

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**September 25, 2018**

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty mainstem commercial
---

*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 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>*

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 90.6 kcfs., but flows have been fluctuating between 72.0 and 109.3 kcfs in recent days.

**STOCK STATUS**

***Fall Chinook***

- Detailed stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #2
- Through September 24 a total of 158,442 adult and 24,590 jack chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- Through September 24, 64,448 adult fall chinook have passed McNary Dam.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has met their broodstock needs.
- TAC met on September 24 to review Chinook and steelhead run sizes. TAC maintained the current projected bright and tule Chinook returns to Bonneville Dam and made minor adjustments to the expected escapement of upriver stocks to Bonneville Hatchery. Based on these adjustments, the projected URB run size is 122,600, the PUB run size is 21,900, and the BPH run size projection is 38,200. These projections are for returns to the Columbia River mouth.

***Upriver Summer Steelhead***

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing from July 1 through October 31 are categorized as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is mainly A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake river basins.
- Through September 24 a total of 83,136 A and B-Index steelhead including 26,693 unclipped fish have passed Bonneville Dam.
- TAC updated the total expected A- and B-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 92,800 of which 64,500 are clipped hatchery-origin fish and 28,300 are unclipped fish (including natural-origin and unclipped hatchery fish). The individual run component expectations to Bonneville Dam are shown in the table below.

<b>A-Index</b>	69,500
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	48,900
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	46,000
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	2,900
<i>Wild</i>	20,600
<i>Total Unclipped A</i>	23,500
<b>B-Index</b>	23,300
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	20,700
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	18,500
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	2,200
<i>Wild</i>	2,600
<i>Total Unclipped B</i>	4,800
<b>Total A/B-Index</b>	92,800
<i>Total Hatchery</i>	69,600
<i>Clip Hatchery</i>	64,500
<i>Unclip Hatchery</i>	5,100
<i>Wild</i>	23,200
<i>Total Unclipped A/B</i>	28,300

### ***Coho***

- Bonneville Dam passage was expected to total 51,800 adult Coho, which represents 65% of the forecasted ocean abundance of Columbia River Coho destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam. Counts at Bonneville Dam through September 24 total 25,514 adults and 5,003 jacks.

## **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

### ***Salmon/Steelhead***

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, steelhead, and Coho.
  - The allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 31.25% of the URB run based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 23% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-treaty fisheries.
  - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock). The management goal for adult fall Chinook at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
  - Based on the updated forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 15% of the total B-Index steelhead, but the allowed impacts decrease to 13% if the B-Index steelhead run size is less than 20,000.
  - The goal for upriver coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
  - Fisheries are managed based on in-season run size updates as they become available.

## **2018 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES**

- Fall Management Period platform and hook and line fisheries began August 1. Through September 1, a total of 60 Chinook and 20 steelhead have been harvested downstream of Bonneville. No recent fishing effort downstream of Bonneville has been observed. These catches are included in the total catch estimates provided below.
- 2018 tribal fall season salmon and steelhead catches through week 38 are shown in the table below along with modeled catch projections for this week and next week. Preliminary CWT's for week 38 have been used to estimate Week 38 Chinook stock composition.
- The treaty fishery model does not predict coho catches so there are no coho harvest projections, but coho harvest is normally low in the fall season fisheries.

2018 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries							
Week	Fishery	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho
31-34	Platforms through 8/21	na	1,601	1,505	400	49	11
35	Aug 27-Aug 30 (3.5 days)	420	9,476	4,457	465	60	234
36	Sep 3-7 (4.5 days)	622	14,833	5,513	815	69	1,001
	Subtotal through 9/8		25,910	11,475	1,680	178	1,246
37	Sep 10-14 (4.5 days)	577	10,800	6,106	814	120	1,075
	Subtotal through 9/15		36,710	17,581	2,494	298	2,321
38	Sep 19-22 (3.5 days)	512	6,252	4,370	874	120	
	Subtotal through 9/22		42,962	21,951	3,368	418	2,321
39	Sep 26-28 (2.5 days)	500	4,000	2,700	700	160	
	Subtotal through 9/29		46,962	24,651	4,068	578	2,321
	<b>Total</b>		<b>46,962</b>	<b>24,651</b>	<b>4,068</b>	<b>578</b>	<b>2,321</b>
	<b>Allowed at Preseason URB run size and Current B run size</b>			28,198		3,495	
	<b>Expected Harvest Rate as of Sept 22</b>			17.9%		1.8%	
	<b>Remaining after Sept 22</b>			6,247		3,077	
	<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 29</b>			20.1%		2.5%	
	<b>Remaining Available After Sept 29</b>			3,547		2,917	

Note: Catches for weeks with commercial gillnet openings include platform and hook and line catches for those weeks.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
<b>Season:</b>	6 AM Wednesday September 26 to 6 PM Friday September 28	(2.5 days)
<b>Area:</b>	Zone 6	
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary will be reduced to 150 feet around the hatchery ladder.	
<b>Gear:</b>	Set and Drift gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction	
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	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.	
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings 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. Set net counts will be made by air for each week of commercial gillnet fishing.
- Based on expected catches through September 29, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits for both URB Chinook and B-Index Steelhead.
- Platform and hook and line fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries do not require Compact action at this time.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The treaty tribes will notify the States if an additional Compact Hearing is needed to address treaty fisheries.