

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 13, 2022**

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i>	Non-Treaty mainstem commercial salmon Select Area commercial sturgeon Recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam
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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 2022 Fall Report was distributed on July 19, 2022. 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 12, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 126 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 98 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 70°F compared to a five-year average of 69°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7.0 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2022 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Fall Chinook

- Columbia River fall Chinook are comprised of multiple management components: Select Area Brights (SAB), Lower River Hatchery (LRH), Lower River Wild (LRW), Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH), Upriver Bright (URB), Pool Upriver Bright (PUB), and Lower River Bright (LRB). The LRH and BPH stocks are referred to as tule stock and the remaining stocks are referred to as bright stock.
- Through September 11, a total of 370,616 adult-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is September 9.
- Based on visual stock sampling, a total of 255,665 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 87,586 adult tules (primarily BPH stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is typically 54% complete and tule passage is typically 77% complete on September 11, based on recent 10-year average run timing.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through September 11 totals 57,277 adults. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 31% complete by September 12, based on recent 10-year average run timing.
- Lower Granite Dam adult fall Chinook passage through September 11 totals 17,004 fish which is the largest count to date on record.

- Spring Creek Hatchery reports that over 33,000 Chinook have entered the hatchery as of September 9, but the male/female/jack composition is not yet available.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 91,604 A/B-Index fish. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is August 18.
- From July 1 through September 10, CRITFC and ODFW staff have sampled 488 steelhead at Bonneville Dam. For B-Index steelhead, 19 unclipped and 40 clipped have been sampled to date. All of the other steelhead sampled since July 1 have been A-Index fish (277 clipped and 152 unclipped).

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 11 total 57,349 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). This is the sixth highest passage observed for this point in the run since 2001. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 51% complete by September 11.

In-Season Run Size Updates

- Preseason abundance estimates for upriver-origin fall Chinook stocks (BPH, PUB, and URB) and upriver summer steelhead (A- and B-Index) are updated in-season by the *U.S. v. OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Lower river Chinook stocks (SAB, LRH, LRW, and LRB) are not updated in-season.
- TAC met on Monday, September 12. Based on passage at Bonneville Dam through September 11 and projected harvest in lower Columbia River (LCR) fisheries through December 31, TAC increased the Columbia River mouth run size expectation for BPH to 144,000 (156% of the preseason forecast), and increased URB and PUB expectations to 398,000 (173% of the preseason forecast) and 111,000 (158% of the preseason forecast), respectively. These updates are based on 10-year average run timing and assume normal run timing at Bonneville.
- TAC also reviewed summer steelhead returns and, based on AFF sampling data and the recent 5-year average run timing, the total A-Index clipped and unclipped steelhead passage is now expected to be 95,900 fish (67,100 clipped and 28,800 unclipped). TAC noted that it is still too early in the run to update the B-Index component.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- Detailed management guidelines were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.
- The allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the URB run based on the preseason forecast (URB stock is the surrogate for Snake River wild (SRW) Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
- The allowable non-treaty impact rates for wild summer steelhead (A-Index and B-Index) during fall fisheries is 2% on each.

- The ESA impact limit to LCR (natural) tule fall Chinook is 38% in 2022 given the pre-season forecast. LRH is the surrogate stock used to estimate impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook. This exploitation rate (ER) limit includes impacts in ocean and Columbia River fisheries combined.
 - For 2022 in-river fisheries, the most constraining stock is LCR tule fall Chinook and limited to 9.82% ER.
- In 2022, fishery impacts to Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) Coho are limited to a 23% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.
- The respective Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission policies provide guidance for 2022 non-treaty fall fisheries management which includes the following:
 - Current policy guidance regarding fall Chinook allocation is concurrent. Allocation of fall Chinook ESA impacts for the most constraining stock is no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries.
 - Current policy guidance regarding use of gillnets in commercial salmon fisheries is not concurrent. Washington's policy allows for the use of gillnets in any zone downstream of Bonneville Dam, while Oregon's policy allows for the use of gillnets in Zones 4-5 only. Therefore, Chinook-directed gillnet fisheries will be restricted to Zones 4-5 this year.

2022 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Early-fall commercial fisheries occurred on Monday and Wednesday, or Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from August 10 through September 2 (eight total 9-hour periods).
- Preliminary catch estimates include 24,176 Chinook (including 9,310 URB, 2,200 LRH, and 10,540 BPH adults), 936 coho and 183 white sturgeon. URB mortalities were 129% of preseason expectations, SRW/URB impacts were lower than expected due to the URB run-size upgrade. LCR impacts are estimated to be 1.0% for the August season compared to the preseason expectation of 2.18%. An estimated 358 steelhead were handled in this fishery, which equates to a 0.10% impact to wild A-Index and 0.11% to wild B-Index steelhead.
- The preseason plan assumed a Late Fall Chinook-target fishery in Zones 4-5 would be based on the remaining commercial allocation of LCR impacts and in-season URB run size and would likely begin the week of September 19.
- Considering actual use in the Early Fall fishery and expected needs for Select Area and Late Fall tangle net fisheries, an ER balance of 1.01% for LCR fall Chinook remains available for additional mainstem commercial fisheries.
- Given the remaining commercial balance, staff recommend the following late fall fishing periods:

Recommendation: 2022 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery

Season:	8 PM Sunday September 18 to 6 AM Monday September 19	10 hours
	8 PM Tuesday September 20 to 6 AM Wednesday September 21	10 hours
	8 PM Thursday September 22 to 6 AM Friday September 23	10 hours
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 NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. 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 catches in mid-September can be variable. Staff explored a fishing period during Week 38 on the night of September 15; however, given LCR impacts are expected to be much higher this week, it was not possible to model a full fishing period due to the remaining commercial LCR balance and could preclude fishing the following week.
- Chinook catch for the recommended fishery is expected to include 14,600 adults. LCR wild impacts are projected at 0.98% ER.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.03% for A-Index and 0.17% for B-Index for the recommended fishery.
- The expected harvest of white sturgeon for the three proposed fishing periods is approximately 65 fish, which would bring the combined harvest in mainstem fisheries to 250 fish, or 62% of the mainstem sub-allocation of 400 fish.
- Additional late-fall commercial periods will be considered after review of fishery performance and LCR impacts.
- The fishery will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated; actual harvest may be more or less than modeled. Catch expectations are a reflection of the number of fish that may be harvested given the ESA constraints.

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area fisheries in Oregon opened August 22 and are ongoing at this time. Preliminary landings through September 9 include approximately 3,635 Chinook, 32,073 coho, and 114 white sturgeon. The Deep River commercial fishery opened Monday September 12, but landings are not yet available.
- Through September 9, cumulative white sturgeon landings in 2022 Select Area commercial fisheries total 374 fish, or 94% of the Select Area sub-allocation. The Select Area sub-allocation of 400 white sturgeon is expected to be met during the week of September 12.

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Select Area Commercial Fisheries</i>

Effective Sunday September 18 the possession and sale of white sturgeon in Select Area fisheries is prohibited.

Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- Fall recreational salmon fisheries from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam opened August 1. Chinook catches and the proportion LRH were much higher than expected in the fishery from Buoy 10 upstream to west Puget Island resulting in early fishery closures effective September 2 downstream of Bonneville Dam in order to keep non-treaty fisheries within ESA impact limits.
- Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 1 by area include:
 - Buoy 10 to west Puget Island: 28,862 kept and 21,949 released Chinook, 7,632 kept and 4,557 released coho, and 81 released steelhead from about 77,000 angler trips. LCR fall Chinook impacts are estimated to be 6.68%, compared to the preseason expectation of 3.87%
 - West Puget Island to Warrior Rock: 3,617 kept and 221 released Chinook, 46 kept and 48 released coho, and 226 released steelhead from about 25,600 angler trips. LCR impacts in this fishery are estimated to be 0.3%, compared to the preseason expectation for 1.4%.
 - Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam: 1,092 kept and 82 released Chinook, 0 kept and 2 released coho, and 108 released steelhead from about 11,200 angler trips. LCR impacts are estimated to be 0.0% in this fishery compared to the preseason expectation for 1.3%.
 - The total impact to LCR fall Chinook in the recreational fishery is 7.29% compared to the preseason expectation of 6.87%.
- The fall recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 (Pasco, WA) also opened August 1. Through September 11, an estimated 4,090 adult Chinook, 52 adult coho, and 54 summer steelhead have been kept from approximately 9,982 angler trips. Estimates of released fish include 668 Chinook, 49 coho, and 12 steelhead.
- Based on CWT data, LRH tule Chinook are typically present in the Columbia River mainstem through the month of September, although abundance declines in the latter half of the month especially in the lower river. Higher LRH abundance occurs near the mouths of tributaries where LRH return.
- Although fall recreational fisheries have exceeded the LCR tule impacts allocated to these fisheries, staff have assessed multiple recreational fishery options that either include either no

additional LCR tule ER impact or extremely low impacts which would not affect the ability to prosecute commercial fisheries.

- A Chinook directed fishery in the Columbia Gorge would have the least likelihood of accruing any additional LCR impacts. During the past 20 years, only one LRH CWT has been recovered in the recreational fishery upstream of Reed Island (located ~6 miles upstream of the Washougal River), and none after September 1. Therefore, staff would not expect any additional LRH impacts to occur in a recreational fishery upstream of Reed Island during the remainder of the fall season.
- A coho-directed fishery in the Buoy 10 area during late September would be expected to handle fewer than 1,000 Chinook, and staff estimate the proportion of LRH stock fall Chinook would only be 5-10% of the total and would equate to an LCR impact of 0.02% ER.
- Therefore, staff recommends the following fisheries as a low-risk option to re-open salmon retention:

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Buoy 10 Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM September 15 through December 31, retention of hatchery coho 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 hatchery coho. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Lower Columbia River Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM September 15 through December 31, retention of Chinook and hatchery coho is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from a straight line projected northerly from a fishing boundary sign on the Oregon shore near the "old" Corbett boat ramp through the eastern tip of Reed Island to the Washington shore (downstream boundary) upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon (Chinook or hatchery coho) but only one may be a Chinook. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.

- Non-treaty fisheries will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated for all listed species. A summary of impacts to ESA-listed fall Chinook in completed, on-going, proposed, and planned 2022 non-treaty fisheries is provided below:

Pre- and inseason impact rate expectations for ESA-listed fall Chinook in Columbia River non-treaty fisheries, 2022.						
Fishery	LCR natural-origin tule			Snake River Wild Fall Chinook		
	Preseason	In-season	% of Pre	Preseason	In-season	% of Pre
Buoy 10	3.87%	6.70%	173%	2.80%	1.84%	66%
WPI-WR	1.40%	0.30%	22%	1.43%	0.68%	48%
WR-BO	1.30%	0.00%	0%	2.69%	1.29%	48%
Zone 6	0.00%	0.00%	NA	0.81%	0.96%	118%
Tributaries	0.30%	0.30%	100%	0.00%	0.00%	NA
Commercial	2.95%	2.51%	85%	5.05%	5.39%	107%
Total	9.82%	9.82%	100%	12.78%	10.17%	80%

- Impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 38% ER limit with the recommended modifications to in-river fisheries.
- The expected URB harvest rate is projected to be 10.9% out of the 15% allowed. The SRW harvest rate is projected remain within the 15% allowed.
- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in completed, on-going, proposed, and planned non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.42% and 0.73%, respectively.
- Staff will continue to review catch estimates and stock composition of all non-treaty fisheries and will determine what opportunities may exist for in the future.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. A Compact hearing is expected to occur next week to consider additional non-treaty commercial fisheries, including coho tangle net and Zone 4/5 gillnet. Additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries may also be considered.
- The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.