

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 15  
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
October 10, 2019**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	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>.*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Salmon/Steelhead***

- Through October 9, an estimated 253,098 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 68,691 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 59,123 through October 9.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met 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 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.
- *U.S. vs Oregon* management goal of 60,000 fish over 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 6,462 Chinook, 509 white sturgeon, and 206 Coho. Deliveries ranged from 37-63 per period.
- Preliminary landings from Select Area fisheries through October 8 include 3,342 Chinook and 16,397 Coho.
- The Coho tangle net fishery has been open for four (Sept. 30, Oct. 2, Oct. 7, and Oct 9) of the seven scheduled periods. Landings for the first three periods include 1,200 hatchery Coho and 523 Chinook; the Coho catch has been below expectations. Landings are not yet available for the fourth period.
- A late-fall mainstem Zone 4-5 commercial fishery consisting of four 12-hour periods between October 8 and October 16 was recently adopted. The first period occurred on Tuesday night (Oct 8-9). Landings are still preliminary, but are estimated to include approximately 1,800 Chinook. Based on limited coded-wire tag data, the URB proportion of the catch was 73%, compared to 57% expected. The estimated URB harvest is 1,310 URBs, compared to 600 expected for the full four day season.

- The following table summarizes total Chinook and URB mortalities in Fall 2019 non-treaty fisheries.

Projected fall Chinook mortalities (kept and release mortalities) in 2019 non-treaty fisheries.				
	Total Chinook	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 (Oct 8 preliminary)	1,800	1,310		
Select Area (full season)	3,400	80		
Coho tangle net (full season)	600	370		
Commercial Sum	12,160	4,260	28.5%	2.35%
Non-treaty Sum	40,130	14,510		7.99%
Non-treaty allowed at 181.5K URB		14,970		
Balance		460	3.1%	

- Given the URB usage in the first Zone 4-5 period was much higher than expected, the balance available to prosecute the remainder of the previously adopted fishing periods is limited.
- Staff estimates that URB mortalities for the fishing periods scheduled for tonight (Oct 10) and/or Sunday (Oct 13) would result in exceeding, or be very near, the 8.25% URB harvest rate allowed for non-treaty fisheries.
- Considering the conservative approach utilized for 2019 fall fisheries to prevent exceeding the allowed non-treaty URB harvest rate for a third consecutive year, staff recommends the remainder of the currently planned Zone 4-5 commercial fishery be rescinded.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2019 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Fall Fishery</i></b>
Rescind the mainstem non-treaty commercial fishing periods previously adopted for 7 PM Thursday October 10 to 7 AM Friday October 11, 7 PM Sunday October 13 to 7 AM Monday October 14, and 7 PM Tuesday October 15 to 7 AM Wednesday October 16.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor stock status and fisheries, and will recommend additional hearings as needed. Staff may request a hearing to next week following the TAC meeting (Tuesday Oct 15) to consider non-treaty fisheries.