

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8
September 27, 2023

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-treaty mainstem commercial 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 2023 Fall Report was distributed on July 10, 2023. 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 25, the recent five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 78 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 90 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 66°F which is the same as the five-year average. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet which is also the same as the five-year average.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2023 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.
- Bonneville Dam passage through September 25 includes 484,399 adult-sized fall Chinook.
- McNary Dam passage through September 25 includes 145,962 adult fall Chinook.
- Based on visual stock sampling, a total of 342,997 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 122,241 adult tules and 19,161 adult-sized tule jacks (primarily BPH stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is typically 87% complete and tule passage about 98% complete on September 25, based on recent 10-year average run timing.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 104,296 A/B-Index fish.
- From July 1 through September 22, CRITFC staff have sampled 413 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 347 A-Index fish (141 unclipped) and 66 B-Index fish (15 unclipped).

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 25 total 93,882 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically about 91% complete by September 25.

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 September 25 and reviewed Chinook and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and associated sampling data along with Chinook harvest data from lower river fisheries.
 - TAC updated the expected total A-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 90,000 fish including 33,000 unclipped fish. TAC updated the expected total B-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 22,200 fish including 5,600 unclipped fish.
 - TAC also updated the expected upriver fall Chinook run to 376,000 URBs, 57,000 PUBs and 153,000 BPH at the mouth of the Columbia River. TAC will continue to meet and provide run size updates as appropriate during the fall management season.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Based on information available preseason and input from the public, a fishing plan was developed for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries during the North of Falcon management process. This fishing plan is available on the ODFW and WDFW websites.
- The respective Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission policies provide guidance for 2023 non-treaty fall fisheries management.
 - 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. Chinook-directed gillnet fisheries will be restricted to Zones 4-5 this year.
- Per the WDFW Director statement prior to the Compact/Joint State hearing on September 13, 2023, WDFW intends to reserve a portion of the allocated commercial impacts for escapement of the most constraining fall Chinook stock (LCR tule fall Chinook). The amount is based upon what was associated with licenses retired in the WA commercial license reduction program and equates to a 0.46% LCR exploitation rate (ER) this fall.
- Additional management guidelines for 2023 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 and Fall Fishery Update #1.

2023 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area commercial fisheries are on-going in all four sites (Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep River). Preliminary catch estimates for the combined Select Areas through September 23 include 7,849 Chinook and 33,200 Coho.

Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Preliminary estimates for the Early-Fall Zone 4-5 fishery include 27,597 Chinook and 1,617 Coho landed along with 336 steelhead handled.
- The Late-Fall commercial fishery in Zones 1-3 targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets began on September 18. Preliminary catch estimates through September 22 include 892 Chinook and 2,112 hatchery Coho. Steelhead handle and associated ESA impact rates are tracking within expectations.
- The Late-Fall commercial fishery in Zones 4-5 began on September 17. To date, three periods (September 17, 24, and 26 periods) have been adopted by both states while the September 19 period was adopted by Oregon-only action. Preliminary catch estimates through September 19 include 2,173 Chinook and 534 Coho. Additionally, an estimated 49 steelhead were handled.
 - Preliminary catch estimates for the September 24 period include 805 Chinook and 146 Coho from 14 deliveries. An estimated 18 steelhead were handled.
 - Preliminary catch estimates from last night’s period are not yet available.
- Cumulative LCR and SRW impacts for combined non-treaty commercial fisheries (mainstem to-date and adopted, and full season Select Area fisheries) are projected to be 1.94% ER and 3.33% HR, respectively. Sufficient allocation of LCR and SRW impacts are available for additional Chinook-directed fisheries.
- Given the remaining commercial balance, staff recommend the following Late-Fall fishing periods:

<i>Recommendation: 2023 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i>	
	Seven 12-hour fishing periods during September 28 – October 19.
Week 39 (1 period)	7 PM Thursday September 28 to 7 AM Friday September 29
Week 40 (2 periods)	7 PM Sunday October 1 to 7 AM Monday October 2 7 PM Wednesday October 4 to 7 AM Thursday October 5
Week 41 (2 periods)	7 PM Sunday October 8 to 7 AM Monday October 9 7 PM Wednesday October 11 to 7 AM Thursday October 12
Week 42 (2 periods)	7 PM Sunday October 15 to 7 AM Monday October 16 7 PM Wednesday October 18 to 7 AM Thursday October 19
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 river sanctuaries.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule is 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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad.
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 for the recommended period on September 28 is expected to include up to 900 adults. The LCR Chinook ER is expected to be 0.11% and SRW HR is expected to be 0.13%.
- Chinook catch for the recommended periods in October is expected to total about 1,900 adults. The LCR Chinook ER is expected to be 0.0% and SRW HR is expected to be 0.25%.
- The pre-season commercial allocation was 2.83% LCR ER. Given completed and on-going fisheries, a balance of 0.89% ER is available. With this recommendation, the remaining allocation is expected to be 0.78% ER.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% for A-Index and 0.05% for B-Index for the recommended periods.
- 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.

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) fishery is ongoing and Chinook retention was extended in-season. Preliminary catch estimates through September 24 include 18,466 kept and 15,494 released Chinook, and 9,692 kept and 7,019 released Coho from approximately 77,600 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and re-opened with in-season action. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 24 include 8,871 kept and 659 released Chinook, 889 kept and 452 released Coho, and 447 released steelhead from approximately 36,600 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BO) fishery was also open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended in-season. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 24 include 15,624 kept and 1,423 released Chinook, 1,057 kept and 610 released Coho, and 154 released steelhead from approximately 48,400 angler trips.

- BO upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) fishery is on-going. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 24 include 9,638 Chinook kept and 1,001 released Chinook, 574 kept and 165 released Coho, and 253 released steelhead from approximately 30,600 angler trips.
- At this time, the preliminary projected full season LCR Chinook ER is 4.35% (as compared to 6.57% ER pre-season) and SRW HR is 8.68% (as compared to 7.41% HR pre-season) for these recreational fisheries.
- Staff will continue to monitor Chinook abundance, stock composition, and fishery performance.

Non-treaty ESA Impacts

- 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, planned, and proposed 2023 non-treaty fisheries is provided in the table below:

Summary of expected LCR and SRW fall Chinook ESA impacts in non-treaty mainstem fisheries.						
Area	LCR			SRW		
	Current ^a	Proposed	Total ER	Current ^a	Proposed	Total HR
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	2.18%	--	2.18%	0.65%	--	0.65%
WPI-WR	1.02%	--	1.02%	2.09%	--	2.09%
WR-BO	0.85%	--	0.85%	4.50%	--	4.50%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.44%	--	1.44%
Tributaries	0.30%	--	0.30%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>4.35%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>4.35%</i>	<i>8.68%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>8.68%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	1.23%	--	1.23%	2.15%	--	2.15%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 38	0.00%	--	0.00%	0.26%	--	0.26%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 39	0.21%	0.11%	0.32%	0.24%	0.13%	0.37%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall weeks 40+	--	0.00%	0.00%	--	0.25%	0.25%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	0.10%	--	0.10%	0.56%	--	0.56%
Select Areas	0.40%	--	0.40%	0.12%	--	0.12%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>1.94%</i>	<i>0.11%</i>	<i>2.05%</i>	<i>3.33%</i>	<i>0.38%</i>	<i>3.71%</i>
Non-Treaty Total	6.29%	0.11%	6.40%	12.01%	0.38%	12.39%

^a includes completed and ongoing fisheries

- ESA impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 38% ER limit. LCR tule fall Chinook are the most constraining fall Chinook stock in 2023 and the in-river rate is limited to 9.41% ER.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 12.97% out of the 15% allowed. The SRW HR is projected to remain within the 15% allowed.

- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.29% and 0.53% out of the allowed 2% HR, respectively.
- ESA impacts to LCN Coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit with pre-season expectations of 19% ER. The in-river rate is expected to be 4.60% ER.
- ESA impacts to Chum from in-river fisheries are expected to be 1.14% compared to the 5% limit.
- Staff will review catch estimates and Chinook stock composition as fisheries progress and will determine if additional opportunities exist within current management guidelines.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.