

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #4**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**September 14, 2017**

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Treaty mainstem commercial
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*Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2017 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #2 (August 16, 2017) and in the 2017 Fall Joint Staff Report (September 7, 2017). Reports are available at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/index.asp> and <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/>.*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Salmon/Steelhead***

- Due to the Eagle Creek wildfire, fish were not counted at Bonneville Dam on September 5 and were not counted for the full 16-hour daily time periods on September 4 or September 6. TAC met earlier this week to adjust the partial counts and make estimates of passage on September 5. Count totals in this Fact Sheet will not match data posted on the Fish Passage Center website.
- Passage at Bonneville Dam since August 1 is estimated to be 185,968 adult fall Chinook through September 13 and has generally been tracking behind expectations, but a late timed run may be closer to the forecasted run size. TAC expects to update the upriver Chinook run size on September 18.
- The ten-year average percent complete at Bonneville for the total Chinook run on September 13 is 67%. For bright-stock Chinook, the ten-year average proportion complete is 63% and for tules the proportion is 86% complete.
- Passage at Bonneville Dam since July 1 is estimated to total 87,364 upriver summer steelhead which is 89% of the preseason expectation for this date. TAC currently projects a steelhead run of 104,400 fish to Bonneville Dam, which is less than the preseason forecast of 119,400 fish. The current forecast includes 97,100 A-Index steelhead (preseason forecast of 112,100 fish) and 7,300 B-Index fish. The B-Index component remains at the preseason forecast until passage is estimated to be 50% complete, which typically occurs by the third week of September (i.e. next week).
- Through September 13, Bonneville Dam passage is estimated to be 17,090 adult coho. Counts to date are lower than expected.
- Approximately 24 sea lions have been observed in the area immediately downstream of Bonneville Dam in recent days. ACOE has been monitoring the situation.

***River Conditions***

- Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 112 kcfs, which is greater than the ten-year average (2007-2016) of 95 kcfs.

- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 71° F, which is higher than the recent ten-year average (2007-2016) of 69° F.
- Both are within typical ranges for this time of year.

### 2017 TREATY FISHERIES

- 2017 treaty fall season catches are shown in the table below:

2017 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries							
Week	Fishery	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho
31-33	Platforms through 8/21	na	572	500	390	20	0
34	Aug 21-25 (4.5 days)	255	4,272	2,378	684	50	20
35	Aug 28-Sept 1 (4.5 days)	430	11,935	6,067	602	30	81
36	Sept 4-8 (4.5 days)	454	12,336	6,609	449	20	102
37	Sep 11-15 (4.5 days)	473	44,300	12,400	440	30	--
38	Sep 18-22 (4.5 days)	600	48,000	13,600	650	60	--
	Total through Sept 22		121,344	41,554	3,215	210	203
	<b>Allowed at forecast run size</b>			82,563		949	
	<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 22</b>			15.1%		2.9%	
	<b>Remaining after Sept 22</b>			41,009		739	
	Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 22			14.9%		10.1%	

- Catches for the platform and hook-and-line fishery (including fisheries downstream of Bonneville) in weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries is included in the total catches for those weeks (i.e.: 11,935 is the total Chinook catch for all fisheries occurring in week 35).
- Week 31-36 catches are preliminary. Weeks 37 and 38 catch are modeled projections.
- Catches downstream of Bonneville Dam include 360 Chinook, 210 steelhead, and 40 coho.
- The treaty fishery model does not predict coho catches so there are no coho harvest projections for week 37 or 38.
- Steelhead catches were lower than expected in week 36. Because future catches are based on historic harvest rates scaled to this year's actual harvest rates, the projections for weeks 37 and 38 are lower than projections presented in Fact Sheet #3.
- Chinook stock composition through week 35 is based on preliminary CWT data and for week 36 is based on skin color calls and forecast ratios at Bonneville.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2017 Treaty Indian Fall Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 18 to 6 PM Friday September 22	(4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the standard (large) Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary.	

Gear:	Set and Drift gillnets with a 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required as provided in WAC 220-352-180, for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. Aerial surveys will provide set net counts weekly during the commercial gillnet season.
- Based on expected catches through September 22, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits for run sizes as low as 180,000 URBs and 1,615 B-Index steelhead.
- Platform and hook and line fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries do not require Compact action at this time.

## **2017 NON-TREATY FISHERIES**

### ***Recreational Fisheries***

- Catch estimates for the Buoy 10 fishery include 28,174 Chinook and 11,335 coho kept from 79,690 angler trips through September 4 (Labor Day). Chinook retention closed after Labor Day per OR and WA Commission policy and is expected to re-open October 1 for the remainder of the year. The season-total harvest projection (including release mortalities) is estimated to be approximately 30,000 Chinook compared to the pre-season expectation of 22,100 Chinook mortalities. Coho retention remains open; recent catch rates have been good with an estimated 2,968 coho retained during September 5-10 from 3,592 angler trips. Steelhead retention was prohibited during the month of August; an estimated 61 steelhead were handled in the Buoy 10 fishery in August.
- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery downstream of Warrior Rock include 5,786 Chinook and 420 coho kept from 37,456 angler trips through September 7. Per Commission policy, this fishery transitioned to mark-selective regulations for Chinook during September 8–14; Chinook retention will be closed from September 15-30. Season total harvest estimates (including release mortalities) are projected to be 7,575 Chinook compared to the pre-season expectation of 10,590 Chinook mortalities. Steelhead retention was prohibited during the month of August; an estimated 350 steelhead were handled in this fishery in August and 61 retained (54 released) from September 1-10.
- Catch estimates for the LCR recreational fishery from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam include 1,738 Chinook and 10 coho kept from 14,696 angler trips through September 10. Chinook catch rates have increased significantly in recent days. This fishery is scheduled to remain open for Chinook and coho retention through December. The pre-season harvest expectation included 11,300 Chinook mortalities. Steelhead retention was prohibited during the month of August; an estimated 125 steelhead were handled in this fishery in August and 5 kept (11 released) from September 1-10.

- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 is scheduled to remain open for Chinook and coho retention through December. As of September 10, an estimated 1,726 Chinook and zero coho have been kept from 6,742 angler trips. A series of rolling 1-2 month steelhead retention closures for mainstem and selected tributary fisheries are in effect through the end of the year. Anglers have retained 38 steelhead and released 111 through September 10.

***Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries***

- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and scheduled to continue through October. Harvest through September 10 includes 4,856 Chinook and 3,589 coho, which is much lower than average (about 26% of the recent 10-year average combined catch). Additionally, 128 white sturgeon have been landed.
- The Early Fall fishery consisted of five fishing periods in Zone 4-5 during August 22 – September 1. These periods were nine hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Catch includes 13,808 Chinook, 220 coho, and 480 white sturgeon. Pre-season catch expectation was 45,900 Chinook for this fishery.
- Per OR and WA Commission guidance, a mandatory observation program occurred during this fishery. Department observers monitored catches from 470 drifts on 98 vessels and observed 2,778 Chinook landed, along with 78 A-Index and 3 (1 unmarked) B-Index steelhead (all data are preliminary).
- Based on the observation data and in-season steelhead stock proportions, an estimated 399 total steelhead were handled including 3 wild B-Index steelhead. An estimated 1.1–1.9 wild B-Index steelhead mortalities resulted from this fishery, depending on whether the in-season observed or the standard fall-season large-mesh (8-9-inch) mortality rate is used. This represents 16%-28% of the wild B-Index mortalities modeled pre-season for the fishery.
- The pre-season plan was to assess the potential for additional fisheries during the Late-Fall timeframe in-season after the Early-Fall fishery was complete.
- Given recreational/commercial impact sharing for completed, on-going, and planned fisheries is expected to be 74%/26% for SRW Chinook and 93%/7% for LRH Chinook and B-Index steelhead impacts remain available to the commercial fishery, additional commercial opportunity should be considered.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2017 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i></b>		
Season:	8 PM Sunday September 17 to 6 AM Monday September 18	(10 hours)
	8 PM Tuesday September 19 to 6 AM Wednesday September 20	(10 hours)
	8 PM Thursday September 21 to 6 AM Friday September 22	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.	
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy rivers	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction through September 20; 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction for September 21-22. Multiple net rule in effect: 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 or greater.

Lighted Buoys: Nets fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then a lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net is required

Allowable Sales: Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of five white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.

Additional Rules: Observer Program: As a condition of fishing or participating in this fishery, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must carry and accommodate a Department observer for the duration of the fishing trip when requested. It is unlawful to deny access or fail to carry a Department observer upon request. When a Department observer is onboard, it is expected that any steelhead caught will be brought onboard for biological sampling prior to release. As used in this rule, a Department observer is an employee of either the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission.

24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

- Staff will review observation data to assess steelhead handle following each fishing period. Given ESA impact constraints on steelhead, fishers should be prepared for short notification time regarding fishery modifications or closures.
- Catch estimates for the proposed periods include 12,000 Chinook and 225 white sturgeon. Steelhead handle is expected to be 83 fish, including 7 wild A-Index mortalities and less than 2 wild B-Index mortalities (using the standard large-mesh mortality rate).
- Considering on-going harvest in the Select Area fisheries and the harvest expectation for the proposed mainstem fishery, commercial fisheries would have a balance of 70 sturgeon remaining from their allocation of 1,245 fish.

### ***Non-Treaty Impact Summary***

- Given current run size estimates, season total ESA impacts for completed, on-going, planned, and proposed non-treaty fisheries are projected as follows:
  - LRH impacts at 34.9% (of 41.0%) and URB impacts at 12.0% (of 15.0%).
  - Wild A-Index steelhead at 0.5% and wild B-Index steelhead at 1.2% (of 2.0% each).
- Based on full-season catch projections, the non-treaty fishery would be within the allowed limits for run sizes as low as 220,000 URB Chinook, 6,500 wild A-Index steelhead, and 645 wild B-Index steelhead.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The tribes request a Compact hearing on Wednesday September 20 or Thursday September 21 to consider possible additional fisheries.
- The Joint Staff will recommend additional hearings as needed.