

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 4, 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 September 3, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 108 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 113 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 69.3°F compared to a five-year average of 70.2°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 239,017 adult and 46,267 jack fall Chinook through September 3. Based on the recent 10-year average timing curve, passage typically reaches 50% complete by September 9. The clip rate for adult Chinook at Bonneville Dam is 43%
- Based on sampling at Bonneville Dam through September 3 these counts include 145,378 bright stock fish and 62,209 adult tules and 31,427 jack aged tules that are just above the adult size limit.
- McNary Dam passage totals 38,214 adult and 4,667 jack fall Chinook through September 3. Based on 10-year average run timing, passage at McNary Dam would be 14% on September 3 and would reach 50% on September 18.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Counts of A and B-Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through September 3 total 114,016 fish. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is 66% complete by September 3 based on the recent 10-year average timing. The count of unclipped steelhead from that same time period totals 42,289 fish (38% of total).
- TAC met on September 3 and maintained the in-season projection for the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam of 132,000 total fish (including 44,900 unclipped). This compares to the preseason forecast of 89,900 total A-Index fish (including 36,000 unclipped). It is too early to reliably provide an in-season assessment of the B-Index steelhead return. It is also too early in the upriver fall Chinook return to reliably provide an updated abundance expectation.

- TAC will continue to monitor and assess the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns during the fall management period and will provide updates as warranted. TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday September 9.
- From July 1 – August 30, 584 steelhead have been sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, 536 have been A-Index fish (299 clipped and 237 unclipped) and 48 have been B-Index fish (31 clipped and 17 unclipped). The proportions of A- and B-Index fish in the sample are typical for this point in the run.
- Through September 3 a total of 53,153 adult and 4,790 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. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 22%.

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. No catch has been observed below Bonneville Dam to date for this fall season.
- Preliminary catches for the treaty platform and hook and line fishery for August 1-17 (Weeks 31-33) included 431 Chinook and 459 steelhead. This catch included 431 URB's and 20 B-Index steelhead).
- The treaty fall fishery model has been set to use the maximum scalars from the first two gillnet openings to project catches for this week and next week. This results in conservative catch projections. 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.
- With the actual and modeled gillnet fisheries, the remaining Chinook and B-Index steelhead projected to be available after these planned gillnet openings would be sufficient for at least some additional gillnet fishing time and to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the fall management period.

Table 1. 2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (actual through 8/31 and projected through 9/14)

Week	Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
31-33	Preliminary	Platform/ H&L	August 1- 17	na	431	229	459	20	3
		Gillnet Start	Gillnet End						
34	Preliminary	8/19	8/22	163	6,550	3,477	393	68	219
35	Preliminary	8/26	8/30	281	15,821	8,399	1,349	246	903
36	Projected	9/2	9/6	300	38,100	13,200	2,170	760	3,100
				Subtotal	60,902	25,305	4,371	1,094	4,225
37	Projected	9/9	9/13	375	57,800	19,700	2,610	1,040	3,700
				Total	118,702	45,005	6,981	2,134	7,925
				Allowed at Projected URB and B run size		78,540		4,830	
				Harvest Rate as of Sept 7		9.7%		3.4%	
				Remaining after Sept 7		53,235		3,736	
				Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 14		17.2%		6.6%	
				Remaining Available After Sept 14		33,535		2,696	

- Based on these catch projections, the planned fisheries are well within their allowed harvest. At the end of the proposed fisheries, the treaty fishery would be within the allowed URB harvest rate down to a run size of 196,000 and within the B-Index harvest rate down to a run size of 16,500. (Through September 2, TAC estimated that just under 11,300 B-Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam)

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2024 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Monday September 9 through 6:00 PM Friday September 13 (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 9 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.