

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4a
Columbia River Compact
September 3, 2020

Fisheries under Consideration: Treaty Commercial Gillnet

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 2020 Fall Report was distributed on July 22, 2020. 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 recent five-day average Columbia River flow at Bonneville Dam as of September 2 is 119 kcfs which matches the five-year average flow on this date. The recent 5-day average water temperature at Bonneville is 69.3°F, which is just under the recent five-year average.
- The recent 3-day average temperature measured at Elliot Point in the estuary by CMOP (Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction) is approximately 70°F.

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet 1.

Fall Chinook

- Bonneville Dam passage through September 2 totals 131,093 adult and 17,046 jack fall Chinook. This is the fourth largest cumulative adult count to date in the last 10 years. The clip rate is approximately 68%, which is higher than average. Combined Bright and Tule Adult passage is typically 26% complete on September 1 but has been as much as 49% complete on this date within the last 10 years.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing during July through October are categorized as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is primarily A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake river basins.
- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 total 70,462 fish, which is 44% of the recent 10-year average (75% of recent 5-year). It is the seventh lowest count to date in the last 10 years. Passage of the total run at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 71% complete by September 2 (recent 10-year average). The count of unclipped steelhead since July 1 totals 31,305 fish which is the 4th lowest cumulative count to date in the last 10 years. The ad-clip rate is 55.6% which is lower than average for this time period.
- During July 1-August 27, 743 steelhead have been sampled at Bonneville Dam. 23 unclipped B-Index steelhead and 33 clipped B-Index steelhead have been sampled in this

timeframe. All of the other steelhead sampled since July 1 have been A-Index fish (357 clipped and 330 unclipped). A and B sized fish proportions are not unusual for this point in the run.

Coho

- For this season's return through September 2, a total of 19,476 adult and 4,062 jack coho have passed Bonneville Dam for this run year. The adult count to date is the highest in the last 10 years and the jack count to date is a record high count. The coho run at Bonneville is typically 11% complete by this date. The adult clip rate is 53% which is higher than average.

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. If the actual URB return is less than 200,000, the impact limits drop to 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 passage at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
- 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.

2020 TREATY FISHERIES

Fall Season Fisheries

- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries have been open for both subsistence and commercial purposes since August 1.
- Table 1 below shows preliminary 2020 fall season treaty harvest and projected catches. The model assumes average effort and average catch rates. As actual effort and catches become available projected future catches will be scaled to actual catch rates.
- The tribes set two initial openings as a cautionary approach to beginning the fall season. The tribes anticipate commercial gillnet fisheries should be able to occur through at least late September.

Table 1. Fall Chinook Harvest Model Output

2020 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 1-22	na	466	170	560	70	66
35	Preliminary	8/24	8/27	355	6,587	2,406	328	39	190
36	Projected	8/31	9/4	450	13,300	4,100	400	60	200
				Subtotal	20,353	6,676	1,288	169	456
37	Projected	9/7	9/11	600	22,700	7,500	500	100	330
				Total	43,053	14,176	1,788	269	786
				Allowed at Projected URB and B run size		68,280		1,235	
				Harvest Rate as of Sept 7		2.9%		1.8%	
				Remaining after Sept 7		61,604		1,066	
				Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 12		6.2%		2.8%	
				Remaining Available After Sept 12		54,104		966	

Note: projected catches for statistical weeks with gillnet fisheries include platform and hook and line catch for those entire weeks.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

2020 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Seasons:	The currently scheduled gillnet fishery will be extended by one day and will close at 6:00 PM on Friday September 4. All other regulations will remain the same. The next season will be 6:00 AM September 7 through 6:00 PM September 11 (4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Set and Drift Gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh size
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 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.
Sanctuaries:	Standard sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is in place.
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.

- Fisheries will be monitored, and catches reported regularly. Fisheries will be modified as needed to keep harvest impacts within allowed limits for the treaty fall season fisheries.
- Aerial flights will be conducted each week to count set nets.
- There is no action needed for platform and hook and line fisheries, Yakama tributary fisheries or fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.

- Commercial fishing provides numerous economic benefits for tribal and non-tribal communities.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes request a Compact hearing on Thursday, September 10 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.