

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #13
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
November 3, 2016

Fisheries under consideration:	Mainstem recreational salmon/steelhead
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2016 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #1 (July 27,2016).

Stock Status

- Passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1-October 31 totals 439,650 adult fall Chinook. Recent daily passage has dropped to around 200 adults with the run essentially complete. When the *U.S. v OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) last met (October 17) they provided an in-season estimate of 701,100 adult fish expected to return to the Columbia River, including 412,700 upriver bright (URB) Chinook (71% of pre-season forecast) and 45,200 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook (45% of pre-season forecast).
- Chinook returns to the Snake River are also essentially complete with the last count at Ice Harbor Dam down to 10 fish.
- Passage at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 171,806 upriver summer steelhead. Coho passage totals 41,127 adults (early and late stocks combined).

Non-Treaty Fisheries

- The *U.S. v OR* Management Agreement allows for a 15% harvest rate on URB fall Chinook in non-treaty fisheries.
- Non-treaty mainstem commercial fisheries concluded September 23 and Select Area commercial fisheries ended October 31.
- Effective October 22, Oregon and Washington closed recreational salmon and steelhead fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River because the projected non-treaty URB harvest rate (15.46%) exceeded the allowable take limit.
- Chinook catch in recreational fisheries during November and December is minimal even when Chinook retention is allowed. The current closure negatively affects small-scale, late-fall fisheries directed at Coho and steelhead which do not target fall Chinook.
- Therefore, staff is recommending current temporary regulations be modified to allow mainstem Coho and steelhead fisheries to resume. Chinook retention would remain closed through December 31.

<i>Recommendation: 2016 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>

Effective Saturday November 5, 2016, angling for, and retention of steelhead and Coho is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from Buoy 10 to the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, WA. The daily bag limit is two adult salmonids and may include up to one hatchery steelhead. All other permanent regulations remain in effect.
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- Staff estimates that the proposed fishery will result in less than three URB Chinook release mortalities with no impact to SRW Chinook.

Future Hearings

- No future hearings are currently scheduled.