

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 4, 2019

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-treaty mainstem recreational salmon
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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 September 3, a total of 69,977 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is similar to expectations; however, passage of Chinook is typically only 30% complete by this date. 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 53,683 total A/B-Index fish.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 3, 2019 to review the A/B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC downgraded the total expected A/B-Index steelhead return to 74,000 fish (118,200 preseason forecast), and downgraded the expected passage of unclipped A/B-Index steelhead to 36,000 fish (40,250 preseason forecast). The majority of the downgrade is due to the clipped hatchery-origin A-Index component tracking lower than forecast. Due to the typically later timing of B-Index fish, it is too early to assess the return of this component.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through September 3 total 9,548 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). 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 the 2019 Fall Fact Sheet #1.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 100.5 kcfs, which is similar to the recent ten-year average for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 72°F at Bonneville Dam which is higher than the recent 10-year average for this date.

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 Chinook 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 RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

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 mortalities matched preseason expectations for the retention season; URB mortalities were less than expected. Chinook handle since the retention season closed is now tracking similar to expectations; therefore, season total URB mortalities are projected to be below preseason expectations.

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 exceeded preseason expectations for the retention period. Some additional Chinook mortalities will continue to be accrued during the Chinook non-retention period; therefore, season total URB mortalities are expected to exceed preseason expectations.

- For the area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, Chinook retention is currently scheduled to remain open through Sunday, September 8. Through September 1, an estimated 3,190 adult Chinook have been kept, or 100% of the total number expected (3,176) for the entire retention period (August 1–Sept 8). Recent catch data indicates an additional 1,350 adult Chinook may be kept during September 2–4, resulting in a projected kept adult Chinook catch through Wednesday (September 4) of 4,540 fish (4,571 mortalities), or 143% of the preseason total retention period expected mortalities. Mortalities for URB Chinook will be significantly higher than 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 September 1, an estimated 338 adult Chinook have been kept in this fishery.
- A summary of actual and projected URB mortalities in 2019 mainstem recreational fisheries is provided below:

Summary of URB fall Chinook mortalities in mainstem recreational fisheries, 2019.							
Area	Retention Season			Non-retention		Combined	
	Preseason ^a	Actual/ Projected	Thru Date	Preseason	Expected	Preseason ^a	Projected
Buoy 10	1,881	1,419	20-Aug	429	411	2,310	1,830
TP-WR	1,217	1,402	27-Aug	183	162	1,400	1,564
WR-Bonn ^b	2,281	3,337	4-Sep	189	150	2,470	3,487
Bonn-McNary	1,100	134	1-Sep	0	0	1,100	1,100
Sum	6,479	6,292		801	723	7,280	7,981
^a Includes release mortalities							
^b Assumes retention period closes four days earlier than preseason plan							

- Considering the Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam recreational Chinook fishery is tracking significantly ahead of preseason expectations, other 2019 fall non-treaty fisheries were managed close to their individual preseason URB allocations, and it is too early to update the URB run size, staff recommends the Warrior Rock–Bonneville Dam recreational fishery be closed to Chinook retention as soon as practical.

<i>Recommendation: 2019 Mainstem Recreational Chinook Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM Thursday September 5, retention of all Chinook is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Warrior Rock/Bachelor Island upstream to Bonneville Dam.

FUTURE MEETINGS

A Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for 1 PM September 5 to consider Treaty commercial fisheries and the recreational white sturgeon fishery upstream of the Wauna powerlines. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor stock status and the Zone 6 recreational salmonid fishery, and recommend additional hearings as needed.