

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6b**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 10, 2020**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b> Non-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 online. The 2020 Fall Report was distributed on July 22, 2020. Links to the online 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**

- Up-to-date river conditions are provided in 2020 Fall Fact Sheet 6a.

**STOCK STATUS**

- Up-to-date stock status information is provided in 2020 Fall Fact Sheet 6a.

**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 45% of the URB run based on the preseason forecast (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
  - However, due to non-treaty fisheries exceeding allowed harvest rates in recent years, and the breakpoint in the harvest rate schedule being well within the margin of historical forecast error, a conservative approach to preseason fishery planning is being utilized. All fisheries incorporate a split-season structure which limits the combined non-treaty URB/SRW harvest rate (HR) to 8.25% prior to an in-season run-size update. The initial URB run-size update typically occurs in mid-September. Additional fishing opportunity is planned to access the full 15% HR if the URB run size is projected to be at least 200,000 adults in-season
  - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
  - The management goal for adult fall Chinook passage 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.
- The ESA impact limit to LCR tule fall Chinook is 38% in 2020 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 2020, fishery impacts to LCN Coho are limited to an 18% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.

## 2020 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

### *Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries*

- Fall commercial fisheries occurred on Monday and Wednesday nights from August 10 – 26 (six 9-hour periods). The period planned for the night of Monday, August 31 was rescinded via in-season action.
- Catches over the six periods included 16,546 Chinook (including 4,765 URB, 2,156 LRH, and 7,526 BPH adults), 352 coho and 405 white sturgeon. The adult URB mortalities are 80% of the 5,970 allocated to the early fall season. A total of 188 white sturgeon (165 mainstem and 23 Select Area) remain available on the commercial sub-allocation.
- The preseason plan assumed additional commercial fishing opportunity would be available post-update beginning the week of September 14 if the URB run is projected to meet or exceed the threshold necessary to allow a 15% harvest rate for non-treaty fisheries.
- Based on the preseason URB forecast, the commercial URB allocation is no less than 10,241 fish. Considering needs for Select Area fisheries and a placeholder for October tangle net fisheries, a balance of approximately 4,650 URBs remain available for mainstem commercial fisheries.
- Given the uncertainty around the fall Chinook run timing, staff recommend a measured approach to the start of the late fall season.

Summary of LRH and URB fall Chinook mortalities in non-treaty mainstem fisheries through September 7, 2020.										
Area	LRH					URB				
	Actual	ER %	Sep. 23 - Dec. 31	Full Season ER %	Remaining Balance ER %	Actual	HR %	Sep. 23 - Dec. 31	Full Season HR %	Remaining Balance HR %
Buoy 10	4,798	6.9%	6,077	8.8%	1.9%	4,882	2.1%	7,754	3.4%	1.3%
TP-WR	973	1.4%	1,149	1.7%	0.3%	1,612	0.7%	5,165	2.3%	1.6%
WR-Bonn	342	0.6%	561	0.9%	0.3%	3,325	1.5%	8,985	3.9%	2.5%
Bonn-McNary	-	-	-	-	-	553	0.2%	1,975	0.9%	0.6%
<i>Non-Treaty Rec. Sum</i>	<i>6,113</i>	<i>8.9%</i>	<i>7,787</i>	<i>11.4%</i>	<i>2.5%</i>	<i>10,372</i>	<i>4.6%</i>	<i>23,879</i>	<i>10.5%</i>	<i>5.9%</i>
Z4-5 Commercial	2,156	1.0%	2,798	2.0%	1.0%	4,765	2.1%	9,447	4.2%	2.1%
SAFE	-	-	3,633	0.4%	0.4%	-	-	292	0.1%	0.1%
Coho T-Net	-	-	58	0.1%	0.1%	-	-	525	0.2%	0.2%
<i>Non-Treaty Comm. Sum</i>	<i>2,156</i>	<i>1.0%</i>	<i>6,489</i>	<i>2.5%</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>4,765</i>	<i>2.1%</i>	<i>10,264</i>	<i>4.5%</i>	<i>2.4%</i>
<b>Non-Treaty Total</b>	<b>8,269</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>14,276</b>	<b>13.9%</b>	<b>4.0%</b>	<b>15,137</b>	<b>6.7%</b>	<b>34,143</b>	<b>15.0%</b>	<b>8.4%</b>

<i>Recommendation: 2020 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i>		
Season:	8 PM Tuesday September 15 to 6 AM Wednesday September 16 (Week 38)	10 hours
	8 PM Monday September 21 to 6 AM Tuesday September 22 (Week 39)	10 hours
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 <b>NOT</b> in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum), shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of <b>four</b> white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.	
Additional:	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.	

- Chinook catch is projected to be ~7,600 Chinook adults, including 3,570 URBs for the two periods. The ESA impact to SRWs would be 1.57%, compared to the 2.06% available for late-fall Chinook-directed fisheries. LCR wild impacts are projected at 0.8% ER.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.02% for A-Index and 0.18% for B-Index for the proposed fishery.
- The expected harvest of white sturgeon is about 150 fish total for these two periods.
- Upon review of catches from the proposed fisheries and more information about the Chinook run size, additional commercial opportunities will be considered.
- The fishery will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated; actual harvest may be more or less than modeled. Catch expectations are a reflection of the number of fish that may be harvested given the ESA constraints.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- No additional hearings are currently scheduled. Staff will monitor catch and request additional hearings as needed.