

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 21, 2022**

<i>Fisheries under Consideration:</i>	Non-Treaty mainstem commercial salmon
--	---------------------------------------

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

- As of September 19, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 92 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 98 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 69°F compared to a five-year average of 67°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7.0 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2022 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Fall Chinook

- Columbia River fall Chinook are comprised of multiple management components: Select Area Brights (SAB), Lower River Hatchery (LRH), Lower River Wild (LRW), Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH), Upriver Bright (URB), Pool Upriver Bright (PUB), and Lower River Bright (LRB). The LRH and BPH stocks are referred to as tule stock and the remaining stocks are referred to as bright stock.
- Through September 19, a total of 457,522 adult-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is September 9.
- Based on visual stock sampling, as of September 18 a total of 310,822 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 108,007 adult tules (primarily BPH stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is typically 74% complete and tule passage is typically 93% complete on September 18, based on recent 10-year average run timing.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through September 19 totals 98,917 adults. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 52% complete by September 19, based on recent 10-year average run timing.
- Lower Granite Dam adult fall Chinook passage through September 11 totals 30,369 fish which is the largest count to date on record.

- Spring Creek Hatchery reports that over 52,700 Chinook have entered the hatchery as of September 19, with 17,200 females, 16,700 males and 18,800 jacks accounted for to date.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 104,788 A/B-Index fish. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is August 16.
- From July 1 through September 10, CRITFC and ODFW staff have sampled 505 steelhead at Bonneville Dam. For B-Index steelhead, 49 unclipped and 21 clipped have been sampled to date. All of the other steelhead sampled since July 1 have been A-Index fish (280 clipped and 155 unclipped).

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 19 total 92,420 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). This is the sixth highest passage observed for this point in the run since 2001. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 50% complete by September 11.

In-Season Run Size Updates

- Preseason abundance estimates for upriver-origin fall Chinook stocks (BPH, PUB, and URB) and upriver summer steelhead (A- and B-Index) are updated in-season by the *U.S. v. OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Lower river Chinook stocks (SAB, LRH, LRW, and LRB) are not updated in-season.
- TAC met on Monday, September 19. Based on passage at Bonneville Dam through September 18 and projected harvest in lower Columbia River (LCR) fisheries through December 31, TAC updated the Columbia River mouth run size expectation for BPH to 146,000, URB to 339,000 and PUB to 94,000. These updates are based on 10-year average run timing curve and assume an early run timing at Bonneville for the bright stocks.
- TAC also reviewed summer steelhead returns and, based on AFF sampling data and the recent 5-year average run timing, they maintained the current expectation for A-Index fish (95,900 total including 67,100 clipped and 28,800 unclipped) and provided an in-season upgrade of 34,400 total B-Index steelhead passage (28,500 clipped and 5,900 unclipped).

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- Detailed management guidelines were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 and #5a.
- The respective Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission policies provide guidance for 2022 non-treaty fall fisheries management which includes the following:
 - Allocation of fall Chinook ESA impacts for the most constraining stock is no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries.
 - Washington's policy allows for the use of gillnets in any zone downstream of Bonneville Dam, while Oregon's policy allows for the use of gillnets in Zones 4-5 only. Therefore, Chinook-directed gillnet fisheries will be restricted to Zones 4-5 this year.

- Lower River Natural Coho ESA impacts are prioritized to Select Area commercial fisheries (OR/WA), mainstem commercial Chinook-directed fisheries (OR/WA) and commercial hatchery Coho-directed fisheries (OR), followed by recreational fisheries (OR/WA), and then Coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries (OR/WA).
- Washington’s policy allows for the use of any gear, while Oregon’s policy does not allow for the use of gillnets. Therefore, no mainstem gillnet fishery is expected to occur this year; however, a Coho-directed fishery using tangle net gear and live-capture techniques is planned.

2022 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area fisheries in Oregon opened August 22 and are ongoing at this time. Preliminary landings through September 17 include approximately 5,329 Chinook, 53,036 Coho, and 166 white sturgeon.
- Sturgeon sales were closed effective September 18. Cumulative white sturgeon landings in 2022 Select Area winter, spring, summer and fall commercial fisheries total 426 fish, or 107% of the Select Area sub-allocation.

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- Early Fall commercial fisheries occurred on Monday and Wednesday, or Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from August 10 through September 2 (eight total 9-hour periods).
- Preliminary catch estimates include 24,192 Chinook, 936 coho and 183 white sturgeon. LCR tule Chinook impacts are estimated to be 1.0% for the Early Fall season compared to the preseason expectation of 2.18%. An estimated 388 steelhead were handled in this fishery, which equates to a 0.10% impact to wild A-Index and 0.11% to wild B-Index steelhead.

Late Fall Zone 4-5 Commercial Fishery

- The preseason plan included a Late Fall Chinook-target fishery in Zones 4-5 beginning the week of September 18 through mid-October.
- Three initial periods for week 39 were considered and adopted at the September 13 Compact Hearing. Catch projections included 14,600 Chinook adults with an estimated LCR ER of 0.98%.
 - Preliminary landings from the first fishing period include 2,335 Chinook, 475 Coho, and 27 white sturgeon.

Recommendation: 2022 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery

Season:	7 PM Sunday September 25 to 7 AM Monday September 26 12 hours 7 PM Wednesday September 28 to 7 AM Thursday September 29 12 hours
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy rivers.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule in effect which means nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum), shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of six white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

- Chinook catch is projected to be 5,640 adults. Late Fall commercial fisheries will be managed to remain in ESA limits on LCR and SRW fall Chinook. Coho catch is expected to be about 500 fish.
- Expected steelhead handle is approximately 100 fish. ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% for A-Index and 0.06% for B-Index for the recommended fishery.
- The expected harvest of white sturgeon for the two proposed fishing periods is approximately 40 fish, which would bring the combined harvest in mainstem fisheries to 298 fish, or 79% of the adjusted mainstem commercial allocation of 374 fish.
- Additional late-fall commercial periods will be considered after review of fishery performance and remaining impacts, including LCR impacts.
- The fishery will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated; actual harvest may be more or less than modeled. Catch expectations are a reflection of the number of fish that may be harvested given the ESA constraints.

Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

- The preseason plan included a Late Fall tangle net fishery using live-capture techniques in Zones 1-3 beginning the week of September 26 and continuing through October with five fishing periods (Monday through Friday) per week.

<i>Recommendation: 2022 Non-Treaty Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 26 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday September 27 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 28 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday September 29 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 30 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 3 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 4 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 5 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 6 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 7 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 10 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 11 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 12 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 13 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 14 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 17 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 18 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 19 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 20 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 21 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 24 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 25 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 26 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 27 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 28	Twenty-five periods (Monday through Thursday 18 hrs each) (Friday 14hrs)
Area:	Zones 1-3. Upper deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A	
Gear:	Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net. Red corks at 25-fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline. The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is <u>prohibited</u> . Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net	

Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum), shad, and white sturgeon; all Coho must be adipose fin-clipped. A maximum of six white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). This white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.
Regulations:	<p>Regulations typically in place for mark-selective commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, tangle-net certification, etc.</p> <p>Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the web is deployed into the water until the web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 30 minutes.</p> <p>Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.</p> <p>Measuring mesh size: Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact</p> <p>Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.</p>
Additional Rules:	<p>Multiple net rule in effect: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.</p>

- Coho catch is expected include up to 19,800 hatchery adults. The ESA impact rate to LCN Coho is projected at 0.95% ER for this proposed fishery.
- Chinook catch is projected to be 2,900 adults. Pre-season impact expectations include 0.10% LCR ER and 0.65% SRW HR.
- Expected steelhead handle is approximately 700 fish. ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.03% for A-Index and 0.15% for B-Index for the proposed fishery.

- Staff intends to observe this proposed fishery and continue collecting data via voluntary logbooks. Data collected from the fishery will be utilized to evaluate preseason modeled expectations.

Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- Fall recreational salmon fisheries from Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam opened August 1. Chinook catches and the proportion LRH were much higher than expected in the fishery from Buoy 10 upstream to west Puget Island resulting in early fishery closures effective September 2 downstream of Bonneville Dam in order to keep non-treaty fisheries within ESA impact limits. The states were able to re-open limited salmon fisheries beginning September 15 at Buoy 10 and waters upstream of Reed Island to Bonneville Dam under the expectation that LCR impacts would be negligible.
- The initial results of these re-opened fisheries from September 15-18 include:
 - Buoy 10: 570 kept and 364 released Coho, 17 released Chinook, and 0 released steelhead from about 2,400 angler trips. Fall Chinook handle has been less than expected at this time.
 - Upstream of Reed Island to Bonneville Dam: 2,323 kept and 316 released Chinook, 86 kept and 121 released Coho, and seven released steelhead from about 3,600 angler trips. Initial review of coded wire tag data indicates there have not be any additional LCR impacts accrued through September 18.
- The fall recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 (Pasco, WA) also opened August 1. Through September 18, an estimated 5,710 adult Chinook, 213 adult Coho, and 57 summer steelhead have been kept from approximately 13,360 angler trips. Estimates of released fish include 845 Chinook, 85 Coho, and 32 steelhead.

Non-treaty ESA Impacts

- Non-treaty fisheries will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated for all listed species. A summary of impacts to ESA-listed fall Chinook in completed, on-going, proposed, and planned 2022 non-treaty fisheries is provided below:

Pre- and inseason impact rate expectations for ESA-listed fall Chinook in Columbia River non-treaty fisheries, 2022.							
Fishery	LCR natural-origin tule			Snake River Wild Fall Chinook			
	Preseason	In-season	% of Pre	Preseason	In-season	% of Pre	
Buoy 10	3.87%	6.70%	173%	2.80%	2.21%	79%	
WPI-WR	1.40%	0.30%	22%	1.43%	0.80%	56%	
WR-BO	1.30%	0.00%	0%	2.69%	1.85%	69%	
Zone 6	0.00%	0.00%	NA	0.81%	1.10%	136%	
Tributaries	0.30%	0.30%	100%	0.00%	0.00%	NA	
Commercial	2.95%	2.51%	85%	5.05%	6.15%	122%	
Total	9.82%	9.82%	100%	12.78%	12.11%	95%	

- Impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 38% ER limit with the recommendations to in-river fisheries.
- The expected URB harvest rate is projected to be 13.0% out of the 15% allowed. The SRW harvest rate is projected remain within the 15% allowed.

- Impacts to LCN Coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit with the recommendations to in-river fisheries. Pre-season expectations were 17.6% out of the allowed 23%.
- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in completed, on-going, proposed, and planned non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.45% and 0.75%, respectively. The allowed impact rate is 2.0% for each stock.
- Staff will continue to review catch estimates and stock composition of all non-treaty fisheries and will determine what opportunities may exist for in the future.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.