

COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 18, 2018

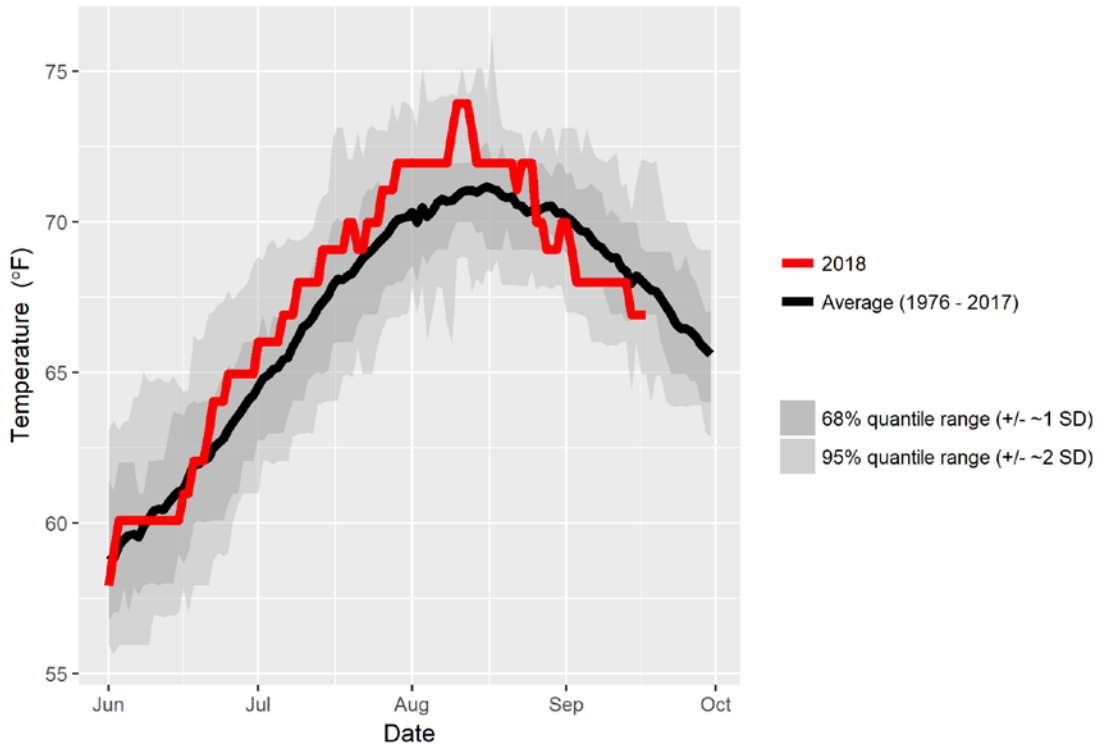
Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty mainstem commercial
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The 2018 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 109.3 kcfs.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 66.9°F, which is less than the long term average..

Scrollcase Temperature at Bonneville Dam



STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Detailed stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #2
- Bonneville Dam passage currently projected to total approximately 148,100 upriver fall Chinook adults for the season. Passage is typically over 70% complete by September 17. Through September 17, a total of 134,848 adult and 18,930 jack Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.

- Through September 18, Through September 17, 50,087 adult fall chinook have passed McNary Dam. Based on a run timing two day's earlier than average the total run may be close to 90,000.
- Currently, Spring Creek Hatchery has collected over 12,000 adult fall chinook.
- 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 was 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 run size at the river mouth to 122,600 based on a bright chinook run timing of 2 days early at Bonneville Dam. The updated PUB run size at the river mouth is 23,000 and the Spring Creek Hatchery BPH run size is unchanged at 37,900 at the river mouth.

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 17 a total of 77,110 A and B-Index steelhead including 25,399 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 was less certainty about the B-Index run size on September 4. TAC will meet on September 18 to update the A and B-Index hatchery clipped, hatchery unclipped, and wild run sizes.

Coho

- Bonneville Dam passage was 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 17 total 22,494 adults and 1,225 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 73% complete on September 17.

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 31.25% of the URB run based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 23% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-treaty fisheries.
 - 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 13% 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. No recent fishing effort downstream of Bonneville has been observed. 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 37 are shown in the table below along with modeled catch projections for this week and next week. Preliminary CWT's for week 37 have been used to estimate Week 37 stock composition.
- Tribal staff have modeled fisheries based on two different URB run sizes. These include the updated URB run size as well as an URB run size of 115,000. 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 8/21	na	1,625	1,481	381	49	11
35	Aug 27-Aug 30 (3.5 days)	420	9,461	4,457	465	60	234
36	Sep 3-7 (4.5 days)	622	16,364	6,068	879	74	1,001
	Subtotal through 9/8		27,450	12,006	1,725	183	1,246
37	Sep 10-14 (4.5 days)	577	11,191	6,165	815	123	1,075
	Subtotal through 9/15		38,641	18,171	2,540	306	2,321
38	Sep 17-21 (4.5 days)	575	12,623	7,900	1,000	280	
	Subtotal through 9/22		51,264	26,071	3,540	586	2,321
	Total		51,264	26,071	3,540	586	2,321
	Allowed at Preseason URB run size and reduced B run size			28,198		1,688	
	Expected Harvest Rate as of Sept 15			14.8%		2.3%	
	Remaining after Sept 15			10,027		1,382	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 22			21.3%		4.5%	
	Remaining Available After Sept 22			2,127		1,102	
	Allowed at Reduced URB run size (115K) and reduced B run size			26,450		1,688	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 15			15.8%		2.3%	
	Remaining after Sept 15			8,279		1,382	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 22			22.7%		4.5%	
	Remaining Available After Sept 22			379		1,102	

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:

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Wednesday September 19 to 6 PM Saturday September 22	(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 22, 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 will notify the States if an additional Compact Hearing is needed to address treaty fisheries.