

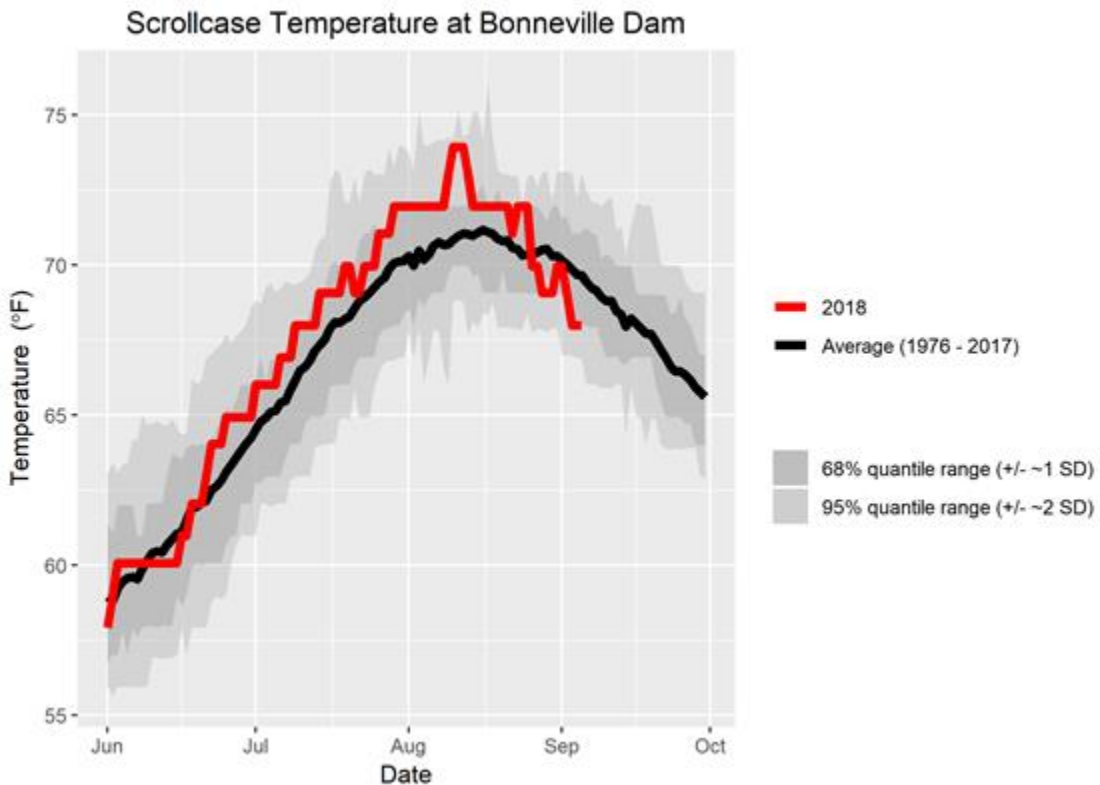
COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 6, 2018

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty mainstem commercial
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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 on-line. The 2018 Fall Report was distributed on July 17, 2018. Links to the on-line reports are: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 125.5 kcfs, which is lower than the ten-year average of 157.6 kcfs for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 67.7°F, which is less than the recent ten-year average of 68.8°F. Water temperatures normally begin to decline this time of year as day length decreases.



STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Detailed stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #2
- Bonneville Dam passage is forecasted to total nearly 253,100 upriver fall Chinook adults for the season. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 9. Through September 5,

a total of 80,260 adult and 10,758 jack Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Adult Chinook counts have been less than expected based on average run timing, but within expectations if the run is 1-2 days late.

- Through September 5, a total of 20,135 adult Chinook have passed McNary Dam.
- No reports on the Spring Creek Hatchery escapement are available yet.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing from July 1 through October 31 are categorized as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is mainly A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake river basins.
- The pre-season forecast for the combined A/B-Index steelhead return to Bonneville Dam was 182,400 fish, including 57,700 unclipped (48,200 wild) fish. The A-Index forecast is 62% and the B-Index forecast is 60% of their respective recent 10-year averages.
- Through September 5 a total of 63,163 A and B-Index steelhead including 22,607 unclipped fish have passed Bonneville Dam. TAC met on September 4 and reviewed A and B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC did not modify the previously downgraded projected steelhead run size of 96,500 total A and B-Index steelhead including 69,000 clipped and 27,500 unclipped steelhead. Unclipped steelhead include natural origin and hatchery origin fish. The revised A-Index steelhead run size is less than the pre-season forecast. Because run timing of B-Index fish is later, there is less certainty about the B-Index run size at this time. TAC notes that there is some evidence that the final B-Index steelhead run size may be less than the pre-forecast.

Coho

- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total 51,800 adult Coho, which represents 65% of the forecasted ocean abundance of Columbia River Coho destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam. Counts at Bonneville Dam through September 5 total 12,513 adults and 1,693 jacks. The counts to date are tracking at less than forecast based on average run timing. The early returning coho at Bonneville Dam (through September are typically 28% complete on September 5.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, steelhead, and Coho.
 - The allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the URB run based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries. For URB runs less than 200,000, the allowed treaty impacts drop to 23% and the allowed non-treaty impacts drop to 8.25%.

- The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
- The management goal for adult fall Chinook at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
- Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 15% of the total B-Index steelhead, but the allowed impacts decrease to 30% if the B-Index steelhead run size is less than 20,000.
- The goal for upriver coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
- Fisheries are managed based on preseason forecasts until in-season run size updates become available.

2018 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Fall Management Period platform and hook and line fisheries began August 1. Low levels of fishing just downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to occur. Through September 1, a total of 60 Chinook and 20 steelhead have been harvested downstream of Bonneville. These catches are included in the total catch estimates provided below.
- Commercial gillnet fisheries typically begin in mid to late August. Given uncertainties about run sizes, the tribes chose to begin gillnet fisheries on August 27 this year.
- 2018 tribal fall season salmon and steelhead catches through week 35 are shown in the table below along with modeled catch projections for this week and next week. CWT's have not been read for Chinook, so the URB composition is based on the pre-season forecast stock proportions.
- Tribal staff have modeled fisheries based on two different URB run sizes. These include the pre-season forecasted URB run size as well as an URB run size 20% less than forecast (approximately 164,000). This was done to ensure the planned fisheries are appropriate under either scenario.
- Because TAC has not determined an in-season estimate for B-Index steelhead, the tribes estimated a B-Index run size to model fisheries using proportional declines for the total, clipped and unclipped run sizes compared to the pre-season forecasts. This results a B-Index run size for planning fisheries of 12,982. The tribes view this as an adequately conservative run size to plan current fisheries with.
- The treaty fishery model does not predict coho catches so there are no coho harvest projections, but coho harvest is normally low in the fall season fisheries.

2018 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries							
Week	Fishery	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho
31-34	Platforms through 8/25	na	671	583	400	40	11
35	Aug 27-Aug 30 (3.5 days)	420	6,577	3,639	675	141	216
36	Sep 3-7 (4.5 days)	622	17,700	8,100	1,100	260	
	Subtotal through 9/8		24,948	12,322	2,175	441	227
37	Sep 10-14 (4.5 days)	630	23,100	11,300	1,200	440	
	Total		48,048	23,622	3,375	881	227
	Allowed at Preseason URB run size and reduced B run size			61,518		1,688	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 8			6.0%		3.4%	
	Remaining after Sept 15			37,896		807	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 15			18.5%		6.2%	
	Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 15			11.5%		6.8%	
	Allowed at Reduced URB run size and reduced B run size			37,731		1,688	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 8			7.5%		3.4%	
	Remaining after Sept 15			14,109		807	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 15			8.6%		6.2%	
	Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 15			14.4%		6.8%	

Note: Catches for weeks with commercial gillnet openings include platform and hook and line catches for those weeks.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2018 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 10 to 6 PM Friday September 14	(4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary are in effect.	
Gear:	Set and Drift gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.	

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remains within management limits. Set net counts will be made by air for each week of commercial gillnet fishing.
- Based on expected catches through September 15, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits even at lower than forecast URB run sizes.
- Platform and hook and line fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries do not require Compact action at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Treaty tribes request a Compact hearing be scheduled via teleconference for either Wednesday afternoon September 12 or any time on Thursday September 13 to consider additional treaty commercial gillnet openings.