

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5b
Columbia River Compact Hearing
September 13, 2022

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 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

- The river conditions are presented in Fall Fact Sheet #5a.

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.
- In-season run size updates and stock status information are presented in Fall Fact Sheet #5a.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho.
 - 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 SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries. If the actual URB return is less than 200,000 adults, the impact limits drop to 23% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-treaty fisheries.
 - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock). This goal will be met
 - The management goal for adult fall Chinook passage at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish. This goal has been met.
 - Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead and 2% for non-treaty fisheries during fall fisheries.
 - The goal for upriver Coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
 - Fisheries are managed based on preseason forecasts until in-season run size updates become available.

2022 TREATY FISHERIES

Fall Season Fisheries

- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries have been open for both subsistence and commercial purposes since August 1. Preliminary catch estimates for the early fall platform and hook and line fisheries are shown in the table below.

- The table below shows 2022 fall season treaty fisheries (current and planned) along with preliminary and projected catches. The model is generally based on pre-season forecast run sizes until any updated forecasts are available. The updated URB, PUB, BPH, and A-Index forecasts were used. The pre-season B-Index forecast was used even though it is likely the B-Index run size will be greater than forecast.
- The tribes set three initial openings to begin the fall season followed by a fourth opening set for last week. Catches for the first three gillnet openings were less than modeled when the fisheries were planned. The tribes have planned an additional week of commercial gillnet fishing for next week. The tribes anticipate commercial gillnet fisheries should be able to occur through at least late September.

2022 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries									
Week	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	543	259	530	40	0
		Gillnet & Platform/ H&L							
35	Preliminary	8/22	8/26	164	2,448	1,168	205	28	11
36	Preliminary	8/29	9/2	356	21,301	9,640	475	195	521
37	Preliminary	9/5	9/10	367	37,128	14,250	929	271	644
38	Projected	9/12	9/17	420	35,700	13,500	1,400	550	1,700
				Subtotal	97,120	38,817	3,539	1,084	2,876
39	Projected	9/19	9/22	370	23,400	14,400	1,500	700	1,790
				Subtotal	120,520	53,217	5,039	1,784	4,666
		Late Fall Platforms			225	200	80	40	200
				Total	120,745	53,417	5,119	1,824	4,866
		Allowed at Updated URB and Pre-Season B run size				119,400		2,028	
		Harvest Rate as of Sept 18				9.8%		6.9%	
		Remaining after Sept 18				80,583		944	
		Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 25				13.4%		11.7%	
		Remaining Available After Sept 25 (includes late fall Platform/H&L)				65,983		204	

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

The estimated harvest downstream of Bonneville is 70 chinook, 30 steelhead, and 0 coho. These catches are included in the table above. There have been 227 sockeye caught to date in the fall season in Zone 6. This fall season harvest combined with the 27,777 sockeye harvested in spring and summer fisheries brings the total sockeye harvest rate to 4.2% compared to the 7% allowed.

- The table above shows modeled fisheries based on the pre-season forecast for B-Index steelhead, but uses the updated forecasts for URB Chinook, BPH Chinook, and A-Index steelhead. Set net counts are the surrogate for effort in the model used to plan fisheries. The peak set net effort normally peaks in week 38 and then decline. Setnet counts have been less than modeled all year.

- The proposed fishery impacts are within the allowed harvest rate limits for an URB run size down to 200,000 and a B-Index steelhead run size down to 14,031. TAC has estimated that approximately 12,400 B-Index steelhead have already passed Bonneville Dam through September 11. In the last two weeks, sampling data at Bonneville have indicated that approximately 40% of the steelhead passing Bonneville are B-sized fish. Based on this along with recent counts, the tribes are very confident the B-Index run size will be greater than forecast.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2022 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Seasons:	6:00 AM Monday September 19 through 6:00 PM Thursday September 22 (3 nights)
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 sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will be 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 as they have already been set.
- Fall Management Period fisheries are the most economically valuable for tribal fishers. Commercial fishing provides numerous economic benefits for tribal and non-tribal communities.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Treaty Tribes request another Compact Hearing next week to consider additional commercial gillnet fishing.