

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5b
September 18, 2024**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	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. 5a.

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. 5a.

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 September 16 and reviewed upriver fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam.
 - TAC updated the expected total A-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 126,500 fish including 45,200 unclipped fish. TAC updated the expected total B-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 52,100 fish including 11,800 unclipped fish.
 - TAC also updated the expected upriver fall Chinook run to 322,600 URBs, 70,400 PUBs and 115,100 BPH at the mouth of the Columbia River. TAC is scheduled to meet on Monday, September 23.

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 URB harvest rate (HR) for non-treaty fisheries is 15%.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 14 include 10,011 Chinook and 40,073 coho.

Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fisheries

- The mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) began on August 8 and will continue through October 31 in Zones 1-3. Seine fishers are limited to individual fishery quotas as presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1. Preliminary catch estimates through September 13 include 74 kept and 34 released Chinook, 14 kept and 9 released coho, and 16 released steelhead.

Mainstem Commercial Drift Net Fisheries

- Preliminary catch estimates for the early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fishery include 28,000 Chinook and 2,044 coho. Additionally, an estimated 443 steelhead were handled.
- Late-fall commercial fishing periods in Zones 1–3 targeting hatchery coho with live-capture techniques using 3.75-inch tangle nets began on September 16 and is scheduled to continue through October 31 totaling thirty-two periods with the initial week scheduled to be open on September 16, 18, and 20 and then converting to five periods per week thereafter. Preliminary catch estimates are not yet available.
- According to the preseason fishery plan, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 were modeled to occur starting mid-September. Two periods were adopted at the Compact/Joint State hearing on September 10.
 - Preliminary catch estimates for September 12 period include 3,321 Chinook and 328 coho from 40 deliveries. Additionally, an estimated 72 steelhead were handled.

- Preliminary catch estimates from the September 17 period are not yet available.
- 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 0.90% remains available for additional mainstem commercial fisheries.
- Fishers have requested an additional fishing period in the late-fall commercial tangle net fishery for this week. Given the available commercial balance and the preseason plan, staff recommend the following additional commercial opportunities:

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Late-Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery</i>	
Modify the on-going fishery by adding one period from 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM on Thursday September 19. All regulations, including area, gear, soak time and other live-capture requirements, and allowable sales for this additional period are identical to those for the currently-adopted fishery.	
All other regulations for the currently-adopted periods, including area, gear, allowable sales, etc. remain in effect.	

- The recommendation above may result in an additional 0.01% ER for LCR Chinook and an additional 0.02% HR for SRW Chinook but no change is expected to the ESA-impact rates for LCN coho or A-/B-Index steelhead.

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i>	
Season:	8 PM Thursday September 19 to 6 AM Friday September 20 10 hours 8 PM Sunday September 22 to 6 AM Monday September 23 10 hours 8 PM Tuesday September 24 to 6 AM Wednesday September 25 10 hours 8 PM Thursday September 26 to 6 AM Friday September 27 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 5,700 adults. At this harvest level, the additional LCR Chinook ER is modeled to be 0.46% and SRW/URB HR would be 0.74%.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.03% for A-Index and 0.14% for B-Index for the recommended fishery.

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and re-opened for Chinook retention from September 12-22 with in-season action at last week’s hearing. Preliminary estimates through September 15 include 18,167 kept and 17,246 released Chinook, and 29,873 kept and 16,909 released coho from approximately 90,200 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan. Preliminary estimates through September 11 include 11,501 kept and 2,374 released Chinook, 1,473 kept and 709 released coho, and 624 released steelhead from approximately 39,400 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended in-season through September 22. Preliminary estimates through September 15 include 9,322 kept and 570 released Chinook, 779 kept and 394 released coho, and 246 released steelhead from approximately 34,900 angler trips.
- BON upstream to Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA (Hwy 395) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended in-season through September 22. Preliminary estimates through September 15 include 6,121 Chinook kept and 3,026 released Chinook, 207 kept and 138 released coho, and 10 kept and 263 released steelhead from approximately 27,300 angler trips.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs and completed, ongoing, and planned harvest, at this time an URB HR balance of 1.93% remains available for recreational fisheries. Therefore, staff recommend the following additional recreational Chinook and coho retention opportunities.

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries</i>
Effective Monday, September 23 through Monday, September 30, 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 three salmon (Chinook or hatchery coho) but only one may be a Chinook. All other previously-adopted and relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.
Effective Friday, September 20 through Monday, September 30, retention of Chinook and hatchery coho is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the west Puget Island upstream to the Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island line. 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 23 through Monday, September 30, retention of Chinook and coho is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island line upstream to Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, WA. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon (Chinook or hatchery 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 catch in the Buoy 10 fishery is projected to be about 270 additional adults with this recommendation. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.05% LCR ER and 0.05% SRW/URB HR.
- WPI to WR Chinook catch is projected to be about 1,460 adults for this recommended re-opening. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.22% LCR ER and 0.12% SRW/URB HR.
- WR to BON Chinook catch is projected to be about 2,750 adults for this recommended extension. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.37% LCR ER and 0.62% SRW/URB HR.
- BON to Hwy 395 Chinook catch is projected to be about 1,180 adults for this recommended extension. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.36% 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. all data are preliminary and subject to change						
Area	LCR			SRW		
	Current ^a	Proposed	Total ER	Current ^a	Proposed	Total HR
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	1.49%	0.05%	1.54%	0.85%	0.05%	0.90%
WPI-WR	1.17%	0.22%	1.39%	1.92%	0.12%	2.04%
WR-BO	1.91%	0.37%	2.28%	3.14%	0.62%	3.76%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.41%	0.36%	2.77%
Tributaries	0.27%	--	0.27%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>4.84%</i>	<i>0.64%</i>	<i>5.48%</i>	<i>8.32%</i>	<i>1.15%</i>	<i>9.47%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	0.77%	--	0.77%	1.48%	--	1.48%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 37	0.19%	--	0.19%	0.32%	--	0.32%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 38	0.15%	0.13%	0.28%	0.26%	0.21%	0.47%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 39	--	0.33%	0.33%	--	0.53%	0.53%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	0.35%	0.01%	0.36%	0.54%	0.02%	0.56%
Emerging Comm. Fisheries	0.19%	--	0.19%	0.11%	--	0.11%
Select Areas	0.40%	--	0.40%	0.57%	--	0.57%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>2.05%</i>	<i>0.47%</i>	<i>2.52%</i>	<i>3.28%</i>	<i>0.76%</i>	<i>4.04%</i>
Non-Treaty Total	6.89%	1.11%	8.00%	11.60%	1.91%	13.51%

^a 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 8.00% compared to the preseason in-river ER of 10.5%.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 14.21% 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 0.64% 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

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. Joint staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.