

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 12, 2019**

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| <b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b> Treaty mainstem commercial 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>.*

### **RIVER CONDITIONS**

- The recent five day average Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are 88.0kcfs, which is less than the ten-year average of 101 kcfs for this date. Flows are expected to remain reduced at Bonneville Dam due to repairs of the Bonneville Lock.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 70.6°F as of September 11, which is above the recent ten-year average of 68.6°F.

### **STOCK STATUS**

- Through September 11, a total of 123,504 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Passage of the total Chinook run is typically 58% complete by September 11. TAC has been monitoring Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam; passage to date indicates that the bright component, if normally timed, is tracking similar to expectations based on the preseason forecast. The tulle component is tracking less than expected. TAC will likely provide an in-season update to the upriver fall Chinook return next week.
- While bright Chinook have been tracking similar to pre-season expectations with 96,949 over Bonneville through September 10, tulle Chinook have been tracking behind with 13,770 adult-age tules over Bonneville through September 10. The ten-year average percent complete for brights on September 10 is 51% and for tules is 72%. The clip rate for Chinook at Bonneville Dam is 38.2%.
- Chinook jack passage to date is 19,683 which is above last year but well below the 10-year average to date of 39,375.
- The adult Chinook count at McNary Dam is 21,803 through September 11. Based on 10-year average run timing, the run at McNary would be 29% complete. Although it is too early to predict a final run size, average run timing suggests the run will exceed the 60,000 fish management goal.
- Spring Creek Hatchery will begin spawning fish next week and will start providing regular reports on broodstock collection efforts next Monday.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 56,514 total A/B Index fish of which 29,658 are unclipped. The total A/B Index steelhead run is typically 81% complete by September 11. The counts for unclipped fish total more than

the clipped hatchery fish. This has not been observed since clipped and unclipped counts for steelhead began at Bonneville Dam in 1994.

- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday September 9, 2019 to review and discuss information relative to the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead return. TAC further downgraded the 2019 expected aggregate A-/B-Index return to 71,600 fish based on Bonneville Dam passage to date and recent ten-year average passage timing. The majority of the downgrade is a result of the A-Index component, and particularly the hatchery-origin subcomponent, tracking lower than forecast. TAC also downgraded the expected passage of unclipped A-/B-Index steelhead to 35,000. The unclipped component includes both natural-origin and hatchery-origin fish. While it is too early to update the B-Index portion of the run, it is tracking below expectations. Based on the 10-year average timing about 31% of the B-Index return has typically passed Bonneville Dam by September 8.
- TAC will continue to monitor the steelhead and Chinook returns and will provide additional in-season updates when available. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, September 16.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through September 11 total 18,365 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). The total to date is more than last year (18,093) but less than the 10 year average passage to date of 36,081. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 55% complete by September 11. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 12.7%.
- The Coho jack count to date is 2,135. This is less than last year and less than the ten-year average to date of 2,448.
- Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in the 2019 Fall Fact Sheet #1.

## 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.

### 2019 TREATY INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

- Fall management period platform and hook and line fisheries began August 1. Early August catches are generally low. Low levels of fishing just downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to occur.
- Commercial gillnet fisheries typically begin in mid to late August. Given uncertainties about run sizes, the tribes chose to begin gillnet fisheries in late August this year.
- The tribes also allowed a limited amount of ceremonial permit gillnet fishing during the week of August 19 to help meet needs for fish that were not met in the spring and summer management periods.
- Preliminary harvest estimates along with projections for this week and next are presented in the table below. In order to model steelhead impacts, tribal staff assumed total steelhead run size of 65,000 and a B-Index run size of 4,100 as a precautionary approach to setting fisheries. Tribal staff also assumed a BPH run size of 18,000 at Bonneville because tules are tracking less than forecast.

| 2019 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary and modeled) |             |  |              |               |                     |             |                 |             |       |
|--|-------------|--|--------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| Week   |             | Gillnet Fishery  | Dates        | Set Net Count | Total Adult Chinook | URB Chinook | Total Steelhead | B Steelhead | Coho  |
| 31-34  | Preliminary | Platform/H&L   | August 1-24  | na            | 538                 | 169         | 450             | 0           | 11    |
| 34   | Preliminary | Permit Gillnet   | August 19-23 | na            | 503                 | 279         | 46              | 0           | 0     |
| 35   | Preliminary | 8/26   | 8/28         | 371           | 4,018               | 1,261       | 191             | 25          | 94    |
| 36   | Preliminary | 9/2  | 9/5          | 501           | 6,409               | 2,815       | 165             | 0           | 172   |
| 37   | Projected   | 9/9  | 9/12         | 550           | 9,600               | 4,000       | 370             | 110         | 249   |
|  |             | Subtotal Through 9/14                                  |              |               | 21,068              | 8,524       | 1,222           | 135         | 526   |
| 38   | Projected   | 9/16   | 9/18         | 550           | 6,830               | 2,770       | 380             | 140         | 330   |
|  |             | Subtotal   |              |               | 27,898              | 11,294      | 1,602           | 275         | 856   |
|  |             | Late Fall Platforms                                    |              |               | 550                 | 500         | 550             | 150         | 200   |
|  |             | Total  |              |               | 28,448              | 11,794      | 2,152           | 425         | 1,056 |
|  |             | <b>Allowed at Projected URB and Reduced B run size</b> |              |               |                     |             | 36,628          | 533         |       |
|  |             | <b>Harvest Rate as of Sept 14</b>                      |              |               |                     |             | 5.4%            | 3.3%        |       |
|  |             | <b>Remaining after Sept 14</b>                         |              |               |                     |             | 28,104          | 398         |       |
|  |             | <b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 21*</b>               |              |               |                     |             | 7.4%            | 10.4%       |       |
|  |             | <b>Remaining Available After Sept 21*</b>              |              |               |                     |             | 24,834          | 108         |       |

\* Remaining available after expected late fall platform catch.

- Catches for platform and hook and line fisheries in weeks with commercial gillnet openings are included in the gillnet estimate.
- The tribes have planned an additional commercial gillnet opening and will adopt regulations consistent with the following.

| <i>2019 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i> |   |            |
|---|---|------------|
| <b>Season:</b>  | 6 AM Monday September 16 to 6 PM Wednesday September 18   | (2.5 days) |
| <b>Area:</b>  | Zone 6  |            |
| <b>Sanctuaries:</b>                                       | Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary are in effect.  |            |
| <b>Gear:</b>  | Set and Drift gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction  |            |
| <b>Allowable Sales:</b>                                   | 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. |            |
| <b>Additional:</b>  | 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.  |            |

- Based on expected catches through September 21, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits even at lower than forecast run sizes. This includes reserving B-Index steelhead for late fall platform and hook and line fishing.
- The projected catches through the week ending September 21 (plus expected late fall platform catches) will be within the URB harvest rate limit down to a run size of 49,104 and will be within the B-Index steelhead run size limit down to a run size of 3,269. This will leave options for adjusting fisheries in the event of a run size downgrade.
- 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. State and tribal staff work collaboratively to ensure biological sampling of fall season fisheries occurs and that data are shared regularly.
- 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 tentatively scheduled via teleconference for Tuesday September 17 consider treaty commercial gillnet fisheries.