

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 25, 2021

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Buoy 10 recreational 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 online. The 2021 Fall Report was distributed on July 19, 2021. Links to the 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

- As of August 24, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 132 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 138 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 70.0°F compared to a five-year average of 71.5°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.8 feet which matches the five-year average.

STOCK STATUS

Salmon/Steelhead

- Run size forecasts for 2021 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.
- Through August 24, a total of 28,714 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is consistent with expectations given the preseason forecasts and average run timing. Over the last 10 years, the average 50% complete date has been September 10.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 26,443 A/B-Index fish which is the lowest on record since 1938. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is August 15.
- The U.S. vs OR Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on August 23 to review the A/B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. Although passage timing at this point in the run is quite variable, based on the 10-year average run timing for the A-Index components, TAC maintained its estimate of 35,000 A-Index fish passing Bonneville Dam by October 31. Because B-Index steelhead typically return in September and October, there is not enough information to provide an update about the B-Index component.
- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through August 24 total 4,418 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 50% complete by September 11.

2021 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fishery

- Preseason planning for Chinook-directed mainstem commercial fisheries in Zones 4-5 included eight fishing periods during the early fall (August) season with an expected catch of approximately 24,260 Chinook.
- For the initial four fishing periods, landings total 1,012 Chinook, 32 Coho, and 87 white sturgeon. Landings improved significantly for the most recent period (Monday night) with a preliminary estimate of 5,200-5,600 Chinook landed.

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area fisheries in Oregon opened Monday, August 23. Landings are not yet available but anecdotal information indicates catches were poor. The fall Deep River Select Area commercial fishery is scheduled to open September 13.

Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The fall lower Columbia River recreational salmon fishery from Tongue/Rocky Point upstream to Bonneville Dam opened August 1. Through August 22, an estimated 1,254 adult Chinook and 21 adult Coho have been retained from approximately 12,600 angler trips. Released estimates include 69 Chinook, 26 Coho, and 348 steelhead.
- The fall recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 (Pasco, WA) also opened August 1. Through August 22, an estimated 34 adult Chinook have been kept and 4 released from approximately 475 angler trips. Released estimates include 4 Chinook and 4 steelhead.

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The fall Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1, with the initial 10 days mark-selective (MSF) for Chinook. Preseason planning included expectations for Chinook retention through Labor Day (September 6) with season total Chinook mortalities of 26,990 and up to 94,000 Coho. Stock-specific Chinook mortalities for the season (including the post-Chinook retention period) included 6,320 LRH (5.85% ER) and 9,940 URB Chinook (2.7% HR).
- Effort was relatively high throughout the season, especially following the MSF Chinook period. Chinook catch rates have also been relatively good and have been sustained since August 11.
- Through August 23, an estimated 17,740 Chinook and 6,245 hatchery Coho were kept from 56,370 angler trips. Released estimates include 6,917 Chinook, 5,829 Coho, and 93 steelhead. Handle of Chinook is 62% higher than expected at this point in the fishery.
- Based on CWT recoveries, the actual proportion of the Chinook catch comprised of LRH Chinook (38%) for this point in the season has been much higher than expected preseason (24%).
- Cumulative LRH mortalities through August 23 are estimated to be approximately 6,800, or 108% of the preseason expectation for the Buoy 10 recreational fishery.
- Given the current LRH status for this Buoy 10, staff recommends Chinook retention in the fishery close as soon as practical to limit additional LRH mortalities and allow the hatchery Coho retention fishery to remain open.

Recommendation: 2021 Buoy 10 Recreational Salmon Fishery

Effective 12:01 AM Friday August 27, retention of all Chinook is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from the Buoy 10 line upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.

- Although current Buoy 10 LRH impacts are higher than expected, other in-river (non-treaty) and ocean fisheries are ongoing and more information regarding harvest and stock composition will become available at a later date. Staff will continue to monitor progress of ongoing fisheries, with an expectation to manage within the allowed 38% LRH ER.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 2:30 PM September 1 to consider Treaty commercial gillnet fisheries.