

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10b**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**September 24, 2019**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Non-treaty mainstem recreational salmon and 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 September 23, an estimated 215,566 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which similar to preseason expectations.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 63,714 total A/B-Index fish.
- Counts of early stock Coho at Bonneville Dam from August 1 through September 23 total 46,486 adults which is less than expectations.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 23, 2019 to review and discuss the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead return, the upriver fall Chinook return, and the upriver component of the early-stock Coho return.
  - TAC maintained the current 2019 aggregate A-/B-Index return expectation of 69,200 fish including 34,300 unclipped natural- and hatchery-origin fish. TAC upgraded the B-Index projection which has the effect of reducing the expectation for the A-Index component. TAC now expects 64,700 A-Index steelhead (32,600 unclipped) and 4,500 B-Index steelhead (1,700 unclipped) to pass Bonneville Dam in 2019.
  - TAC updated the 2019 upriver fall Chinook Bonneville Dam passage expectation. Given the information available, TAC expects the Columbia River mouth return to total 355,900 adult fall Chinook (102% of preseason forecast) which includes 173,100 URBs, 68,900 PUBs, and 33,700 BPH. The bright stock return is expected to be greater than the preseason forecast while the BPH stock component is expected to be less than forecast.
  - TAC updated the expected passage of upriver early-stock Coho at Bonneville Dam to 53,500 adults. This in-season projection is about 40% of the preseason expectation.
- 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 80.7 kcfs, which is lower than the recent ten-year average for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 68°F which is higher than the recent 10-year average (67°F) for this date.

## **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

### ***Salmon/Steelhead***

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. vs 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.
  - 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.
  - 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 remains open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit.

### ***Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries***

- The lower Columbia River 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. The fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit.
- For the area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, Chinook retention was open through Thursday, September 5. The fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit.

- The 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. Preseason plans were to manage this fishery in-season based on actual catches and the URB run size.
- A summary of actual and projected fall Chinook and URB mortalities in mainstem recreational fisheries is provided below:

Estimated fall Chinook mortalities (kept and release mortalities) in 2019 mainstem recreational fisheries (projected through Sept 25)		
Area	Total Catch <sup>a</sup>	URB Catch <sup>a</sup>
Buoy 10	14,499	2,080
TP-WR	2,817	1,933
WR-Bonn	5,765	3,869
Bonn-McNary	4,392	2,938
Sum	27,473	10,819
Total Allowable URBs (9/23 TAC update)		9,997
Recreational URB Balance		(823)
Non-retention URBs (thru December)		450
Recreational URB balance		(1,273)

<sup>a</sup> Includes release mortalities

### ***Mainstem Steelhead Recreational Fisheries***

- 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.
- In response to subsequent in-season run downgrades for upriver steelhead, the states of Washington and Oregon expanded time/area-specific hatchery steelhead closures in the mainstem Columbia River as described below:

*Buoy 10 upstream to John Day Dam: Aug 1 – Sep 30*

*John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam: Sep 30 – Oct 31*

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

### ***Rationale/Recommendations***

- Even though yesterday's URB run upgrade provided for additional SRW/URB take, kept catch in the Bonneville-Hwy 395 recreational fishery, and the proportion estimated as URB stock, were both considerably higher than expected resulting in exceedance of the recreational SRW sub-allocation.
- Based on the current URB run size and catch estimates, recreational fisheries are expected to utilize 79% of the non-treaty URB/SRW allocation assuming the Bonneville-Hwy 395 fishery closes effective Thursday September 26 and all Coho-directed recreational fisheries remain open through December.

- Closing all salmon retention from Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 effective September 26 would result in an allocation usage of 76% recreational and 24% commercial, assuming non-treaty commercial fisheries can access their remaining allocation.
- Since few URB mortalities would be expected to occur in the Buoy 10 fishery from this point forward (16 fish), maintaining Coho-directed opportunity in this fishery could be considered.
- Due to continued concerns regarding upriver steelhead returns, especially to B-Index steelhead hatchery programs in the Snake River, state staff recommend that steelhead retention remain closed upstream of Bonneville Dam for the duration of 2019.
- Due to declining abundances of summer steelhead in the lower Columbia River, ongoing and planned fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam beginning November 1 will not impact summer steelhead and will be shifting focus to winter steelhead fishing.

***Recommendation: 2019 Mainstem Recreational Fishery  
Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam***

Effective 12:01 AM Thursday, September 26, through Thursday, October 31, angling for and retention of salmon and steelhead is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Buoy 10 line upstream to Bonneville Dam. All other permanent regulations remain in effect.

***Recommendation: 2019 Mainstem Recreational Fishery  
Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395***

Effective 12:01 AM Thursday, September 26, through December 31, angling for and retention of salmon and steelhead is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge, near Pasco, WA. All other permanent regulations remain in effect.

***Non-Treaty Fisheries ESA Impact Summary***

- Considering information currently available, non-treaty fisheries (including completed, ongoing, and planned fisheries) are expected to remain within the ESA constraints for both salmon and steelhead through the remainder of the management guideline seasons.
  - Total exploitation rate of lower Columbia River (LCR) Chinook is not expected to exceed 38% for the combined ocean and in-river fisheries.
  - SRW impacts are not expected to exceed the in-river non-treaty 8.25% ESA impact limit with the proposed salmon fishery closure.
  - Impacts to wild A-Index and wild B-Index steelhead are currently projected at 0.5% and 0.9%, respectively.
  - Impacts to Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) Coho are not expected to exceed the 23% exploitation rate for ocean and in-river fisheries.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled for 11 AM Wednesday September 25 to consider mainstem non-treaty commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor stock status and ongoing fisheries, and recommend additional hearings as needed.