

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 1, 2021**

***Fisheries under consideration:*** Treaty Commercial Gillnet

*Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available online. The 2021 Fall Report was distributed on July 19, 2021. Links to the reports are: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

### **RIVER CONDITIONS**

- The recent five-day average Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam as of August 31 are 129 kcfs which is higher than the five-year average of 126 kcfs on this date. Water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 69.1°F<sup>1</sup>, which is below the recent five-year average of 70.1°F. Temperatures have been above the five-year average throughout much of the summer of 2021 but have recently decreased.
- River temperatures in the lower Columbia measured at Woody Island have averaged 68.5°F over the past 5 days<sup>2</sup>. The peak temperature over the last 5 days was 69.9°F.

### **STOCK STATUS**

- Stock status information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet 1.

#### ***Fall Chinook***

- Bonneville Dam passage through August 31 totals 120,114 adult and 18,098 jack fall Chinook. This is the fourth highest cumulative count to date in the last 10 years. The clip rate is approximately 58.7%, which is higher than average. Adult passage is typically 19.7% complete on August 31.
- Based on sampling by WDFW, the adult counts to date include 64,536 bright stock fish, 11,920 adult tules and 7,982 “stubby” tules which are jack aged fish that grow to just over the adult size criteria for window counts through August 29.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has begun to collect broodstock.
- The adult fall chinook count at McNary Dam through August 31 is 24,461. Based on ten year average run timing the run at McNary Dam would only be 6.4% complete so the run is tracking to exceed the management goal of 60,000 fish.

#### ***Upriver Summer Steelhead***

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing during July through October are categorized as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July and early August is primarily A-Index fish; higher levels of B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-

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<sup>1</sup> Data from <http://pweb.crohms.org/tmt/documents/ops/temp/>.

<sup>2</sup> Data from [http://www.stccmop.org/datamart/observation\\_network](http://www.stccmop.org/datamart/observation_network)

Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho can return to any tributary. A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake river basins.

- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 total 36,453 fish, which is 28% of the recent 10-year average (53% of recent 5-year). It remains the lowest count to date since Bonneville Dam construction. Passage of the total run at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 68% complete by August 31 (recent 10-year average). The count of unclipped steelhead since July 1 totals 16,023 fish. The unclipped run at Bonneville is typically 77% complete on August 31 based on 10-year average run timing. The ad-clip rate is 44% which is lower than average for this period.
- TAC met on August 30, 2021 and reviewed information for the summer steelhead run. Passage timing at this point in the run is variable. Based on AFF sampling through August 29 and the 10 year average run timing the total A-Index steelhead passage is expected to be 42,600 (25,700 Hatchery A, and 16,900 Wild A steelhead) through October 31. Because most B-Index steelhead typically return in September and October, there is not enough information to provide an update about the B-Index component.

### ***Coho***

- Through August 31 a total of 45,051 adult and 2,580 jack coho have passed Bonneville Dam for this run year. This is the largest count to date since Bonneville Dam construction. The coho run at Bonneville is typically 6.8% complete by this date (11.5% for the early run through September). The adult coho clip rate at Bonneville is 11% to date.

### **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

- The 2018-2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho. These guidelines were presented in Fact Sheet #1.

### **2021 TREATY FISHERIES**

#### ***Fall Season Fisheries***

- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries have been open for both subsistence and commercial purposes since August 1. The tribes initially set two commercial gillnet openings beginning August 23. The second opening is ongoing.
- Table 1 below shows projected 2021 fall season treaty harvest and projected catches. Table 1 shows modeled fisheries based on the pre-season forecasts for Chinook, Coho and B-Index steelhead along with the updated A-Index steelhead forecast. There has been no observed treaty fishing effort downstream of Bonneville Dam. There has been no observed additional sockeye catch in the fall management period.

2021 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries									
Week		Gillnet Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho
31-34	Preliminary	Platform/H&L	August 1-22	na	300	172	140	0	0
	Preliminary	Permit	8/27	na	76	66	5	0	12
35	Preliminary	8/23	8/26	241	5,768	3,313	225	42	666
36	Projected	8/30	9/2	530	27,700	16,400	800	120	2,100
				Subtotal	33,844	19,951	1,170	162	2,778
37	Projected	9/6	9/10	600	42,500	26,100	600	200	2,800
				Total	76,344	46,051	1,770	362	5,578
				<b>Allowed at Projected URB and B run size</b>		108,462		988	
				<b>Harvest Rate as of Sept 4</b>		5.5%		2.1%	
				<b>Remaining after Sept 4</b>		88,511		826	
				<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 11</b>		12.7%		4.8%	
				<b>Remaining Available After Sept 11</b>		62,411		626	

Note: projected catches for statistical weeks with gillnet fisheries include platform and hook and line catch for those entire weeks.

- Because the steelhead run may arrive lower than forecast, the tribes modeled these fisheries assuming the B-Index steelhead return at 40% of their pre-season forecasts (3,040 B-Index). Using this run size results in an allowed harvest of 395 B-Index steelhead. The projected harvest through September 11 would be 147 fish resulting in a 4.83% harvest rate which is also well within the 13% limit. With the modified steelhead run sizes, the B-Index steelhead harvest rate for the proposed fisheries increases by 0.03% compared to modeling with the pre-season forecast.
- Set net effort in the first opening was less than expected and the projected effort for this week and next week are considered optimistic and may not be this high.
- The proposed fisheries are well within the allowed harvest rate limits even if the B-Index steelhead run size is substantially less than forecast.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2021 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Seasons:	6:00 AM Monday September 6 through 6:00 PM Friday September 10 (4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Set and Drift Gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh size
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 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.
Sanctuaries:	Standard sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is in place.
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.

- Fisheries will be monitored, and catches reported regularly. Fisheries will be modified as needed to keep harvest impacts within allowed limits for the treaty fall season fisheries.
- Aerial flights will be conducted each week to count set nets.
- There is no Compact action needed for platform and hook and line fisheries, Yakama tributary fisheries or fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Fall Management Period fisheries are the most valued fisheries for tribal fishers and provide substantial economic benefits for tribal communities.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The tribes request a Compact hearing on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 8 or on Thursday, September 9 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.