

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 9, 2021**

***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 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**

- The recent five-day average Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam as of September 8 are 86.5 kcfs which is lower than the five-year average of 106.5 kcfs on this date. The recent 5-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 68.7°F<sup>1</sup>, which is below the recent five-year average of 69.5°F.

### **STOCK STATUS**

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

#### ***Fall Chinook***

- Bonneville Dam passage through September 8 totals 207,896 adult and 33,940 jack fall Chinook. This is the sixth highest cumulative adult count to date in the last 10 years. The clip rate is approximately 57.8%, which is higher than average. Adult passage averages 44.2% complete on September 8.
- Based on sampling by WDFW, the adult counts to date include 157,314 bright stock fish, 35,263 adult tules and 15,317 “stubby” tules which are jack aged fish that grow to just over the adult size criteria for window counts through September 8. The pre-season projection for Spring Creek Tules at Bonneville Dam of 29,150 has been exceeded. Bright stock counts are consistent with the pre-season expectation of 357,360 at Bonneville Dam.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has begun to collect broodstock and has collected over 17,000 fish and will meet its broodstock collection target.
- The adult fall chinook count at McNary Dam through September 8 is 63,547 which is greater than the 60,000 fish management goal. Based on 10-year average run timing the run at McNary Dam would only be 19% complete.
- The Adult chinook count at Lower Granite Dam through September 8 is 11,790. This is the highest count to date since Lower Granite Dam construction. Based on 10-year average run timing the run would be expected to be 15% complete on September 8.

#### ***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

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<sup>1</sup> Data from <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/ops/temp/>.

length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July and early August is primarily A-Index fish; higher levels of B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho can return to any tributary. A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake river basins.

- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 total 46,847 fish, which is 32% of the recent 10-year average (45% of recent 5-year). It remains the lowest count to date since Bonneville Dam construction. Passage of the total run at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 76% complete by September 8 (recent 10-year average). The count of unclipped steelhead since July 1 totals 18,643 fish. The unclipped run at Bonneville is typically 82.7% complete on September 8 based on 10-year average run timing. The ad-clip rate is 60.2% which is close to average for this period.
- TAC met on September 7 and reviewed information for the summer steelhead run. Passage timing at this point in the run is variable. Based on Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF) sampling through September 3 and the 10-year average run timing, the total A-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 47,900 (30,600 Hatchery A, and 17,300 Wild A steelhead) through October 31. It is too early in the run to update the B-Index component, but based on AFF sampling to date, there is evidence that the B-Index return will meet or exceed the preseason forecast (7,600 fish).

### ***Coho***

- Through September 8 a total of 96,334 adult and 5,606 jack coho have passed Bonneville Dam for this run year. This is the largest count to date since Bonneville Dam construction. The coho run at Bonneville is typically 27.1% complete by this date (38.7% for the early run through September). The adult coho clip rate at Bonneville is 23.7% to date.

## **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho. These guidelines were presented in Fact Sheet #1.

## **2021 TREATY FISHERIES**

### ***Fall Season Fisheries***

- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries have been open for both subsistence and commercial purposes since August 1. The tribes initially set two commercial gillnet openings beginning August 23. The third opening is ongoing.
- Table 1 below shows projected 2021 fall season treaty harvest and projected catches. Table 1 shows modeled fisheries based on the pre-season forecasts for URB and PUB Chinook, Coho and B-Index steelhead along with the updated A-Index steelhead forecast and an assumed Bonneville run size of 38,000 BPH tules (based on an early timed run). There has been no observed treaty fishing effort downstream of Bonneville Dam. There has been no observed additional sockeye catch in the fall management period.

2021 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary and modeled)									
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	300	172	140	0	0
34	Preliminary	Permit Gillnet	8/27	na	76	66	5	0	12
35	Preliminary	8/23	8/26	241	6,012	3,449	225	42	666
36	Preliminary	8/30	9/2	287	18,517	10,621	781	152	2,294
37	Projected	9/6	9/10	400	26,400	15,700	600	240	2,800
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>51,305</b>	<b>30,008</b>	<b>1,751</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>5,772</b>
38	Projected	9/13	9/16	400	21,200	12,400	700	350	4,100
				<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>72,505</b>	<b>42,408</b>	<b>2,451</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>9,872</b>
		Late Fall Platforms			250	200	100	50	50
				<b>Total</b>	<b>72,755</b>	<b>42,608</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>9,922</b>
		<b>Allowed at Pre-season URB and B run sizes</b>					108,462		988
		<b>Harvest Rate as of Sept 11</b>					8.3%		5.7%
		<b>Remaining after Sept 11</b>					78,454		554
		<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 18</b>					11.8%		11.0%
		<b>Remaining Available After Sept 18</b>					65,854		154

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

- The proposed fisheries are well within the allowed harvest rate limits even if the B-Index steelhead run size is less than forecast. The modeled B-Index steelhead impacts are within the allowed harvest rate down to a run size of approximately 6,500. The URB impacts are within their allowed harvest rate down to a run size of approximately 186,000.
- Set net effort in the first two openings was less than expected and the projected effort for this week and next week are considered optimistic and may not be this high.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2021 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Seasons:	6:00 AM Monday September 13 through 6:00 PM Friday September 17 (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 closed areas applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is reduced to a 150-foot radius around the hatchery ladder.
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 Compact action needed for platform and hook and line fisheries, Yakama tributary fisheries or fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Fall Management Period fisheries are the most valued fisheries for tribal fishers and provide substantial economic benefits for tribal communities.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The tribes request a Compact hearing on the afternoon of [GUI] Wednesday, September 15 or on Thursday, September 16 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.