

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact Hearing
September 8, 2022

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty commercial gillnet
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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 online. The 2022 Fall Report was distributed on July 19, 2022. 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 September 7 are 107 kcfs which is equal to the five-year average on this date. Water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 71°F¹, which is equal to the recent five-year average of 69°F. Water temperatures typically peak in mid-August and begin to decline in September.
- Visibility at Bonneville Dam over the past seven days has averaged 7 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.
- TAC will be meeting throughout the fall management period and will provide updates on the run sizes as the runs progress.

Fall Chinook

- Bonneville Dam passage through September 7 totals 259,269 adult and 37,738 jack fall Chinook. This is the fourth highest cumulative count to date for adult chinook in the last 10-years. The clip rate is approximately 50%, which is less than average. Total adult Chinook passage is typically 42% complete on September 7 (based on 10-year average run timing).
- Based on Bonneville Dam Observation sampling data collected by WDFW and ODFW, the adult counts through September 7 include 179,153 adult bright stock fish, 63,338 adult tules, and 16,774 “stubby” tules which are jack-aged fish that grow to just over the adult size criteria for window counts². Bright stock passage is typically 40% complete and Tule passage is typically 65% complete on September 7 (based on 10-year average run timing). The Tule passage to date over Bonneville Dam is greater than the total passage projected pre-season.
- The adult fall chinook count at McNary Dam through September 7 is 39,334. The management goal is 60,000. Based on 10-year average run timing, the run would be expected to be 19% complete on September 7. Even if the run is early timed, it should meet the management goal.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has begun to collect broodstock and has already begun to surplus some fish to collect fish from throughout the run. Hatchery managers have indicated they are on track meet its broodstock objectives. They have expressed support for reducing the sanctuary around the hatchery.

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

² Run components may not sum to total dam counts due to rounding.

- The adult chinook count at Lower Granite Dam through September 7 is 11,756. This is the 7th highest count to date on record.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing from 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 begin around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho but 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 84,312 fish, which is 69% of the recent 10-year average (130% of recent 5-year). The total count is above expectations based on average run timing. Passage of the total run at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 75% complete by September 7 (recent 10-year average). The count of unclipped steelhead since July 1 totals 28,037 fish which is near the expected passage based on the forecast assuming average run timing. The unclipped run at Bonneville is typically 81% complete on September 7 based on 10-year average run timing. The ad-clip rate to date is 67% which is higher than expected for this period.
- TAC met on September 6 and updated the A-Index steelhead run size to total A-Index return to 94,500 (66,000 clipped and 28,500 unclipped) based on the recent 5-year average run timing for the A-Index components and Bonneville trap sampling data. The unclipped return includes hatchery origin steelhead that were released without an adipose fin clip. Most of the B-Index steelhead return in September and October and therefore it is too early to provide an update for the B-Index components.

Coho

- Through September 7 a total of 30,526 adult and 3,042 jack coho have passed Bonneville Dam for this run year. This is the third highest adult count to date in the last 10-years. The early coho run at Bonneville is typically 36% complete by September 7. This means the early run coho are tracking well below the pre-season forecast of 168,700. The adult coho clip rate is 34% which is close to average for this time of year.

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 45% of the URB run based on the preseason forecast (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries. If the actual URB return is less than 200,000 adults, the impact limits drop to 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 passage at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
 - Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead and 2% for non-treaty fisheries during fall fisheries.

- 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.

2022 TREATY FISHERIES

Fall Season Fisheries

- Treaty platform and hook and line fisheries have been open for both subsistence and commercial purposes since August 1. Preliminary catch estimates for the early fall platform and hook and line fisheries are shown in the table below.
- The table below shows 2022 fall season treaty fisheries (current and planned) along with preliminary and projected catches. The model is generally based on pre-season forecast run sizes until any updated forecasts are available. However, because the BPH tulle run to date is larger than forecast, the tribes chose to model fisheries assuming a BPH run at Bonneville Dam of 70,000. This was done in an effort to more accurately project tulle harvest. As actual effort and catches become available, projected future catches are scaled to actual catch rates.
- The tribes set three initial openings to begin the fall season. Catches for the first two gillnet openings were less than modeled when the fisheries were planned. The tribes have planned an additional week of commercial gillnet fishing for next week. The tribes anticipate commercial gillnet fisheries should be able to occur through at least late September.

2022 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary and modeled)									
Week	Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
31-34	Preliminary Platform/ H&L Gillnet& Platform H&L	August 1-22	na	503	503	530	40	0	
35	Preliminary	8/22	8/26	164	2,593	1,261	205	29	11
36	Preliminary	8/29	9/2	356	20,242	8,658	757	112	672
37	Projected	9/5	9/10	460	32,300	14,500	850	160	1,100
				Subtotal	55,638	24,922	2,342	341	1,783
38	Projected	9/12	9/17	510	30,200	13,400	1,200	300	2,700
				Subtotal	85,838	38,322	3,542	641	4,483
	Late Fall Platform projection				225	200	80	40	200
				Total	86,063	38,522	3,622	681	4,683
	Allowed at Pre-season URB and B run size					68,907		2,028	
	Harvest Rate as of Sept 11					10.9%		2.2%	
	Remaining after Sept 11					43,985		1,687	
	Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 17					16.8%		4.4%	
	Remaining Available After Sept 17					30,385		1,347	

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

- The estimated harvest downstream of Bonneville is 10 chinook, 0 steelhead, and 0 coho. These catches are included in the table above. There have been 222 sockeye caught to date in the fall season in Zone 6. This fall season harvest combined with the 27,777 sockeye harvested in spring and summer fisheries brings the total sockeye harvest rate to 4.2% compared to the 7% allowed.
- The table above shows modeled fisheries based on the pre-season forecasts for URB Chinook and B index steelhead, but uses the updated A-Index forecast and a projection for BPH Chinook based on a four day early run timing. Set net counts are the surrogate for effort in the model used to plan fisheries. As a precautionary approach, the tribes assumed a higher than average weekly set net effort to model weeks 37 and 38. Set net counts have been below average so far in 2022.
- The proposed fishery impacts are within the allowed harvest rate limits for an URB run size down to 193,000 and a B-Index steelhead run size down to 5,300. TAC has estimated that over 5,300 B-Index steelhead have already passed Bonneville Dam.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2022 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Seasons:	6:00 AM Monday September 12 through 6:00 PM Saturday September 17 (5.5 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 Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will be a 150-foot radius around the hatchery ladder.
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 as they have already been set.
- Fall Management Period fisheries are the most economically valuable for tribal fishers. Commercial fishing provides numerous economic benefits for tribal and non-tribal communities.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Treaty Tribes request another Compact Hearing next week to consider additional commercial gillnet fishing.