

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4b  
September 10, 2024**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Mainstem recreational 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 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. 4a.

**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.
- 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 and steelhead Adult Fish Facility sampling information is provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 4a.

***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.
- The current TAC in-season A-Index steelhead and fall Chinook abundance projections are provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 4a.

**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 2018–2027 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for upriver stocks of fall Chinook.
  - The allowable harvest rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the URB abundance. This limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.

- Preseason non-treaty fisheries planning was limited by the expected harvest of URB fall Chinook. Fishery planning for the mainstem recreational fisheries upstream of Warrior Rock was particularly impacted by URB harvest limits.
- The respective Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission policies provide guidance for 2024 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. Therefore, Chinook-directed gillnet fisheries will be restricted to Zones 4-5 this year.
- Additional management guidelines for 2024 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

**2024 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES**

***Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries***

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay opened August 6, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel fisheries opened August 26, and Deep River opened September 5. Preliminary catch estimates for the combined Select Areas through September 7 include 8,716 Chinook and 32,413 coho.

***Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fisheries***

- The mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) began on August 8 and may continue through October 31 in Zones 1-3. Within the allowable days, fishing hours were limited to 6 AM – 4 PM through September 6 and shifted to 7 AM – 5 PM beginning September 9.
- Seine fishers are limited to individual fishery quotas as presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1. Preliminary catch estimates for ECF fishers through September 6 include 74 kept and 34 released Chinook, 14 kept and 9 released coho, and 16 released steelhead.
- Participating fishers have requested an earlier start time within the currently adopted season structure. Therefore, staff recommend beginning each of the remaining periods one hour earlier than currently scheduled.

***Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Seine Fishery***

**Modify** the open hours for the remaining fishing periods:  
 From September 12 through October 31, daily open hours are 6 AM – 5 PM.  
 All other regulations for the currently-adopted periods, including area, gear/mesh, allowable sales, handling/sort time, observer program requirements, etc. remain in effect.

- This recommendation will not change the expected ESA impacts provided in Fall Fact Sheet #1 for this fishery.

**Mainstem Commercial Drift Net Fisheries**

- The early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fishery began on August 7 and continued through August 30 with nine total fishing periods.
  - Preliminary catch estimates include 27,985 Chinook and 2,044 coho. Additionally, an estimated 537 steelhead were handled. The preliminary LCR Chinook exploitation rate (ER) for this fishery is 0.77% (as compared to 1.94% ER pre-season) and SRW harvest rate (HR) is 1.57% (as compared to 3.02% HR pre-season).
- Late-fall commercial fishing periods in Zones 1–3 targeting hatchery coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets and other live-capture techniques are scheduled to begin on September 16 and continue through October 31 totaling thirty-two periods.
- According to the preseason fishery plan, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 were modeled to occur starting mid-September; actual season structure would be dependent on in-season factors. Periods would likely be 10-hours (8 PM–6 AM); gear regulations would include an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs, actual use in the early-fall fishery and expected needs for Select Area, tangle net, and ECF fisheries, an URB HR balance of 1.68% remains available for additional mainstem commercial fisheries.
- Given the available commercial balance and the preseason plan, staff recommend the following late-fall fishing periods:

<b><i>Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i></b>		
Season:	8 PM Thursday September 12 to 6 AM Friday September 13 8 PM Tuesday September 17 to 6 AM Wednesday September 18	10 hours 10 hours
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 mouth 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 periods may be up to 9,900 adults. If harvest was to be this high, the LCR Chinook ER is modeled at 1.62% and SRW/URB HR at 1.23%.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% for A-Index and 0.07% for B-Index for the recommended fishery.
- The staff proposal provides for sufficient time to review harvest estimates after the initial period and recommend action necessary to stay within management guidelines. Additional late-fall Zone 4-5 commercial periods may be considered after review of fishery performance and an assessment of harvest limitations.

### ***Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries***

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) recreational fishery was open August 1–29 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, August 30 – September 3 for Chinook and hatchery coho, and is scheduled to be open September 4 – December 31 for hatchery coho.
  - Preliminary estimates through September 8 include 18,043 kept and 16,912 released Chinook, and 27,324 kept and 15,222 released coho from approximately 85,600 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) recreational fishery was open August 1 through September 4 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, then scheduled to be open September 5–11 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention.
  - Preliminary estimates through September 8 include 11,205 kept and 1,566 released Chinook, 1,295 kept and 543 released coho, and 619 released steelhead from approximately 38,000 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) recreational fishery is scheduled to be open August 1 through September 15 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 – December 31 for coho retention.
  - Preliminary estimates through September 8 include 5,433 kept and 342 released Chinook, 353 kept and 166 released coho, and 221 released steelhead from approximately 28,700 angler trips.
- BON upstream to Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA (Hwy 395) recreational fishery is scheduled to be open August 1 through September 15 for Chinook and coho retention and October 1 – December 31 for coho retention (unmarked coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released).
  - Preliminary estimates through September 8 include 4,684 Chinook kept and 2,786 released Chinook, 121 kept and 119 released coho, and 10 kept and 232 released steelhead from approximately 21,700 angler trips.
- The WR to BON fishery is ongoing and Chinook catches were initially lower than expected; however, catches have recently increased and are now tracking similar to pre-season expectations.

- BON to Hwy 395 fishery is ongoing and Chinook catches were initially tracking higher than expected; however, catches have recently decreased and are tracking similar to pre-season expectations.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs and completed, ongoing, and planned harvest, at this time an URB HR balance of 1.86% remains available for recreational fisheries. Given this balance, there is room to consider additional Chinook retention opportunity in areas that were URB limited during the pre-season planning process. Therefore, staff are recommending an extension to recreational fisheries upstream of Warrior Rock since URBs are available for harvest. Additionally, staff are recommending a re-opening of Chinook retention in the Buoy 10 fishery as it is a low URB cost with minimal risk.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2024 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries</i></b>
Effective Thursday, September 12 through Sunday, September 22, retention of Chinook is allowed in the daily adult bag limit for the mainstem Columbia River fishery from the Buoy 10 line upstream to west Puget Island. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon (Chinook or hatchery coho) but only one may be a Chinook. All other previously-adopted and relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.
Effective Monday, September 16 through Sunday, September 22, retention of Chinook and hatchery coho is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island line upstream to Bonneville Dam. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon (Chinook or hatchery coho) but only one may be a Chinook. All other relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.
Effective Monday, September 16 through Sunday, September 22, retention of Chinook and coho is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon (Chinook or coho) but only one may be a Chinook. Wild coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released. All other relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.

- Chinook handle in the Buoy 10 fishery will decline over the remainder of the fall season. Chinook catch is projected to be about 400 additional adults with this recommendation. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.03% LCR ER and 0.10% SRW/URB HR.
- WR to BON Chinook catch is projected to be about 6,000 adults for this recommended extension. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.25% LCR ER and 0.99% SRW/URB HR.
- For the recommended extension in the fishery from BON to Hwy 395, Chinook catch is projected to be about 2,600 adults. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.52% SRW/URB HR.
- Staff will continue to monitor Chinook abundance, stock composition, and fishery performance. Based on these factors and available URBs, additional Chinook retention opportunity may be considered this fall.

***Non-treaty ESA Impacts and U.S. v. OR Management Guidelines***

- 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 2024 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 <sup>a</sup>	Proposed	Total ER	Current <sup>a</sup>	Proposed	Total HR
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	1.60%	0.03%	1.63%	0.88%	0.10%	0.98%
WPI-WR	1.37%	--	1.37%	2.14%	--	2.14%
WR-BO	1.42%	0.25%	1.67%	3.03%	0.99%	4.02%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.15%	0.52%	2.67%
Tributaries	0.27%	--	0.27%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>4.66%</i>	<i>0.28%</i>	<i>4.94%</i>	<i>8.20%</i>	<i>1.61%</i>	<i>9.81%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	0.77%	--	0.77%	1.57%	--	1.57%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 37	--	0.97%	0.97%	--	0.75%	0.75%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 38	--	0.65%	0.65%	--	0.48%	0.48%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	0.35%	--	0.35%	0.54%	--	0.54%
Emerging Comm. Fisheries	0.19%	--	0.19%	0.12%	--	0.12%
Select Areas	0.40%	--	0.40%	0.27%	--	0.27%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>1.71%</i>	<i>1.62%</i>	<i>3.33%</i>	<i>2.50%</i>	<i>1.23%</i>	<i>3.73%</i>
<b>Non-Treaty Total</b>	<b>6.37%</b>	<b>1.90%</b>	<b>8.27%</b>	<b>10.70%</b>	<b>2.84%</b>	<b>13.54%</b>

<sup>a</sup> includes completed, ongoing, and planned fisheries

- ESA impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 41% ER limit and the expected in-river ER is 8.27% compared to the preseason in-river ER of 10.5%.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 14.68% out of the 15% allowed. Harvest limitations on URBs affected preseason fisheries planning this year; in-season URB harvest remains a constraint.
- The SRW ESA-impact rate is projected remain within the 15% allowed for non-treaty fisheries.
- Impacts to LCN coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit. LCN coho were the most constraining coho stock during the 2024 pre-season ocean/in-river fisheries planning process that resulted in a total expected LCN ER of 23.0%. The in-river rate is expected remain within 7.7% ER.
- Impacts to Chum from in-river fisheries are expected to be 1.1% compared to the 5% limit.
- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.30% and 0.59% out of the allowed 2% HR, respectively.
- 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 may schedule a Compact/Joint State hearing for Wednesday, September 18 to consider additional non-treaty fisheries.