

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 29, 2021

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i> Treaty commercial Non-Treaty mainstem commercial salmon Columbia River recreational salmon below Bonneville
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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 September 28, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 93.6 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 95.5 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 66°F compared to a five-year average of 65.8°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.9 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 28, a total of 321,995 adult-size fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam, which includes adult-sized tule jacks which are excluded for management purposes. Over the last 10 years, the average 50% complete date has been September 10.
- Based on visual sampling, a total of 270,593 adult bright stock fish (comprised of the Upriver Bright (URB) and Pool Upriver Bright (PUB) stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam through September 27. A total of 34,037 adult tules (primarily Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is typically 89% complete on September 28 based on 10-year average run timing but has been as much as 94% complete on this date within the last 10 years. Tule passage is typically 99% complete on September 28 based on 10-year average run timing.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through September 28 totals 143,165 adults. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 76% complete by this date, based on 10-year average run timing.
- Spring Creek Hatchery reports that over 18,155 adult tule Chinook (including 11,330 females) have entered the hatchery. Additionally, about 28,000 jacks have been collected. Spawning began on September 15.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 62,392 A/B-Index fish. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is August 15.

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 28 total 177,867 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

- Based on Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through September 26 and projected lower river harvest through December 31, TAC updated the total run-size of upriver stocks at the Columbia River mouth to 383,100 adult Chinook (81% of the preseason forecast), which is a slight upgrade from last week. This total includes 50,700 BPH tules, and 290,600 URB and 41,800 PUB brights. The downgrade of the tule and upgrade of the bright run-sizes from last week is partially due to review of previous visual stock calls for bright and tule fish observed from September 16-19 when tule/bright skin color became more difficult to distinguish.
- As of September 26, the cumulative steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam since July 1 is the lowest on record (61,221), and the cumulative unclipped steelhead passage (22,072) is the lowest since clipped/unclipped counting began in 1994. The clipped steelhead passage is 39,149 to date. The projected total A-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 54,700 (clipped A = 33,800, and unclipped A = 20,900). The projected total B-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 10,800 (clipped B = 8,900, unclipped B = 1,900). Unclipped steelhead will be parsed into wild and hatchery unclipped components post season after the genetic data are analyzed.
- TAC downgraded the projected return of early run coho (defined as those passing through September 30) to 177,000 adult fish. The pre-season forecast for coho returning to Bonneville Dam was 407,800. Through September 26, 170,263 coho have passed Bonneville Dam, which is the second-highest cumulative count 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 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. Four 4.5-day openings were set beginning September 6, September 13, September 20 and September 27.

- 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 coho.
- Effort has been decreasing and is expected to continue to decrease, but prices remain reasonable.
- There has been no observed treaty fishing effort downstream of Bonneville Dam. There were two sockeye landed in the fall management period.
- The proposed fisheries are within the allowed harvest rate limits based 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 9,445. 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.

Table 1. 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 Permit H&L	Platform/ August 1-22	na	300	172	140	0	0	
34	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	12,085	479	161	2,294
37	Preliminary	9/6	9/10	441	21,992	11,385	549	154	5,881
38	Preliminary	9/13	9/17	480	15,470	8,437	511	93	3,773
39	Preliminary	9/20	9/24	346	6,860	4,887	443	134	4,801
40	Projected	9/27	10/1	350	4,900	3,600	520	200	7,400
				Subtotal	74,904	44,320	2,868	778	24,815
41	Projected	10/4	10/7	325	3,100	2,300	380	140	5,700
42	Projected	10/11	10/14	300	1,300	900	410	160	8,800
				Subtotal	79,304	47,520	3,658	1,078	39,315
		Late Fall Platforms			225	200	250	150	200
				Total	79,529	47,720	3,908	1,228	39,515
				Allowed at Projected URB and B run size		87,173		1,404	
				Harvest Rate as of Oct 2		15.3%		7.2%	
				Remaining after Oct 2		42,854		626	
				Expected Harvest Rate through end of season		16.4%		11.4%	
				Remaining Available at End of Season		39,454		176	

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 October 4 through 6:00 PM Thursday October 7 (3.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday October 11 through 6:00 PM Thursday October 14 (3.5 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

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 25 include 4,307 Chinook, 70,499 Coho, and 202 white sturgeon.
- Through September 27, cumulative white sturgeon landings in 2021 Select Area commercial fisheries total 630 fish, or 102% of the Select Area sub-allocation. However, a portion of the mainstem white sturgeon sub-allocation should be available for use in Select Area fisheries (approximately 150 fish).

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- The late Fall tangle net fishery opened September 27 on a 3-day per week rotation through October 29. Landings for the initial fishing period are not yet available.
- Four late Fall Zone 4-5 fishing periods were adopted at previous Compact Hearings for the nights of September 19, 22, 26, and 29.
- Preliminary catch estimates for the early and late Fall Zone 4-5 non-treaty commercial fisheries through September 27 include 25,013 Chinook (including 11,826 URB, 1,625 PUB, 2,214 LRH, and 7,798 BPH adults), 4,003 Coho, and 356 white sturgeon.

- Cumulative URB impacts for combined non-treaty commercial fisheries (mainstem to-date and adopted, and full-season Select Area fisheries) are estimated at 4.83%. Based on the current run size, sufficient numbers of URBs are available for additional Chinook-directed fisheries.

<i>Recommendation: 2021 Non-Treaty Zone 4-5 Mainstem Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	7 PM Sunday October 3 through 7 AM Monday October 4 (Week 41) 7 PM Wednesday October 6 through 7 AM Thursday October 7 (Week 41) 7 PM Sunday October 10 through 7 AM Monday October 11 (Week 42) 7 PM Wednesday October 13 through 7 AM Thursday October 14 (Week 42)	1 night 1 night 1 night 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 at 1,600 adults, including 1,240 URBs for the proposed periods. The ESA impact to SRWs would be 0.43%. Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tule impacts are projected at 0.00% ER. Coho catch is expected to be less than 600 fish.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be less than 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 40 fish, for a projected harvest in combined 2021 mainstem commercial fisheries of about 450 fish, or 73% of the mainstem sub-allocation of 615 fish. White sturgeon landings in combined 2021 non-treaty commercial fisheries are projected to total approximately 1,180 fish (730 Select Area and 450 mainstem), or 96% of the annual guideline (1,230 fish).

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 by area include:

- Buoy 10: 20,632 kept and 9,739 released Chinook; 27,851 kept and 21,336 released Coho; and 96 released steelhead from about 95,600 angler trips through September 19.
- Tongue Point/Rocky Point to Warrior Rock: 6,731 kept and 510 released Chinook; 2,224 kept and 926 released Coho; and 272 released steelhead from about 30,330 angler trips through September 26.
- Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam: 9,427 kept and 441 released Chinook; 1,325 kept and 1,292 released Coho; and 189 released steelhead from about 41,680 angler trips through September 26.
- 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 only one may be a Chinook. Through September 26, an estimated 3,232 adult Chinook and 496 adult Coho have been kept from approximately 10,157 angler trips. Released estimates include 262 Chinook, 76 Coho, and 19 steelhead.
- Based on the upgraded URB run size, updated catch projections, and past CWT data which indicates the majority of LRH tule Chinook have entered the tributaries by late September, re-opening Chinook retention in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of Warrior Rock can be considered.

<i>Recommendation: 2021 Buoy 10 to Tongue Point/Rocky Point Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM Friday October 1, retention of Chinook (adults and jacks) is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Buoy 10 line upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line. The daily adult bag limit is three salmon, of which only one may be a Chinook. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.
<i>Recommendation: 2021 Tongue Point/Rocky Point to Warrior Rock Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM Friday October 1, retention of Chinook (adults and jacks) is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Warrior Rock line. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon, of which only one may be a Chinook. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.

- Chinook catch is projected to be less than 600 adults, including 412 URBs for the proposed fisheries. The ESA impact to SRWs would be approximately 0.15%. Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tule impacts are projected at 0.07% ER.

Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries – Above Wauna powerlines

- The 2021 retention season for above Wauna powerlines includes six retention days (September 11, 18, 19, 22, 25, and 29) with a harvest guideline of 1,230 white sturgeon. Catches through

September 25 are estimated to be 849 fish kept from 8,863 angler trips on the mainstem Columbia, and 19 fish kept from 344 angler trips on the Cowlitz River.

- Catch data indicates the fishery is expected to remain within the harvest guideline.

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%	10.20%	134%	84%	9.37%	9.40%	100%	64%
Commercial	3.31%	1.98%	60%	16%	5.58%	5.26%	94%	36%
Sum ^b	10.95%	12.18%	111%	100%	14.95%	14.66%	98%	100%
Ocean balance ^c		2.20%				NA		
Total available		13.15%				15%		
Balance		0.96%				0.34%		

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

^b The 14.66% harvest rate on SRW fall Chinook equates to a 14.72% URB harvest rate

^c Minimum expected

- LCN Coho – 10.15% ER
- LCR Chum – 1.53% HR
- A-Index summer steelhead – 0.54% HR
- B-Index summer steelhead – 0.89% HR

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor stock status and fisheries, but do not anticipate additional Compact/Joint Staff hearings during the fall management period. The tribes will notify the states if any additional Compact hearings for treaty fisheries are needed.