

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 14, 2024

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Treaty Zone 6 commercial gillnet
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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 2024 Fall Report was distributed on July 5, 2024. 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 August 13, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 127 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 148 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 71.2°F compared to a five-year average of 71.4°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Fall Chinook

- Bonneville Dam passage totals 10,336 adult and 1,326 jack fall chinook through August 13. Based on the recent 10-year average timing curve, passage is typically 50% complete by September 9. The clip rate for adult chinook at Bonneville Dam is 32%

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Counts of A and B-Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through August 13 total 67,670 fish, which is tracking above expectations for the total run given the forecast. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is 50% complete by August 18 based on the recent 5-year average timing. The count of unclipped steelhead from that same time period totals 30,556 fish (45.2% of total) and is also tracking above expectations. It is too early to update the A-Index or B-Index components with any precision.
- From July 1 – August 8, 418 steelhead have been sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, 402 have been A-Index fish (206 clipped and 196 unclipped) and 16 have been B-Index fish (9 clipped and 7 unclipped). The proportions of A- and B-Index fish in the sample are typical for this point in the run. Sampling at the AFF is limited at water temperatures above 70° F and is paused if temperatures reach 72° F.

Coho

- Through August 13 a total of 257 adult and 136 jack Coho have been counted at Bonneville Dam for this run year. Coho counted at Bonneville through September 30 are considered early run. Based on 10-year average run timing, early run coho would be expected to reach 50% completion at Bonneville Dam on September 11.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The 2018–2027 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for upriver stocks of fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho.
 - The allowable harvest rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the URB run based on the preseason forecast. This limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
 - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 6,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
 - The management goal for adult fall Chinook passage at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
 - Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian fisheries are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead and catches of A-Index steelhead are expected to remain within historic rates.
 - The goal for upriver Coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
- Fisheries are managed based on preseason forecasts unless updated in-season abundance projections are available from TAC.
- The ESA-impact limit Snake River wild fall Chinook is 45% for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries based on preseason forecasts. Of this, 30% is allocated for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
- The impact rates for B-Index steelhead in treaty fisheries fall fisheries is 15% at the pre-season forecast run size.

2024 TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Platform and Hook-and-Line Fisheries

- Treaty platform and hook-and-line fall fisheries generally harvest only a small proportion of the total ESA impacts allowed in treaty mainstem fisheries. Most impacts occur in commercial gillnet fisheries adopted in mid-August.
- The commercial sale of fish caught with hoop net, dip net, or hook-and-line was previously allowed by the Columbia River treaty tribes during the fall season beginning August 1.
- During the fall season, some tribes may open fisheries in the area below Bonneville Dam consistent with tribal regulations and MOUs/MOAs between the states and tribes. Harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to be relatively low. Catch downstream of Bonneville is counted as part of the total tribal mainstem catch.
- Preliminary catches for the treaty platform and hook and line fishery for August 1-10 (Weeks 31-32) includes 197 Chinook. Based on skin color calls, this catch included 186 brights and 11 tules). The catches also included, 360 A-Index and 20 B-Index steelhead, and zero coho.
- The treaty fall fishery model has been set to use higher than average catch rates, but recent set net effort along with pre-season forecasts for the first weeks of fall gillnet fishing (Table 1 below). The model will be adjusted to account for actual fishery performance and actual run sizes as the season progresses. The projected catches for weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries include the expected catch in the platform and hook and line fishery for those

weeks. Because of the large expected remaining allowed catch after these openings, the model is sufficiently precautionary for early season fisheries.

- The model projects platform and hook-and-line fisheries for weeks 31-33 which do not include gillnet fisheries. The actual preliminary catches through week 32 are part of this projection. With the actual and modeled gillnet fisheries, the remaining Chinook and sockeye after these planned gillnet openings would be sufficient to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the summer management period leaving a small buffer to address uncertainties in catch projections.

Week	Fishery	Dates	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
31-33	Projected	Platform/H&L	August 1-22	na	1,900	960	570	50	80
		Gillnet Fishery Dates							
34	Projected	8/19	8/22	250	5,200	3,400	580	130	260
35	Projected	8/26	8/30	320	10,700	5,600	630	130	140
36	Projected	9/2	9/6	430	27,200	11,000	1,290	490	580
		Total			45,000	21,000	3,100	800	1,060
		Allowed at Forecast run size				78,540		4,830	
		Expected Harvest by Sept 14				20,960		800	
		Remaining after Sept 14				57,580		4,080	
		Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 14				8.0%		2.5%	
		Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 14				22.0%		12.5%	

- Based on these catch projections, the planned fisheries are well within their allowed harvest
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2024 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Season:	6:00 AM Monday August 19 through 6:00 PM Thursday August 22 (3.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday August 26 through 6:00 PM Friday August 30 (4.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday September 2 through 6:00 PM Friday September 6 (4.5 days)
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 closed areas applicable to gillnets are in place. The standard Spring Creek

Hatchery sanctuary is also in place.

Additional: 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through a tribal creel program. Fish ticket data are used as a supplement to the creel program. Setnet effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. Driftnet effort is estimated through the creel monitoring program. Catches for the platform fishery are typically summed with and reported with gillnet catches for any week with a commercial gillnet opening. Any harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam is part of the total allowed catch for any species. Tributary harvest is managed under separate limits.
- No Compact action is needed for Zone 6 platform fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam or Yakama tributary fisheries.
- Treaty commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal members and their families as well as to communities along the river and on reservations.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The treaty tribes request a Compact hearing during the week of September 2 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.