

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 22, 2021

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i> Treaty commercial 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 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 September 21, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 85.2 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 95.8 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 66.4°F compared to a five-year average of 67.5°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2021 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Fall Chinook

- Through September 20, a total of 293,342 adult-size fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Over the last 10 years, the average 50% complete date has been September 10.
- Based on visual sampling, a total of 240,569 adult bright stock fish (comprised of the Upriver Bright (URB) and Pool Upriver Bright (PUB) stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 35,282 adult tules (primarily Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is typically 78% complete on September 20 based on 10-year average run timing but has been as much as 87% complete on this date within the last 10 years. Tule passage is typically 95% complete on September 20 based on 10-year average run timing but has been as much as 98% complete in the last 10 years.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through September 20 totals 115,358 adults. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 59% complete by this date, based on 10-year average run timing.
- Spring Creek Hatchery reports that over 21,000 fish have entered the hatchery, but the male/female/jack composition is not available yet. Spawning began on September 14.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 56,907 A/B-Index fish. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is August 15.

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 20 total 149,049 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). This is the highest passage observed for this point in the run since 2001. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 50% complete by September 11.

Run Size Updates

- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 20, 2021 to review run size information for upriver summer steelhead, fall Chinook, and Coho. Based on passage at Bonneville Dam through September 19 and projected lower river harvest through December 31, TAC updated the Columbia River mouth run size expectation for BPH tule to 55,900, and URB and PUB bright expectations to 279,500 and 42,400, respectively.
- As of September 19, 2021, the cumulative steelhead passage since July 1 at Bonneville Dam is the lowest on record (56,209), and the cumulative unclipped steelhead passage (20,789) is the lowest since clipped/unclipped counting began in 1994. The clipped steelhead passage is 35,420 to date. The projected total A-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 53,500 (hatchery clipped A = 33,300, and total unclipped A = 20,200). The projected total B-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 10,100 (hatchery clipped B = 8,400, total unclipped B = 1,700).
- The cumulative passage of Coho at Bonneville Dam is 144,947 as of September 19, which is the second highest cumulative count to date. TAC downgraded the projected passage of early run Coho at Bonneville Dam to 190,000, compared with the preseason forecast of 407,800.

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 Sheets #1 and #6.

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 3.5-day commercial gillnet openings beginning August 23 and August 30. Three 4.5 day openings were set beginning September 6, September 13, and September 20.
- Table 1 below shows projected 2021 fall season treaty harvest and projected catches. Table 1 shows modeled fisheries for this week and next week based on the current updated forecasts for Chinook, steelhead, and early run Coho.
- Effort has increased, but is still below average levels.
- 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.

- The proposed fisheries are well within the allowed harvest rate limits based on a cautionary approach to estimating the B-Index steelhead run size. The modeled B-Index steelhead impacts are within the allowed harvest rate down to a run size of approximately 7,840. The URB impacts are within their allowed harvest rate down to a run size of below 200,000.
- Set net effort in the first three openings was less than expected although effort was slightly above expectations last week.

2021 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	300	172	140	0	0
34	Permit Gillnet	8/27	na	76	66	5	0	12	0
35	Preliminary	8/23	8/26	241	6,013	3,449	225	25	666
36	Preliminary	8/30	9/2	287	19,003	12,084	479	161	2,294
37	Preliminary	9/6	9/10	441	22,023	14,005	529	148	5,881
38	Preliminary	9/13	9/17	480	14,611	9,292	511	93	3,773
39	Projected	9/20	9/24	480	13,400	9,100	700	200	8,600
				Subtotal	75,416	48,107	2,585	639	21,214
40	Projected	9/27	10/1	450	8,600	7,200	700	250	9,330
				Subtotal	84,016	55,307	3,285	889	30,544
		Late Fall Platforms			225	200	250	150	200
				Total	84,241	55,507	3,535	1,039	30,744
				Allowed at Projected URB and B run size		83,845		1,313	
				Harvest Rate as of Sept 26		17.2%		6.3%	
				Remaining after Sept 26		35,738		674	
				Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 2 (with late fall platforms)		19.9%		10.3%	
				Remaining Available After Oct 2 (with late fall platforms)		28,338		274	

- 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 27 through 6:00 PM Friday October 1 (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.

2021 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 and Tongue Point/Rocky Point to Warrior Rock fisheries are currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a three and two-adult retention limit, respectively. The area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam is open to Chinook and hatchery Coho with a two-adult retention limit of which no more than one may be a Chinook. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 19 by area include:
 - Buoy 10: 20,630 kept and 9,739 released Chinook; 27,581 kept and 21,336 released Coho; and 96 released steelhead from about 95,600 angler trips
 - Tongue Point/Rocky Point to Warrior Rock: 6,868 kept and 314 released Chinook; 2,033 kept and 826 released Coho; and 268 released steelhead from about 30,900 angler trips
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam: 7,267 kept and 363 released Chinook; 914 kept and 1,013 released Coho; and 191 released steelhead from about 33,300 angler trips
- The fall recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 (Pasco, WA) is open to Chinook and Coho (hatchery Coho only below the Hood River Br.) with a two-adult retention limit of which no more than one may be a Chinook. Through September 19, an estimated 2,332 adult Chinook and 436 adult Coho have been kept from approximately 8,225 angler trips. Released estimates include 212 Chinook, 43 Coho, and 19 steelhead.

Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries – Above Wauna powerlines

- The 2021 retention season for above Wauna powerlines include six retention days on weekend and weekdays on September 11, 18, 19, 22, 25, and 29 with a harvest guideline of 1,230 white sturgeon. Catches through September 19 are estimated to be 781 fish kept from about 7,100 angler trips on the mainstem Columbia, and 18 fish kept from 300 angler trips on the Cowlitz River.
- Catch data indicates the fishery is expected to remain within the harvest guideline.

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area fisheries in Oregon opened August 23, and Deep River opened September 13, and are ongoing at this time. Preliminary landings through September 18 include approximately 4,052 Chinook, 49,830 Coho, and 158 white sturgeon.
- Through September 18, cumulative white sturgeon landings in 2021 Select Area commercial fisheries total 586 fish, or 95% of the Select Area sub-allocation. However, a portion of the mainstem white sturgeon sub-allocation is expected to be available for use in Select Area fisheries (approximately 125 fish).

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Preliminary catch estimates through September 20 include 23,316 Chinook (including 10,868 URB, 2,122 LRH, and 7,483 BPH adults), 3,432 Coho, and 335 white sturgeon.
- Combined white sturgeon landings in 2021 non-treaty commercial fisheries total 921 fish (586 Select Area and 335 mainstem), or 75% of the annual guideline (1,230 fish).
- Cumulative URB impacts for combined non-treaty commercial fisheries (mainstem to-date and planned, and full-season Select Area fisheries) are estimated at 4.29%, compared to no less than 4.5% allocated. Based on the current run size, sufficient numbers of URBs are available for additional Chinook and Coho-directed fisheries at a level consistent with preseason expectations.

Late Fall Zone 4-5 Commercial Fishery

- The preseason plan assumed a Late Fall Zone 4-5 fishery would be based on the in-season URB run size and begin the week of September 13, with one fishing period per week continuing into early October. Initial Late Fall Zone 4-5 fishing periods were adopted at the previous Compact Hearing and scheduled to occur Sunday night September 19 and Wednesday night September 22 (two 10-hour periods).

Recommendation: 2021 Non-Treaty Zone 4-5 Mainstem Commercial Fishery

Season:	8 PM Sunday September 26 through 6 AM Monday September 27 (Week 40) 1 night 8 PM Wednesday September 29 through 6 AM Thursday September 30 (Week 40) 1 night
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 in effect which means nets not specifically authorized for the fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum), shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of six 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 include 2,500 adults, including 1,530 URBs for the proposed periods. The ESA impact to SRWs would be 0.55%. Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tule impacts are projected at 0.00% ER. Coho catch is expected to be less than 1,000 fish.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% for A-Index and 0.09% for B-Index for the proposed fishery.
- The expected harvest of white sturgeon for the two proposed fishing periods is about 65 fish, which would bring the combined harvest in mainstem fisheries to about 430 fish, or 70% of the mainstem sub-allocation of 615 fish.
- Upon review of catches from the proposed fisheries and more information about the Chinook run size, additional commercial opportunities could be considered.

Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

- The preseason plan included a Late Fall tangle net fishery to be open on a Monday, Wednesday, and Friday rotation beginning September 27 and continuing through October in Zones 1-3.

Recommendation: 2021 Non-Treaty Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

Season: 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 27 (16 hours each)
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 29
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Friday October 1

4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 4
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 6
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Friday October 8

4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 11
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 13
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Friday October 15

4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 18
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 20
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Friday October 22

4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 25
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 27
4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Friday October 29

Area: Zones 1-3. Upper deadline 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: Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A and Lewis-A

Gear: Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed.
Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.
A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net. Red corks at 25-fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.
There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline. The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is prohibited. Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net

Allowable Sales: Salmon (except chum), shad, and white sturgeon; all Coho must be adipose fin-clipped. A maximum of **six** 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.

Regulations:	<p>Regulations typically in place for mark-selective commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, tangle-net certification, etc.</p> <p>Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the web is deployed into the water until the web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed <u>30 minutes</u>.</p> <p>Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.</p> <p>Measuring mesh size: Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact</p> <p>Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.</p>
Additional Rules:	<p>Multiple net rule in effect: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per 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.</p>

- Coho kept catch is projected to include up to 29,000 adults. The ESA impact rate to LCN Coho are projected at 0.65% ER. Chinook catch is projected to include 1,980 adults, including 1,440 URBs for the proposed periods. The ESA impact to SRWs would be 0.52%. LCR wild impacts are projected at 0.21% ER.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% for A-Index and 0.03% for B-Index for the proposed fishery.
- The expected harvest of white sturgeon for the proposed fishing periods is about 50 fish, which would bring the combined harvest in mainstem fisheries to about 480 fish, or 78% of the mainstem sub-allocation of 615 fish.
- Due to the on-going Covid-19 situation, staff does not intend to conduct onboard monitoring of the proposed fishery. However, data from voluntary logbooks and staff boat-based observations will be utilized to evaluate pre-season modeled expectations developed from

onboard monitoring conducted in previous years (2021 abundances and expected effort are incorporated).

Non-treaty ESA Impacts

- Non-treaty fisheries will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated. Cumulative ESA impacts to listed salmonid stocks in completed, on-going, proposed and planned 2021 non-treaty fall fisheries are not expected to exceed the following:
- LCR Tule and SRW Fall Chinook

Pre- and inseason impact rate expectations for ESA-listed fall Chinook in Columbia River non-treaty fisheries, 2021.								
	Lower CR natural-origin tule				Snake River Wild Fall Chinook			
Fishery	Preseason	In-season ^a	% of Pre	Shares	Preseason	In-season ^a	% of Pre	Shares
Recreational	7.64%	10.16%	133%	83%	9.37%	9.18%	98%	62%
Commercial	3.31%	2.01%	61%	17%	5.58%	5.67%	102%	38%
Sum ^b	10.95%	12.17%	111%	100%	14.95%	14.85%	99%	100%
Ocean balance ^c		2.20%				NA		
Total available		13.15%				15%		
Balance		0.97%				0.15%		

^a Projected based on actual and expected catches and current run size estimates

^b The 14.85% harvest rate on SRW fall Chinook equates to a 14.91% URB harvest rate

^c Minimum expected

- LCN Coho – 10.15%
- LCR Chum – 1.53%
- A-Index summer steelhead – 0.55%
- B-Index summer steelhead – 0.97%

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Joint Staff request a Compact hearing on Wednesday, September 29 to consider additional non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries. Additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries may also be considered.