

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
 August 28, 2019**

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| <i>Fisheries under consideration:</i> | Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Non-treaty mainstem recreational steelhead |
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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 2019 Fall Report was distributed on July 22, 2019. Links to the on-line reports are:

*<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> or
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

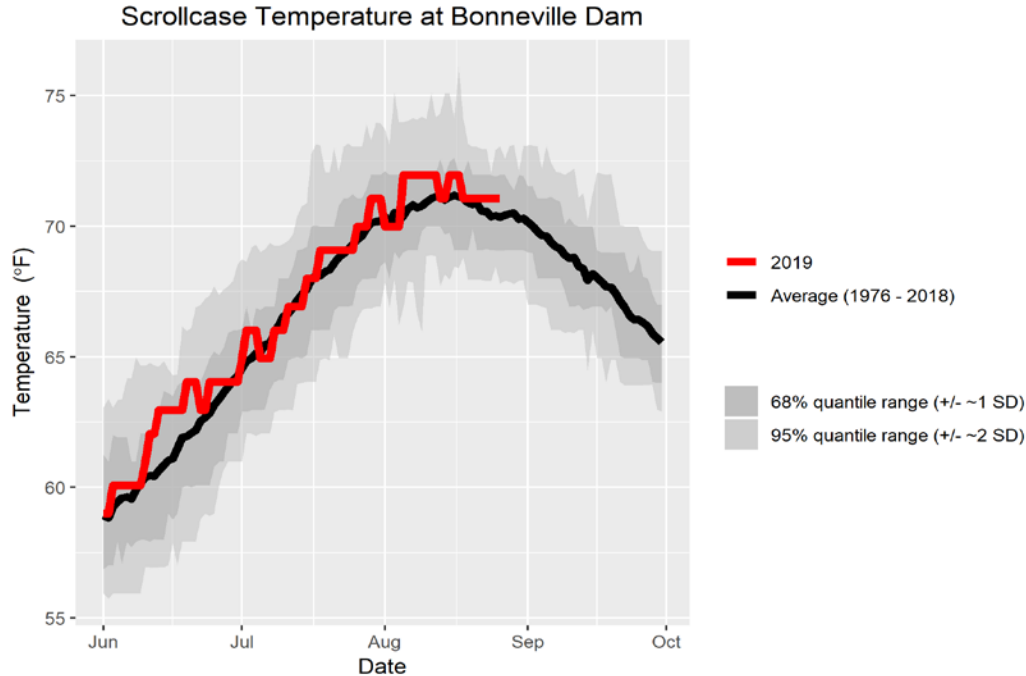
STOCK STATUS

Salmon/Steelhead

- Through August 27, a total of 32,136 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is similar to expectations. Over the last 10 years, the average 50% complete date has been September 9.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 49,350 total A/B-Index fish.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on August 26, 2019 to review the A/B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC downgraded the total expected A/B-Index steelhead return to 86,000 fish (118,200 preseason forecast), and downgraded the expected passage of unclipped A/B-Index steelhead to 38,000 fish (40,250 preseason forecast). The majority of the downgrade is due to the clipped hatchery-origin A-Index component tracking lower than forecast.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through August 27 total 4,004 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1), which is consistent with expectations. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 50% complete by September 10.
- Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall 2019 Fact Sheet #1.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 116.0 kcfs, which is lower than the ten-year average of 134.3 kcfs for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 71°F at Bonneville Dam which equals the recent 10-year average. This year, Bonneville Dam water temperature peaked at 72°F during the first half of August.



MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, summer 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.
 - However, for 2019 the states have opted to manage non-treaty fisheries conservatively, and expect to only accrue a 6.58% harvest rate (HR) on the URB/SRW stock prior to an in-season run-size update. Additional fishing opportunity is planned if the URB return is projected to meet or exceed preseason expectations.
 - 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.
 - The allowable non-treaty impact rates for wild summer steelhead (A-Index and B-Index) during fall fisheries is 2% each.
 - Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead.
 - 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.

- The ESA impact limit to LCR tule fall Chinook is 38% in 2019 given the pre-season forecast. Harvest of LRH stock is the surrogate for LCR Chinook. This exploitation rate (ER) limit includes impacts in ocean and Columbia River fisheries combined.
- In 2019, fishery impacts to LCN Coho are limited to a 23% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.

2019 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Preseason planning for Chinook-directed mainstem commercial fisheries in Zones 4-5 assumed five fishing periods during the early fall (August) season with an expected catch of approximately 8,020 adult Chinook (3,040 URBs), assuming an impact rate of 1.9% for Snake River wild fall Chinook.
- Landings for the initial three periods (August 14-22) total 3,566 Chinook, 50 Coho, and 307 white sturgeon.
- Preliminary adult stock composition based on coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries through August 22 indicates URB Chinook were more abundant in the catch, and BPH Chinook less abundant than expected preseason. Actual stock proportions were 26% LRH (preseason: 11%), 15% BPH (38%), 48% URB (38%), 7% PUB (12%), and 3% LRB (1%).
- Preliminary landings for the 4th fishing period (August 26-27) include 2,794 Chinook, 156 Coho, and 188 white sturgeon. CWT recoveries are not yet available but visual inspection of the landed Chinook indicates bright stocks remained the most abundant component of the catch (74%), higher than during the first three periods (69%).
- Based on available information, it appears the majority of the URB sub-allocation planned preseason for August mainstem non-treaty commercial fisheries has been achieved; therefore, not enough URBs remain available for additional early-fall fishing opportunity.

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| <i>Recommendation: 2019 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i> |
| Rescind the mainstem non-treaty commercial fishing period previously adopted for 9 PM Wednesday August 28 to 6 AM Thursday August 29, 2019. |

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- 2019 Fall Select Area commercial fisheries began August 6 in Youngs Bay. Landings through August 23 have been very poor with 107 Chinook, 17 Coho, and 33 white sturgeon delivered.
- Other fall Select Area fisheries opened earlier this week (August 26). Initial reports are that catches have been poor.

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery was open to adult Chinook retention during August 1-20 as planned preseason. The fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit. Total Chinook and URB mortalities remained within preseason expectations for the retention season. Chinook handle since the retention season closed has been tracking higher than expected.

Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The lower Columbia River recreational salmon fishery from Puget Island upstream to Warrior Rock was open to Chinook retention August 1 – 27 as planned preseason; Chinook retention in the area from Tongue Point to Puget Island was open concurrent with the Buoy 10 fishery. This fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit. Total Chinook and URB mortalities are projected to exceed preseason expectations for the retention period. Additional Chinook mortalities will be accrued during the Chinook non-retention period.
- For the area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, Chinook retention is currently scheduled to remain open through September 8. Through August 25, Chinook catch is tracking ahead of preseason expectations.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam is ongoing and is currently open for Chinook and Coho with a one salmonid daily bag limit. The fishery was planned to be managed in-season based on actual catches and the URB run size. Through August 25, an estimated 36 adult Chinook have been kept from approximately 800 angler trips.

Mainstem Recreational Steelhead Fisheries

- Similar to 2017, preseason plans for 2019 summer-fall recreational steelhead fisheries included actions designed to reduce steelhead take including reduced bag limits (one fish when open), area-specific steelhead retention closures, and night fishing closures.
- Area-specific regulations requiring release of all steelhead (hatchery and wild) are described below:

Buoy 10 upstream to The Dalles Dam: Aug 1 – Aug 31

The Dalles Dam upstream to John Day Dam: Aug 1 – Sep 30

John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam: Sep 1 – Oct 31

McNary Dam upstream to the OR/WA Border (upstream of McNary Dam): Oct 1 – Nov 30.

- Due to the recent run downgrade for upriver steelhead (primarily clipped A-Index fish), concerns exist regarding achieving hatchery broodstock needs.
- To address this, staff recommends that steelhead retention remain closed in those areas scheduled to re-open to retention effective September 1.

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| <i>Recommendation: 2019 Mainstem Recreational Steelhead Fisheries</i> |
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| Release all steelhead (hatchery and wild) in mainstem Columbia River recreational fisheries downstream of The Dalles Dam through September 30, 2019. |
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FUTURE MEETINGS

A Compact hearing is scheduled for 1 PM September 5 to consider Treaty commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor recreational salmonid fisheries and will recommend additional hearings as needed.