

Columbia River

2023 Adult Returns and 2024 Expectations

Draft – January 9, 2024

	2023 Results	2024 Expectations
Willamette Spring Chinook	71,000 forecasted adult return to CR (25% wild) 38,373 actual adult return (54%% of forecast; 32% wild) 1,164 jack return (62% of 5-yr avg. 1,873) 37,061 adult return to Willamette R 23,422 adult/667 jack count at Willamette Falls 7,249 return (6,849 adult) to Clackamas	48,700 CR adult return +1,600 jacks ~7,100 adults to Clackamas
Sandy River	7,800 forecasted adult CR return; 6,312 adult CR return; strong natural spawning component	7,700 CR return
Cowlitz River	9,000 forecasted adult CR return vs. 6,217 actual to CR	4,700 CR return
Kalama River	2,400 forecasted adult CR return vs. 2,525 actual to CR	1,900 CR return
Lewis River	4,700 forecasted adult CR return vs. 3,191 actual to CR	3,400 CR return
Wind River	4,400 forecasted adult trib. return vs. 5,068 actual to trib.	4,200 to trib.
Drano (LWS)	8,000 forecasted adult trib. return vs. 7,550 actual to trib.	5,300 to trib.
Klickitat	1,400 forecasted adult trib. return vs. 651 actual to trib.	1,300 to trib.
Upriver Spring Chinook	198,600 forecasted adult return 141,179 actual (71% of forecast) 12,825 jacks @BON (66% of 10-yr avg.)	121,000 forecasted ~80% of 10-yr avg.
Upper Columbia Summer Chinook	85,400 forecasted adult return 54,722 actual (64% of forecast; 77% of 10-yr avg.) 7,320 BON jacks (71% of 10-yr avg.) Adult mark rate ~75% @ BON	53,000 forecasted 29,000 escapement goal (at CR mouth)
Sockeye	234,500 forecasted adult return 329,040 actual (140% of forecast)	401,700 total CR return 3,800 SR stock
Upriver Summer Steelhead	67,800 forecasted return at BON 113,891 @ BON (168% of forecast; 41% of 20-yr (277K))	TBD
Bright Fall Chinook	341,600 forecasted adult return Preliminary return higher than forecast	TBD
Tule Fall Chinook	212,400 forecasted adult return Preliminary BPH return similar to forecast. LRH - TBD	TBD
Coho	595,300 forecasted adult return Preliminary return ~65% of forecast	TBD
Shad	4.3 million minimum run vs. 10-yr avg. of 4.4 million	Strong run expected
Smelt	Spawning-stock biomass estimate ~16,900,000 pounds (Second highest SSB estimate on record (since 2011))	Run expected to be similar to 2023
White Sturgeon (Lower Col River)	Abundance of legal-sized sturgeon continued to decline (65,226). Adult abundance three-year running average remains high but dipped slightly below the desired status level of 9,250 fish. The proportion of juvenile sturgeon increased slightly, but is still less than the conservation status level (48% vs. 60%).	Continued prolonged recruitment shortfall and reduced abundance of legal-size fish

Recreational Fisheries

	2023 Results	2024 Expectations
Oregon Tributary Spring Chinook		
Lower Willamette River	Open 7 d/week under permanent regs; two poles allowed beginning 3/1 68,319 trips (3/1-7/2) 6,194 adults kept (1,891 rel; 77% mark rate)	Permanent regs likely
Clackamas River	1,212 trips <River Mill Dam (5/16-7/3) 8 adults kept (7 rel)	Permanent regs likely
Sandy River	~1,000 adults kept	Permanent regs likely
Washington Tributary Spring Chinook		
Cowlitz River	7 d/wk 1/1-7/31 (perm. rules) 2 fish bag ~1,100 adults kept	Season TBD
Kalama River	7 d/wk 1/1-7/31 (perm. rules) 2 fish bag ~650 adults kept	Season TBD
Lewis River	7 d/wk 1/1-4/30 (perm. rules) 1 fish bag; May 24-July 31 1 fish bag ~430 adults kept	Season TBD
Columbia River Fisheries		
Spring Season LCR	Chinook open: B10-I-5 Bridge; Jan-Feb; 7 d/wk; 2 Chinook bag B10-BON: 3/1-4/11, - incl. bank only: Beacon R to BON TP-BON: 5/19-31 - incl. bank only: Beacon R to BON 2 fish/1 hatchery Chinook bag 60,477 trips 4,691 adult Chinook kept (1,119 rel) 316 STH kept (171 rel); 0 SOK kept/rel STH open <I5 Bridge May 16, closed June 1-15	Season TBD
Spring Season BON to OR/WA	Chinook open 4/1-5/6, 5/19-24 2 fish/1 hatchery Chinook bag 8,125 trips; 1,059 adult Chinook kept (514 rel)	Season TBD
Spring Season Snake River (WA waters)	IH section open May 3-4, 10-11, 24-25; LGO open May 2, 5, 9, 12, 23, 26 ~1,500 angler trips; 411 adult Chinook kept (70 wild 1 hatchery rel)	Season TBD
Summer Season LCR	Chinook open 6/16-30 Astoria Br.- BON STH & SOK open 6/16-7/31 Astoria Br. - BON 2 fish/1 STH bag (hatchery Chinook/hatchery STH/SOK) 36,044 trips 2,019 adult Chinook kept, (950 rel) 1,365 SOK kept (71 rel) 1,904 STH kept (1,794 rel)	Season TBD at NOF
Summer Season BON-Hwy 395	Chinook open 6/16-30, STH & SOK open 6/16-7/31 2 fish/1 STH bag (hatchery Chinook/STH/SOK) ~1,600 trips; 77 adult Chinook, 57 SOK, 0 STH kept 91 adult Chinook, 26 SOK, 35 STH released	Season TBD at NOF
Summer Season Hwy 395-PRD	Chinook/SOK open 6/16-6/30; SOK open 7/1-8/15; STH closed (2 hatchery Chinook) 8,736 trips; 43 adult Chinook, 1,067 SOK kept 12 Chinook, 3 SOK, 13 STH released	Season TBD at NOF

Summer Season Upstream of PRD	Chinook open with MSF regs in various locations (including tribs), 7/1-10/15 2 hatchery Chinook and 4 SOK 41,869 trips; 5,735 adult Chinook, 33,909 SOK kept 1,384 Chinook, 55 SOK, 23 STH released	Season TBD at NOF
Fall Season Buoy 10	Chinook open 8/1-20, 24-27, 8/30-9/4 (MSF), 2 fish/1 CHF; 9/5-9/7, 3 Coho; 9/8-12/31 (nMSF CHF) 3 fish/1 CHF Includes TP-WPI STH retention closed Aug-Oct 79,802 trips, 18,630 Chinook kept – 11 th highest since 1982 (16,078 rel)10,136 Coho kept (7,212 rel), 117 STH rel LRH handle tracked lower than preseason expectation	Season TBD at NOF
Fall Season LCR	Chinook and Coho open WPI - Warrior R. 8/1-9/4; 9/15-9/17, 9/22-12/31; (nMSF) 2 fish/1 CHF; Closed 9/5-9/14, 9/18-9/21 (14d) Warrior R. - BON: 8/1-12/31; (nMSF) 2 fish/1 CHF STH retention closed Aug-Oct 97,715 trips Aug-Oct- highest since 2017 (12 th highest since 1980) 27,406 adult Chinook kept- highest since 2015 (4 th highest since 1980), 2 nd highest CPUE (0.28) behind 2015 (0.32), 2,341 rel 3,288 Coho kept 1,487 rel 0 STH kept (610 rel H+W) LRH handle tracked lower than preseason expectation	Season TBD at NOF
Fall Season BON – Hwy 395	Chinook and Coho open 8/1-12/31 2 fish/1 CHF bag; STH closed Aug-Oct BON Pool; Closed Sep-Dec TD/JD/McN pools (open Jan-Mar BON - OR/WA border) 50,394 trips Aug-Dec 31; 15,883 adult Chinook kept – highest since 2013 (19,995) (1,879 rel) 3,464 Coho kept (445 rel); 2 STH kept (383 rel H+W) C&E higher than preseason expectation	Season TBD at NOF
Fall Season Hanford Reach	Fall Chinook open 8/16-12/31; 6 fish/1 adult 26,369 trips; 10,388 adults and 415 jack Chinook kept; 53 Coho kept; Similar Chinook harvest as 2022	Season TBD at NOF
Sturgeon LCR B10-BON	Retention closed downstream of Bonneville Dam for 2023.	TBD
Sturgeon BON-McNary	BO Pool: 1/1 & 1/2-11 (M/W/Sa); 600 kept (89% of guideline) TD Pool: 1/1 & 1/2-25 (M/W/Sa); 188 kept (99% of guideline) JD Pool: 1/1-29, 2/11,15,18; 95 kept (90% of guideline)	BO and TD Pools: Jan 1 & 3 (M/W) JD Pool: open Jan 1 perm rule, ongoing
Shad	LCR: 13,564 trips; 176,058 kept LWR: 4,506 trips (5/22-7/2); 17,215 kept	Large population No changes to fishery
Smelt	One day season (3/30) in Sandy R. 55,595 lbs landed. No season in Cowlitz R. during 2023.	TBD; 2024 Eulachon abundance expected to be similar to 2023

Commercial Fisheries

	2023 Results	2024 Expectations
Columbia River Fisheries		
Spring	No fishery	TBD
Summer	No fishery	TBD
August (Early Fall)	Aug 9–Sept 1, 8 periods; 9 hrs each Zones 4-5; 9-inch min. mesh 15-64 deliveries per period 27,383 CHF, 1,662 Coho	TBD at NOF
Late Fall	28 tangle net periods (Sep 18 - Oct 27) 0-30 deliveries/period 5,737 hatchery Coho & 1,575 CHF 11 large mesh Z4-5 periods (Sep 17 - Oct 9; Sep 19 period OR waters only) 4-32 del/period 4,942 CHF, 941 Coho	TBD at NOF
Seine and/or Pound Net	No fishery	TBD at NOF
Shad	Area 2S fishery open 5/10 - 6/20 (perm regs) 3,099 shad landed	Area 2S fishery (perm regs)
Smelt	23 periods; Jan 25 - Mar 16, 1,726 lbs landed CPUE was lower than 2022, similar to 2021	2024 Eulachon abundance expected to be similar to 2023
Select Area Fisheries		
Winter/Spring	Above avg. season (278%/240% of 5/10-yr avg.) Winter – 1,168 Chinook; WSTG closed Spring – 15,679 Chinook; WSTG closed	18,100 Select Area-origin forecasted vs 18,789 actual in 2023 Season TBD (likely similar to 2023)
Summer	Avg. season (124%/118% of 5/10-yr avg.) 3,296 Chinook; 2 SOK, WSTG closed	Season TBD (likely similar to 2023)
Fall	Mixed season (CHF higher than recent 5-yr avg. but COH slightly lower) 8,441 Chinook (179%/74% of 5/10-yr. avg.) 48,143 Coho (95%/85% of 5/10-yr avg.) WSTG closed	Season TBD (structure expected to be similar to 2023)

2024 Columbia River Process Schedule (Preliminary Draft – Dates and Times are Tentative)

Jan 10 4-6p	Columbia River Recreational Advisor Group Meeting • Sturgeon, smelt, 2024 forecasts, etc.	Ridgefield, Hybrid
Jan 11 10a-12p	Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group Meeting • Sturgeon, smelt, 2024 forecasts, etc.	Rainier, Hybrid
Jan 24 7-8p	Select Area Commercial Fisheries Public Meeting • 2023 results; 2024 season structure discussion	Astoria
Jan 23 10a	Columbia River Compact Hearing • Smelt, Treaty Winter Gillnet	Teleconference
Feb 6 4-6p	Columbia River Recreational Advisor Group Meeting • Spring Chinook, 2024 forecasts	Clackamas, Hybrid
Feb 13 10a	Columbia River Compact Hearing • Select Area commercial, Treaty	Teleconference
Feb 21 10a	Columbia River Joint State Hearing • Recreational Spring Chinook	City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center, Hybrid
TBD	NOF Forecast (WDFW) public meeting • 2024 forecasts and fishing opportunities	TBD
Mar 5-11	Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) • Adopt initial 2024 ocean salmon options for public review	Fresno, CA
TBD	2024 Columbia River North of Falcon public meeting	TBD
TBD	Northeast of McNary (WDFW) – North of Falcon	TBD
TBD	PFMC Public Options Hearings • Public input on 2024 season options	TBD
Apr 5-11	PFMC • Adopt 2024 final ocean salmon fishery regulations	Seattle, WA