

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**September 28, 2022**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b> Treaty commercial Non-Treaty mainstem commercial salmon Recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam
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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**

- As of September 28, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 93.5 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 94.8 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam (scrollcase) is 67.4°F compared to a five-year average of 65.8°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 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 27, a total of 486,831 adult-size fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam, which includes adult-sized tule jacks which are excluded for management purposes. The recent 10-year average cumulative fall Chinook passage through September 27 is 90%.
- Based on visual stock sampling, as of September 25 a total of 337,180 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 111,472 adult tules (primarily BPH) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is typically 86% complete and tule passage is typically 98% complete on September 25, based on recent 10-year average run timing.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through September 27 totals 131,647 adults. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 74% complete by this date, based on 10-year average run timing.
- Lower Granite Dam adult fall Chinook passage through September 27 totals 38,083 fish which is the fourth largest count to date on record.

- Spring Creek Hatchery reports that 64,566 adult tule Chinook (including 37,371 females) have entered the hatchery through September 27. Additionally, 27,321 jacks have been collected.

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

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 111,103 A/B-Index fish. The recent 10-year average passage for A/B Index summer steelhead through September 27 is 94%.
- From July 1 through September 23, CRITFC and ODFW staff have sampled 647 steelhead at Bonneville Dam. For B-Index steelhead, 43 unclipped and 120 clipped have been sampled to date. All of the other steelhead sampled since July 1 have been A-Index fish (170 unclipped and 314 clipped).

### ***Coho***

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 27 total 103,252 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). This is the fifth highest passage observed for this point in the run since 2001.

### ***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 26. Based on passage at Bonneville Dam through September 25 and projected harvest in lower Columbia River (LCR) fisheries through December 31, TAC updated the Columbia River mouth run size expectation for BPH to 142,000, URB to 323,000 and PUB to 89,000. These updates are based on 10-year average run timing curves 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 updated the current expectations to 92,000 A-Index fish (including 63,000 clipped and 29,000 unclipped) and 33,000 total B-Index steelhead (27,000 clipped and 6,000 unclipped).

## **MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

- Detailed management guidelines were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1, #5a, and #6b.

## **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. Weekly commercial gillnet openings have been occurring since August 22.
- The table below shows 2022 fall season treaty fisheries (current and planned) along with preliminary and projected catches. Catches are based on creel estimates with preliminary stock

composition from CWT sampling. The model predicts catches based on in-season updated forecast run sizes and historic harvest rates scaled to actual current catch rates.

- The tribes have set a total of six gillnet openings during this fall season. Catches for the first five gillnet openings are shown in the table below. The tribes have planned an additional week of commercial gillnet fishing for next week. The tribes anticipate commercial gillnet fisheries may be able to occur into mid-October.

<b>2022 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries</b>									
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	560	70	0
		Gillnet/Platform/H&L							
35	Preliminary	8/22	8/26	164	2,480	1,183	205	28	11
36	Preliminary	8/29	9/2	356	21,613	9,782	536	220	521
37	Preliminary	9/5	9/10	386	43,870	16,838	973	281	788
38	Preliminary	9/12	9/17	345	59,131	16,308	1,480	569	2,366
39	Preliminary	9/19	9/23	337	25,628	7,068	1,829	904	1,798
40	Projected	9/26	9/29	345	11,200	5,800	2,390	1,600	2,200
				Subtotal	164,465	57,238	7,973	3,672	7,684
41	Projected	10/3	10/6	300	5,730	3,240	1,140	590	1,130
				Subtotal	170,195	60,478	9,113	4,262	8,814
		Late Fall Platforms			225	200	80	40	200
				Total	170,420	60,678	9,193	4,302	9,014
		<b>Allowed at Projected URB and B run size</b>				96,900		4,950	
		<b>Harvest Rate as of Oct 1</b>				17.7%		11.1%	
		<b>Remaining after Oct 1</b>				39,662		1,278	
		<b>Expected Harvest Rate through end of season</b>				18.7%		13.0%	
		<b>Remaining Available at End of Season</b>				36,222		648	

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 remains 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 proposed fishery impacts are within the allowed harvest rate limits for an URB run size down to 203,000 and a B-Index steelhead run size down to 28,700. 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><b>2022 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</b></i>	
Seasons:	6:00 AM Monday October 3 through 6:00 PM Thursday October 6 (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.

## 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 24 include approximately 6,019 Chinook, 62,823 Coho, and 169 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 429 fish, or 107% of the Select Area sub-allocation.

### *Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries*

- Five Late Fall Zone 4-5 fishing periods have been adopted at previous Compact hearings. Landings estimates for the first three periods total about 4,800 Chinook, 1,000 Coho, and 65 white sturgeon. Preliminary landings from the period on Sunday night include about 700 Chinook and 80 Coho.
- The Late Fall tangle net fishery opened Monday September 26 and is scheduled to continue through October 28. Landings for the initial fishing periods are not yet available.
- Preliminary catch estimates for the Early and Late Fall Zone 4-5 non-treaty commercial fisheries through September 26 include 29,712 Chinook 2,038 Coho, and 260 white sturgeon.
- Cumulative LCR and SRW impacts for combined non-treaty commercial fisheries (mainstem to-date and adopted, and full-season Select Area fisheries) are estimated at 2.02% and 4.39%, respectively. Sufficient allocation of LCR and SRW/URB impacts are available for additional Chinook-directed fisheries.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2022 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i></b>		
Season:	7 PM Sunday October 2 through 7 AM Monday October 3	12 hours
	7 PM Wednesday October 5 through 7 AM Thursday October 6	12 hours
	7 PM Sunday October 9 through 7 AM Monday October 10	12 hours
	7 PM Wednesday October 12 through 7 AM Thursday October 13	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 the 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 <b>six</b> 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 at 1,300 adults, including 630 URBs for the proposed periods. The ESA impact to SRWs would be 0.20% HR. Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tule impacts are projected at 0.00% ER. Coho catch is expected to be less than 300 fish.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be <0.01% for A-Index and 0.02% for B-Index for the proposed fishery.
- The expected harvest of white sturgeon for the proposed fishing periods is approximately 50 fish, which would bring the combined harvest in mainstem fisheries to 324 fish, or 87% of the adjusted mainstem commercial allocation of 371 fish.

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

- Fall recreational salmon fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam were open August 1. Chinook catches and the proportion LRH were much higher than expected in the Buoy 10 fishery resulting 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 to hatchery Coho and waters upstream of Reed Island to Bonneville Dam to Chinook and hatchery Coho under the expectation that LCR impacts would be negligible.
- Preliminary fall season total estimates of catch and effort by area include:
  - Buoy 10: 28,788 kept and 21,910 released Chinook; 8,379 kept and 4,997 released Coho; and 80 released steelhead from about 81,300 angler trips through September 21.
  - West Puget Island to Warrior Rock: 3,616 kept and 221 released Chinook; 46 kept and 47 released Coho; and 226 released steelhead from about 25,700 angler trips through September 25.
  - Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam: 5,137 kept and 450 released Chinook; 148 kept and 196 released Coho; and 125 released steelhead from about 41,680 angler trips through September 25.
- The fall recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 (Pasco, WA) is open to Chinook and Coho (hatchery Coho only downstream of the Hood River Bridge) with a two-adult retention limit of which only one may be a Chinook. Through September 25, an estimated 6,448 adult Chinook, 457 adult Coho, and 57 steelhead have been kept from approximately 15,800 angler trips. Released estimates include 927 Chinook, 88 Coho, and 47 steelhead.

- Although fall recreational fisheries have exceeded the LCR tulle impacts allocated to these fisheries, staff have continued to assess recreational fishery options that include either no additional LCR tulle ER impact or extremely low impacts which would not affect the ability to prosecute commercial fisheries. Based on the updated URB run size, updated catch projections, and past CWT data which indicates the majority of LCR/LRH tulle Chinook have entered the tributaries by late September, re-opening Chinook retention in the lower Columbia River can be considered at this time.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2022 Buoy 10 to Tongue Point/Rocky Point Recreational Salmon Fishery</i></b>
Effective 12:01 AM Saturday October 1, retention of Chinook and hatchery coho (adults and jacks) is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Buoy 10 line upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line. The daily adult bag limit is <b>three</b> salmon, of which only one may be a Chinook. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.
<b><i>Recommendation: 2022 Tongue Point/Rocky Point to Bonneville Dam Recreational Salmon Fishery</i></b>
Effective 12:01 AM Saturday October 1, retention of Chinook and hatchery coho (adults and jacks) is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam. The daily adult bag limit is <b>two</b> salmon, of which only one may be a Chinook. All other previously adopted regulations remain in effect.

- Chinook catch is projected to be about 2,200 adults, including 2,000 URBs for the proposed fisheries. The ESA impact to SRWs would be approximately 0.61%. Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tulle impacts are projected at 0.00% ER.

***Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries – Above Wauna powerlines***

- The 2022 retention season for above Wauna powerlines included three retention days (September 10, 14, and 17) with a harvest guideline of 800 white sturgeon. Catches are estimated to be 866 fish kept from 7,394 angler trips on the mainstem Columbia, and 6 fish kept from 283 angler trips on the Cowlitz River.

***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, and proposed 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%	2.32%	83%	
WPI-WR	1.40%	0.30%	22%	1.43%	0.84%	59%	
WR-BO	1.30%	0.00%	0%	2.69%	2.05%	76%	
Zone 6	0.00%	0.00%	NA	0.81%	2.90%	358%	
Tributaries	0.30%	0.30%	100%	0.00%	0.00%	NA	
Commercial	2.95%	2.02%	68%	5.05%	4.58%	91%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>9.82%</b>	<b>9.33%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>12.78%</b>	<b>12.69%</b>	<b>99%</b>	

<sup>a</sup> *Projected impacts in completed, on-going, and proposed fisheries.*

- 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 13.6% out of the 15% allowed. The SRW harvest rate is projected remain within the 15% allowed.
  - Completed, on-going, and proposed 2022 non-treaty fisheries would be within the URB and SRW harvest rate limits down to an URB run size of around 289,000 and 270,000, respectively.
- 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%.
- Impacts to LCR Chum are expected to remain within the 5% HR limit with the recommendations to in-river fisheries. Preseason expectations were 1.2%.
- Cumulative impacts for wild upriver summer A- and B-Index steelhead in completed, on-going, proposed, and planned non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.44% and 0.70%, respectively. The allowed impact rate is 2.0% for each stock.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Treaty Tribes request another Compact Hearing next week to consider additional commercial gillnet fishing.
- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor stock status and fisheries, but do not anticipate additional Compact/Joint State hearings to consider non-treaty fisheries during the fall management period.