

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 18, 2021

Fisheries under consideration: 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 October 18, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 85.9 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 102.5 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 60.4°F compared to a five-year average of 60.1°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.6 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 October 17, a total of 343,291 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 291,956 adult bright stock fish (comprised of the Upriver Bright (URB) and Pool Upriver Bright (PUB) stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam through October 17. Bright stock passage is typically 98% complete on October 17 based on 10-year average run timing. A total of 33,939 adult tules (primarily Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam; tule passage is considered to be complete.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through October 17 totals 167,370 adults. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 96% complete by this date, based on 10-year average run timing.
- Spring Creek Hatchery reports that broodstock needs have been met for the year.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 66,829 A/B-Index fish. The recent 5-year average 50% passage date is August 20.

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through October 17 total 214,931 adult Coho, including 32,898 late-stock fish (defined as Coho passing on or after October 1). This is the 2nd highest passage observed for this point in the run since 2001. Passage of upriver late-stock Coho is typically 50% complete by October 15.

Run Size Updates

- The *U.S. v. OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) last met on October 4 to review in-season run size information for upriver stocks of fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho. TAC does not expect to make any further in-season updates this year.
- Based on Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through October 3 and projected lower river harvest through December 31, TAC updated the total run-size of upriver stocks at the Columbia River mouth to 386,000 adult Chinook (81% of the preseason forecast). This total includes 49,800 BPH tules, and 293,900 URB and 42,300 PUB brights.
- The projected total A-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 57,000 (clipped A = 35,600, and unclipped A = 21,400). The projected total B-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 10,500 (clipped B = 8,600, unclipped B = 1,900). Unclipped steelhead will be parsed into wild and hatchery unclipped components post season after the genetic data are analyzed.
- Passage of early-stock Coho at Bonneville Dam (defined as those passing through September 30) was 182,033 adult fish. The pre-season forecast for Coho returning to Bonneville Dam was 407,800. Late-stock Coho are counted from October 1 through December 31.

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 Fall Fact Sheets #1 and #6.

2021 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area fisheries opened August 23 in Oregon and September 13 in Deep River, and are ongoing at this time. Preliminary landings through October 9 include 4,459 Chinook, 85,411 Coho, and 286 white sturgeon.
- Cumulative white sturgeon landings in 2021 Select Area commercial fisheries through October 16 are projected at 741 fish, or 120% of the Select Area sub-allocation. However, a portion of the mainstem white sturgeon sub-allocation should continue to be available for use in Select Area fisheries (approximately 90 fish).

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Preliminary catch estimates for combined early and late Fall Zone 4-5 non-treaty commercial fisheries include 26,700 Chinook, 4,434 Coho, and 375 white sturgeon.

- The late Fall tangle net fishery opened September 27 on a 3-day per week rotation through October 29. Cumulative landings for the first nine fishing periods (through October 15) include 636 Chinook, 7,270 hatchery Coho, and 8 white sturgeon. Deliveries have ranged from 10-42 per day.
- Due to improving mark rates, high ex-vessel value (\$/#), and reasonable catch rates, some participating fishers have requested additional fishing periods so they can focus on the best part of the tide each day.

<i>Recommendation: 2021 Non-Treaty Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 19 (18 hours each) 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 21 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 26 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 28
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:	Elokomin-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 <u>prohibited</u> . 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 for the proposed fishing periods is projected to include less than 800 adults. Chinook catch should be low (<100 fish). A minor increase in chum handle is expected.
- Steelhead handle and associated ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be very low (~0.01%) since the majority of the run (~99%) has typically migrated through the fishing area by mid-October.

Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- Mainstem recreational salmonid fisheries are currently open to retention of Chinook and hatchery Coho. Bag limits and retention regulations vary by area. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort by area include:
 - Buoy 10: 20,664 kept and 9,821 released Chinook; 33,918 kept and 25,831 released Coho; and 120 released steelhead from about 99,850 angler trips through October 3.

- Tongue Point/Rocky Point to Bonneville Dam: 18,198 kept and 1,004 released Chinook; 4,707 kept and 2,648 released Coho; and 469 released steelhead from about 80,125 angler trips through October 10.
- Bonneville Dam to Highway 395 (Pasco, WA): 5,004 kept and 426 released adult Chinook; 2,743 kept and 91 released Coho, and 45 released steelhead from approximately 15,411 angler trips through October 17.

Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries – Above Wauna powerlines

- The 2021 retention season for above Wauna powerlines included six retention days (September 11, 18, 19, 22, 25, and 29) with a harvest guideline of 1,230 white sturgeon. Catches are estimated to include 866 fish kept from 10,137 angler trips on the mainstem Columbia, and 19 fish kept from 350 angler trips on the Cowlitz River.

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, and proposed 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%	10.65%	139%	85%	9.37%	9.17%	98%	62%
Commercial	3.31%	1.92%	58%	15%	5.58%	5.62%	101%	38%
Sum ^b	10.95%	12.57%	115%	100%	14.95%	14.79%	99%	100%
Ocean balance ^c		2.20%				NA		
Total available		13.15%				15%		
Balance		0.57%				0.21%		

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

^b The 14.79% harvest rate on SRW fall Chinook equates to a 14.86% URB harvest rate

^c Minimum expected

- LCN Coho – 10.15% ER
- LCR Chum – 1.57% HR
- A-Index summer steelhead – 0.54% HR
- B-Index summer steelhead – 0.91% 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.