



2025 Columbia River Summer/Fall Non-Treaty Fishery Plan

May 23, 2025

Fishing regulations may be modified from what is described in this document based on in-season abundance updates and catch estimates.

This fishery plan was developed during the 2025 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and North of Falcon (NOF) meetings in March and April, which included stakeholder input from both the general public and members of the Columbia River recreational and commercial fishery advisory groups.

This fishery plan reflects the intent of current policies and/or regulations of the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the management objective to optimize harvest in non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries while remaining within the limitations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA).

Management Intent and Expectations for Summer Season Fisheries

- Oregon and Washington have policy guidance regarding allocations of summer Chinook and sockeye harvest impacts for commercial and recreational fisheries. Summer Chinook harvest allocation guidance is concurrent with 80% recreational and 20% commercial of the in-river harvestable surplus for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam. Sockeye ESA-impact allocation guidance is not concurrent; therefore, staff is modeling 70% recreational and 20% commercial, leaving the balance (10%) unallocated.
- Policy guidance regarding allowable commercial gears for summer Chinook is non-concurrent; Oregon rules do not allow use of gillnets for summer season mainstem commercial fisheries, but the Washington policy does. No other viable gears are currently available to the commercial fleet; therefore, no non-treaty commercial fishery is expected to occur this summer.
- The preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 38,000 fish to the Columbia River mouth. Under the terms of the MA, the allowable total fishing mortality (kept + release mortality) for all non-treaty fisheries (including ocean) is 7,012 adult fish, of which 2,008 are available for in-river fisheries.
 - Based on WDFW's Upper Columbia Management Agreement, the available harvest allocation for summer Chinook fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 10% of the total allowed for in-river non-treaty fisheries.
 - Summer Chinook allocations (mortalities) for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam provide for a recreational allocation of 161 fish and commercial allocation of 40 fish.

- The preseason forecast for sockeye is 350,200 fish. Non-treaty fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed to a harvest rate limit of $\leq 1\%$ of the total Columbia River run ($\leq 3,502$ fish).
- The preseason forecast for upriver summer steelhead (upriver Skamania Index, A-Index, and B-Index management stocks) is 73,900 total fish and includes 2,600 wild Skamania, 19,000 wild A-Index, and 1,100 wild B-Index fish. The total harvest rate (HR) on wild upriver Skamania, wild A-Index, and wild B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fisheries is expected to be 0.01%, 0.60%, and 0.14%, respectively, during the summer management season as compared to the ESA limit of 2% for each stock.
- The mainstem recreational fishery will be open for hatchery steelhead from June 16 through July 31 and sockeye retention will be allowed June 22 through July 6. The fishery will be closed to retention of summer Chinook downstream of Priest Rapids Dam. The available recreational fishery summer Chinook allocation is anticipated to be sufficient to cover handle/release mortalities accrued during the summer season mainstem fishery. The daily adult bag limit will be one hatchery steelhead and one sockeye (when open), for the fishery from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, WA.
- Continuing to fish for jack salmon is prohibited once the daily adult salmon and/or steelhead limit has been retained.
- Barbless hooks are required when fishing for salmonids in the mainstem Columbia from the mouth upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge.

Management Intent and Expectations for Fall Season Fisheries

- The non-treaty fishery conservation responsibility for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead is shared between recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Commission guidance regarding allocation of fall Chinook is concurrent this year. Guidance in both states allocate impacts to the most constraining fall Chinook stock as no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries.
- Washington's policy for non-treaty commercial fisheries allows for the use of gillnets in any commercial fishing zone downstream of Bonneville Dam. Oregon's rules allow for the use of gillnets in Zones 4-5 only. Therefore, staff has modeled commercial mainstem gillnet fisheries in Zones 4-5 only.
- Current Oregon and Washington policy guidance on impacts on ESA-listed LCN coho are prioritized to Select Area commercial fisheries, mainstem commercial Chinook fisheries, and commercial hatchery coho fisheries (Oregon), followed by recreational fisheries, and then coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries (Oregon and Washington).
- Current Oregon and Washington policy guidance regarding allowable coho-directed commercial gears is not concurrent. Oregon rules do not allow use of 6-inch gillnets for coho-directed fisheries while Washington does. Therefore, no 6-inch gillnet fishery is expected to occur in 2025.
- Oregon rules provide guidance regarding fall-season recreational fishery objectives for fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam, while the WA policy does not provide any guidance on season structure. The recreational fishery season objectives are not expected to be achievable in 2025.

- Oregon rules provide for up to 2% of ESA impacts of the most constraining stock to be available for alternative gear commercial fisheries and includes an expectation that the Department shall approve alternative gears for use. Washington policy supports the development and implementation of alternative gear commercial fisheries; additionally, an Emerging Commercial Fishery designation has been made by the WDFW Director to evaluate these gears for potential legalization. Therefore, the two states have set aside 2% ESA impacts of the non-treaty share for the most constraining stocks for use in alternative gear commercial fisheries; these impacts are considered part of the commercial share where numerical commercial allocation exists.
- The preseason forecast of Lower River Hatchery fall Chinook (LRH) is 121,900 adults to the Columbia River mouth. Based on this forecast, the ESA impact for Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tule Chinook is limited to a 41.0% exploitation rate (ER), which is shared between ocean and in-river fisheries. The total realized ER is expected to be 41.0%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 11.2% ER or 27% of the total, along with a 29.8% ER expected in ocean fisheries (1.4% South of Falcon non-treaty; 11.9% NOF non-treaty; 2.0% NOF Treaty; and 14.6% northern fisheries, i.e., Alaska/Canada).
- The preseason forecast for Upriver Bright fall Chinook (URB) at the Columbia River mouth is 328,100 adult fish, which includes 9,000 Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW). Based on these forecasts, the allowed HR limits on URB and SRW Chinook for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries is 15.0% on each. The total URB and SRW HRs for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries are expected to be 15.0% and 14.0%, respectively.
- Total modeled preseason shares of URB Chinook harvest for Columbia River fisheries are 70% recreational and 30% commercial, which is consistent with Commission guidance regarding allocation of the most constraining Chinook stock.
- The preseason coho forecast is 342,100 adults to the Columbia River mouth. The ESA-impact limit for Lower Columbia River natural coho (LCN) is 23.0% ER, which includes both ocean and in-river fisheries. The total ER is expected to be 21.5%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 7.4% ER or 32% of the total allowed.
- The total HR on wild A-Index and wild B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries is expected to be 0.49% and 0.70%, respectively, during the fall management period as compared to the ESA limit of 2% for each stock.

Fall Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fall fishery expectations outlined in this fishery plan are based on preseason Chinook and coho model runs that are summarized in “Columbia River Fall Chinook Fishery Model Summary” and “Pre-season coho catch and impact summary” tables below. These tables also provide each individual fishery’s catch expectation and associated impacts (i.e., HR or ER).
- Chinook catch expectations are primarily based on stock-specific preseason abundance forecasts and prior-year stock-specific harvest rates.
- Season structures are based upon achieving the recreational/commercial allocation sharing for the most constraining stock.

- In-season management decisions for non-treaty commercial and recreational fall-season fisheries will be based on the MA, ESA-impact limits, the state commissions' policies/rules, and this preseason plan.
- Catch expectations for adult fall Chinook in mainstem fisheries (i.e., excluding tributary and Hanford Reach recreational, and Select Area commercial fisheries) total 118,800 adults, including 75,200 in recreational fisheries (63%) and 43,600 in commercial fisheries (37%).
- Given the expected low return of summer steelhead again this year, the management approaches and steelhead fishery regulations will be similar to those enacted since 2017.
- Harvest, season structures, and ESA impacts accrued will be influenced by in-season abundance estimates for upriver stocks/species and stock-specific harvest rates in each respective fishery. The potential for additional harvest opportunities will be based on in-season fishery catch estimates, abundance expectations, allowable ESA impact estimates, and policy guidance/objectives.

Goals/expectations for fall recreational fisheries include:

- Regulations for summer steelhead fisheries are expected to be most similar to rules in place during 2022–2024; see the included table summarizing expected steelhead regulations for 2025. Daily bag limits will be reduced, in addition to retention and/or angling closures for the mainstem Columbia River and lower reaches of select tributaries. The John Day Arm will be closed to salmon/steelhead angling and retention beginning September 1, as was done in 2024.
- 2025 fall Chinook recreational fisheries were developed to reduce risk of in-season closures, aide in catch/stock estimation for in-season management, minimize effort shift, and limit additional regulation complexity.
- The dates, area restrictions, and catch expectations described are based on preseason planning and input from the recreational fishing community. Actual catches and stock composition of the catch will be monitored in-season, and fisheries may be adjusted accordingly with short notice (e.g., less than 24 hours).
- During fall fisheries (August 1 through December 31) from the mouth upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge, each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- Barbless hooks are required when fishing for salmonids in the mainstem Columbia from the mouth upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge.
- Beginning in 2025, the Bachelor Island/Warrior Rock line is defined as: a line projected from the Warrior Rock lighthouse to the marker atop the piling dolphin located at the downstream end of Bachelor Island on the Washington shore.
- From Buoy 10 upstream to west Puget Island, the recreational fishery will be open August 1–6 and August 26 through September 6 for Chinook and hatchery coho, and August 7–25 for adipose fin-clipped hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho. The daily adult salmon limit is two fish but no more than one may be a Chinook. Wild coho may not be retained; steelhead may not be retained from August 1 through October 31.

- From September 7 through December 31, retention of adult hatchery coho is allowed but Chinook retention will be closed.
- Total mortality (kept catch plus release mortalities) expectations include 41,000 Chinook plus 34,300 coho mortalities are available to this fishery.
- Season structure for the mainstem recreational fishery from the west Puget Island line upstream to Bonneville Dam varies by river section. The daily adult bag limit is two salmonids but no more than one adult Chinook when open. Wild coho may not be retained, and steelhead may not be retained from August 1 through October 31.
 - West Puget Island line upstream to the Bachelor Island/Warrior Rock line is open from August 1 through September 6 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 through December 31 for hatchery coho retention only. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 7–30.
 - Bachelor Island/Warrior Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam is open from August 1 through September 17 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 through December 31 for hatchery coho retention only. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 18–30.
 - Total mortality expectations for the area from west Puget Island upstream to Bonneville Dam include 26,500 adult Chinook.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge will be open to Chinook and coho retention from August 1 through September 17, and October 1 through December 31 for coho retention only. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 18–30. The daily adult bag limit is two salmonids with no more than one being a Chinook; wild coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released. Total mortality expectations (kept catch plus release mortalities) include 7,700 adult Chinook.
 - In this area, steelhead retention will be closed as follows (for more detail see steelhead regulation table below):
 - Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam from August 1 through October 31.
 - The Dalles Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge from September 1 through December 31.

Goals/expectations for fall commercial fisheries include:

- The dates, areas, gear restrictions, and catch expectations described are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events may change some of these expectations. Additional fishing periods, potentially with modified hours, may be considered in-season to meet harvest guidelines.
- The August (Early Fall) Chinook-target fishery is modeled to begin the week of August 3 and is expected to continue through the month of August, with fishing periods occurring two to three nights per week. Fishery structure is expected to include eleven, 9-hour (9pm–6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The landings expectation includes 32,900 adult Chinook plus about 3,400 coho are available for this fishery.
- The Late Fall (September through October) Chinook-target fishery will likely begin early to mid-September, dependent on the remaining commercial share, in-season URB abundance expectation,

and allowable harvest/ESA-impact limits. This fishery would include 10-hour (8pm–6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. A total of 7,500 adult Chinook and 3,300 coho have been set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.

- Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery coho using 3.75-inch multifilament tangle nets are expected to begin as early as the week of September 14 and continue through October 31 with up to five fishing periods per week (Mon–Fri) from 4am–10pm in Zones 1-3, but closing at 6pm on Fridays per industry request. Up to 11,600 hatchery coho and 2,100 adult Chinook have been set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
- Commercial fisheries will be structured with respect to gear, area, and time to reduce steelhead handle and avoid peak B-Index steelhead abundance.
- A limited entry alternative gear commercial fishery targeting hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho in Zones 1-3 is expected to be open on limited days from August through mid-October. Participants for the fishery were selected by lottery; expected gears include up to three pound nets and three seines (combination of beach and purse). Catches will be managed with the use of Individual Fisher Quotas (IFQs) and limited to no more than 2% of the allowed non-treaty impact rate for the most constraining stock.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Columbia River Fall Chinook Fishery Model Summary

Ocean Option:

Chin 2225

Columbia River Model Option:

Model

MR2025-Preseason-Final

MR2025-Preseason-Final

Management Guidelines	Goal/Guideline	SRW	Total URB
Harvest Rate	45.00%	43.4%	44.1%
Non-Treaty	15.00%	14.0%	15.0%
Treaty	30.0%	29.4%	29.1%
% of Harvestable Surplus		Total	
Non-Treaty	50%	32%	
Treaty	50%	31%	
McNary Escapement	60,000	156,300	
LRH Ocean/Inriver Exp. Rate	41%	41%	
Non-Treaty Wild B Index Steelhead	2%	0.7%	
Treaty Total B Index Steelhead	13%	13%	
Upriver Coho to Bonneville Dam	50%	59%	
Lower Columbia Chum	5%	0.9%	

Non-Treaty Catch Sharing					
SRW - Impacts			Brights - Mainstem		
	Impact	Percent		Mortalities	Percent
Sport	9.69%	69%	Sport	41,400	71%
Comm	4.30%	31%	Comm	16,800	29%
Total	13.99%				
URB - Impacts			Chinook - Mainstem		
	Impact	Percent		Mortalities	Percent
Sport	10.48%	70%	Sport	75,200	63%
Comm	4.50%	30%	Comm	43,600	37%
Total	14.98%				
LRH - Impacts					
	Impact	Percent			
Sport	8.28%	74%			
Comm	2.95%	26%			
Total	11.23%				

					Total	LRH	LRW	BPH	URB	LRB	PUB	SAB	SRW	LRH ER	SRW HR
Ocean Harvest					126,000	27,360	4,980	45,080	38,470	540	9,580				
Columbia River Run					736,230	121,930	14,520	183,470	328,110	4,500	82,770	920	9,000	11.23%	13.99%
Harvest Below Bonneville					2025 Fishery Description										
Zone 4-5 Wk 32. Aug 3-9			2 periods		500	100	0	10	360	0	30	0	10	0.02%	0.11%
Zone 4-5 Wk 33. Aug 10-16			3 periods		2,370	330	0	960	1,020	0	60	0	30	0.15%	0.31%
Zone 4-5 Wk 34. Aug 17-23			3 periods		9,350	1,040	40	5,120	2,550	30	570	0	70	0.41%	0.78%
Zone 4-5 Wk 35. Aug 24-30			3 periods		20,650	2,130	0	12,370	4,910	120	1,130	0	130	0.84%	1.50%
Zone 4-5 Wk 36. Aug 31-Sep 6					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 4-5 Wk 37. Sep 7-13					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 4-5 Wk 38. Sep 14-20			Sep. placeholder		7,450	1,140	120	3,080	2,240	100	770	0	60	0.74%	0.68%
Zone 4-5 Wk 39. Sep 21-27					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 4-5 Wk 40. Sep 28-Oct 4					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 4-5 Wk 41-43; Oct 5-25					0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Fall Tanglenet Wk 38-44; Sep 14-Nov1			Coho target		2,060	270	70	10	1,520	10	180	0	40	0.16%	0.46%
Alternative Gear - Seine/Pound Net	MSF													0.23%	0.10%
Select Areas Full Season			Full Season		11,050	7,720	0	1,310	1,200	0	190	630	30	0.40%	0.36%
Buoy 10 to WPI Kept + Morts	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1-6 nMSF; Aug 7-25 MSF; Aug 26 - Sep. 6 nMSF; Sep 7+ Co only			40,990	13,730	110	12,490	11,090	20	920	280	230	5.16%	2.59%
WPI to Lewis	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1 - Sep 6 nMSF; Oct 1+ Co only			12,300	2,080	130	680	7,650	80	1,450	20	210	1.20%	2.33%
Lewis to Bonn	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1 - Sep 17 nMSF; Oct 1+ Co only			14,170	2,170	0	0	8,730	170	3,100	0	240	1.65%	2.66%
Tributary Sport	MSF		Average season		1,560	1,090	460	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.27%	0.00%
Lower River Total					123,630	32,010	940	36,020	42,240	530	8,400	930	1,070	11.23%	11.88%
Bonneville Dam Passage					501,170			142,230	285,770		73,170		7,930		
Harvest Above Bonneville															
Zone 6 - Bonn to Hwy 395	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1 - Sep 17 nMSF; Oct 1+ Co only			7,700			40	6,920		740		190		2.11%
Treaty Comm. and C&S			Average season		178,260			63,690	95,430		19,140		2,640		29.1%
Hanford Reach Sport			Average season		10,060				10,060				0		
McNary Dam Passage					156,330				156,330						
Lower Granite Dam Passage													5,536		
Escapement						89,920	13,580	78,510	173,360	3,970	53,290	(10)			
Hatchery					54,980			67,720	77,680		19,540	(10)			
Natural					34,950	13,580	10,780	95,680	95,680	3,970	33,750	0			
Hatchery Surplus					29,930			60,720			10,560	(1,210)			
Natural Surplus							6,244	9,480	35,680						

2025 Pre-season Coho catch and impact summary

FRAM Run: bc-Coho2525

Catch Summary					
Fishery	Unmarked Mortalities		Marked Mortalities		Total Mortalities
	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	
Tangle Net	1,117	733	4,266	7,296	13,411
Zone 4/5 Gillnet	2,854	358	2,571	842	6,625
Alternative Gear	960	363	2,275	2,245	5,842
Youngs Bay	663	-	15,389	-	16,052
Blind/Knappa	853	-	9,134	-	9,988
Tongue Point	997	-	13,514	-	14,512
Deep River	-	113	-	2,657	2,771
Buoy 10	4,929	300	25,667	3,418	34,314
Lower Columbia River	401	840	1,903	2,356	5,500
Ocean	20,217	4,844	72,528	47,259	144,848
Sum	32,992	7,551	147,247	66,073	253,863
Exploitation Rates					
Fishery	Unmarked			Marked	
	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>
Tangle Net	0.7%	2.4%	1.4%	2.2%	6.7%
Zone 4/5 Gillnet	1.6%	1.2%	1.5%	1.3%	0.8%
Alternative Gear	0.6%	1.2%	0.8%	1.2%	2.1%
Select Areas	0.3%	0.0%	0.2%	19.7%	2.4%
B10 Sport	3.2%	1.0%	2.3%	13.3%	3.2%
LCR Sport	0.3%	2.7%	1.2%	1.0%	2.2%
Ocean	13.1%	15.7%	14.1%	37.5%	43.6%
Sum	19.8%	24.2%	21.5%	76.2%	60.9%

Columbia River mainstem and tributary summer steelhead regulation summary for 2025-26 fisheries

Water Body	June 16-June 30	July	August	September	October	November	December	Jan-March	Comments
Columbia River mainstem									
Below I-5 Bridge	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Permanent Regs for winter steelhead (Daily limit 2)		Some periods of salmon/steelhead angling closures when salmon retention is closed.	
I5-Bridge to Bonneville Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention						
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention						
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention			TBD in-season		
John Day Dam to McNary Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention			TBD in-season		
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention			TBD in-season		
Columbia River tributaries									
Wind/White Salmon (WA) tributary lower reaches	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)	Closed to angling for steelhead				Perm. Regs (Daily limit: 3 Wind R; 2 White Salmon R)	Perm. Regs	Lower reaches restricted. Closure improved enforceability.	
Drano Lake (WA)						Daily limit 1		Closure improved enforceability.	
Klickitat (WA) tributary lower reaches	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)					Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)		Lower reaches restricted. Closure improved enforceability.	
Deschutes River (OR) mouth	Daily limit 1	Thermal Angling Sanctuary Regs closed to angling (7/15-9/15)	Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)					Combination of old perm. regulations (Herman/Eagle Cr. Closures, new permanent regulations, TAS), and intended MS regs by pool which affect these tribs. Note: Herman Cr. Youth and Disabled Angler Angling Area not included; see permanent regulations for this area.	
Eagle Cr. (OR) mouth	Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)								
Herman Cr. (OR) Lagoon									
Herman Cr. (OR) mouth to RR bridge									
Eagle Cr. (OR) RR bridge to hatchery deadline	Daily limit 1		Perm. Regs (closed to angling)		Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)				
Deschutes River (OR) lower reach (below Moody Rapids)			Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)						
John Day R (downstream of Tumwater Falls)			Closed to salmon/steelhead angling						
Snake River									
Mouth upstream to Couse Creek boat ramp	Perm. Regs (Closed to steelhead retention)			TBD e-rule published by Sept 1				Managed By E-reg. Proposed limits may change to be concurrent with Idaho.	
Couse Creek boat ramp upstream to WA/OR/ID stateline	Perm. Regs (Closed to steelhead retention)			TBD e-rule published by Sept 1				Limits may change to be concurrent with Idaho.	