

YAKAMA NATION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact
September 17, 2019

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| <i>Fisheries under consideration:</i> Treaty mainstem commercial salmon |
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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 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 was 81.5kcfs as of September 16, which is less than the ten-year average for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 69.5°F as of September 16, which is close to the recent ten-year average.

STOCK STATUS

- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday September 16, 2019 to review and discuss information relative to the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead return and the upriver fall Chinook return. TAC downgraded the 2019 expected aggregate A-/B-Index return to 69,200 fish based on Bonneville Dam passage to date and recent ten-year average passage timing. TAC also downgraded the expected passage of unclipped A-/B-Index steelhead to 34,300. TAC downgraded the B-Index forecast to 2,500 including 1,300 unclipped fish. TAC downgraded the BPH tule run to 31,000 at the Columbia River mouth (22,300 at Bonneville Dam) and upgraded the URB run to 167,200 at the river mouth (155,345 at Bonneville). The PUB run size was upgraded to 66,200 at the river mouth and 61,055 at Bonneville.
- Through September 16, a total of 173,154 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Passage of the total Chinook run is typically 73% complete by September 16. The clip rate for chinook is 36.1%
- The bright Chinook count through September 16 is 152,385. The adult-aged tule count through September 16 is 20,769.
- Chinook jack passage to date is 27,974 which is above last year but well below the 10-year average to date of 51,582.
- The adult fall Chinook count at McNary Dam is 36,276 through September 16. Based on 10-year average run timing, the run at McNary would be 46% complete. Although TAC has not updated the final expected run size, average run timing suggests the run will exceed the 60,000 fish management goal.
- Spring Creek Hatchery will begin spawning fish this week and will be providing regular reports on broodstock collection efforts soon.

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 59,810 total A/B Index fish of which 30,747 are unclipped. The total A/B Index steelhead run is typically 86% complete by September 16. The counts for unclipped fish total more than the clipped hatchery fish. This has not been observed since clipped and unclipped counts for steelhead began at Bonneville Dam in 1994.
- TAC will continue to monitor the steelhead and Chinook returns and will provide additional in-season updates when available. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, September 23.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through September 16 total 33,566 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). The total to date is more than last year (21,461) but less than the 10-year average passage to date of 49,614. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 71% complete by September 16. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 15.0%.
- The Coho jack count to date is 2,918. This is less than last year and less than the ten-year average to date of 3,112.
- Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in the 2019 Fall Fact Sheet #1.

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.
 - 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.

2019 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Fall management period platform and hook and line fisheries began August 1. Early August catches are generally low. Low levels of fishing just downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to occur.

- Commercial gillnet fisheries typically begin in mid to late August. Given uncertainties about run sizes, the tribes chose to begin gillnet fisheries in late August this year.
- The tribes also allowed a limited amount of ceremonial permit gillnet fishing during the week of August 19 to help meet needs for fish that were not met in the spring and summer management periods.
- Preliminary harvest estimates along with projections for this week and next are presented in the table below. TAC's updated run sizes were used to model fisheries.

| 2019 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Week | | Gillnet Fishery | Dates | Set Net Count | Total Adult Chinook | URB Chinook | Total Steelhead | B Steelhead | Coho |
| 31-34 | Preliminary | Platform/H&L | August 1-24 | na | 538 | 169 | 420 | 0 | 11 |
| 34 | Preliminary | Permit Gillnet | August 19-23 | na | 503 | 279 | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| 35 | Preliminary | 8/26 | 8/28 | 371 | 4,305 | 1,351 | 190 | 13 | 94 |
| 36 | Preliminary | 9/2 | 9/5 | 501 | 6,696 | 2,941 | 215 | 3 | 172 |
| 37 | Preliminary | 9/9 | 9/12 | 422 | 9,089 | 4,485 | 289 | 20 | 229 |
| 38 | Preliminary | 9/16 | 9/19 | 550 | 9,500 | 3,700 | 380 | 72 | 480 |
| | | | | Subtotal | 30,631 | 12,925 | 1,540 | 108 | 986 |
| 39 | Projected | 9/23 | 9/26 | 550 | 6,410 | 2,450 | 450 | 95 | 650 |
| | | | | Subtotal | 37,041 | 15,375 | 1,990 | 203 | 1,636 |
| | | Late Fall Platforms | | | 550 | 500 | 500 | 100 | 200 |
| | | | | Total | 37,591 | 15,875 | 2,490 | 303 | 1,836 |
| | | | | Allowed at Projected URB and B run size | | 38,456 | | 325 | |
| | | | | Harvest Rate as of Sept 21 | | 7.7% | | 4.3% | |
| | | | | Remaining after Sept 21 | | 25,531 | | 217 | |
| | | | | Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 28 | | 9.2% | | 12.1% | |
| | | | | Remaining Available After Sept 28 | | 23,081 | | 22 | |
| | | | | * Remaining available after expected late fall platform catch. | | | | | |

- Catches for platform and hook and line fisheries in weeks with commercial gillnet openings are included in the gillnet estimate.
- The tribes have planned an additional commercial gillnet opening and will adopt regulations consistent with the following.

| 2019 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Seasons: | Extend the ongoing gillnet fishery through 6 PM Thursday September 19 | (3.5 days total) |
| | 6 AM Monday September 23 to 6 PM Wednesday September 25 | (3.5 days) |

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| 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. |

- Extending the fishery this week is expected to catch an additional 14 B-Index Steelhead. An additional 95 B-Index steelhead would be expected to be caught next week.
- Based on expected catches through September 28, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits even at lower than forecast run sizes. This includes reserving B-Index steelhead for late fall platform and hook and line fishing.
- The projected catches through the week ending September 28 (plus expected late fall platform catches) will be within the URB harvest rate limit down to a run size of 60,022 and will be within the B-Index steelhead run size limit down to a run size of 2,331.
- 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. State and tribal staff work collaboratively to ensure biological sampling of fall season fisheries occurs and that data are shared regularly.
- 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

- There is a Joint State Hearing scheduled for 2:30 PM Wednesday, September 18 via teleconference to consider mainstem recreational salmon fisheries.