued “Stay At Home” orders. These guidelines provide recommendations for public safety such as wearing a mask in public, sanitizing frequently, maintaining a distance of 6 feet from others and no more than 10 people at a gathering.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission supports these guidelines. We encourage fishermen to take extra precautions as necessary to protect our tribal members, their families and the communities. With the potential health risks during this time for tribal members who choose to go fishing, we will not be held responsible if there is an exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

Since the construction of the Bonneville dam, the 2020 spring salmon fishery is the 8th lowest spring salmon run, to date. From early fishery pre-run forecasts, the salmon run is still behind schedule and coming in lower numbers than the spring of 2019.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission selected zone 6 fishermen to provide subsistence salmon for the locker. Those selected were fishermen who have been consistent and timely with providing the Tribe quality spring chinook salmon. The Fish and Wildlife Commission will hold these subsistence salmon in the locker for Nez Perce tribal members.

Nez Perce Tribal members who are interested in a subsistence permit may apply by submitting a spring salmon application ([click here](#)). Organizations who are interested in fish for their feasts may also apply. The commission will review all applications and inform the individuals first, then organizations, on the fish distribution. We want to prioritize elders, disabled individuals and single parent households.

Please keep in mind, we are at a record low year for returning fish, and we will have a limited number of salmon. The Fish and Wildlife Commission would like to encourage able-bodied fishermen/women to fish for their own subsistence needs, while taking the safest precautionary measures to protect yourself and your family during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please be safe while traveling and fishing. Fish on!!

Nez Perce Tribe Fish & Wildlife Commission

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[Ceremonial Salmon Application 2020](#)