

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**October 5, 2022**

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| <b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b> Non-Treaty mainstem commercial salmon<br>Recreational salmon |
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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 October 5, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 89.6 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 99.0 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 66.4°F compared to a five-year average of 64.0°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.6 feet compared to the five-year average of 7.0 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 October 4, a total of 495,989 adult-size fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam, which includes adult-sized tule jacks which are excluded for management purposes. The recent 10-year average cumulative fall Chinook passage through October 4 is 95%.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through October 4 totals 144,921 adults. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 86% complete by this date, based on 10-year average run timing.
- Lower Granite Dam adult fall Chinook passage through October 4 totals 41,544 fish which is the fourth largest count to date on record.
- Spring Creek Hatchery reports that 82,296 adult tule Chinook (including 51,707 females) entered the hatchery as of this week, which was the largest return to the facility on record. Additionally, 29,258 jacks were collected. The hatchery ladder is now closed for the season; therefore, no additional fish will be collected.

### ***Upriver Summer Steelhead***

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 114,312 A/B-Index fish. The recent 10-year average passage for A/B Index summer steelhead through September October 4 is 97%.
- From July 1 through September 30, CRITFC and ODFW staff have sampled 759 steelhead at Bonneville Dam. For B-Index steelhead, 58 unclipped and 183 clipped have been sampled to date. All of the other steelhead sampled since July 1 have been A-Index fish (181 unclipped and 337 clipped).

### ***Coho***

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 30 total 105,841 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 2000. Late stock Coho passage during October 1-4 totals 3,882 adult fish.

### ***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.
- Typically, TAC relies on visual indices of Chinook passing the count stations at Bonneville Dam to estimate and make full-season projections for the bright and tule components of the upriver fall Chinook run. In 2022, accounting for the adult BPH return to Spring Creek NFH and harvest of BPH in the treaty fishery suggests a significantly higher abundance of BPH than the standard in-season TAC methodology.
- TAC met on Monday, October 3 and determined that return/harvest accounting approach represented a more accurate in-season estimate of the BPH return. This change in approach resulted in a shift of the Chinook passage from brights to BPH tule.
- Based on refined estimates of bright/tule Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through October 2 and projections of harvest in lower Columbia River (LCR) fisheries through December 31, TAC updated the Columbia River mouth run size expectation for BPH to 206,000 adults, URB to 267,000 adults, and PUB to 71,000 adults. These updates are based on 10-year average run timing curves and assume an early run timing at Bonneville for the bright stocks.
- TAC also reviewed summer steelhead returns and, based on AFF sampling data and the recent 5-year average run timing, they updated the current expectations to 91,000 A-Index fish (including 62,000 clipped and 29,000 unclipped) and 31,500 total B-Index steelhead (25,000 clipped and 6,500 unclipped).

### **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

- Detailed management guidelines were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1, #5a, and #6b.

## 2022 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

### *Fall Commercial Fisheries*

- Fall Select Area fisheries opened August 22 in Oregon sites and September 12 in Deep River (WA), and are ongoing at this time.
- Commercial fisheries in Zones 4-5 consisted of eight Early Fall fishing periods in August/early September, and another nine Late Fall fishing periods have been adopted at previous Compact hearings. Six of the nine Late Fall fishing periods have been prosecuted, with another period scheduled for tonight and two additional periods next week.
- The Late Fall tangle net fishery opened Monday September 26 and is scheduled to continue through October 28.

### *Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries*

- Fall recreational salmon fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam opened August 1. Chinook catches and the proportion LRH were much higher than expected in the Buoy 10 fishery resulting closures effective September 2 downstream of Bonneville Dam in order to keep non-treaty fisheries within ESA impact limits. The states were able to re-open salmon fisheries beginning September 15 at Buoy 10 and waters upstream of Reed Island to Bonneville Dam, and October 1 from Tongue Point to Reed Island under the expectation that LCR impacts would be negligible and there were adequate URB/SRW available for harvest.
- The fall recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 (Pasco, WA) has been open for the entire fall season to Chinook and Coho with a two-adult daily retention limit of which only one may be a Chinook. Effort and catch have been higher than expected and this was likely influenced by the lower river closures.

### *Non-treaty Fisheries - ESA and Harvest Rate Limits*

- Assuming an URB fall Chinook run size of 267,000 adults, catches to date, and full-season projections of harvest in non-treaty fisheries as currently adopted, staff expect that these fisheries would accrue 15.96% URB harvest rate (HR) and 14.87% Snake River wild (SRW) HR, compared to the allowed rate of 15.0% for each as outlined in the 2018-2027 *U.S. v. OR* Management Agreement and the associated ESA-take coverage.
  - There is still uncertainty in the URB run size as evidenced by the decreasing abundance projections provided by TAC during the fall season.
  - Based on the current URB run size expectation, estimated fishery catches, and stock composition from CWT analysis, non-treaty fisheries are projected to exceed the allowable harvest rate for URB if actions are not taken on the remaining Chinook-directed non-treaty fisheries.

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| <b><i>Recommendation: 2022 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i></b> |
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| <p><u>Rescind</u> the mainstem non-treaty commercial fishing periods in Zones 4-5 previously adopted for 7 PM Sunday October 9 through 7 AM Monday October 10 and 7 PM Wednesday October 12 through 7 AM Thursday October 13.</p> |
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***Recommendation: 2022 Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Salmon Fishery***

Effective 11:59 PM Friday October 7, retention of Chinook is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from the Buoy 10 line upstream to Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.

- These recommendations represent a prudent approach to limiting additional harvest of URB fall Chinook while maintaining Coho-directed fishing opportunity (Select Area commercial, fall commercial tangle net, and recreational fisheries).
- The URB and SRW harvest rates are projected to remain within the 15% allowed given the current URB run size expectation.

| Pre- and inseason fall Chinook harvest rate expectations in Columbia River non-treaty |                             |               |             |                               |               |             |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Fishery   | Upriver Bright Fall Chinook |               |             | Snake River Wild Fall Chinook |               |             |
|   | Preseason                   | In-season     | % of Pre    | Preseason                     | In-season     | % of Pre    |
| Buoy 10   | 3.35%                       | 3.89%         | 116%        | 2.80%                         | 2.80%         | 100%        |
| WPI-WR  | 1.43%                       | 1.02%         | 71%         | 1.43%                         | 1.02%         | 71%         |
| WR-BO   | 2.69%                       | 2.11%         | 78%         | 2.69%                         | 2.11%         | 78%         |
| Zone 6  | 0.81%                       | 2.76%         | 340%        | 0.81%                         | 2.76%         | 340%        |
| Tributaries   | 0.00%                       | 0.00%         | NA          | 0.00%                         | 0.00%         | NA          |
| Commercial  | 5.05%                       | 4.97%         | 98%         | 5.05%                         | 4.97%         | 98%         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>13.33%</b>               | <b>14.75%</b> | <b>111%</b> | <b>12.78%</b>                 | <b>13.66%</b> | <b>107%</b> |

<sup>a</sup> *Projected impacts in completed, on-going, and proposed fisheries.*

- Impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 38% exploitation rate (ER) limit with the recommendations to in-river fisheries, with in-river fishery projected to remain to be 9.26% ER (compared to pre-season expectation of 9.82%).
- Impacts to LCN Coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit with the recommendations to in-river fisheries. Pre-season expectations were 17.6% out of the allowed 23%.
- Impacts to LCR Chum are expected to remain within the 5% HR limit with the recommendations to in-river fisheries. Preseason expectations were 1.2%.
- Cumulative impacts for wild upriver summer A- and B-Index steelhead in completed, on-going, proposed, and planned non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.42% and 0.74%, respectively. The allowed impact rate is 2.0% for each stock.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.