

Lower Columbia River Fishery Closure

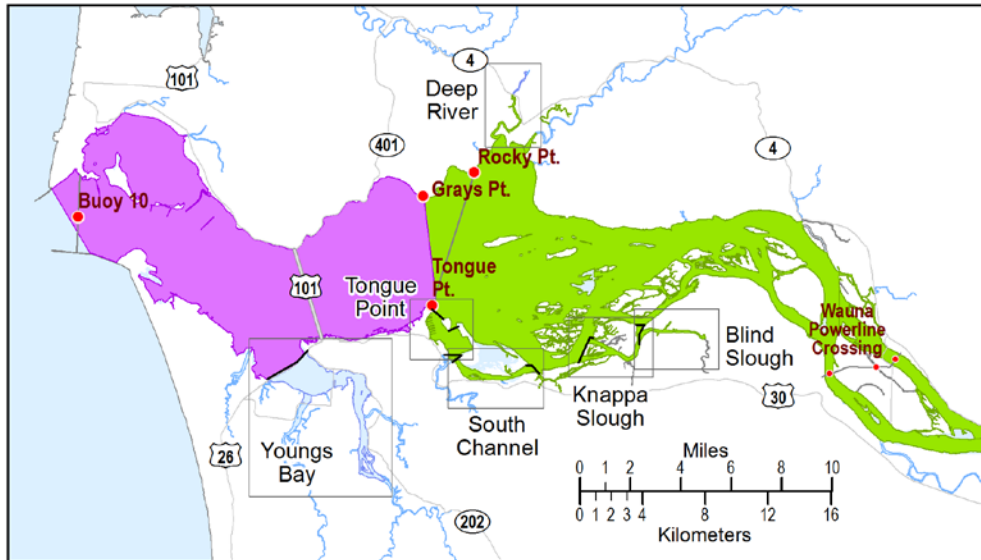
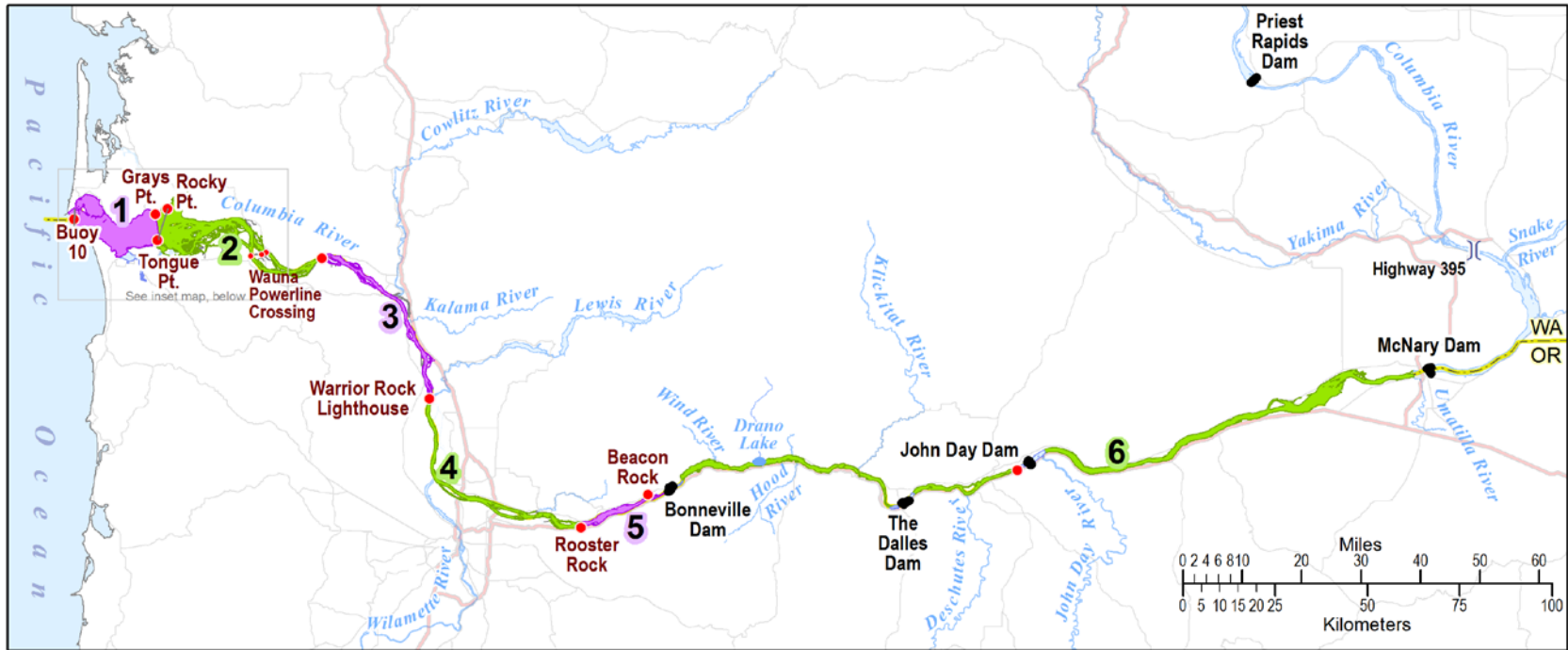
November 30, 2022

Ryan Lothrop, Dr. Charlene Hurst, and Quinten Daugherty
Columbia River Management Unit



Background

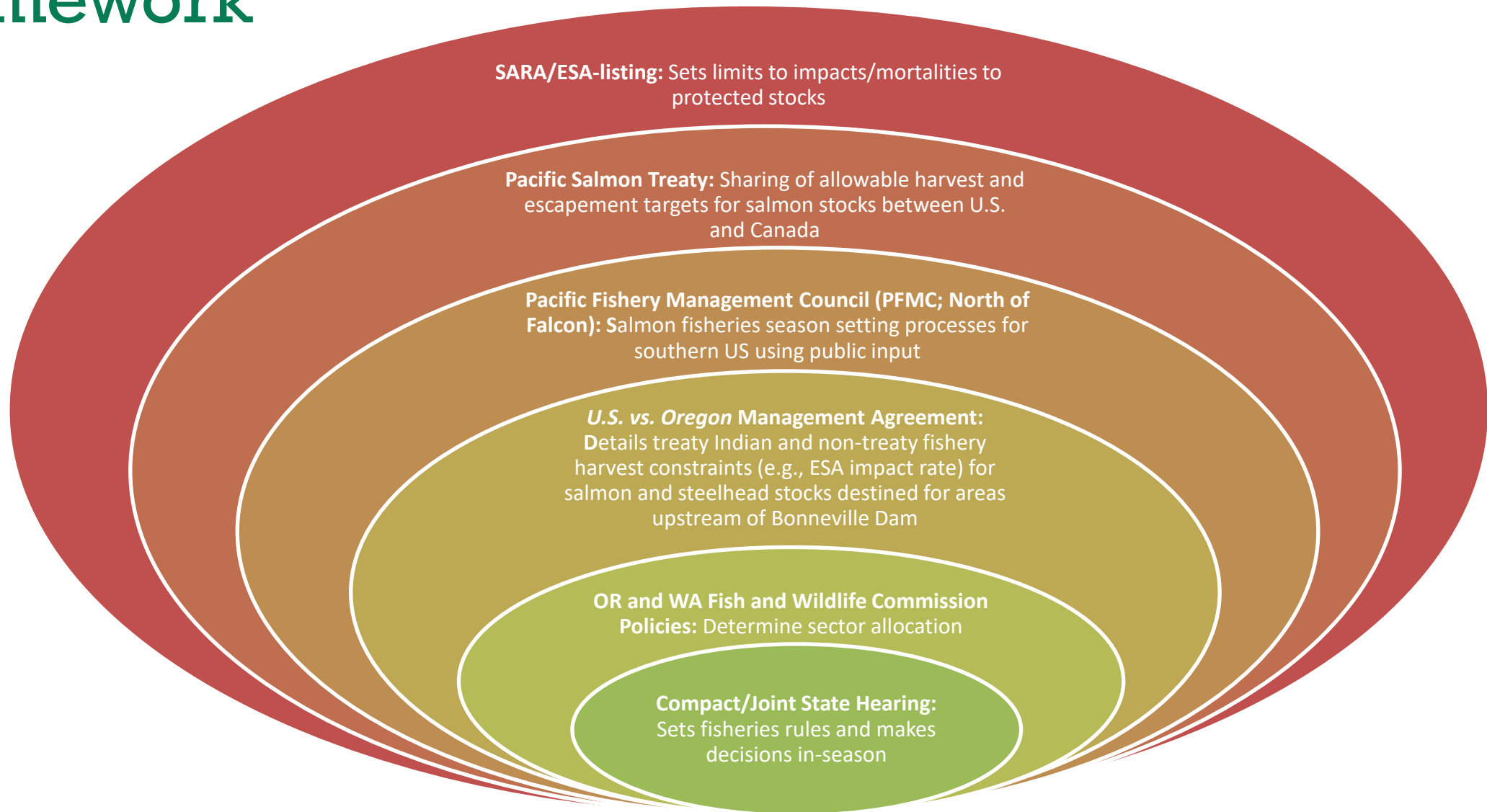




WDFW Fish Science, 11/23/2021



Management Framework



PFMC/North of Falcon

- Decides preseason plans for summer and fall Chinook, sockeye, coho, and upriver summer steelhead fisheries
- Provide river inputs into PFMC process
- Generates recreational rules
- Sets commercial expectations to be adopted by Compact later in the year
- 2022 Fishery Plan posted on the OR/WA websites May 24
- Recreational fisheries in the Fishery Preseason Plan are adopted through the North of Falcon permanent rule-making and listed in the sportfishing pamphlet for WA.



US vs. OR: Parties and Structure

- Parties include OR, WA, ID, Treaty tribes (Nez Perce, Umatilla, Warm Springs, Yakama), federal government (e.g. NOAA, USFWS)
- WDFW represents WA recreational, commercial, and non-treaty tribal interests (Colville and Wanapum)
- Committees (WA has a seat on all)
 - Policy Committee – Policy decision body
 - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Forecast, in-season updates, run reconstruction, gear mortality rates, ESA accounting
 - Production Advisory Committee (PAC) – Hatchery production
 - Regulatory Coordination Committee (RCC) – Regulation coordination
 - Sturgeon Management Taskforce – Sturgeon fishery quotas, discussion of stock issues

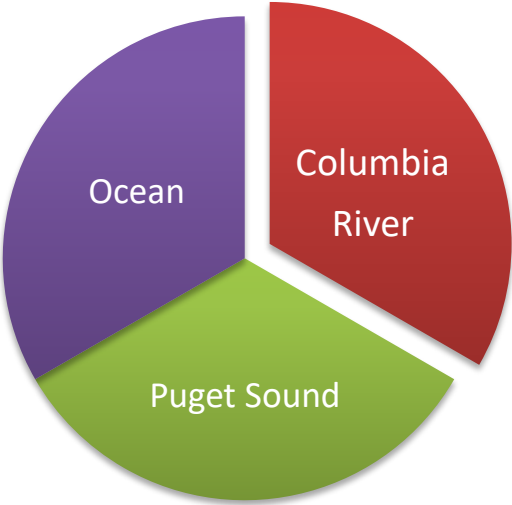


The Pie Analogy

Pacific Salmon Treaty



PFMC



US vs. Oregon



Commission Policies/rules



Commercial



* For conceptual purposes only

Columbia River Compact

- Established by congress in 1918
- One representative each for WA and OR
- Fishery decision-making authority
- Provides concurrent jurisdiction of Columbia commercial fisheries (Compact)
- OR refers to meetings with recreational fishery proposed actions as Joint State Hearings
- More on this later...



2022 Fall Season Harvest Constraints

Species	Stock	Stock Component	PFMC	U.S. vs. OR	Commission Policy/OR rule
Fall Chinook	Tule	Lower River Hatchery (LRH) is surrogate for Lower Columbia River (LCR) natural*	38% ER (9.82% in-river)**		≤ 70% recreational (6.87% ER)*** ≥ 30% commercial (2.95% ER)
		Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH)		7,000 to Spring Creek hatchery	
	Bright	Select Area Bright (SAB)			
		Lower River Wild (LRW)			
		Lower River Bright (LRB)			
		Pool Upriver Bright (PUB)			
Upriver Bright (URB)		15% non-treaty HR; 60,000 passage at McNary Dam			
Snake River Wild (SRW; URB is surrogate)*		15% non-treaty HR			
Coho	Lower Columbia Natural*	Not applicable	23% ER		Prioritize by fishery type
	Upriver coho			50% of ocean abundance to Bonneville Dam	
Summer Steelhead	A-index	Wild*		2% non-treaty ER	
	B-index			2% non-treaty ER	

*ESA-listed stock (Exploitation Rate (ER) and Harvest Rate (HR))

**LRH/LCR lower river tule fall Chinook stock is the most constraining stock for 2022. Therefore, allocations per C-3630 were applied to this stock.

***Recreational Chinook fishery season objectives as described in the OR policy were not achievable in 2022.



2022 preseason and in-season run size updates

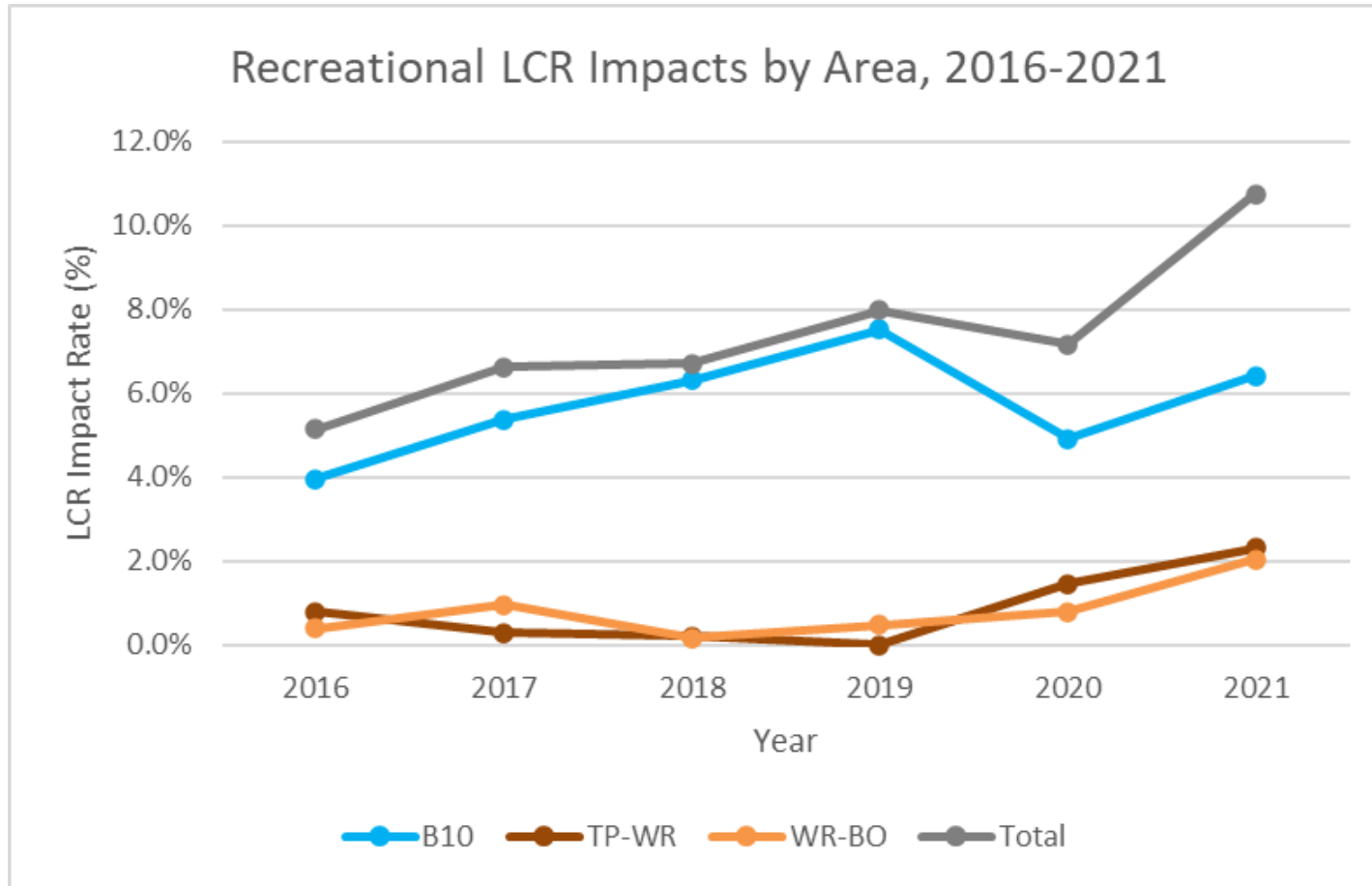
- Fisheries managed based on preseason until in-season run size updates available.
- Most stocks destined upstream of Bonneville Dam are updated in-season by TAC.
- Lower river Chinook stocks are not updated in-season (SAB, LRH, LRW, and LRB).

2022 Columbia River fall Chinook returns: Pre-season forecasted and TAC updated									
		Pre-season	8/22	8/29	9/6	9/12	9/19	9/26	10/3
Fall Chinook	Total	485,500	-	-	-	745,800	672,800	647,800	637,800
	LRH	73,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	LRW	10,900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	BPH	92,200	-	-	-	144,000	146,000	142,000	206,000
	URB	229,700	-	-	-	398,000	339,000	323,000	267,000
	SRW	11,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	LRB	8,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PUB	69,800	-	-	-	110,000	94,000	89,000	71,000
	SAB	600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

*Columbia River mouth run size.
 **Wild components included in the stock total.



2022 Fishery Preseason Plan



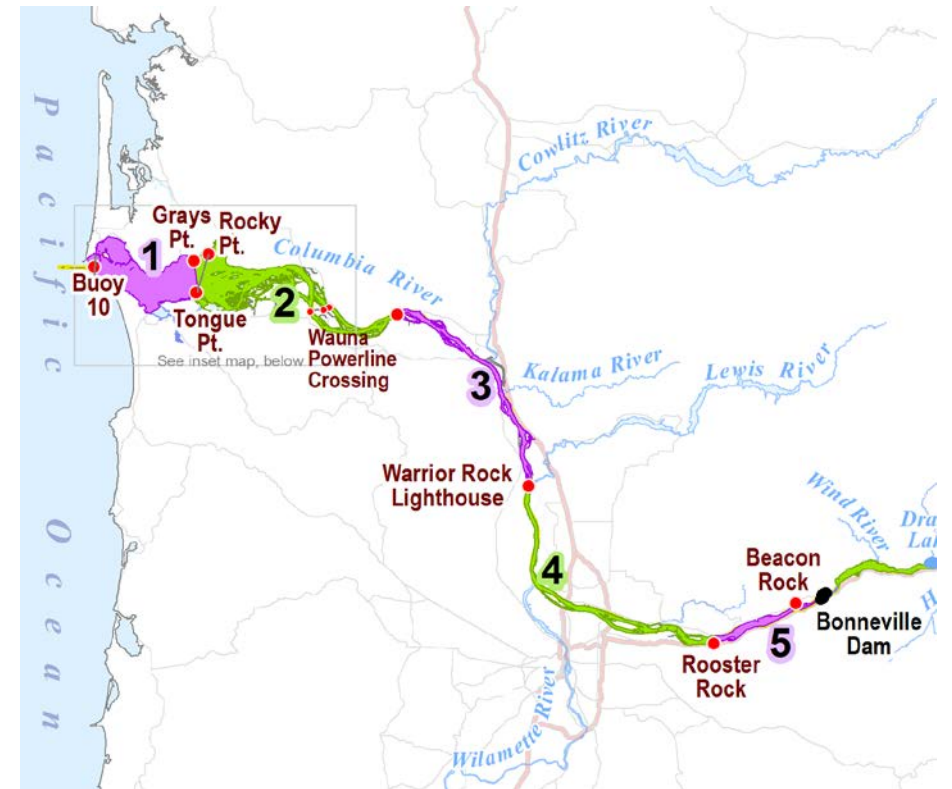
- Recreational LCR impact rate by area has increased in nearly every year since 2016 and most dramatically in 2021.
- 2021 utilized an ocean roll-over of 2.2% ER to re-open fisheries.



2022 Fishery Preseason Plan

Public generally supported the resulting Chinook season structure:

- ✓ Buoy 10 to west Puget Island
 - ✓ August 1-24 mark-selective fishery (MSF); Mark rate was estimated at 65%
 - ✓ August 25 – September 7 non-MSF
 - ✓ September 8-30 coho only
- ✓ West Puget Island to Warrior Rock (Lewis River)
 - ✓ August 1 – September 7
 - ✓ September 8-30 closed
- ✓ Warrior Rock (Lewis River) to Bonneville Dam
 - ✓ August 1 – September 13
 - ✓ September 14-30 closed
- ✓ For all areas: October 1 – December 31 non-MSF



In-season Monitoring: Catch, effort & impact estimates



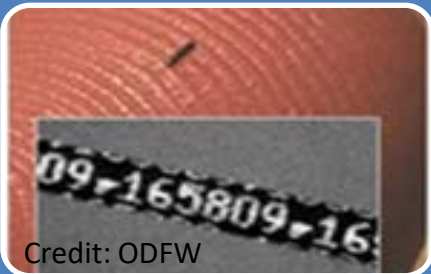
Angler Surveys (i.e., creel)

Generate a representative sample of the harvest, release, and effort data. These surveys also collect biological data, including mark status, species, adult/jack classification, and fish snouts with coded wire tags (CWT).



Effort counts (e.g., trailer counts and aerial flights)

Used to estimate total fishery estimates by expanding the harvest, release, and effort data collected from angler surveys.



Snouts with CWTs

Used for stock composition of the catch. In-season assessment of stock composition from CWTs is unique to the Columbia River fisheries; most other fisheries assess CWTs post-season.

Credit: ODFW

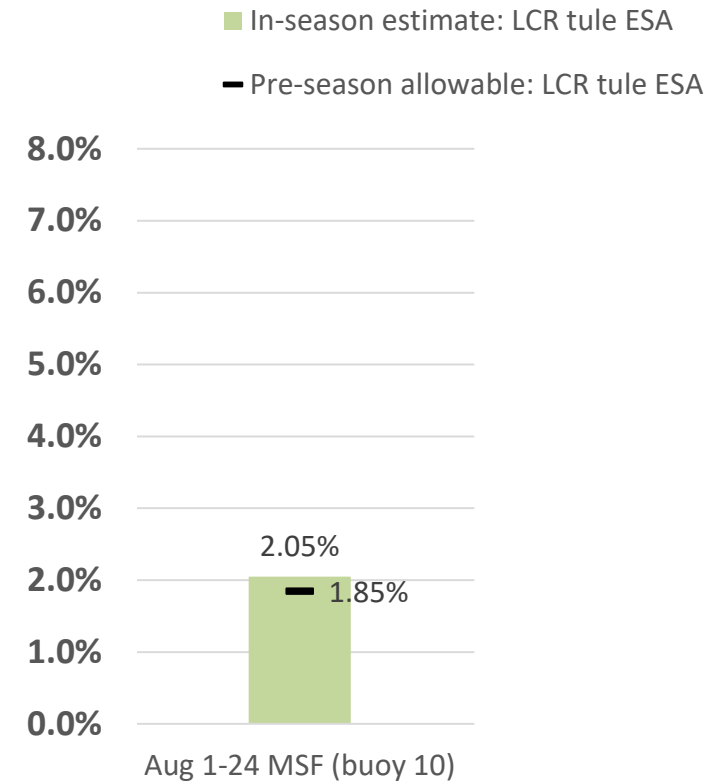


Why did Buoy 10 and the Lower Columbia River recreational fisheries close?



August 1-24 Buoy 10 Mark-selective Chinook Fishery

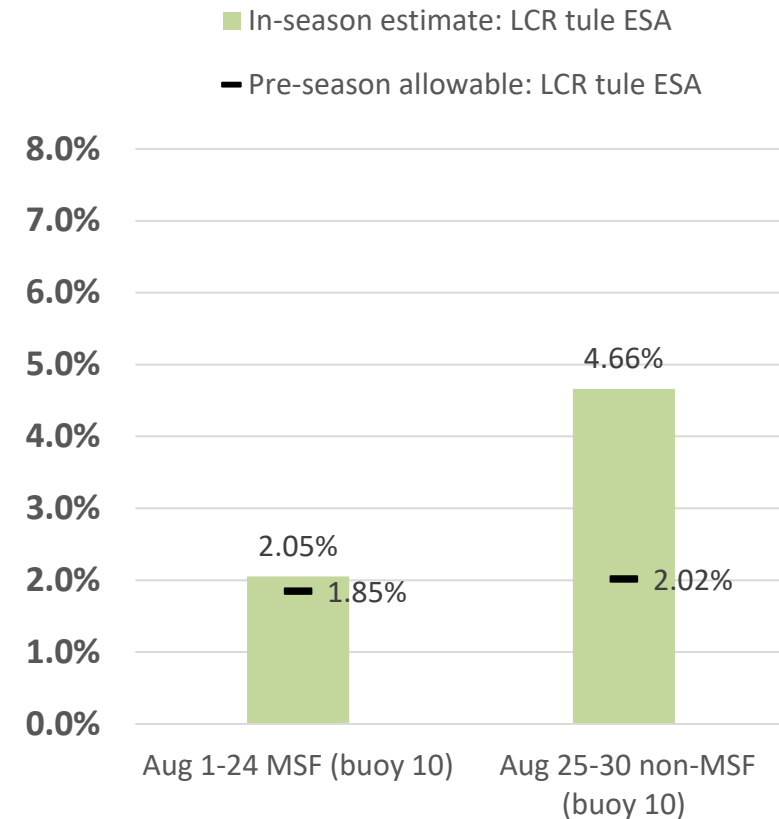
- Buoy 10 MSF remained open as planned and performed similar to expectations.
- MSF regulations dampened the effect of the 3 highest Chinook handle rate days on record.



August 29 Joint-State Action (no hearing)

Closed Chinook retention in Buoy 10 Aug 31

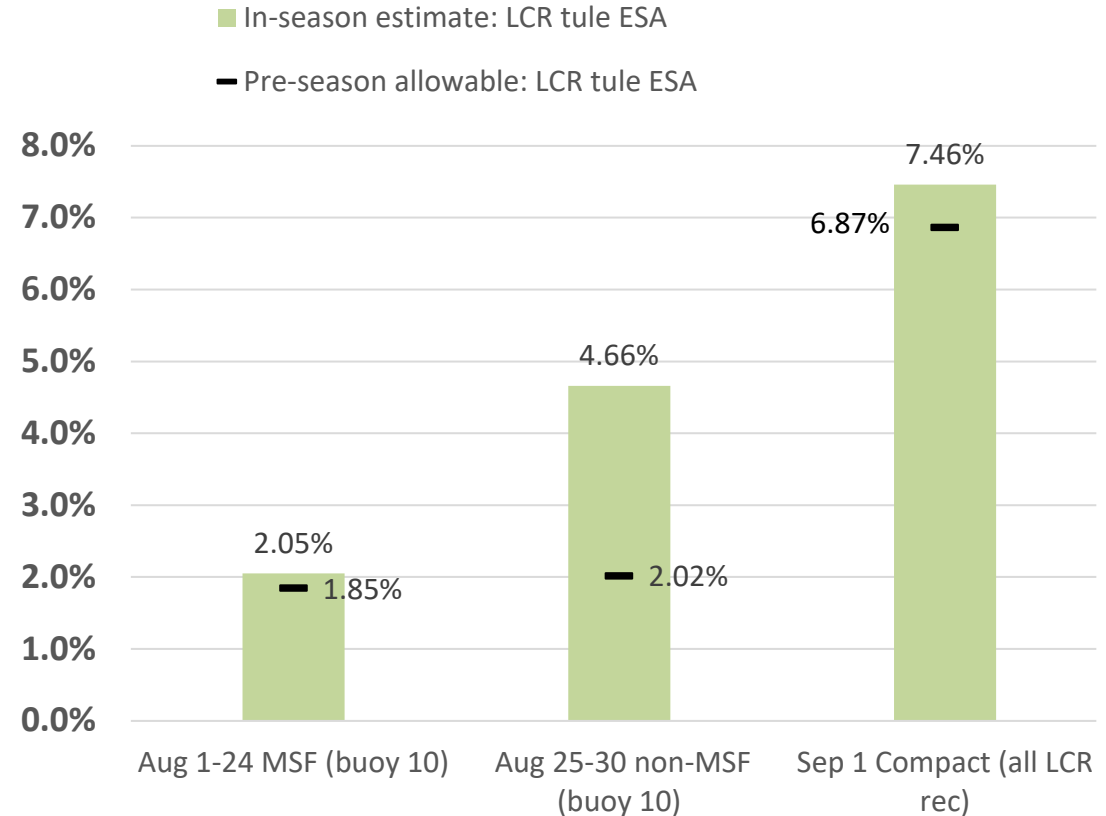
- Buoy 10 non-MSF was originally scheduled Aug 25-Sep 7, but Chinook retention closed due to Chinook handle being 219% higher than expected.



September 1 Compact

Closed angling for and retention of salmonids from Buoy 10 to Bonneville Dam effective September 2

- Harvest projected to exceed recreational allocation of LCR tule
- No ocean roll-over of unused impacts available in 2022 due to LCR tule being fully utilized in ocean fisheries

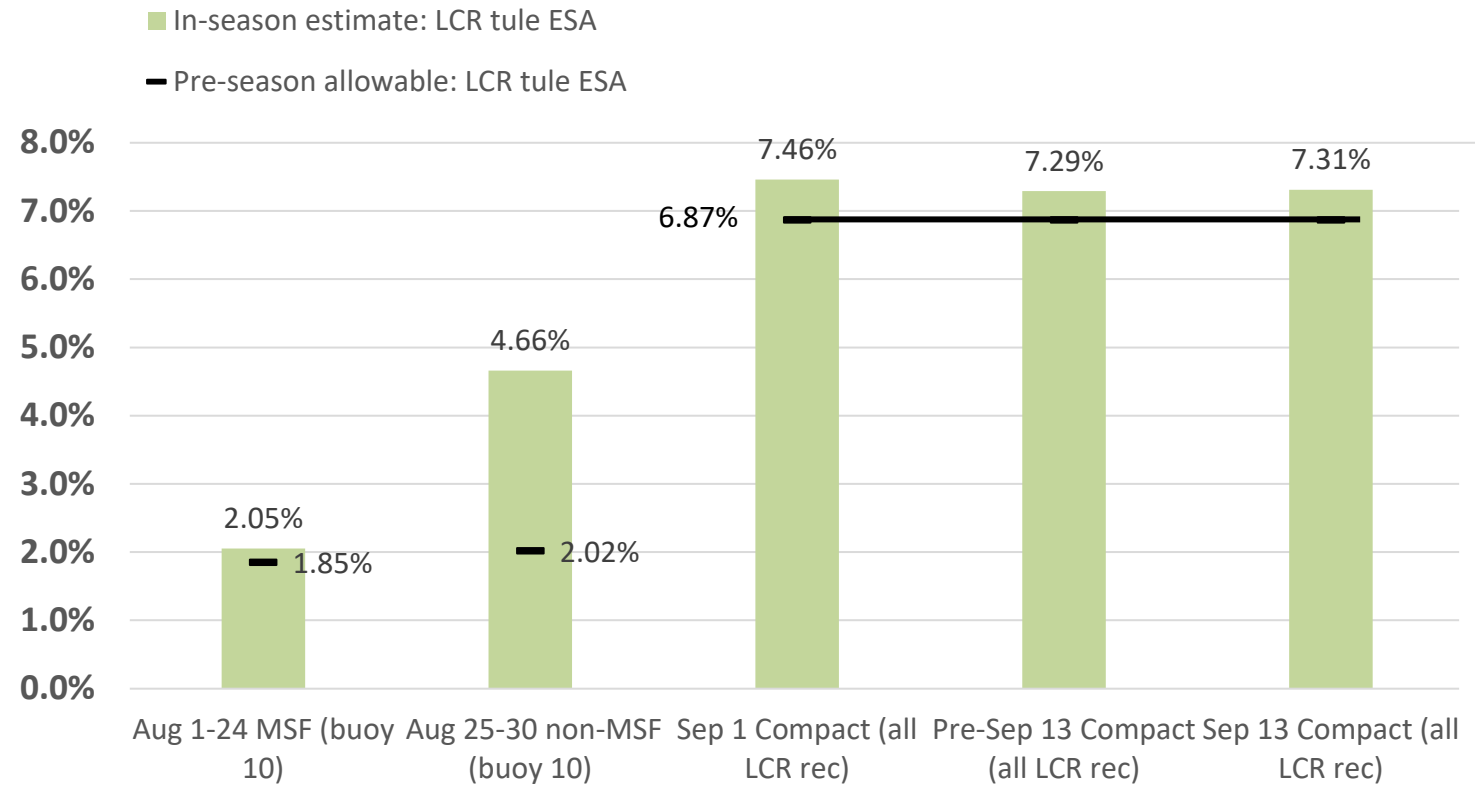


September 13 Compact

Re-opened Buoy 10 coho and upstream of Reed Island for Chinook and coho effective September 15

Recreational fishery options that include:

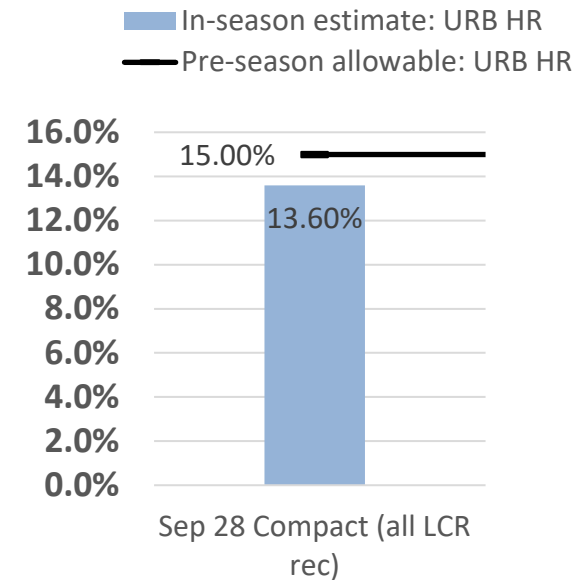
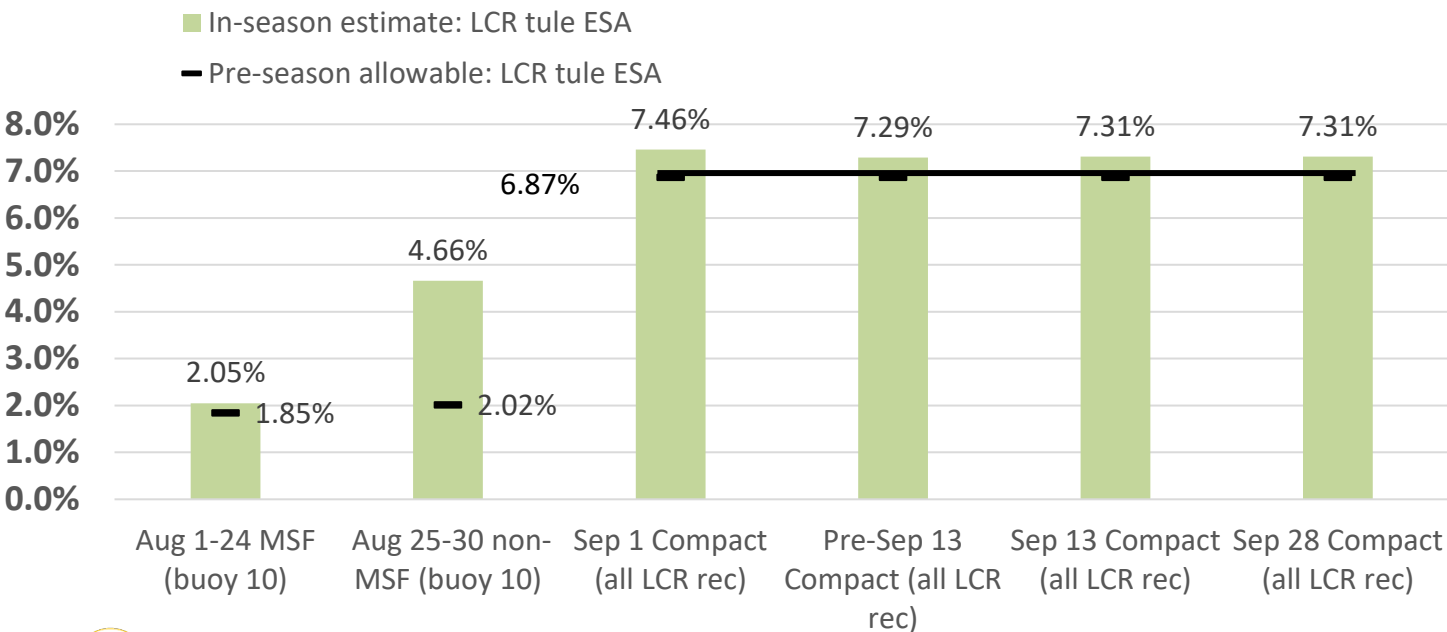
- Either no additional LCR tule ER impact or extremely low impacts (~0.02% LRH ER)
- And, did not affect the ability to prosecute commercial fisheries



September 28 Compact

Re-opened Chinook retention (and coho where applicable) from Buoy 10 to Bonneville Dam October 1

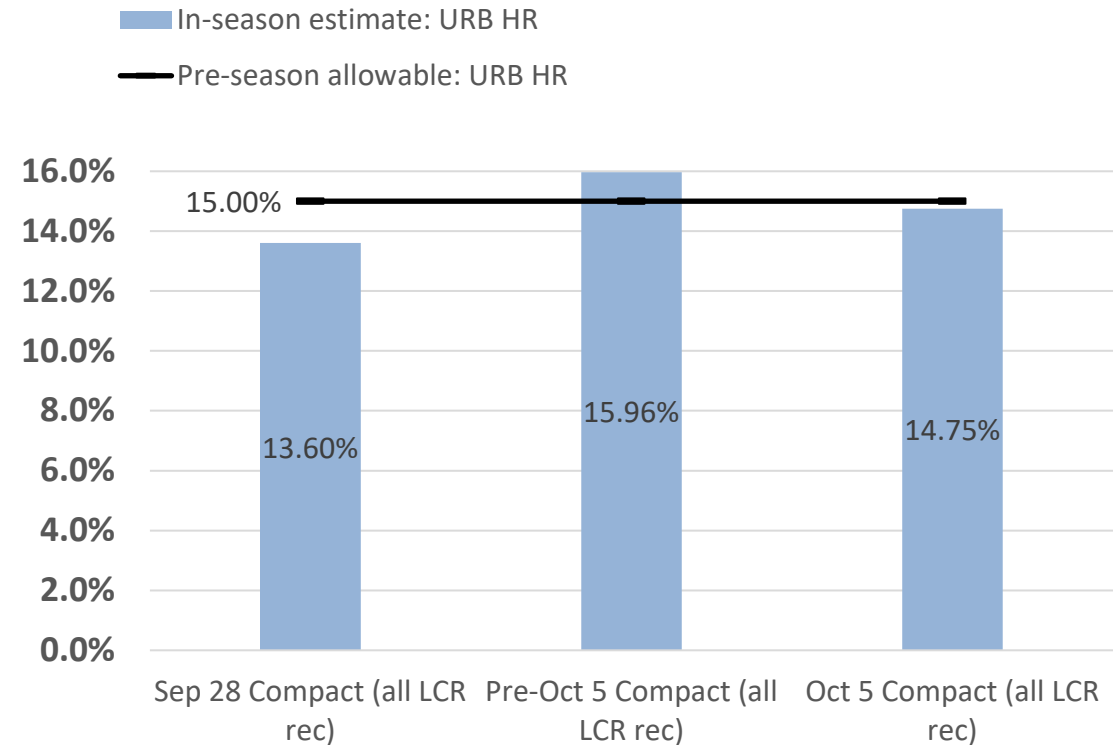
- Staff continued to assess recreational fishery options that include either no additional LCR tule ER impact or extremely low impacts that would not affect commercial fisheries.
- Updated URB run size, updated catch projections, and historical CWT data indicated majority of LCR tule Chinook have entered tributaries by late September



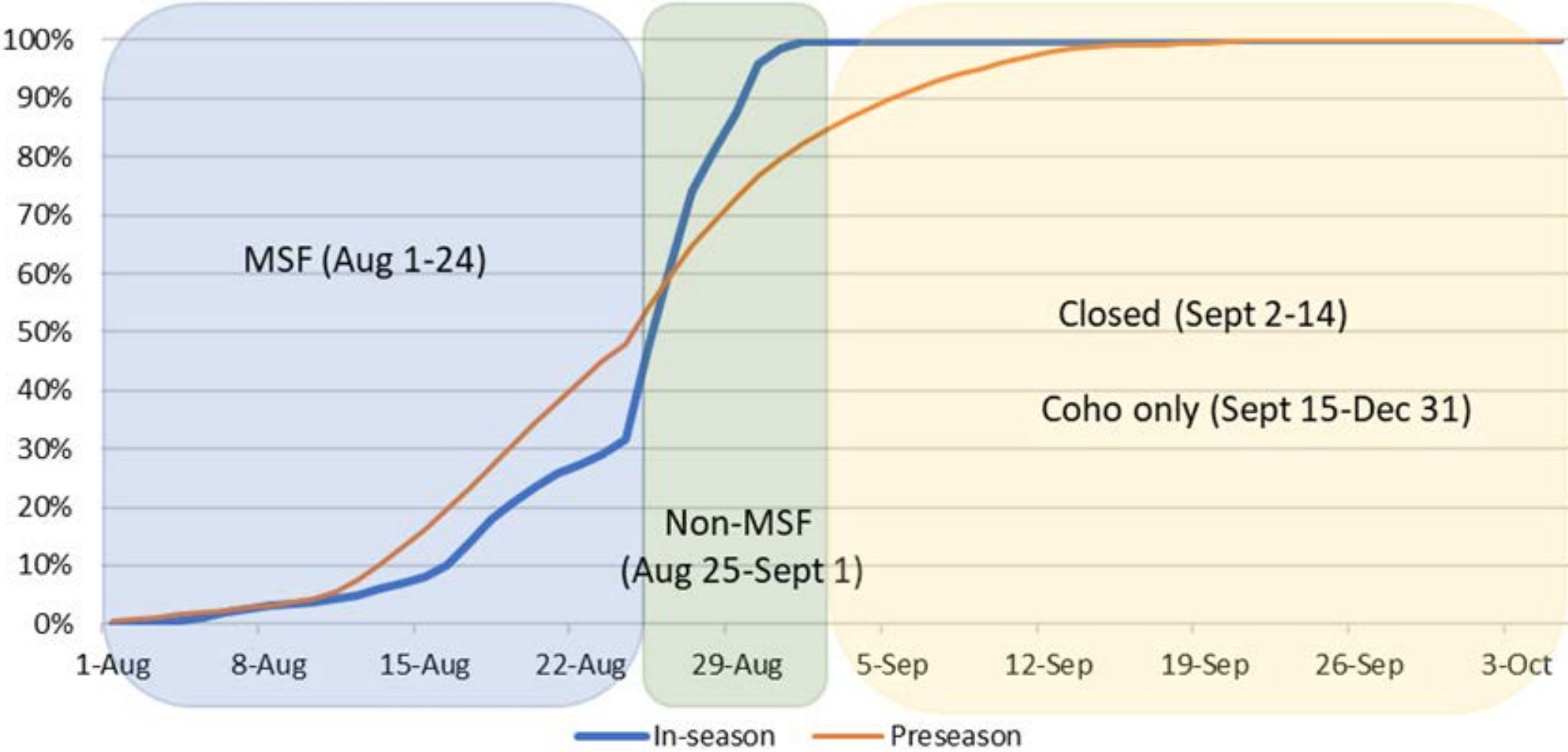
October 5 Compact

Rescinded two Zone 4/5 commercial fishing periods and recreational Chinook retention from Buoy 10 to Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA October 8

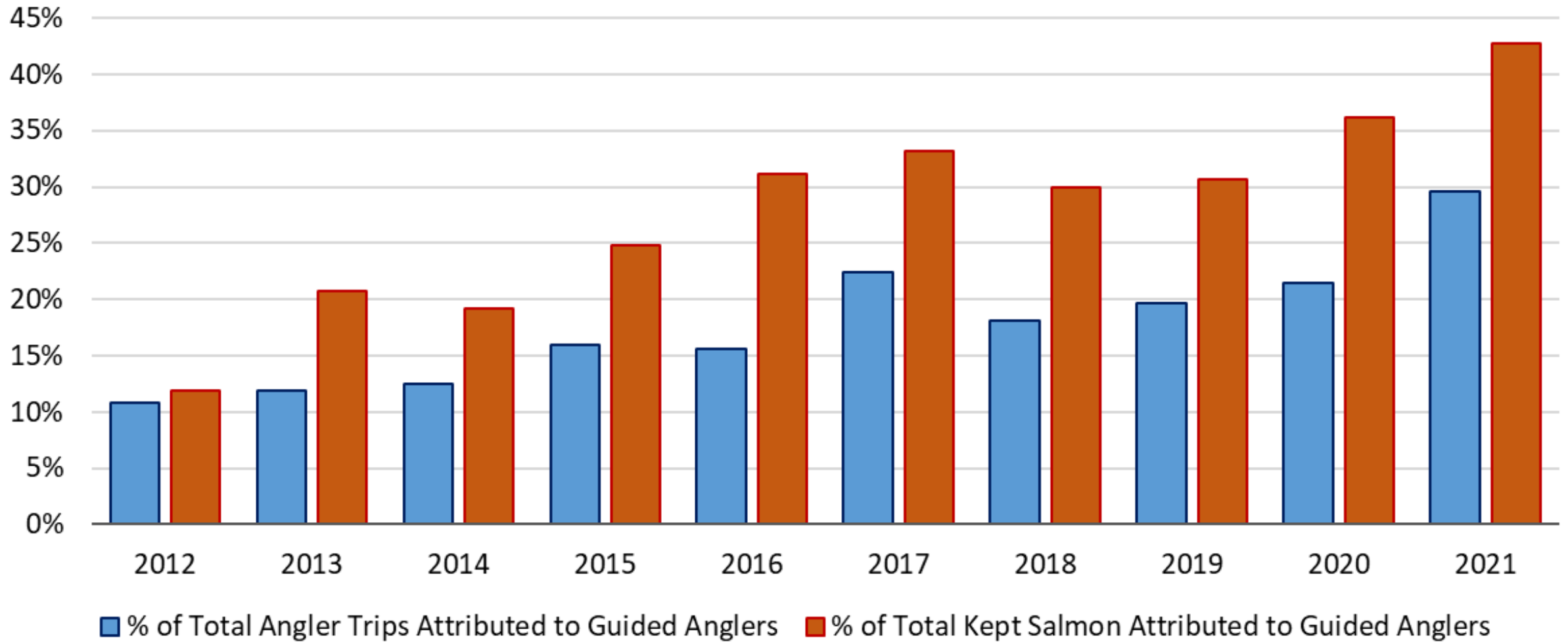
- Based on in-season URB run size (downgraded multiple times), estimated catches, and stock composition, non-treaty fisheries were projected to exceed the allowable URB HR
- Most fisheries were similar to URB HR in the pre-season plan for URB HR except the recreational fishery upstream of Bonneville Dam (340%)
- Staff estimate for LCR ER remains unchanged from previous Compact Hearing



2022 Cumulative Buoy 10 LCR ER



Summary of OR-licensed guide-based angler effort and kept salmonid catch in the Columbia River Buoy 10 fishery, 2012-2021.



How can you engage in the 2023 fishery planning process?



Angler Survey

- WA and OR staff are developing a short recreational angler survey to understand the values and thoughts of our anglers following this season's fisheries actions.
- Intent is to help staff understand angler preference prior to 2023 NOF.
- Staff expects to consider measurable and enforceable options that maintain concurrency between the two states.
- We anticipate opening this up in early December and distributing via list serves and posted on websites.



PFMC/North of Falcon

- Decides preseason plans for summer and fall Chinook, sockeye, coho, and upriver summer steelhead fisheries
- Provide river inputs into PFMC process
- Multiple Columbia River focused public meetings throughout March and April:

[North of Falcon | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)



Columbia River Compact

- Sets non-NOF seasons and all commercial fisheries
- Includes tribal fisheries for regulations pertaining to non-treaty fish buyers
- Salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, smelt, shad
- Provides in-season management actions to modify fisheries, including NOF pre-season plans
- ~30-45 Compacts per year



What does a Compact Hearing look like?

Meetings are scheduled as needed in-season on short notice

- Typically, last for 1-2 hours; WA and OR decision makers alternate hosting
- Call to order, and introduction of fishery proposal topics
- Review prepared Fact Sheet by staff, and questions of staff by decision makers
- Soliciting of input from various tribal and federal (e.g., NOAA) entities
- Opportunity for public testimony on fishery proposals
- Decision maker discussion and motions on fishery proposals



Columbia River Advisory Groups

- Current advisors are serving in their roles through December 2023
 - Two groups: commercial and recreational
 - Up to 20 members on each board with a balance of OR and WA residents
 - Advisors represent a variety of backgrounds/affiliations
 - Advisor expectations are to share information with the public and provide public preference they are affiliated with to staff
- Advisors attend and provide input on fisheries during NOF, Compact Hearings, and advisor meetings to focus on smelt, lower Columbia sturgeon, and spring Chinook fisheries primarily.



Connect with us!

- We are continually updating our Columbia River Fisheries and Management webpages with new information:

[Columbia River fisheries and management | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)

- You can sign up for our Columbia River Fishery Notices e-mail list serv to receive info. on Compacts and joint state hearings, joint state reports, and action notices regarding fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River:

[WDFW mailing lists | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](#)





Questions?

