

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 13
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 7, 2019

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-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/jsmreports.asp>.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 81.1 kcfs, which is less than the recent ten-year average for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 63°F which is lower than the recent 10-year average (64°F) for this date.

STOCK STATUS

Salmon/Steelhead

- Through October 6, an estimated 248,689 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is similar to in-season expectations.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 67,506 total A/B-Index fish.
- Run year counts for early stock Coho (fish passing prior to October 1) at Bonneville Dam totaled 54,228 fish. Total adult passage for the 2019 run year is 57,644 through October 6.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today (October 7, 2019) to review and discuss the upriver A/B-Index summer steelhead return and the upriver fall Chinook 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 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 367,500 adult fish (105% of preseason forecast). This total includes 181,500 URBs, 71,800 PUBs, and 34,000 BPH.
 - TAC is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday October 15.
- McNary Dam passage through October 6 is 111,094 adult fall Chinook, therefore the *U.S. vs Oregon* management goal of 60,000 fish at McNary Dam has been met.
- 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. vs 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 Chinook 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.
 - 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

- Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission policies/regulations provide guidance for both preseason planning and in-season management of non-treaty fall fisheries. Commission guidance allocates fall Chinook ESA impacts of no more than 70% recreational and no less than 30% commercial of the most constraining stock (Upriver Bright for 2019) and allows the use of gillnets in Zones 4/5.

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Preseason plans for the commercial fishery included an August (Early Fall) Chinook fishery in Zones 4-5, Select Area fisheries, a Coho tangle net fishery to begin in late September/October in Zones 1-3, and if sufficient URBs were available, a Chinook fishery in late September/October in Zones 4-5.
- The August commercial season consisted of four fishing periods during August 14-27 in Zones 4-5. Gear was restricted to 9-inch minimum mesh. Weekly sturgeon landing limits were in place throughout the season (7/vessel/week). Catch included 6,360 Chinook, 495 white sturgeon, and 206 Coho. Deliveries ranged from 37-63 per period.
- The Coho tangle net fishery has been open for two of the scheduled seven days (Sept 30 & Oct 2), and has caught 983 hatchery Coho and 480 Chinook.
- Given catches to date and projections for the Coho tangle net fishery, the commercial URB share is about 22% compared to the 30% minimum allocation.

- Based on the current URB run size, sufficient numbers of URBs are available within the commercial allocation for a Chinook-directed large mesh gill net fishery in Zones 4/5.

<i>Recommendation: 2019 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Fall Fishery</i>	
Season:	Four 12-hour fishing periods during October 8–16
Week 41 (2 periods)	7 PM Tuesday October 8 to 7 AM Wednesday October 9 7 PM Thursday October 10 to 7 AM Friday October 11
Week 42 (2 periods)	7 PM Sunday October 13 to 7 AM Monday October 14 7 PM Tuesday October 15 to 7 AM Wednesday October 16
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. 8-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) and shad.
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.

- A minimum mesh size of 8-inches is proposed as the Chinook age composition in October is typically comprised of a higher proportion of smaller (age-3) fish.
- The projected adult Chinook catch for the proposed four day season would total 1,060, of which 600 would be URBs. The proposed fishery would increase the commercial sharing of URBs from 22% to 26% of the total available for non-treaty fisheries.
- Harvest of LRH fall Chinook is expected to be low since the fishery would occur upstream of the Lewis River and most have entered the tributaries by early October.
- Impacts to upriver summer steelhead are also expected to be low as 98% of the aggregate run and 91% of the B-Index component has typically passed Bonneville Dam by the start of the proposed fishery.

ESA Impact Summary for Non-Treaty Fisheries

- SRW/URB impacts for combined non-treaty fisheries (completed, ongoing, and planned) are projected to remain within the allowable ESA limits.

Projected fall Chinook mortalities (kept and release mortalities) in 2019 non-treaty fisheries.				
	Total Chinook	adult URB	URB %	SRW/URB Impact
Recreational (actual and planned)	27,970	10,250	68.5%	5.65%
August Zone 4-5 (actual)	6,360	2,500		
Late Fall Zone 4-5 (TBD)	1,060	600		
Select Area (full season)	3,400	80		
Coho tangle net (full season)	1,120	690		
Commercial Sum	11,940	3,870	25.9%	2.13%
Non-treaty Sum	39,910	14,120		7.78%
Non-treaty allowed at 181.5K URB		14,970		
Balance		850	5.7%	

- Lower Columbia River wild tule impacts are projected to not exceed 33.5% for combined in-river and ocean fisheries compared to the ESA limit of 38%.
- LCN Coho exploitation rate (ER) is not projected to exceed 18% (ocean and in-river fisheries), based on preseason forecasts and planned fisheries, compared to the allowable ESA limit of 23%.
- Steelhead impacts for combined non-treaty fisheries are projected at 0.5% and 0.9% for A- and B-Index wild steelhead, respectively, compared to the ESA limit of 2% allowed for each stock.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor stock status and fisheries, and will recommend additional hearings as needed.