

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6b
Columbia River Compact Hearing
September 21, 2022

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| 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 river conditions are presented in Fall Fact Sheet #6a.

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.
- In-season run size updates and stock status information are presented in Fall Fact Sheet #6a.

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). This goal has met.
 - The management goal for adult fall Chinook passage at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish. The adult Chinook count is 103,905 through September 19.
 - Based on the updated B-Index forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 15% 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. The updated forecasts were used.
- The tribes have set a total of five gillnet openings during this fall season. Catches for the first four gillnet openings are shown in the table below. The tribes have planned an extension of this week’s fishery along with an additional week of commercial gillnet fishing for next week. The tribes anticipate commercial gillnet fisheries may be able to occur into early October.

| 2022 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------|---|-------------|-----------------|-------------|-------|--------|
| Week | 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 | 543 | 259 | 530 | 40 | 0 |
| | | Gillnet/Platform/H&L | | | | | | | |
| 35 | Preliminary | 8/22 | 8/26 | 164 | 2,481 | 1,184 | 205 | 28 | 11 |
| 36 | Preliminary | 8/29 | 9/2 | 356 | 21,615 | 9,782 | 475 | 195 | 521 |
| 37 | Preliminary | 9/5 | 9/10 | 386 | 43,872 | 16,838 | 973 | 281 | 793 |
| 38 | Preliminary | 9/12 | 9/17 | 345 | 50,944 | 19,553 | 1,436 | 552 | 2,441 |
| 39 | Projected | 9/19 | 9/23 | 350 | 22,200 | 14,700 | 2,200 | 1,300 | 3,300 |
| | | | | Subtotal | 141,655 | 62,316 | 5,819 | 2,396 | 7,066 |
| 40 | Projected | 9/26 | 10/1 | 350 | 15,700 | 12,700 | 3,200 | 2,220 | 4,610 |
| | | | | Subtotal | 157,355 | 75,016 | 9,019 | 4,616 | 11,676 |
| | | Late Fall Platforms | | | 225 | 200 | 80 | 40 | 200 |
| | | | | Total | 157,580 | 75,216 | 9,099 | 4,656 | 11,876 |
| | | | | Allowed at Projected URB and B run size | | 100,200 | | 5,160 | |
| | | | | Harvest Rate as of Sept 24 | | 18.7% | | 7.0% | |
| | | | | Remaining after Sept 24 | | 37,884 | | 2,764 | |
| | | | | Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 1 (with late fall platforms) | | 22.5% | | 13.5% | |
| | | | | Remaining Available After Oct 1 (with late fall platforms) | | 24,984 | | 504 | |

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 50 chinook, 20 steelhead, and 0 coho. These catches are included in the table above. There have been 227 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 forecast for B-Index steelhead, but uses the updated forecasts for URB Chinook, BPH Chinook, and A-Index steelhead. Set net counts are the surrogate for effort in the model used to plan fisheries. The peak set net effort normally peaks in week 38 and then decline. Setnet counts have been less than modeled all year.
- The proposed fishery impacts are within the allowed harvest rate limits for an URB run size down to 251,000 and a B-Index steelhead run size down to 31,040. TAC has estimated that

approximately 18,600 B-Index steelhead have already passed Bonneville Dam through September 18.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

| <i>2022 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i> | |
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| Seasons: | Extend the ongoing gillnet fishery until 6:00 PM Friday September 23 (24 hours) AND 6:00 AM Monday September 26 through 6:00 PM Thursday September 29 (3.5 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.