

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 14
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 1, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon Non-Indian fisheries update
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 29, 2015

Stock Status

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam through September 30 totals 239,331 fish. Passage (July-October) is currently projected to reach 247,000 fish at Bonneville Dam, including 18,000 Group B stock (5,400 wild; 46% of preseason). Wild Group B steelhead are currently the most constraining stock for non-Indian fisheries.
- Allowable impacts for Group B wild steelhead from in-river non-Indian fisheries total 2.0%. Non-Indian fisheries include commercial fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam and recreational fisheries from the Columbia River mouth upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington.
- Based on runsize of 5,400 Group B wild steelhead, a total of 108 mortalities are allowed for non-Indian fisheries in order to remain within the 2.0% limit. Preseason, the forecast was 11,700 Group B wild steelhead, which allowed for 234 mortalities.

Non-Indian Fisheries

- Commercial fisheries this fall have consisted of Chinook-directed periods in Zones 4-5, seine fisheries primarily in Zones 2-4 and upcoming and planned Coho-directed fisheries using either tanglenet or standard gear in Zones 1-3. Total Chinook harvest has generally been within expectations, and is projected to total around 79,000 Chinook in mainstem fisheries. Total steelhead handle from all commercial fisheries is expected to be less than 1,700 fish and incur a total of 25 wild B mortalities (0.46% impact).
- Recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam during August and September have harvested 4,200 steelhead and incurred nine wild Group B mortalities. October harvest is expected to be less than 100 fish (one wild Group B mortality). Season total projections include a harvest of 4,300 hatchery steelhead and incur 10 wild Group B mortalities (0.19% impact).
- Recreational fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam extend up to the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington, and include some tributaries. Current harvest estimates during August and September is total 10,300 hatchery steelhead and include 40 wild Group B mortalities. Harvest projections for October are currently estimated to total 2,100 hatchery steelhead (37 wild Group B mortalities). Season total projections include a harvest of 12,400 hatchery steelhead and incur 78 wild Group B mortalities (1.44%).
- Based on the current forecast for Group B wild steelhead, and actual and planned fisheries, current projections for Group B wild impacts total 2.09% compared to the 2.00% limit.

- Staff will monitor steelhead run sizes and ESA impacts as October progresses, and propose changes as needed.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Considering all the data in hand, non-Indian fisheries (including completed, on-going, proposed, and planned fisheries) are as follows.
 - Impacts to lower Columbia natural (LCR) Chinook are currently projected to not exceed 40.7% for ocean and in-river fisheries.
 - Impacts to wild Group B steelhead to date are 1.26% compared to the 2% ESA impact limit.
 - URB impacts are projected to be 9.5% compared to the 15% ESA impact limit.
 - Impacts to Lower Columbia River (LCN) Coho are limited to a 23% exploitation rate for ocean and in-river fisheries.

2015 Current Estimates of Group B Steelhead Take _ preliminary

Fishery	Preseason			In-Season to-date		In-Season projected		
	Take	Impact	% of total	Take	Impact	Take	Impact	% of total
Commercial	63	0.54%	28%	19	0.35%	25	0.55%	22%
LCR Recreational	31	0.26%	14%	9	0.17%	10	0.21%	9%
BON-H395 Recreational	134	1.15%	59%	40	0.74%	78	1.24%	69%
	228	1.95%		68	1.26%	113	2.09%	

2015 Fall Season Treaty Fisheries

- Preliminary catches are shown in the table below. Additionally 1,827 coho and approximately 100 sockeye have been caught to date in fall season fisheries to date.
- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries are on-going for both subsistence and commercial purposes.
- Two tribes have open fisheries downstream of Bonneville. Catch and effort downstream of Bonneville has generally been very low. The tribes will continue to monitor this area and report any catch that occurs.
- 466 set nets were counted during this week’s survey. Effort normally declines as the fall season progresses.

2015 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches)					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead
Platforms through 8/16	na	953	517	1,570	330
Aug. 17-21 (4.5 days)	296	5,498	3,936	1,541	15
Aug 24-28 (4.5 days)	401	9,485	6,055	1,322	31
Aug. 31 -Sept. 5 (5.5 days)	569	44,645	23,182	2,209	169
Sept. 8-12 (4.5 days)	671	65,045	19,612	2,214	172
Sept. 14-19 (5.5 days) projected	542	70,893	21,375	2,931	536
Sept. 21-25 (4.5 days) projected	464	39,662	11,959	1,321	322
Subtotal		236,181	86,636	13,108	1,575
Sept 28- Oct 2 (4.5 days) Projected	466	18,800	10,800	1,600	390
Anticipated need for late fall platform fisheries		500	400	400	150
Total		255,481	97,836	15,108	2,115
Allowed at updated URB Forecast and B steelhead Run.			221,040		2,340
Harvest Rate as of Sept 25			12%		9%
Remaining after Sept 25			134,404		765
Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 2			13%		11.8%
Remaining after Oct 2			123,204		225
Remaining Harvest Rate After Oct. 2			17%		1.3%

- Platform and hook and line harvest (above and below Bonneville Dam) is included in each week's reported gillnet catch.

Tribal Fishery Plan

Treaty Commercial Salmon

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted the following regulations:

2015 Treaty Indian Fall Chinook Commercial Fishery

Extend the on-going commercial gillnet opening until 6:00 p.m. Friday October 2, 2015. All other regulations currently in place for this fishery would remain unchanged.

- The expected catch in this week's fishery includes 10,800 URBs and 390 B steelhead with the extension. This is 900 URB's and 40 B steelhead more than without the extension.
- Without taking any action to restrict the platform fishery, the tribal fishery is expected to be within the allowed B harvest rate limit down to run sizes of 16,400. The 150 B steelhead held for late fall platform fisheries, could be used as an additional buffer if needed as well.
- The tribes will conduct an effort survey by air each week of commercial gillnet fishing and monitor and report catches weekly.
- If this week's B steelhead catch is less than modeled, the tribes may want to consider a gillnet opening next week.

Future Meetings

- The tribes may request a Compact Hearing on Monday October 5 if warranted to address any appropriate changes in tribal fishing regulations.
- The Joint Staff will recommend additional hearings as needed.