

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5b
September 7, 2023

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-treaty mainstem commercial tangle net Buoy 10 recreational
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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 2023 Fall Report was distributed on July 10, 2023. 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 5, the recent five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 97 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 104 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 69°F compared to a five-year average temperature of 70°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.8 feet which is the same as the five-year average.
- River temperatures in the lower Columbia measured near Tongue Point have averaged 70°F at 0.3 meters over the past three days.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2023 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 5, a total of 244,951 adult-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is September 9.
- Based on visual stock sampling, a total of 160,955 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 75,743 adult tules and 8,253 adult-sized tule jacks (primarily BPH stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is typically 35% complete and tule passage about 67% complete on September 5, based on recent 10-year average run timing.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 84,724 A/B-Index fish.
- From July 1 through August 30, CRITFC staff have sampled 288 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 267 A-Index fish (124 unclipped) and 21 B-Index fish (4 unclipped). Stock composition is generally tracking as expected at this point in the return except that fewer unclipped B-Index fish have been sampled than expected.

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 5 total 39,312 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically about 26% complete by September 5.

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. It is still too early in the return for TAC to provide abundance updates for upriver fall Chinook stocks.
- TAC met on September 5 and reviewed Chinook and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and associated sampling data. TAC estimates that through September 4, a total of 73,558 A-Index steelhead (including 29,513 unclipped fish) and 10,119 B-Index steelhead (including 2,562 unclipped fish) have passed Bonneville Dam. TAC did not make any changes to the A-Index steelhead run size expectation at Bonneville Dam provided on August 21 (91,300 total A-Index fish including 34,000 unclipped fish), nor did it make any other run size updates. Currently, the hatchery B-Index run is tracking ahead of the pre-season forecast, while the wild B-Index run is tracking near the pre-season forecast. TAC will continue to monitor and assess the A/B-Index steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns. TAC will provide updates to Chinook and A and B-Index steelhead as warranted. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, September 11.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Based on information available preseason and input from the public, a fishing plan was developed for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries during the North of Falcon management process. This fishing plan is available on the ODFW and WDFW websites.
- The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission guidance regarding allowable commercial gears in Coho-directed fisheries is not concurrent. 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.
- Additional management guidelines for 2023 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 and Fall Fishery Update #1.

2023 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay opened August 21 and both Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel commercial fisheries opened August 28. Preliminary catch estimates for Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel through September 2 include 4,032 Chinook and 7,783 Coho. The Deep River commercial fishery opened Monday September 4 but initial catch estimates are not yet available.

Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Early-fall Zone 4-5 commercial fisheries began on August 9 and continued through September 1, with one to three fishing periods per week totaling eight fishing periods.
 - Preliminary catch estimates include 27,183 Chinook and 1,613 Coho. Additionally, an estimated 308 steelhead have been handled. The preliminary LCR Chinook ER is 1.23% (as compared to 1.90% ER pre-season) and SRW HR is 2.90% (as compared to 3.06% HR pre-season).
- Late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4-5 are expected to begin the week of September 17, dependent on in-season factors, with a pre-season expectation of about three nightly periods. Periods would likely be 10-hours (8 PM–6 AM); gear regulations would include an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction.
- Late-fall commercial fishing periods in Zones 1-3 targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets using live-capture techniques are expected to begin the week of September 17 and continue throughout October with up to five daytime fishing periods per week. Therefore, staff recommend the following:

Recommendation: 2023 Non-Treaty Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

Season:	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 18 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 20 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 22	Twenty-eight periods (Monday through Thursday 18 hrs each) (Friday 14hrs)
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 25 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday September 26 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 27 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday September 28 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 29	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 2 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 3 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 4 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 5 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 6	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 9 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 10 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 11 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 12 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 13	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 16 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 17 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 18 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 19 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 20	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 23 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 24 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 25 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 26 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 27	

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 prohibited. Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net.

Allowable Sales: Salmon (except chum) and shad; all Coho must be adipose fin-clipped.

Regulations: 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.
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.
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.
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.
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.

Additional Rules: **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.
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.
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.

- Coho catch is expected to include up to 33,600 landed hatchery adults. The ESA impact rate to LCN Coho is projected at 1.45% ER for this proposed fishery.
- Chinook catch is projected to be 1,920 adults. Pre-season impact expectations include 0.10% LCR ER and 0.56% SRW HR.
- Expected steelhead handle is approximately 105 fish. ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% for A-Index and 0.05% 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.

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) fishery was open August 1 through September 4, except closed August 21-23 and August 28-29, to both adult Chinook and Coho retention under mark-selective regulations with a two fish, one Chinook daily bag limit. Beginning September 5, Chinook retention is closed, but the daily bag limit increased to three hatchery Coho.
 - Preliminary catch estimates through September 4 include 18,034 kept and 14,942 released Chinook, and 7,497 kept and 4,468 released Coho from approximately 69,400 angler trips.
- Fall recreational salmon fisheries from WPI upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) also opened August 1 with a two fish, one Chinook daily adult bag limit.
 - WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) fishery was open August 1 through September 4 to both adult Chinook and hatchery Coho retention. The fishery is closed September 5-30, then re-opens to hatchery Coho October 1. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 4 include 7,455 kept and 563 released Chinook, 347 kept and 198 released Coho, and 423 released steelhead from approximately 33,300 angler trips.
 - WR to Bonneville Dam (BO) fishery is planned to be open August 1 through September 14 to both adult Chinook and hatchery Coho retention. The fishery is closed September 15-30, then re-opens to hatchery Coho October 1. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 4 include 2,921 kept and 306 released Chinook, 91 kept and 56 released Coho, and 168 released steelhead from approximately 19,200 angler trips.
 - BO upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) fishery is planned to be open August 1 through October 15 for adult Chinook and Coho retention (wild Coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released). Beginning October 16, only Coho may be retained (wild Coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released). Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 3 include 2,590 Chinook kept and 228 released Chinook, zero kept and 13 released Coho, and 223 released steelhead from approximately 9,900 angler trips.

- The following table summarizing impacts to ESA-listed fall Chinook in LCR recreational fisheries through September 4.

Impact rates for ESA-listed fall Chinook in Columbia River recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam, 2023.							
Sector	Fishery	LCR natural-origin tulle			Snake River Wild Fall Chinook		
		Preseason	In-season ^a	% of Pre	Preseason	In-season ^a	% of Pre
Recreational	Buoy 10+TP-WPI	3.11%	2.09%	67%	1.24%	0.70%	56%
Recreational	WPI-WR	1.39%	0.77%	55%	2.03%	2.06%	101%
Recreational	WR-BO	1.66%	0.00%	0%	2.15%	0.90%	42%
Total		6.16%	2.86%	46%	5.42%	3.66%	68%

^a Based on actual catch and stock composition through Sep 4th and current run size estimates.

- Based on historical CWT data, LRH tulle Chinook are typically present in the Columbia River mainstem through September, although abundance declines in the latter half of the month. Higher LRH abundance occurs near the mouths of their natal tributaries which are primarily in the WPI to WR area.
- In September LCR recreational fishery catch rates and stock composition can shift significantly based on individual stock abundances and run timing.
- URB fall Chinook run size is expected to be updated weekly by TAC, likely beginning September 11. LCR and Zone 6 recreational fisheries typically make up a large portion of the URB/SRW catch.
- Therefore, staff recommends the following as an initial low-risk option to re-open recreational Chinook retention:

<i>Recommendation: 2023 Buoy 10 Recreational Salmon Fishery</i>
Effective 12:01 AM September 9 through December 31, retention of Chinook and hatchery Coho is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from the Buoy 10 line upstream to west Puget Island. The daily adult bag limit is three salmon, of which only one may be a Chinook. All other previously adopted and permanent regulations remain in effect.

- Chinook handle in the Buoy 10 fishery is expected to decline over the remainder of the season. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.56% LCR ER and 1.61% SRW HR.
- Staff will monitor Chinook abundance, stock composition, and fishery performance. Based on these factors and typical tributary migration timing additional Chinook retention opportunity in the remaining LCR fisheries will be considered in the coming weeks.

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 2023 non-treaty fisheries is provided below:

Summary of expected LCR and SRW fall Chinook ESA impacts in non-treaty mainstem fisheries.						
Area	LCR			SRW		
	ER through Sept 4		Total ER	HR through Sept 4		Total ER
	Expected ^a			Expected ^a		
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	2.09%	0.56%	2.64%	0.70%	1.61%	2.31%
WPI-WR	0.77%	0.01%	0.78%	2.06%	0.08%	2.14%
WR-BO	0.00%	1.66%	1.66%	0.90%	1.94%	2.84%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	--	0.92%	0.92%
Tributaries	--	0.30%	0.30%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>2.86%</i>	<i>2.53%</i>	<i>5.38%</i>	<i>3.66%</i>	<i>4.55%</i>	<i>8.22%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	1.23%	--	1.23%	2.90%	--	2.90%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall	--	0.43%	0.43%	--	0.83%	0.83%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	--	0.10%	0.10%	--	0.56%	0.56%
Select Areas	--	0.40%	0.40%	--	0.12%	0.12%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>1.23%</i>	<i>0.94%</i>	<i>2.17%</i>	<i>2.90%</i>	<i>1.52%</i>	<i>4.42%</i>
Non-Treaty Total	4.09%	3.46%	7.55%	6.56%	6.07%	12.63%

^a includes planned and proposed fisheries

- ESA impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 38% exploitation rate (ER) limit. LCR tule fall Chinook are the most constraining fall Chinook stock in 2023 and the in-river rate is limited to 9.41% ER.
- The expected URB harvest rate (ER) is projected to be 13.41% out of the 15% allowed. The SRW HR is projected remain within the 15% allowed.
- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.24% and 0.45% out of the allowed 2% HR, respectively.
- Impacts to LCN Coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit with pre-season expectations of 19% ER. The in-river rate is expected to be 4.60% ER.
- Impacts to Chum from in-river fisheries are expected to be 1.14% compared to the 5% limit.
- Staff will review catch estimates and Chinook stock composition as fisheries progress and will determine if additional opportunities exist within current management guidelines.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.