

Yakama Nation Fisheries
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12
Columbia River Compact
October 2, 2019

Fisheries under consideration: 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 was 85.7kcfs as of September 29, which is similar to the ten-year average for this date. Flows have been fluctuating.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 63°F as of October 1, which is close to the recent ten-year average.

STOCK STATUS

- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday September 30, 2019 to review run size updates and catches. 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 34,900 hatchery-origin fish. TAC expects 64,700 of these fish to be A-Index (32,600 unclipped) and 4,500 to be B-Index (1,700 unclipped). TAC expects the Columbia River mouth return of fall Chinook to total 361,000 adult fish (103% of preseason forecast). This total includes 176,800 URBs, 70,200 PUBs, and 33,800 BPH. TAC maintained 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, October 7.
- Through October 1, a total of 249,906 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Passage of the total Chinook run is typically 85.9% complete by September 29. The clip rate for chinook is 36.1%
- The bright chinook count through October 1 is 215,859. The adult aged tule count through October 1 is 25,441.
- Chinook jack passage to date is 39,484 which is above last year but well below the 10-year average to date of 76,142.
- The adult Chinook count at McNary Dam is 99,256 through October 1. Based on 10-year average run timing, the run at McNary would be 82.8% complete.

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 66,091 total A/B Index fish of which 32,644 are unclipped. The total A/B Index steelhead run is 96% complete.
- Run year counts at Bonneville Dam through September 30 total 54,228 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). The total to date is more than last year (29,036) but less than the 10-year average passage to date of 70,974. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 86.5% complete by September 29. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 24.1%.
- The Coho jack count to date is 4,474. This is less than last year and less than the ten-year average to date of 4,959

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.

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.
- Five weekly commercial gillnet fisheries have been conducted
- Preliminary harvest estimates along with projections for this week 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	564	177	420	0	11
34	Permit Gillnet	August 19-23	na	503	279	46	0	0	0
35	Preliminary	8/26	8/28	371	4,705	1,477	259	18	94
36	Preliminary	9/2	9/5	501	7,061	3,102	215	3	172
37	Preliminary	9/9	9/12	422	11,013	5,435	302	21	229
38	Preliminary	9/16	9/19	503	18,490	11,946	495	41	572
39	Preliminary	9/23	9/26	410	8,239	3,704	524	55	858
				Subtotal	50,351	25,887	2,215	138	1,936
40	Preliminary	10/3	10/5	400	4,590	3,200	400	100	320
				Subtotal	54,941	29,087	2,615	238	2,256
		Late Fall Platforms			550	500	460	60	200
				Total	55,491	29,587	3,075	298	2,456
				Allowed at Projected URB and B run size		40,733		585	
				Harvest Rate as of Sept 28		14.6%		3.1%	
				Remaining after Sept 28		14,346		387	
				Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 5		16.4%		5.3%	
				Remaining Available After Oct 5		11,146		287	

- 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.
- Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery met their broodstock goal of 12.2 million eggs and completed spawning on October 1, 2019. The tribes will reduce the sanctuary at Spring Creek to a 150 foot radius around the hatchery ladder.

2019 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery

Seasons:	6 AM Thursday October 3 to 6 PM Saturday October 5, 2019	(2.5 days total)
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary will be reduced to a 150 foot radius around the hatchery ladder.	
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.	

- Based on expected catches through October 5, 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 projected catches through the week ending October 5 (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 are no future Compact Hearings scheduled at this time.