

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8b**  
**October 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. 8a.

### **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. 8a.

#### ***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 October 7 and reviewed upriver fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. This was TAC's final scheduled in-season abundance update meeting for the fall management period.
  - TAC updated the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam to 122,100 total fish including 44,600 unclipped. TAC updated the expected total B-Index steelhead to 49,900, including 13,200 unclipped, to return to Bonneville Dam.
  - TAC also updated the expected upriver fall Chinook run to 342,800 URBs, 76,100 PUBs, and 118,000 BPH.

## 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. Knappa Slough was closed beginning October 2 due to concerns with the coho broodstock return to Big Creek Hatchery. Preliminary catch estimates for the combined Select Area fisheries through October 5 include 11,528 Chinook and 56,583 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 October 4 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 28,038 Chinook and 2,046 coho. Additionally, an estimated 558 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 October

4 include 1,340 Chinook and 4,856 hatchery coho. Additionally, an estimated 288 steelhead have been 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 fifteen periods were adopted at the Compact/Joint State hearings on September 10, 18, and 25.
  - Preliminary catch estimates through October 7 include 14,188 Chinook and 1,657 coho. Additionally, an estimated 320 steelhead were handled.
  - Preliminary catch estimates from the October 8 period are not yet available.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs, actual use in the early-fall fishery, actual and projected use in the late-fall fishery, and expected needs for full-season Select Area, tangle net, and ECF fisheries, an URB HR balance remains available for additional mainstem commercial fisheries. Therefore, staff recommend the following commercial periods:

<b><i>Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i></b>	
	Six 12-hour fishing periods during October 20 – November 1.
Week 43	7 PM Sunday October 20 to 7 AM Monday October 21 7 PM Tuesday October 22 to 7 AM Wednesday October 23 7 PM Thursday October 24 to 7 AM Friday October 25
Week 44	7 PM Sunday October 27 to 7 AM Monday October 28 7 PM Tuesday October 29 to 7 AM Wednesday October 30 7 PM Thursday October 31 to 7 AM Friday November 1
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 940 adults. At this harvest level, the additional ESA impact expectations are 0.00% ER for LCR Chinook and 0.13% HR for SRW Chinook.
- ESA impacts to Chum are expected to be <0.01% for the recommended periods.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.00% for A-Index and 0.02% 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 (including hatchery coho retention open through December 31) and re-opened for Chinook retention with in-season action from September 12 through October 13. Preliminary estimates through October 6 include 18,368 kept and 17,440 released Chinook, and 34,828 kept and 20,180 released coho from approximately 98,900 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was reopened for Chinook and hatchery coho retention with in-season action from September 20 through October 13. Current regulations allow for hatchery coho retention through December 31. Preliminary estimates through October 6 include 13,636 kept and 2,424 released Chinook, 3,233 kept and 1,264 released coho, and 887 released steelhead from approximately 48,600 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended in-season through October 13. Under the current regulations Chinook retention is scheduled to close effective October 14 but hatchery coho retention remains open through December 31. Preliminary estimates through October 6 include 15,769 kept and 817 released Chinook, 1,937 kept and 753 released coho, and 281 released steelhead from approximately 59,000 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 with in-season action through October 13. Under the current regulations Chinook retention is scheduled to close effective October 14 but coho retention remains open through December 31 (wild coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released). Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through October 6 include 10,195 Chinook kept and 3,280 released Chinook, 2,056 kept and 260 released coho, and 297 released steelhead from approximately 39,500 angler trips.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs, estimated use in completed and expected need for ongoing fisheries, an URB HR balance remains available for recreational fisheries. Therefore, staff recommend the following additional recreational Chinook retention opportunities.

***Recommendation: 2024 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries***

Effective Monday, October 14 through Tuesday, December 31, retention of one Chinook is allowed in the daily adult bag limit for the mainstem Columbia River fisheries from the Buoy 10 line upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, WA. All other previously-adopted and relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.

- For this recommendation, the projected Chinook catches and associated ESA impact estimates include:
  - 70 adults, 0.01% LCR ER, and 0.01% SRW HR for the Buoy 10 fishery.
  - 350 adults, 0.04% LCR ER, and 0.06% SRW HR for the WPI to WR fishery.
  - 1,330 adults, 0.13% LCR ER, and 0.30% SRW HR for the WR to BON fishery.
  - 1,060 adults and 0.20% SRW HR for the BON to Hwy 395 fishery.

***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, 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 <sup>a</sup>	Proposed	Total ER	Current <sup>a</sup>	Proposed	Total HR
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	1.49%	0.01%	1.50%	0.81%	0.01%	0.82%
WPI-WR	1.54%	0.04%	1.58%	2.17%	0.06%	2.23%
WR-BO	1.48%	0.13%	1.61%	3.47%	0.30%	3.77%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.11%	0.20%	2.31%
Tributaries	0.27%	--	0.27%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>4.78%</i>	<i>0.19%</i>	<i>4.97%</i>	<i>8.56%</i>	<i>0.57%</i>	<i>9.13%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	0.77%	--	0.77%	1.39%	--	1.39%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall	1.63%	0.00%	1.63%	2.20%	0.13%	2.33%
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>3.21%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>3.21%</i>	<i>4.78%</i>	<i>0.13%</i>	<i>4.90%</i>
<b>Non-Treaty Total</b>	<b>7.99%</b>	<b>0.19%</b>	<b>8.18%</b>	<b>13.33%</b>	<b>0.70%</b>	<b>14.04%</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; the expected in-river ER is 8.18% compared to the preseason in-river ER of 10.54%.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 14.57% out of the 15% allowed.
- 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 7.67% ER.
- Impacts to Chum from in-river fisheries are expected to be 1.14% 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 0.64% out of the allowed 2% HR, respectively.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time.