

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3  
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
 August 28, 2018**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Above Wauna recreational sturgeon
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*Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The 2018 Joint Staff Report for Sturgeon and Smelt was distributed on January 18, 2018 and the 2018 Fall Report was distributed on July 17, 2018. Links to the on-line reports are: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

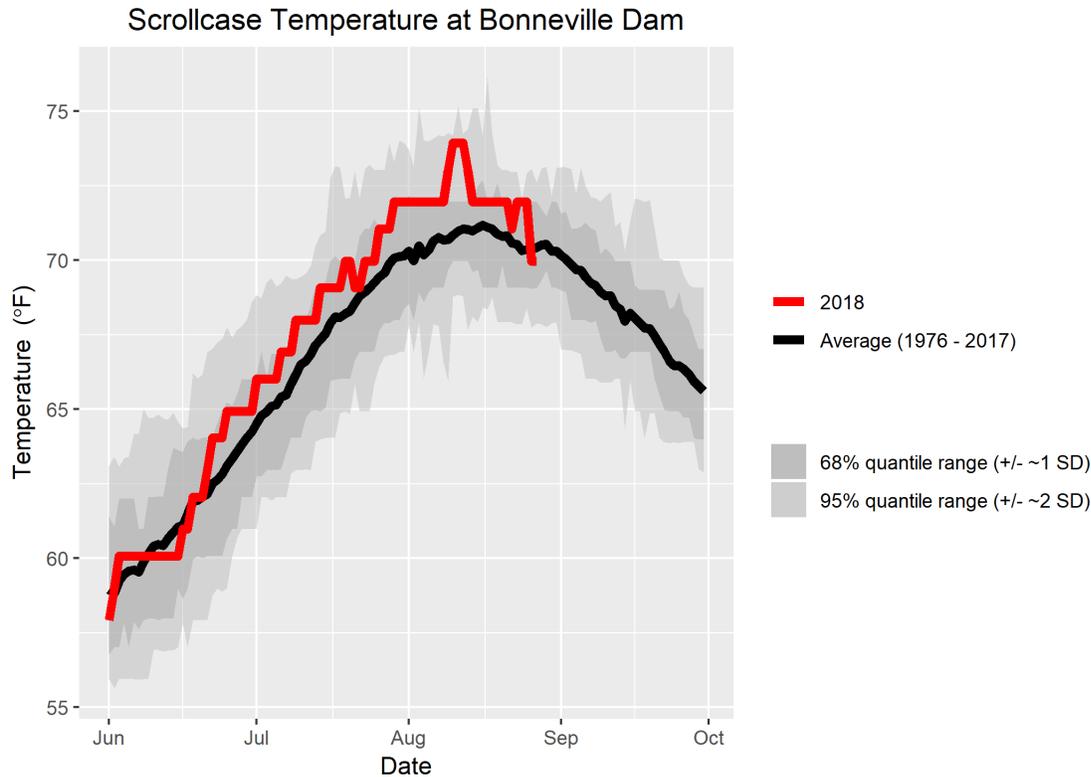
**STOCK STATUS**

***Salmon/Steelhead***

- Through August 27, a total of 27,742 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is similar to expectations. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 9.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 50,242 total A/B-Index fish.
- TAC met yesterday to review the A/B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC downgraded the total expected A/B-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville to 96,500. The expected passage of clipped steelhead is 69,000. Modeled predictions for total clipped run size have been declining steadily as the season has progressed. TAC updated the total expected unclipped passage to 27,500. The unclipped modeled estimates have been more stable. The unclipped passage includes both natural origin and unclipped hatchery origin fish.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through August 27 total 1,947 early stock adult coho, which is consistent with expectations. Passage of upriver early stock coho is typically 50% complete by September 10.
- Run size forecasts, stock descriptions, and management guidelines for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheets #1 and #2.

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 132.2 kcfs, which is similar to the ten-year average of 133.7 kcfs for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 70°F at Bonneville Dam which is lower than the recent 10-year average of 71.2°F. This year, Bonneville Dam water temperature peaked at 74°F during August 11-12.



## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

### *White Sturgeon*

- For years when white sturgeon retention is allowed downstream of Bonneville Dam, current Commission guidance on white sturgeon management assumes;
  - A 10% conservation buffer will be utilized if the maximum harvest rate (16%) identified in WSCP is utilized.
  - Assign 80% of the white sturgeon available for harvest to recreational fisheries and 20% to commercial fisheries.
  - Due to the decline of legal-size fish and other indicators during 2008-2012, retention fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam were closed during 2014-2016; however, based on the increasing trend for legal-size white sturgeon in the LCR during that timeframe, both Commissions approved limited retention fisheries in 2017.
  - Earlier this year, staff provided updates on the LCR white sturgeon status to both Commissions and also to the Columbia River Advisor groups. Both Commissions supported implementing sturgeon retention fisheries in 2018 similar to what occurred in 2017. Input from the Advisor groups generally supported implementing 2018 fisheries in a similar fashion to what occurred in 2017, except for the area upstream of Wauna powerlines, where an earlier start was recommended.

- The 2018 guideline for white sturgeon harvest in non-treaty commercial fisheries is 1,230 fish. The expected catch in Select Area spring-fall commercial fisheries is 560 fish, leaving a balance of 670 for mainstem commercial fisheries.

## 2018 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

### *Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries*

- Preseason planning for Chinook-directed mainstem commercial fisheries in Zones 4-5 assumed six fishing periods during the early fall (August) season with an expected catch of approximately 9,980 Chinook, assuming an impact rate of 2.1% for Snake River wild fall Chinook.
- So far this season, three fishing periods have occurred (during August 21-27) with landings of 5,735 Chinook, 198 Coho, and 330 white sturgeon. The Chinook catch represents 57% of preseason expectations.
- Preliminary stock composition based on CWT indicates 6.6% LRH (preseason 13.8%), 58.3% BPH (36.8%), 32% URB (42.5%), 3% PUB (6.9%).
- Sampling data indicates bright composition is running slightly ahead of preseason expectations.
- To maintain a conservative approach for 2018 fall fisheries management, staff is recommending reduced hours for the proposed fishing period given the potential for higher landings typically associated with this date and the available Chinook balance of approximately 4,200 fish.
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<b><i>Recommendation: 2018 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i></b>	
<b>Season:</b>	10 PM Wednesday August 29 to 5 AM Thursday August 30 7 hours
<b>Area:</b>	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.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Washougal and Sandy rivers.
<b>Gear:</b>	Drift gillnets only. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule <b>NOT</b> in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of six 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.
<b>Additional Rules:</b>	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. 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.

- The proposed fishing period is consistent with the 2018 Fall Allocation Agreement.
- Modeled kept catch expectations include 4,000 adult Chinook, 100-200 Coho, and less than 100 white sturgeon. The combined Chinook catch for the four early Fall fishing periods is expected to be 9735, or 98% of the preseason expectations.
- WDFW has conducted limited voluntary onboard observation to collect steelhead encounter and immediate mortality data, as well as sturgeon handle. Steelhead encounter rates to date are low and consistent with expectations.
- The proposed fishery is expected to accrue Chinook ESA impacts of 0.9% SRW and 0.4% LCR wild, respectively for a season total of 2.1% SRW and 1.2% LCR wild.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead for the proposed fishery are expected to be 0.01% for both A-Index and B-Index stocks, with cumulative totals for the Early Fall fishery of 0.03% and 0.05%, respectively. Total non-treaty impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.66% for A-Index and 1.54% for B-Index, compared to the 2.0% total allowed for each during the fall season.
- Ex-vessel prices (per pound) during the recent early fall periods have ranged between \$3.50-\$4.75 for bright Chinook (~\$0.62 for tule Chinook), and \$1.50-1.60 for Coho.
- Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets are planned to occur in October. Any additional Chinook-directed late fall fisheries will be addressed in-season, after the fall Chinook and steelhead run size updates are available (approximately mid-September).

## 2018 RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

### *White Sturgeon*

- Earlier this year, staff provided updates on the LCR white sturgeon status to both Commissions and also to the Columbia River Advisor groups. Both Commissions supported implementing sturgeon retention fisheries in 2018 similar to what occurred in 2017. Input from the Advisor groups generally supported implementing 2018 fisheries in a similar fashion to what occurred in 2017, except for the area upstream of Wauna powerlines, where an earlier start was recommended.
- The 2018 Estuary fishery consisted of 11 retention days during mid-May through mid-June resulting in 2,412 kept fish (81% of the 2,960 fish guideline) from 17,380 angler trips.
- Based on the 2018 abundance forecast of 153,540 fish (44-50 inch FL), a total of 6,160 white sturgeon would be available for harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Estimated Legal Abundance	153,540
Annual Harvest Guideline	6,160
Commercial (20%)	1,230



- The proposed fishery is based on several modeling assumptions. If catches are higher than anticipated on the first retention day, there is adequate time to modify the remainder of the fishery. Alternatively, if catches are lower than expected, season extensions can be considered.
- The expected kept catch for the 2-day season is less than 1,164 fish (95% of the guideline).
- Per permanent regulations, catch and release fishing is allowed all year, except angling for sturgeon is prohibited May 1 through August 31 from Bonneville Dam downstream to a line crossing the Columbia River at Navigation Marker 82 on the Oregon shore westerly to a boundary marker on the Washington shore upstream of Fir Point.

#### Lower Willamette River

- Oregon staff is not prepared to recommend a sturgeon retention season for the lower Willamette River at this time.
- Per permanent regulations, catch and release fishing is allowed all year, except angling for sturgeon is prohibited May 1 through August 31 from the Lake Oswego-Oak Grove Railroad Bridge upstream to Willamette Falls.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 2 PM September 6 to consider Treaty commercial fisheries.