

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
August 12, 2019**

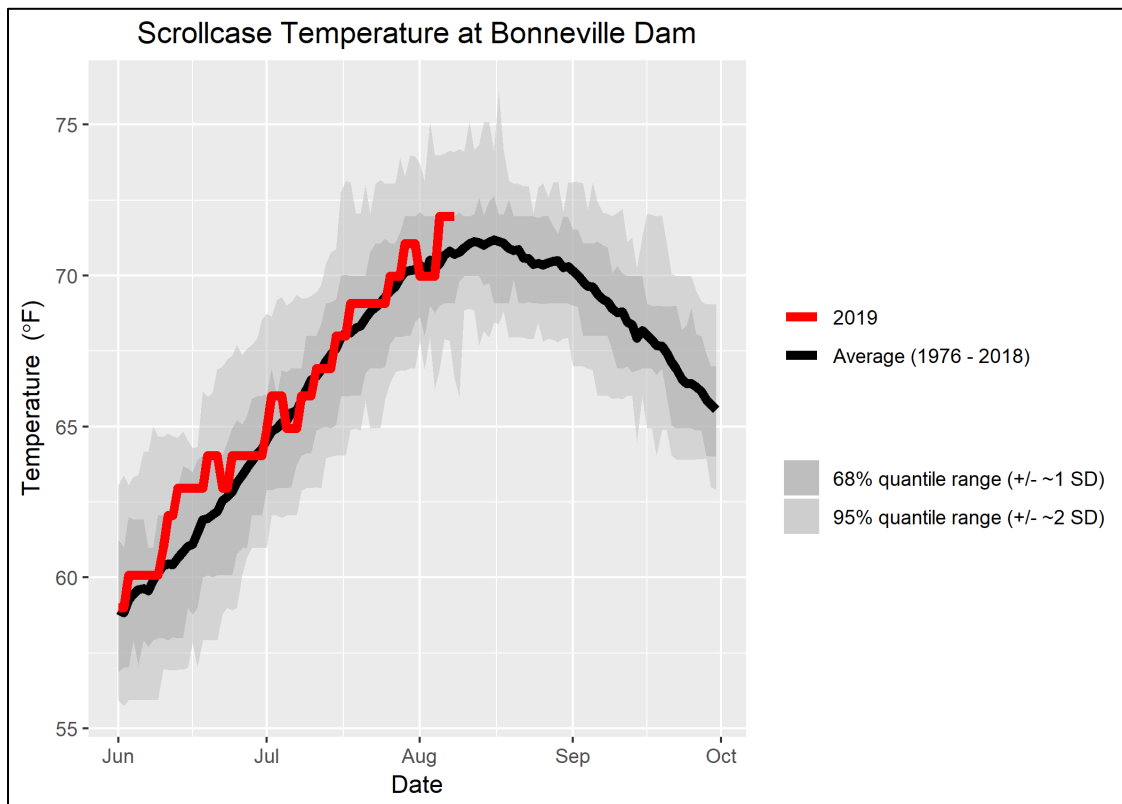
<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Treaty mainstem commercial salmon
--	--

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 2019 Fall Report was distributed on July 22, 2019. Links to the on-line reports are:

<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> or
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam as of August 9 are 140 kcfs, which is less than the ten-year average of 151.5 kcfs for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 72°F as of August 9, which is slightly higher than the recent ten-year average of 71.1°F. Temperatures in 2019 have been tracking similar to the ten-year average for much of the summer and early fall. Water temperatures typically peak in mid- to late August.



STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Columbia River fall Chinook are comprised of seven management components: Select Area Brights (SAB), Lower River Hatchery (LRH), Lower River Wild (LRW), Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH), Upriver Bright (URB), Pool Upriver Bright (PUB), and Lower River Bright (LRB). The aggregate PUB and LRB returns comprise the mid-Columbia Bright (MCB) stock category.
- The LRH and BPH stocks are referred to as tules and the LRW, SAB, URB, PUB, and LRB stocks are referred to as brights.
- The URB, BPH, and PUB Chinook are destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam, and in aggregate comprise the upriver run. Lower river components include SAB, LRH, LRW, and LRB Chinook stocks.
- The forecast for the 2019 fall Chinook adult return to the Columbia River totals 349,700 fish which would exceed the 2018 actual return of 293,424 adults and be 47% of the 2009–2018 average return (737,720 adults).
- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total 228,600 fall Chinook adults. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 9.
- Through August 8, adult Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam totals 2,789 fish, which is higher than expected for this point in the run; however, it is very early in the return.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing during July through October are categorized as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is primarily 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.
- The forecast for the combined A/B-Index steelhead return to Bonneville Dam totals 118,200 fish, including 40,450 unclipped (34,850 wild) fish. The forecasts for A- and B-Index steelhead are 46% and 24% of their respective recent 10-year averages.
- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 through August 8 total 32,123 fish, which is less than expected (~46,300) given the 2019 forecast and is 30% of the recent 10-year average (48% of recent 5-year). Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 50% complete by August 20. The count of unclipped steelhead from July 1 through August 8 totals 18,969 (59% of total) which is 89% of the expected passage for this period.
- During July 1 through August 1, 219 steelhead have been sampled at Bonneville Dam (preliminary data). Three unclipped B-Index steelhead and zero clipped B-Index steelhead have been sampled in this timeframe. All of the other steelhead sampled since July 1 have been A-Index fish (91 clipped and 125 unclipped). Stock proportions are normal for this point in the run. Due to water temperatures at Bonneville Dam reaching 72°F, sampling at the Bonneville Adult Fish Facility was put on hold beginning Monday August 5.

Coho

- The 2019 Coho forecast to the Columbia River is for a return of 611,300 adults, which includes 388,000 early stock and 223,300 late stock. The forecast is 162% of the recent 10-year average of 377,900 fish.
- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total 180,300 adult Coho, which represents 64% of the forecasted ocean abundance of Columbia River Coho destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam. Only 16 adult Coho have been counted at Bonneville Dam through August 8 which is not unusual.

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted *				
		2018	2018	2019
		Forecast	Return	Forecast
Fall Chinook	Total Fall Chinook	375,510	293,424	349,600
	Lower River Hatchery - LRH	63,910	52,963	55,100
	Lower River Wild - LRW	7,860	8,270	14,100
	Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	51,420	28,861	48,400
	Upriver Bright – URB	205,060	149,043	159,200
	<i>Snake River Wild - SRW</i>	<i>9,600</i>	<i>10,642</i>	<i>8,600</i>
	Lower River Bright - LRB	3,760	14,235	7,900
	Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	38,200	36,009	61,800
	Select Area Bright - SAB	5,300	4,043	3,100
Coho	Total Coho	213,600	137,708	611,300
	Early stock	127,200	78,473	388,000
	Late stock	86,400	59,235	223,300
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	182,400	94,000	118,200
(to Bonneville Dam)	A-Index (total)	158,000	69,338	110,200
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>44,800</i>	<i>21,725</i>	<i>33,900</i>
	B-Index (total)	24,400	24,662	8,000
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>3,400</i>	<i>2,382</i>	<i>950</i>

* Wild components are included in the stock total.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, summer 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.
 - However, for 2019 the states have opted to manage non-treaty fisheries conservatively, and expect to only accrue a 6.58% harvest rate (HR) on the URB/SRW stock prior to an in-season run-size update. Additional fishing

opportunity is planned if the URB return is projected to meet or exceed preseason expectations.

- 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.
- The allowable non-treaty impact rates for wild summer steelhead (A-Index and B-Index) during fall fisheries is 2% each.
- Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead.
- The goal for upriver Coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
- Fisheries are managed based on preseason forecasts until in-season run size updates become available.
- The ESA impact limit to LCR tule fall Chinook is 38% in 2019 given the pre-season forecast. Harvest of LRH stock is the surrogate for LCR Chinook. This exploitation rate (ER) limit includes impacts in ocean and Columbia River fisheries combined.
- In 2019, fishery impacts to LCN Coho are limited to a 23% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.

2019 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Due to the conservative approach to managing 2019 fall fisheries, preseason planning for Chinook-directed mainstem commercial fisheries in Zones 4-5 was limited to the early fall season and modeled to begin sometime during August 11-17 (week 33).
- Season expectations include 1-2 fishing periods (Monday and Wednesday nights) weekly into week 35 (August 25-31).
- Early fall regulations typically include 9-hour periods (9 PM-6 AM) and a 9-inch minimum mesh size.
- Considering the modeled season structure for the 2019 fall commercial season and input from the CRCAG and subsequent industry communication, staff is making the following recommendation:

<i>Recommendation: 2019 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i>	
Season:	Five 9-hour fishing periods during August 14–29
Week 33 (1 period)	9 PM Wednesday August 14 to 6 AM Thursday August 15
Week 34 (2 periods)	9 PM Monday August 19 to 6 AM Tuesday August 20 9 PM Wednesday August 21 to 6 AM Thursday August 22
Week 35 (2 periods)	9 PM Monday August 26 to 6 AM Tuesday August 27 9 PM Wednesday August 28 to 6 AM Thursday August 29
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. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except Chum), shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of seven 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:	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 periods are consistent with the 2019 Non-Treaty Columbia River Summer/Fall Fishing Plan.
- Modeled kept catch expectations total 8,020 adult Chinook, 400 Coho, and 460 white sturgeon. Chinook catch is expected to build as the fishery progresses. Weekly adult Chinook catch expectations include:
 - Week 33 = 280; Week 34 = 3,210; Week 35 = 4,530
- Staff will monitor landings for the initial three periods to determine if catch rates are tracking consistent with expectations. If catches are higher than expected, there is adequate time to modify the final week of the season if needed.
- Restricting the fishery to a 9-inch minimum mesh in Zones 4-5 will reduce the catch of LCR tule Chinook and steelhead handle, and is consistent with Commission guidance.
- The proposed fishery is expected to accrue Chinook ESA impacts of 1.9% SRW and 1.0% LCR wild, respectively, and LCN Coho impacts less than 0.1%.
- The fishery will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated; actual harvest may be more or less than modeled. Catch expectations are a reflection of the number of fish that may be harvested given the ESA constraints.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.08% for A-Index and 0.06% for B-Index for the proposed fishery. Total non-treaty impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.6% for A-Index and 1.2% for B-Index, compared to the 2.0% total allowed for each during the fall season.
- Ex-vessel prices (per pound) during the 2018 early fall season averaged \$3.69 for bright Chinook, \$0.62 for tule Chinook, and \$1.86 for Coho. Chinook prices for the 2019 early fall fishery are expected to be high.
- Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets are planned to occur primarily 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).

2019 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Fall management period platform and hook and line fisheries began August 1. Initial catch updates are still being developed, but early August catches are generally low. Low level fishing just downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to occur also.
- Commercial gillnet fisheries typically begin in mid to late August. Given uncertainty about run sizes, the tribes have chosen to begin gillnet fisheries in late August this year.
- The tribes have planned the first part of the fall season fisheries and have or will adopt regulations consistent with the following.

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Monday August 26 to 6 PM Wednesday August 28 6 AM Monday September 2 to 6 PM Thursday September 5	(2.5 days) (3.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary are in effect.	
Gear:	Set and Drift gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh 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 required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.	

- Tribal staff have modeled impacts associated with these fisheries which are shown in the table below.

2019 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (Modeled catches)										
Week		Gillnet Fishery	Dates	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
31-34	Projected	Platform/ H&L	August 1-24	na	1,200	1,000	360	30	5	
35	Projected	8/26	8/28	420	7,700	4,200	690	50	290	
36	Projected	9/2	9/5	530	16,300	7,900	1,040	100	650	
Total					25,200	13,100	2,090	180	945	
Allowed at Forecast run size						36,628				1,034
Expected Harvest through wk 36 (ending Sept 7)						13,100				180
Remaining after Sept 7						23,528				854
Expected Harvest Rate through wk 36 (ending Sept 7)						8.2%				2.3%
Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 7						14.8%				10.7%
Catches for platform and hook and line fisheries in weeks with commercial gillnet openings are included in the gillnet estimate.										

- The projected catches through the week ending September 7 will be within the URB harvest rate limit down to a run size of 60,000 and will be within the B-Index steelhead run size limit down to a run size of 1,385.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remains within management limits. Set net counts will be made by air for each week of commercial gillnet fishing.
- Based on expected catches through September 7, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits even at lower than forecast run sizes.
- Platform and hook and line fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries do not require Compact action at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. The Joint Staff will monitor the non-treaty commercial fishery and recommend additional hearings as needed. The Treaty tribes have requested a Compact hearing be scheduled via teleconference for either late Wednesday September 5 or any time on Thursday September 6 to consider additional treaty commercial gillnet openings.