

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FISHERY UPDATE #2
August 30, 2023

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of August 29th, the recent five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 124 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 136 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 71°F compared to a five-year average temperature of 70°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.8 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.9 feet.
- River temperatures in the lower Columbia measured near Tongue Point have averaged 69°F 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 August 29, a total of 111,458 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 81,148 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 26,875 adult tules and 3,436 adult-sized tule jacks (primarily BPH stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is 16% complete and tule passage is 20% complete on August 29, based on recent 10-year average run timing.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 69,938 A/B-Index fish. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is August 18.
- From July 1 through August 24, CRITFC staff have sampled 276 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 258 A-Index fish (121 unclipped) and 18 B-Index fish (4 unclipped). Stock composition is tracking as expected at this point in the return.

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through August 29 total 7,310 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically only 8% complete by August 29.

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 August 28 and reviewed Chinook and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and associated sampling data. TAC did not make any changes to the A-Index steelhead run size expectation at Bonneville Dam provided last week (91,300 total A-Index fish including 34,000 unclipped fish), nor did it make any other run size updates. TAC will continue to monitor and assess the A/B-Index steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns and will provide additional run size updates as warranted. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Tuesday, September 5.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available at the ODFW and WDFW websites.
- 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.
- 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. Preliminary catch estimates for Youngs Bay through August 26 include 98 Chinook and 29 Coho. Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel commercial fisheries opened Monday August 28. The Deep River commercial fishery is scheduled to open Monday September 4.

Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Early-fall Zone 4-5 commercial fisheries began on August 9 with a Monday and Wednesday nightly schedule through August 24. This fishery continued this week with periods on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights.
- Preliminary catch estimates through August 24 include 6,817 Chinook and 58 Coho. Additionally, 119 steelhead have been handled. The preliminary LCR Chinook ER and SRW HR through August 17 is tracking within preseason expectations.
- Preliminary catch estimates for the fishing period on August 27 include about 7,200 Chinook and 120 Coho. Stock composition of Chinook landed during this fishing period is not yet available.

- 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 and other 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.

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) fishery is planned to be 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 increases to three hatchery Coho.
 - Preliminary catch estimates through August 27 include 16,532 kept and 13,381 released Chinook, and 4,731 kept and 2,885 released Coho from approximately 61,000 angler trips. The preliminary estimates of LCR Chinook ER and SRW HR through August 27 are tracking within preseason expectations.
- 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. The preliminary estimates of LCR Chinook ER and SRW HR through August 27 are tracking within preseason expectations.
 - WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) fishery is planned to be 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 August 27 include 2,033 kept and 88 released Chinook, 27 kept and 23 released Coho, and 391 released steelhead from approximately 18,000 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 August 27 include 927 kept and 47 released Chinook, 8 kept and 8 released Coho, and 157 released steelhead from approximately 9,200 angler trips.
 - BO upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) fishery, often referred to as Zone 6, 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 August 27 include 613 Chinook kept and 70 released Chinook, zero kept and 13 released Coho, and 223 released steelhead from approximately 4,700 angler trips.

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 planned 2023 non-treaty fisheries is provided below:

Pre- and inseason impact rate expectations for ESA-listed fall Chinook in Columbia River non-treaty fisheries, 2023.							
Sector	Fishery	LCR natural-origin tule			Snake River Wild Fall Chinook		
		Preseason	In-season ^a	% of Pre	Preseason	In-season ^a	% of Pre
Recreational	Buoy 10+TP-WPI	3.21%	2.66%	83%	1.53%	1.24%	81%
Recreational	WPI-WR	1.40%	1.40%	100%	2.11%	2.11%	100%
Recreational	WR-BO	1.66%	1.66%	100%	2.85%	2.85%	100%
Recreational	Zone 6	NA	NA	NA	0.92%	0.92%	100%
Recreational	Tributaries	0.30%	0.30%	100%	NA	NA	NA
Commercial	Select Areas	0.40%	0.40%	100%	0.12%	0.12%	100%
Commercial	Zone 1-3 tangle net	0.10%	0.10%	100%	0.56%	0.56%	100%
Commercial	Zone 4-5 early fall	1.90%	1.58%	83%	3.06%	2.53%	83%
Commercial	Zone 4-5 late fall	0.43%	0.43%	100%	0.83%	0.83%	100%
Total		9.40%	8.53%	91%	11.98%	11.16%	93%

^a Projected based on actual and expected catches for currently planned fisheries and current run size estimates.

- 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 12.25% 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 0.37% and 0.66% out of the allowed 2.0% HR, respectively.
- Impacts to LCN Coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit with pre-season expectations of 19.00% ER. The in-river rate is expected to be 4.60% ER.
- The intent of staff is to have the fisheries proceed as currently scheduled. Staff will review catch estimates and Chinook stock composition as Chinook retention periods conclude and will determine if additional opportunities may exist within management guidelines.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday September 7, 2023 to consider Treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.
- The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.