

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 10, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial salmon
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Stock Status and Management Guidelines

Detailed stock status and management guidelines for 2015 fall season fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 29, 2015).

- Through September 9, 384,161 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. This includes 334,102 Brights and 50,059 Tules. Bright Chinook are tracking at higher than expected levels given the pre-season forecasts. Tule Chinook are tracking behind expectations. TAC will be meeting next week and expects to update the fall chinook run sizes. At the forecast run size the tribal fishery has a 30% harvest rate on URB fall Chinook.
- A and B index steelhead counts since July 1 total 202,422 fish. Steelhead have been tracking behind expectations. TAC downgraded the A-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville to 206,200 including 76,300 wild fish. It is still too early to update the B steelhead run size. At the forecast run size, the tribal fishery has a 20% harvest rate on B steelhead. If the B steelhead run were to drop below 35,000, the harvest rate would drop to 15%.
- Through September 9, 14,425 adult coho have passed Bonneville Dam. Coho have been tracking behind expectations.

2015 Fall Season Fisheries

- Preliminary catches are shown in the table below. Additionally 407 coho and approximately 20 sockeye have been caught to date in fall season fisheries to date.

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	5,998	3,936	1,582	108
Aug 24-28 (4.5 days)	401	10,763	6,679	1,530	121
Aug. 31 -Sept. 5 (5.5 days)	569	41,383	25,653	2,192	261
Sept. 8-12 (4.5 days) projected	690	57,100	37,600	2,900	520
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>116,197</i>	<i>74,385</i>	<i>9,774</i>	<i>1,340</i>
Sept. 15-19 (4.5 days) projected	690	51,100	34,300	3,800	850
Sept. 22-25 (3.5 days) projected	610	32,100	19,300	3,800	990
Total		199,397	127,985	17,374	3,180

- For modeling purposes, the tribes have assumed a reduced Spring Creek tule run size of 75,000 at Bonneville (about 64% of forecast) and a reduced B steelhead run size of 32,880 (80% of forecast). For projecting B steelhead catches this week and for the next two weeks,

the catches were scaled to the average observed weekly harvest rate for B steelhead. These choices were made to project catches in a conservative manner.

2015 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (Projected Impacts)		
	URB Chinook	B Steelhead
Allowed at Pre-season URB Forecast and 20% reduced B steelhead run size.	155,496	4,932
Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 12	14%	4.1%
Remaining after Sept 12	81,111	3,592
Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 25	25%	10%
Remaining after Sept 25	27,511	1,752
Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 12	5%	5%

- 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. Effort below Bonneville Dam is declining and the fall season catch to date in this area is 50 Chinook, 210 steelhead, and 20 Coho. The tribes will continue to monitor this area and report any catch that occurs.
- The Zone 6 and downstream of Bonneville platform and hook and line fisheries along with Yakama Zone 6 tributary fisheries do not require Compact action at this time.
- 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:

<i>2015 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 14 to 6 PM Saturday September 19 6 AM Monday September 21 to 6 PM Friday September 25	(5.5 days) (4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary will also be in place.	
Gear:	Gill nets with an 8" minimum mesh restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (all species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open	

Additional:	<p>periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes.</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Electronic fish ticket submission for Oregon buyers pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.</p>
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- Total catch projections for August 1 through September 25 are approximately 200,000 total adult Chinook including approximately 128,000 URB Chinook. Additionally, 17,374 steelhead including 3,180 B Index steelhead are expected to be caught. The fisheries to date along with projected catches for planned fisheries are within the allowed harvest rates under the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.
- The total projected catches are also within the allowed harvest rates for a URB run size down to 427,000 fish and a B steelhead run size down to 21,200 fish.
- If harvest this week is greater than anticipated, or if TAC changes run size estimates next week, the tribes have agreed to meet to modify ongoing fisheries as needed to ensure total impacts remain within agreed to limits.
- The tribes will conduct an effort survey by air each week of commercial gillnet fishing and monitor and report catches weekly.

Future Meetings

- The tribes request a Compact Hearing during the week of September 21 to address possible additional commercial gillnet openings.