

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8a**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**October 10, 2024**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	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 October 10, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 76.9 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 92.2 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 63.2°F The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.8 feet.

### **STOCK STATUS**

- Stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

#### ***Fall Chinook***

- Bonneville Dam passage totals 486,344 adult and 99,408 jack fall Chinook through October 9. Based on the recent 10-year average run timing, passage typically reaches 97% complete by October 9. The clip rate for adult Chinook at Bonneville Dam is 38%.
- Based on sampling at Bonneville Dam these counts include 356,530 bright stock fish and 88,628 adult tules and 41,183 jack aged tules that are just above the adult size limit.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has collected 46,680 adult and over 40,921 jack aged tules and completed spawning on September 24.
- McNary Dam passage totals 155,062 adult and 26,693 jack fall Chinook through October 9. Based on 10-year average timing, passage at McNary Dam would be 92% complete on October 9. The clip rate at McNary Dam is 38%.
- Through October 9, a total of 33,261 adult and 5,626 jack fall Chinook have passed Lower Granite Dam.
- Counts of A and B-Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through October 9 total 167,456 fish. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 98% complete by October 9 based on the recent 10-year average timing. The count of unclipped steelhead from this same time period totals 56,963 fish (34% of total).
- From July 1 – October 4, a total of 1,013 steelhead have been sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, 678 have been A-Index fish (396 clipped and 282 unclipped) and 335 have been B-Index fish (235 clipped and 100 unclipped). The proportions of A- and B-Index fish in the sample are typical for this point in the run. Sampling for the year will conclude this week.

- Through October 9 a total of 164,022 adult and 19,739 jack Coho have been counted at Bonneville Dam for this run year. Early run coho counted at Bonneville through September 30 totaled 143,767 adults and 15,959 jacks. Late run coho through October 9 total 20,255 adults and 3,780 jacks. Based on 10-year average run timing, late run coho would be expected to reach 27% completion at Bonneville Dam on October 9. The clip rate for early run coho at Bonneville was 47% and for late run coho to date is 87%.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday October 7 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 122,100 total fish (including 44,600 unclipped). TAC also updated the in-season projection for B-Index steelhead abundance and now expects 49,900 total B-Index fish (including 13,200 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 635,650 adult fish. This total includes 342,800 URBs, 76,100 PUBs, and 118,000 BPH.
- This was TAC's final scheduled in-season abundance update meeting for the fall management period.

## **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 and Gillnet 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.
- 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 34-40 are available. CWT data are available for week's 34 through 40. The stock composition for Week 40 is used to project stock composition of Week's 41-42. There have been minor changes in the total catches compared to what was reported last week based on reviewing creel and CWT data. Effort for week 42 is assumed to be similar to the actual count observed this week (week 41), but effort could continue to decrease.
- The treaty fall fishery model has been set to use the average scalars from the gillnet openings to project catches for this week and next. 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. 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 keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the fall management period.

2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary through 10/4, modeled through end of season)									
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	486	20	3
		Gillnet/Platform/H&L							
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
37	Preliminary	9/9	9/13	336	21,569	9,956	1,316	433	1,822
38	Preliminary	9/16	9/20	288	11,468	4,717	2,327	1,180	2,042
39	Preliminary	9/23	9/28	320	10,225	6,643	2,356	1,281	2,362
40	Preliminary	9/30	10/4	225	3,558	2,504	1,197	553	1,208
41	Projected	10/7	10/11	93	800	400	500	300	300
				Subtotal	81,151	41,880	11,190	4,394	10,712
42	Projected	10/14	10/17	90	700	400	540	300	400

2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary through 10/4, modeled through end of season)								
Week	Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho
			Subtotal	81,851	42,280	11,730	4,694	11,112
	Late Fall Platforms			250	250	800	400	400
			Total	82,101	42,530	12,530	5,094	11,512
	<b>Allowed at Projected URB and B run size</b>				102,840		9,980	
	<b>Harvest Rate as of Oct 12</b>				12.2%		8.8%	
	<b>Remaining after Oct 12</b>				60,960		5,586	
	<b>Expected Harvest Rate through end of season</b>				12.4%		10.2%	
	<b>Remaining Available at End of Season</b>				60,310		4,886	

- 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	9.1%	10.5%
BPH Harvest Rate	27.5%	36.8%

- 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 34,000. Through October 6, TAC estimated that just over 48,000 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	
Season:	6:00 AM Monday October 14 through 6:00 PM Thursday October 17 (3.5 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.