

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6a  
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
 September 18, 2018**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Select Area commercial salmon Select Area recreational salmon
--	--

*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>*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Salmon/Steelhead***

- Through September 17, a total of 134,848 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is 70% of expectations based on preseason forecasts. Bright and tule Chinook are tracking at 65% and 71% of expectations, respectively. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 10.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 77,110 combined A/B-Index fish.
- TAC met on September 17 to review Chinook and steelhead data. TAC was not able to update unclipped and wild steelhead numbers because recent COE dam count data at Bonneville Dam were not available. TAC was able to update Chinook based on unofficial total count data from telephone reports and recent average proportions of ladder by ladder counts. TAC downgraded the URB (Upriver Bright) run size at the river mouth to 122,600 based on a bright Chinook run timing of two days early at Bonneville Dam. The updated PUB (Pool Upriver Bright) run size at the river mouth is 23,000 and the Spring Creek Hatchery BPH (Bonneville Pool Hatchery) run size of 37,900 at the river mouth is unchanged from TAC’s prior update.
- Based on passage through September 16 and the assumption that the bright Chinook passage is two days early compared to the recent 5-year average run timing, the cumulative bright fall Chinook return to Bonneville Dam is expected to be 130,000 fish. Based on dam counts and estimates of in-season fishery catch and stock composition, the URB run at the river mouth would be 122,600 fish. This is 60% of the preseason forecast and would be the lowest return since 2007.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through September 17 total 22,494 early stock adult Coho. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 50% complete by September 11.
- Run size forecasts, stock descriptions, and management guidelines for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheets #1 and #2.

**2018 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES**

***ESA Impacts in Non-Treaty Fisheries***

- Based on the previous (September 10) run downgrade for Upriver Bright fall Chinook, non-treaty fisheries were projected to accrue a URB/SRW (Snake River wild) harvest rate

(HR) of 8.73% through September 12, compared to the allowed rate of 8.25% outlined in the 2018-2027 *US v OR* Management Agreement.

- Due to exceeding the allowed SRW/URB HR, all non-treaty fisheries in the mainstem downstream of Highway 395 Bridge (near Pasco, WA) and commercial and recreational fisheries in Select Areas were closed effective September 13.
- At the current projected URB run size, the estimated SRW/URB HR for non-treaty fisheries through September 12 is estimated to be 10.0%, or 121% of the allowed HR.

***Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries***

- Since the fishery closures, staff have begun reviewing past fishery-specific coded-wire-tag (CWT) data to determine if, and when, individual 2018 non-treaty fisheries would be expected to no longer handle URB Chinook, which are the surrogate for SRW fall Chinook.
- This process is time-consuming, and data are not available for all fisheries. Therefore, staff have initially focused on off-channel Select Area commercial fisheries which are sampled for CWTs at a high rate and are likely the earliest fisheries to no longer handle URB/SRW Chinook.
- To minimize the effects of run size, staff reviewed CWT data from 2000, 2007, and 2008 when the URB run sizes were smaller and somewhat similar (127%) to the current projected return for 2018.
- For Youngs Bay, Blind/Knappa sloughs, and Deep River, no URB/SRW fall Chinook tags were recovered after statistical week 38 (September 16-22 in 2018) in any of the three years reviewed. Therefore, no additional URB/SRW fall Chinook mortalities would be expected during the remainder of the 2018 fall season if these fisheries were re-instated effective statistical week 39 (i.e. Sunday September 23).
- For the Tongue Point commercial fishery, CWT data indicates this Select Area would not be expected to accrue any additional URB/SRW mortalities if fisheries were re-instated during statistical week 40 (week of September 30)

Deep River Select Area

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Compact action. Washington state waters extend upstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Washington state action.
- A Washington license is required in Washington state waters and either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Fall Season - Deep River Fishery</i></b>		
Season:	Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday nights September 23-28 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights October 1- 12 Open hours: 6 PM – 9 AM	(5 nights) (8 nights)
Area:	The Deep River fishing area includes all waters from West Deep River Road Bridge at the town of Deep River downstream to the mouth defined by a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore.	

Gear:	<p>Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size. Maximum net length is 100 fathoms. No weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross the navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream or channel any gillnet gear longer than three-fourths the width of the river, stream, or channel. “River, stream, or channel width” is defined as bank-to-bank, where the water meets the banks, regardless of the time of tide or the water level. This emergency provision shall supersede the permanent regulation and all other regulations that conflict with it.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of six white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Areas

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon state waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Fall Season - Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery</i></b>	
Season:	<p>Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday nights September 23-28 (5 nights)  Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights October 1-26 (16 nights)  Open hours: 6 PM – 10 AM</p>
Areas:	<p>The Blind Slough Area is defined as those waters of Blind Slough and Gnat Creek from a north-south line formed by regulatory markers at the mouth of Blind Slough to a regulatory marker in Gnat Creek located approximately 0.5 miles southeasterly (upstream) of the Barendse Road Bridge.</p> <p>The Knappa Slough Area is defined as those waters of Knappa Slough, Calendar Slough, and Big Creek Slough bounded to the north (upstream) by a line projecting from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Karlson Island to the northernmost regulatory marker at the mouth of Blind Slough and bounded to the west (downstream) by a line projecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwestern tip of Karlson Island through markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore.</p> <p>The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed.</p>

Gear:	<p>Gillnets with a maximum mesh size restriction of 9¾-inches. Maximum net length of 100 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted_buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of six white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.</p>
Additional Rules:	<p>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.</p>

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area

- All waters in this fishing area are concurrent jurisdiction waters and require Compact action.
- A license from either Oregon or Washington is required to participate in this fishery.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Fall Season - Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery</i></b>	
Season:	<p>Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights October 1-26 (16 nights)</p> <p>Open hours: 4 PM – 10 AM</p>
Areas:	<p>The Tongue Point Area is defined as those waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker (46.20863 degrees N, -123.75944 degrees W) on the eastern shore of Tongue Point to the flashing green USCG light “3” on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island, a line from a regulatory marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the northwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker (46.18270 degrees N, -123.74313 degrees W) located on the Oregon shore 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on Lois Island.</p> <p>The South Channel Area is defined as those waters of South Channel bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the Oregon shore at John Day Point projecting northeasterly to a regulatory marker on Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker on Settler Point projecting northwesterly to the flashing red USCG light “10” then projecting westerly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island.</p>

Gear:	<p>Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size. Maximum net length of 250 fathoms.</p> <p>In the Tongue Point fishing area: weight not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Fishers participating in the Tongue Point fishery may have un-stored gillnets legal for the South Channel fishing area onboard their fishing vessel.</p> <p>In the South Channel fishing area: no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted_buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of six white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

Youngs Bay Select Area

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon state waters and require Oregon state action, but all waters are open to Washington licensed fishers.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Fall Season - Youngs Bay Fishery</i></b>	
Season:	6 PM Sunday September 23 – noon Wednesday October 31 (38 days)
Area:	<p>The Youngs Bay Select Area is defined as those waters of Youngs Bay southeasterly (upstream) of the Highway 101 Bridge, the Walluski River downstream of Highway 202 Bridge, the Lewis and Clark River downstream of the powerlines located approximately 500 feet southwesterly of Barret Slough, and the Youngs River downstream of the regulatory marker located at the mouth of Battle Creek Slough.</p> <p>If the marker at Battle Creek Slough is not in place, the boundary is defined by a line projecting northeasterly from a point (46.10988 degrees N, -123.79501 degrees W) on the south bank of Youngs River immediately downstream of the mouth of Battle Creek Slough to a point (46.11156 degrees N, -123.79357 degrees W) located on the northern bank of Youngs River.</p>

Gear:	<p>Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size.</p> <p>Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed between markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River and the upper deadline at Battle Creek Slough, in the lower Walluski River upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge, and in the Lewis and Clark River from the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the overhead power lines immediately upstream of Barrett Slough.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted_buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of six white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.</p>
Additional Rules:	<p>Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.</p>

***Select Area Fall Recreational Fisheries***

- Based on the terminal location of Select Area recreational fisheries and the Select Area commercial fishery CWT analysis described above, recreational Select Area fisheries in Oregon (Youngs Bay and Blind/Knappa sloughs) and Washington (Deep River) would not be expected to accrue any URB/SRW fall Chinook mortalities if re-opened effective statistical week 39.

***Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Recreational Salmon Fisheries***

Effective Monday September 24, 2018, Select Area recreational fisheries in Youngs Bay, Blind/Knappa sloughs, and Deep River will reopen to retention of Chinook and hatchery Coho salmon under permanent regulations.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. Staff will continue to review available information and request additional hearings if warranted.