

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2b
August 14, 2024

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i> Non-treaty mainstem commercial tangle net
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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

- River conditions measured at Bonneville Dam are provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 2a.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2024 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead encountered in fall-season fisheries 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 August 12, a total of 9,259 adult-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is September 9.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 – August 12 totals 66,369 A-/B-Index fish.
- From July 1 through August 8, CRITFC staff have sampled 418 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 402 A-Index fish (196 unclipped) and 16 B-Index fish (7 unclipped). Stock composition is generally tracking as expected for this point in the run.

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through August 12 total 213 adult early-stock coho (defined as coho passing prior to October 1). Passage of upriver early-stock coho is typically less than 0.1% complete by August 12.

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 August 12 to review steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and associated sampling data. TAC did not make a run size update. TAC will continue to monitor and assess the A-/B- Index steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns as the season

progresses and will provide updates to Chinook and A-/B- Index steelhead return expectations as warranted. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, August 19.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Based on information available pre-season 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.
- Current policy guidance for Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) coho ESA impacts prioritizes use in Select Area commercial fisheries (OR/WA), mainstem commercial Chinook-directed fisheries (OR/WA) and commercial hatchery coho-directed fisheries (OR), followed by recreational fisheries (OR/WA), and then coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries (OR/WA).
- Guidance from Washington's and Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commissions regarding allowable commercial gears in coho-directed fisheries is not concurrent. Washington's policy allows for the use of any gear, while Oregon's policy does not allow for the use of gillnets. Therefore, no mainstem gillnet fishery is expected to occur this year; however, a coho-directed fishery using tangle net gear and live-capture techniques is planned.

2024 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) fishery is scheduled to be open August 1–29 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, August 30 – September 3 for Chinook and hatchery coho, and September 4 – December 31 for hatchery coho.
 - Preliminary catch estimates through August 11 include 3,485 kept and 3,110 released Chinook, and 3,260 kept and 2,173 released coho from approximately 15,600 angler trips.
- Fall recreational salmon fisheries from WPI upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) also opened August 1.
 - WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) fishery is planned to remain open through September 4 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, then be open September 5–11 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through August 11 include 482 kept and 18 released Chinook, zero kept and two released coho, and 354 released steelhead from approximately 4,600 angler trips.
 - WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) fishery is planned to remain open through September 15 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention and then be open October 1 – December 31 for coho retention. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through August 11 include 169 kept and nine released Chinook, zero kept or released coho, and 103 released steelhead from approximately 2,700 angler trips.
 - BON upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) fishery is planned to remain open August 1 through September 15 for Chinook and coho retention and October 1 – December 31 for coho retention. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through

August 11 include 120 Chinook kept and zero released Chinook, zero kept or released coho, and 103 released steelhead from approximately 1,100 angler trips.

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay opened August 6. Preliminary catch estimates for Youngs Bay through August 8 include 29 Chinook and zero coho. The Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel fisheries open August 26, while the Deep River fishery opens September 16.

Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fisheries

- The mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) began on August 8 and may continue through October 31. Considering the preseason forecasts, available ESA impacts, and release mortality rates, the 2024 seine fishery was modeled to occur in Zones 1–3 with an allowed harvest of 1,890 adult hatchery Chinook and 6,750 adult hatchery coho. Seine fishers are limited to individual fishery quotas as presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fisheries began on August 7 and are scheduled to continue through August 30 with one to three fishing periods per week totaling nine 9-hour fishing periods.
 - Preliminary catch estimates for the first period include 281 Chinook and one coho. Additionally, an estimated 18 steelhead have been handled.
- Dependent on in-season factors, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 may begin the week of September 15. Periods would likely be 10-hours (8 PM–6 AM); gear regulations would include an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction.
- Late-fall commercial fishing periods in Zones 1–3 targeting hatchery coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets and other live-capture techniques were planned preseason to begin the week of September 15 and continue through October with up to five daytime fishing periods per week. Therefore, staff recommend the following:

Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

Season:	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 16	32 periods
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 18	(Monday through Thursday 18 hrs each)
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 20	(Friday 14hrs)
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 23	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday September 24	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 25	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday September 26	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 27	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 30	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 1	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 2	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 3	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 4	

Season continued:	<p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 7 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 8 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 9 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 10 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 11</p> <p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 14 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 15 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 16 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 17 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 18</p> <p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 21 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 22 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 23 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 24 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 25</p> <p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 28 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 29 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 30 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 31</p>
Area:	Zones 1–3. Upper deadline 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:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A
Gear:	<p>Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed.</p> <p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.</p> <p>A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net. Red corks at 25 fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.</p> <p>The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is <u>prohibited</u>. Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad; all coho must be adipose fin-clipped.
Regulations:	<p>Regulations typically in place for mark-selective commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, live-capture fishery certification, etc.</p> <p>Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the web is deployed into the water until the web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed <u>30 minutes</u>.</p>

Regulations continued:

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

Measuring mesh size: Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact.

Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

Additional Rules:

Multiple net rule 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: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required.

24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per 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.

- Up to 9,500 adult hatchery coho and 2,000 adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling. The ESA impact rate to LCN coho is projected at 1.40% ER for this proposed fishery. Pre-season ESA impact expectations to Chinook include 0.35% LCR ER and 0.54% SRW HR.
- Expected steelhead handle is approximately 322 fish. ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.02% for A-Index and 0.08% for B-Index for the proposed fishery.
- Pre-season ESA impact expectations for Chum is 0.03% for this proposed fishery.
- Staff intends to observe this proposed fishery and continue collecting data via voluntary logbooks. Data collected from the fishery will be utilized to evaluate pre-season modeled expectations.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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