

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6b
September 25, 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. 6a.

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. 6a.

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 23 and reviewed upriver fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam.
 - TAC updated the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam to 124,100 total fish including 44,600 unclipped. TAC updated the expected total B-Index steelhead to 53,400, including 13,300 unclipped, to return to Bonneville Dam.
 - TAC also updated the 2024 upriver fall Chinook run to 330,700 URBs, 72,100 PUBs, and 119,000 BPH. TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday September 30.

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 21 include 10,893 Chinook and 48,579 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 24 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 28,002 Chinook and 2,044 coho. Additionally, an estimated 572 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 are scheduled to continue through October 31 totaling thirty-three periods. Preliminary catch estimates through September 20 include 703 Chinook and 1,879 coho from 64 deliveries. Additionally, an estimated 138 steelhead were handled.
- According to the preseason fishery plan, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 were modeled to occur starting mid-September. A total of six periods were adopted at the Compact/Joint State hearings on September 10 and September 18.
 - Preliminary catch estimates through September 23 include 8,036 Chinook and 1,054 coho from 114 deliveries. Additionally, an estimated 206 steelhead were handled.
 - Preliminary catch estimates from the September 24 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 0.42% remains available for additional mainstem commercial fisheries. Given the available commercial balance, staff recommend the following additional commercial opportunities:

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i>	
	Nine 12-hour fishing periods during September 29 – October 18.
Week 40	7 PM Sunday September 29 to 7 AM Monday September 30 7 PM Tuesday October 1 to 7 AM Wednesday October 2 7 PM Thursday October 3 to 7 AM Friday October 4
Week 41	7 PM Sunday October 6 to 7 AM Monday October 7 7 PM Tuesday October 8 to 7 AM Wednesday October 9 7 PM Thursday October 10 to 7 AM Friday October 11
Week 42	7 PM Sunday October 13 to 7 AM Monday October 14 7 PM Tuesday October 15 to 7 AM Wednesday October 16 7 PM Thursday October 17 to 7 AM Friday October 18
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 is expected to be up to 3,300 adults. At this harvest level, the additional LCR Chinook ER is modeled to be 0.13% and SRW/URB HR would be 0.43%.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% for A-Index and 0.05% for B-Index for the recommended periods.

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 12–30 with in-season action. Preliminary estimates through September 22 include 18,337 kept and 17,404 released Chinook, and 33,336 kept and 19,161 released coho from approximately 95,500 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was reopened September 20–30 at the September 18 hearing. Preliminary estimates through September 22 include 12,145 kept and 2,408 released Chinook, 1,681 kept and 841 released coho, and 630 released steelhead from approximately 42,000 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended in-season through September 30. Preliminary estimates through September 22 include 12,663 kept and 650 released Chinook, 1,274 kept and 582 released coho, and 253 released steelhead from approximately 49,700 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 30. Preliminary estimates through September 22 include 7,836 Chinook kept and 3,064 released Chinook, 702 kept and 138 released coho, and 10 kept and 269 released steelhead from approximately 32,200 angler trips.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs and completed, ongoing, and planned harvest, at this time an URB HR balance of 0.72% remains available for recreational fisheries. Therefore, staff recommend the following additional recreational Chinook retention opportunities.

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries</i>
Effective Tuesday, October 1 through Sunday, October 13, retention of Chinook is allowed in the daily adult bag limit for the mainstem Columbia River fishery from the Buoy 10 line upstream to the west Puget Island line. 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 Tuesday, October 1 through Sunday, October 13, retention of Chinook is allowed in the daily adult bag limit for mainstem Columbia River fisheries from the west Puget Island line upstream to Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, WA. 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 previously-adopted and relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.

- Chinook catch in the Buoy 10 fishery is projected to be about 70 additional adults with this recommendation. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.01% LCR ER and 0.01% SRW/URB HR.
- WPI to WR Chinook catch is projected to be about 150 adults for the recommended extension. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.02% LCR ER and 0.02% SRW/URB HR.

- WR to BON Chinook catch is projected to be about 2,040 adults for this recommended extension. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.18% LCR ER and 0.43% SRW/URB HR.
- BON to Hwy 395 Chinook catch is projected to be about 790 adults for this recommended extension. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.21% SRW/URB HR.

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	1.51%	0.01%	1.52%	0.85%	0.01%	0.86%
WPI-WR	1.46%	0.02%	1.48%	2.00%	0.02%	2.02%
WR-BO	1.61%	0.18%	1.79%	3.91%	0.43%	4.34%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.78%	0.21%	2.99%
Tributaries	0.27%	--	0.27%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>4.85%</i>	<i>0.21%</i>	<i>5.06%</i>	<i>9.54%</i>	<i>0.67%</i>	<i>10.22%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	0.77%	--	0.77%	1.44%	--	1.44%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 37	0.21%	--	0.21%	0.34%	--	0.34%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 38	1.20%	--	1.20%	0.21%	--	0.21%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 39	0.35%	--	0.35%	0.56%	--	0.56%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 40	--	0.13%	0.13%	--	0.18%	0.18%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 41-42	--	0.00%	0.00%	--	0.25%	0.25%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	0.22%	--	0.22%	0.34%	--	0.34%
Emerging Comm. Fisheries	0.19%	--	0.19%	0.10%	--	0.10%
Select Areas	0.40%	--	0.40%	0.75%	--	0.75%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>3.33%</i>	<i>0.13%</i>	<i>3.46%</i>	<i>3.75%</i>	<i>0.43%</i>	<i>4.18%</i>
Non-Treaty Total	8.18%	0.34%	8.52%	13.29%	1.10%	14.40%

^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 8.52% compared to the preseason in-river ER of 10.54%.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 14.96% 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 to 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 0.33% and 0.68% 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.