

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 21, 2017

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty mainstem commercial Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Deep River Select Area commercial salmon
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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 last 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 254,462 adult fall Chinook through September 20.
- The ten-year average percent complete at Bonneville Dam for the total Chinook run on September 20 is 82%. For bright-stock Chinook, the ten-year average proportion complete is 79% and for tules the proportion is 96%.
- Passage at Bonneville Dam since July 1 is estimated to be 97,092 upriver summer steelhead through September 20.
- Through September 20, Bonneville Dam passage is estimated to be 31,073 adult coho. Counts to date are lower than expected.
- TAC met on September 18 and 19, 2017 to review the upriver runs of fall Chinook and summer steelhead and made the following updates:
 - TAC reviewed the passage of fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam and provided in-season updates to the upriver bright and tule stock run sizes. Passage of bright stocks is tracking consistent with pre-season expectations and TAC maintained the pre-season passage expectation for these stocks. The tule stock is tracking well below expectations, therefore TAC downgraded this component. Given current information, TAC expects the Columbia River mouth return of fall Chinook to total 492,800 adult fish (80% of the pre-season forecast); this total includes 274,900 URB and 48,700 BPH.
 - Based on the recent five-year average run timing (87% complete by September 18) TAC now estimates the combined A/B-Index summer steelhead run size to be 107,800 fish expected to pass Bonneville Dam. The A-Index run size is estimated

to be 99,300 fish, including 75,800 hatchery and 23,500 wild steelhead based on expansions of AFF sampling data along with assumptions of the recent 5-year average run timing for the hatchery and wild components. TAC updated the B-Index run size to 8,500 including 7,225 hatchery and 1,275 wild steelhead based on subtraction of the A-Index component from the combined run while using the pre-season assumption of wild/hatchery proportion.

- TAC will meet again on Monday September 25 and will provide further updates at that time.
- Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery has reported that broodstock collection has been progressing slowly and they are retaining all adults for spawning. At this time they expect that they will reach their spawning objective.
- The McNary Dam Chinook count through September 20 is 65,314 so the *U.S. v. Oregon* management goal of 60,000 has been met.

River Conditions

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 96.1 kcfs, which is similar to the ten-year average (2007-2016) of 95 kcfs.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 67.0° F (as of Sept. 20). The recent 10-year average for this date is 68.1° F.

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	472	390	20	0
34	Aug 21-25 (4.5 days)	255	4,794	2,597	674	0	20
35	Aug 28-Sept 1 (4.5 days)	430	10,457	6,075	572	20	80
36	Sept 4-8 (4.5 days)	454	12,153	8,221	433	10	160
37	Sep 11-15 (4.5 days)	473	27,218	16,417	909	101	620
38	Sep 18-22 (4.5 days)	481	23,800	14,400	1,030	110	0
39	Sep 25-29 (4.5 days)	500	16,000	10,100	1,150	160	0
	Total through Sept 29		94,994	58,282	5,158	421	880
	Allowed at forecast run size			82,470		1,105	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sep 29			21.2%		4.9%	
	Remaining after Sep 29			24,188		688	
	Remaining Harvest Rate After Sep 29			8.8%		8.1%	

- 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.: 10,457 is the total Chinook catch for all fisheries occurring in week 35).
- Week 31-37 catches are preliminary. Weeks 38 and 39 catches are modeled projections.
- Catches downstream of Bonneville include 360 Chinook, 210 steelhead, and 40 coho. There was no change from the prior week as no additional catch was reported in the last week.
- The treaty fishery model does not predict coho catches so there are no coho harvest projections for weeks 38 or 39.
- Chinook stock composition through week 37 is based on preliminary CWT data and current harvest estimates.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2017 Treaty Indian Fall Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 25 to 6 PM Friday September 29	(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 each week during the commercial gillnet season.
- Based on expected catches through September 29, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits for run sizes as low as 234,000 URBs and 3,240 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

Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- The Late Fall commercial fishery has consisted of two Zone 4-5 periods to date (September 17/18 and September 19/20) with one additional period scheduled for tonight, September 21.

Catch from the concluded periods includes an estimated 5,176 Chinook, which is less than expectations.

- Per OR and WA Commission guidance, a mandatory observation program occurred during this fishery. Department observers monitored catches from 171 drifts on 30 vessels and observed 963 Chinook landed, along with 31 A-Index and 12 (4 unmarked) B-Index steelhead (all data are preliminary).
- Based on the observation data and in-season steelhead stock proportions, an estimated 226 total steelhead were handled including 8 wild B-Index steelhead. An estimated 2.7–4.8 wild B-Index steelhead mortalities resulted from this fishery, depending on whether the cumulative in-season observed or the standard fall-season large-mesh (8-9-inch) mortality rate is used.
- Given the estimated mortalities from the August fishery and the first two periods of the Late Fall fishery, wild B-Index impacts to date are at 85% of the current commercial allotment. If handle of wild B-Index steelhead in the September 21 fishery is similar to the last two periods, and the standard large-mesh mortality rate is applied, impacts would be approximately 115% of the allotment. Therefore, staff recommends the following fishery modification.

Recommendation: 2017 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery

Rescind the fishing period scheduled for 8 PM September 21 to 6 AM September 22 in Zones 4-5

- Changes to the in-season estimate of wild B-Index abundance or other developments may provide for additional fishing opportunity.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The 2017 fall commercial fishing periods in the Deep River Select Area site are currently scheduled for 15 hours (6 PM – 9 AM) during each open night.
 - Beginning September 25, and continuing through the remainder of the fall season, the periods are scheduled to reduce to 12 hours (7 PM – 7 AM) during each open night.
- Coho catch has increased markedly during the past two weeks of this fishery. Continuing with 15-hour periods through the end of the season would allow fishing to begin and end during daylight hours and provide additional fishing opportunity. This modification has been requested by industry.

Recommendation: 2017 Select Area Commercial Fisheries – Deep River

Effective September 25 through October 13, modify the open hours to 6 PM to 9 AM for the currently scheduled fishing periods.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes request a Compact hearing on Wednesday September 27 or Thursday September 28 to consider possible additional fisheries.
- The Joint Staff will recommend additional hearings as needed.