

COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10a
Columbia River Compact
September 24, 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 93.3kcfs as of September 23, which is similar to the ten-year average for this date. Flows have been fluctuating.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 69.3°F as of September 23, which is close to the recent ten-year average.

STOCK STATUS

- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday September 23, 2019 to review and discuss information relative to the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead return, the upriver fall Chinook return, and the upriver component of the early-stock Coho return. TAC maintained the current 2019 aggregate A-/B-Index return expectation of 69,200 fish based on Bonneville Dam passage to date and recent ten-year average passage timing; the passage expectation includes 34,300 unclipped natural- and hatchery-origin fish. TAC did upgrade the projection for the B-Index component; this upgrade has the effect of reducing the expectation for the A-Index component. Of the aggregate return, TAC now expects 64,700 of these fish to be A-Index (32,600 unclipped) and 4,500 to be B-Index (1,700 unclipped). TAC updated the 2019 upriver bright and tule stock fall Chinook Bonneville Dam passage expectation. Given the information currently available, TAC expects the Columbia River mouth return of fall Chinook to total 355,900 adult fish (102% of preseason forecast). This total includes 173,100 URBs, 68,900 PUBs, and 33,700 BPH. The bright stock return is expected to be greater than the preseason forecast while the BPH stock component is expected to be less than forecast. TAC updated the expected passage of upriver early-stock Coho at Bonneville Dam to 53,500 adults. This in-season projection is about 40% of the preseason expectation. TAC will continue to monitor the steelhead, Chinook, and Coho returns and will provide additional in-season updates when available. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, September 30.
- Through September 23, a total of 224,034 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Passage of the total Chinook run is Chinook is typically 85.9% complete by September 23. The clip rate for chinook is 36.1%
- The bright chinook count through September 23 is 190,859. The adult aged tule count through September 23 is 24,707.

- Chinook jack passage to date is 35,295 which is above last year but well below the 10-year average to date of 66,166.
- The adult Chinook count at McNary Dam is 74,985 through September 23. Based on 10-year average run timing, the run at McNary would be 65.4% complete.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 63,714 total A/B Index fish of which 31,956 are unclipped. The total A/B Index steelhead run is typically 94% complete by September 24. The counts for unclipped fish total slightly 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.
- Run year counts at Bonneville Dam through September 23 total 46,490 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). The total to date is more than last year (25,749) but less than the 10-year average passage to date of 60,060. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 86.5% complete by September 23. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 17.9%.
- The Coho jack count to date is 3,795 This is less than last year and less than the ten-year average to date of 3,984.
- 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.
- Four weekly commercial gillnet fisheries have been conducted and the fifth one is in progress.
- Preliminary harvest estimates along with projections for this week and next are presented in the table below. TAC 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 | 4,705 | 1,477 | 284 | 43 | 94 |
| 36 | Preliminary | 9/2 | 9/5 | 501 | 6,994 | 3,072 | 215 | 3 | 172 |
| 37 | Preliminary | 9/9 | 9/12 | 422 | 11,013 | 5,435 | 289 | 20 | 191 |
| 38 | Preliminary | 9/16 | 9/19 | 503 | 15,833 | 10,229 | 496 | 41 | 367 |
| | | | | Subtotal | 39,586 | 20,661 | 1,750 | 107 | 835 |
| 39 | Preliminary | 9/23 | 9/26 | 500 | 10,230 | 6,650 | 502 | 91 | 1,820 |
| | | | | Subtotal | 49,816 | 27,311 | 2,252 | 198 | 2,655 |
| | | Late Fall Platforms | | | 550 | 500 | 460 | 60 | 200 |
| | | | | Total | 50,366 | 27,811 | 2,712 | 258 | 2,855 |
| | | | | Allowed at Projected URB and B run size | | 39,813 | | 585 | |
| | | | | Harvest Rate as of Sept 21 | | 11.9% | | 2.4% | |
| | | | | Remaining after Sept 21 | | 19,152 | | 478 | |
| | | | | Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 28 | | 15.8% | | 5.7% | |
| | | | | Remaining Available After Sept 28 | | 12,502 | | 387 | |

- 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

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| Seasons: | Extend the ongoing gillnet fishery through 6 PM Thursday September 26. (3.5 days total) |
| Area: | All of 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 20 B-Index Steelhead over the current two night fishery.
- 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. Recent year's late fall platform fisheries have harvested up to 60 B-Index steelhead.
- The preliminary harvest of adult aged BPH stock is expected to total 16,400 through the end of this week.
- 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 118,743 and will be within the B-Index steelhead run size limit down to a run size of 1,523.
- 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 Compact Hearing scheduled for 11:00 AM Wednesday, September 25 via teleconference to consider mainstem commercial salmon fisheries.