

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 25, 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 24, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 81.5 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 86.7 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 66.3°F which is the slightly less than the recent five-year average for this time period of 66.6°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 450,231 adult and 88,141 jack fall Chinook through September 24. Based on the recent 10-year average run timing, passage typically reaches 87% complete by September 24. The clip rate for adult Chinook at Bonneville Dam is 38%.
- Based on sampling at Bonneville Dam through September 24 these counts include 321,063 bright stock fish and 88,211 adult tules and 40,954 jack aged tules that are just above the adult size limit.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has collected over 42,000 adult and over 38,500 jack aged tules and will complete spawning soon.
- McNary Dam passage totals 128,206 adult and 19,945 jack fall Chinook through September 24. Based on 10-year average timing, passage at McNary Dam would be 69% complete on September 24. The clip rate at McNary Dam is 38%.
- Through September 24, a total of 29,850 adult and 4,751 jack fall Chinook have passed Lower Granite Dam.
- Counts of A and B-Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through September 24 total 158,934 fish. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 91% complete by September 24 based on the recent 10-year average timing. The count of unclipped steelhead from this same time period totals 54,747 fish (34% of total).
- From July 1 – September 20, a total of 841 steelhead have been sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, 624 have been A-Index fish (363 clipped and 261 unclipped) and 217 have been B-Index fish (155 clipped and 44

unclipped). The proportions of A- and B-Index fish in the sample are typical for this point in the run.

- Through September 24 a total of 129,769 adult and 12,981 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 90% completion at Bonneville Dam on September 24. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 42%.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday September 23 to review and discuss information relative to the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns.
- TAC updated the current in-season projection for the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam to 124,100 total fish (including 44,600 unclipped). TAC also updated the in-season projection for B-Index steelhead abundance and now expects 53,400 total B-Index fish (including 13,300 unclipped) to return to Bonneville Dam.
- TAC updated the 2024 upriver bright and tule stock fall Chinook Bonneville Dam passage expectation. Given the information currently available, TAC now expects the Columbia River mouth return of adult-aged fall Chinook to total 620,550 adult fish. This total includes 330,700 URBs, 72,100 PUBs, and 119,000 BPH.
- 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 30.

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 updated 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 updated in-season run size, treaty Indian fisheries are limited to 20% 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 until updated in-season abundance projections are available from TAC.
- The ESA-impact limit for 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 fall season fisheries is increased to 20% at the updated in-season run size.

2024 TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Platform and Hook-and-Line Fisheries

- 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. Treaty platform and hook-and-line fall fisheries generally harvest only a small proportion of the total ESA impacts allowed in treaty mainstem fisheries.
- 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 typically low during the fall. 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 and for Week's 34-38 are available. CWT data are available for week's 34 through 38. The stock composition for Week 38 is used to project stock composition of Week's 39-41. There were minor changes in the total catches compared to what was reported last week based on reviewing creel and CWT data.
- The treaty fall fishery model has been set to use the average scalars from the gillnet openings to project catches for this week and future weeks. Based on past years, this practice results in more reasonable catch projections later in the season. Given the relatively low total harvest rates for the planned fisheries, the planned fisheries are still conservative. The projected catches for weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries include the expected catch in the platform and hook and line fishery for those weeks. Fisheries for weeks 40 and 41 are based on higher than typical effort for this time of year as a precautionary approach. Because of the large expected remaining allowed catch after these openings, the model is sufficiently precautionary to allow for uncertainties in catches or run sizes.
- 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 to remove the 8-inch minimum mesh restriction for gillnet openings starting next week and to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the fall management period.

2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches through September 21 and modeled catches through October 11)									
Week		Gillnet 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	486	20	3
		Gillnet	Dates						
34	Preliminary		8/19 8/22	163	6,566	3,485	393	68	219
35	Preliminary		8/26 8/30	281	9,836	5,842	1,308	238	876
36	Preliminary		9/2 9/6	300	16,698	8,104	1,307	321	1,880

2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches through September 21 and modeled catches through October 11)									
Week	Gillnet Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
37	Preliminary	9/9	9/13	336	21,529	9,857	1,316	433	1,822
38	Preliminary	9/16	9/20	288	11,429	4,717	2,327	1,180	2,041
39	Projected	9/23	9/28	320	9,900	4,900	3,500	1,800	2,600
				Subtotal	76,389	37,134	10,637	4,060	9,441
40	Projected	9/30	10/4	325	5,100	2,800	4,700	2,710	5,560
41	Projected	10/7	10/11	325	1,900	900	2,570	1,390	3,770
				Subtotal	83,389	40,834	17,907	8,160	18,771
	Late Fall Platforms				250	250	800	400	400
				Total	83,639	41,084	18,707	8,560	19,171
	Allowed at Projected URB and B run size					99,210		10,680	
	Harvest Rate as of Sept 28					11.2%		7.6%	
	Remaining after Sept 28					62,076		6,620	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 11 (with late fall platforms)					12.4%		16.0%	
	Remaining Available After Oct 11 (with late fall platforms)					58,126		2,120	

- For the fisheries to date, plus planned fisheries the expected total season harvest rates for the PUB and BPH stocks are shown in the box below. These harvest rates are based on the current TAC run size estimates and expectations at Bonneville Dam.

Stock	River Mouth Harvest Rate	Harvest Rate based on Bonneville Dam Run Size
PUB Harvest Rate	7.6%	8.5%
BPH Harvest Rate	30.9%	41.5%

- Based on these catch projections, the planned fisheries are well within allowed harvest rates. At the end of the proposed fisheries, the treaty fishery would be within the allowed URB harvest rate down to a run size of 180,000 and within the B-Index harvest rate down to a run size of 42,800. Through September 23, TAC estimated that just over 40,400 B-Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam. Tribal staff estimate based on TAC estimates of bright stock fish at Bonneville that over 263,000 URBs have already passed Bonneville Dam.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following two fishery periods:

2024 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Modify the currently scheduled fishing period for next week	The currently scheduled gillnet fishery from 6:00 AM Monday September 30 through 6:00 PM Friday October 4 will have no mesh size restriction. All other rules remain the same.

2024 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery

Season:	6:00 AM Monday October 7 through 6:00 PM Friday October 11 (4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Set and Drift Gillnets with no mesh size restriction
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 small Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary (150-feet around the hatchery ladder) is 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 Nation 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 do not request an additional Compact Hearing at this time.