

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #6**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 27, 2017**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty mainstem commercial Non-treaty Select Area commercial salmon
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*Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2017 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #2 (August 16, 2017) and in the 2017 Fall Joint Staff Report (September 7, 2017). Reports are available at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/index.asp> and <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/>.*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Salmon/Steelhead***

- Due to the Eagle Creek wildfire, fish were not counted at Bonneville Dam on September 5 and were not counted for the full 16-hour daily time periods on September 4 or September 6. TAC met last week to adjust the partial counts and make estimates of passage on September 5. Count totals in this Fact Sheet will not match data posted on the Fish Passage Center website.
- Passage of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam from August 1 through September 26 is estimated to be 283,528 fish.
- The ten-year average percent complete at Bonneville Dam for the total Chinook run on September 26 is 90%. For bright-stock Chinook, the ten-year average proportion complete is 89% and for tules the proportion is 99%.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through September 26 is estimated to be 105,908 fish. Unclipped steelhead total 30,995 through September 25.
- Through September 26, Bonneville Dam passage of adult coho is estimated to be 44,375 fish. Counts have improved, but the cumulative count remains lower than the expected number.
- TAC met on September 25, 2017 to review the upriver runs of fall Chinook and summer steelhead and made the following updates:
  - TAC reviewed the passage of fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam and provided in-season updates to the upriver bright and tule stock run sizes. Passage of bright stocks is tracking consistent with pre-season expectations and TAC maintained the pre-season expectation for these stocks. TAC downgraded the BPH tule run based on reduced lower river harvest estimates. Given current information, TAC expects the Columbia River mouth return of fall Chinook to total 487,000 adult fish (79% of the pre-season forecast); this total includes 275,200 URB and 39,700 BPH.
  - Based on the recent five-year average run timing (92% complete by September 24) TAC now estimates the combined A/B-Index summer steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to be 113,200 fish. The A-Index run size is estimated to be 106,700 fish, including 78,800 hatchery and 27,900 wild steelhead based on expansions of

AFF sampling data along with assumptions of the recent 5-year average run timing for the hatchery and wild components. TAC updated the B-Index run size to 6,500 including 5,500 hatchery and 1,000 wild steelhead based on subtraction of the A-Index component from the combined run while using the pre-season assumption of wild/hatchery proportion.

- TAC will meet again on Monday October 2 and will provide further updates at that time.
- Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery has reported that broodstock collection nearing completion and they expect to have sufficient eggs for Spring Creek and will be able to provide additional eggs for the Bonneville Hatchery tulle program.
- The McNary Dam Chinook count through September 25 is 88,043 so the *U.S. v. Oregon* management goal of 60,000 has been met.

**River Conditions**

- The recent 5 day average Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam is currently 95.8 kcfs, which is similar to the ten-year average (2007-2016) of 95 kcfs.
- The recent 5 day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 66.0° F.

**2017 TREATY FISHERIES**

- 2017 treaty fall season catches are shown in the table below:

2017 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries							
Week	Fishery	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho
31-33	Platforms through 8/21	na	572	472	390	20	0
34	Aug 21-25 (4.5 days)	255	4,376	2,371	674	0	20
35	Aug 28-Sept 1 (4.5 days)	430	10,923	6,351	572	16	81
36	Sep 4-8 (4.5 days)	454	12,572	8,503	433	10	111
37	Sep 11-15 (4.5 days)	473	28,721	19,768	910	102	858
38	Sep 18-22 (4.5 days)	481	25,506	17,564	2,578	110	2,854
39	Sep 25-29 (4.5 days)	515	17,700	12,600	2,900	160	
40	Oct. 2-5 (3.5 days)	450	11,200	9,600	1,800	130	
	Total through Oct 5		111,570	77,229	10,257	548	3,924
	Late Fall Platforms		100	100	200	100	
	Total		111,670	77,329	10,457	648	3,924
	<b>Allowed at updated run size</b>			82,560		845	
	<b>Expected Harvest Rate by end of season</b>			28.1%		10.0%	
	<b>Remaining</b>			5,231		197	
	Remaining Harvest Rate			1.9%		3.0%	

- Catches for the platform and hook-and-line fishery (including fisheries downstream of Bonneville) in weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries is included in the total catches for those weeks (i.e.: 10,923 is the total Chinook catch for all fisheries occurring in week 35).
- Week 31-38 catches are preliminary. Week 39 and 40 catches are modeled projections. The tribes are also including estimates for late fall platform fisheries in with the total catches.
- Catches downstream of Bonneville Dam include 360 Chinook, 210 steelhead, and 40 coho. There was no change from the prior week as no additional catch was reported in the last two weeks.
- The treaty fishery model does not predict coho catches so there are no coho harvest projections for weeks 39 or 40.
- Chinook stock composition through week 38 is based on preliminary CWT data and current harvest estimates.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2017 Treaty Indian Fall Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Monday October 2 to 6 PM Thursday October 5	(3.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the standard (large) Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary.	
Gear:	Set and Drift gillnets with a 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction	
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 may not be sold, but 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.	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required as provided in WAC 220-352-180, for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.	

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. Aerial surveys will provide set net counts each week during the commercial gillnet season.
- Based on expected catches through the end of the season, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits for run sizes as low as 257,000 URBs and 4,984 B-Index steelhead.
- Platform and hook and line fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries do not require Compact action at this time.

## 2017 NON-INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

### *Select Area Fall Fisheries*

- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and scheduled to continue through mid-late October. Harvest through September 24 (Deep River harvest is only updated through September 16) includes 10,771 Chinook and 24,187 coho, which is below average (about 60% of the recent 10-year average combined catch).
- White sturgeon landings in fall Select Area fisheries through September 24 are approximately 210 fish, bringing the season total to 480 fish when combined with 270 white sturgeon landed during summer Select Area fisheries. An additional 713 white sturgeon were landed during Fall mainstem commercial fisheries, bringing the commercial total through September 24 to approximately 1,193 fish, or 96% of the 1,245 commercial white sturgeon harvest guideline.
- Considering recent weekly catch rates in Select Area fisheries, the commercial white sturgeon allocation may be reached by the end of this week (ending Sept 30).

<b><i>Recommendation: 2017 Select Area Commercial Fisheries</i></b>
Effective 12:01 AM Sunday October 1, 2017, the possession and sale of white sturgeon in Select area commercial fisheries is prohibited. All other previously adopted rules for this fishery remain in effect.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will recommend additional hearings as needed.