

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
 September 11, 2018**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon downstream of Bonneville Dam Mainstem recreational salmon upstream of Bonneville Dam (to Hwy 395) Select Area commercial salmon Select Area recreational salmon
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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 on-line. The 2018 Fall Report was distributed on July 17, 2018. Links to the on-line reports are: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Salmon/Steelhead

- Through September 10, a total of 105,795 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is 75% of expectations based on preseason forecasts. Bright and tule Chinook are tracking at 69% and 79% of expectations, respectively. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 10 based on the recent 5-year average run timing.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 68,569 combined A/B-Index fish.
- TAC met Monday, September 10 to review the fall Chinook and A/B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC considered available information for updating the fall Chinook return expectation at Bonneville Dam, but decided that uncertainty in the predictors warranted waiting for more information. The Chinook counts for both bright and tule type Chinook at Bonneville Dam are tracking less than expectations based on the 5-year average run timing; however, there is still uncertainty about the passage timing of the current run. TAC maintained the current total A- and B-Index steelhead run prediction of 96,500 at Bonneville Dam along with the unclipped prediction of 27,500. TAC intends to meet again tomorrow, Wednesday September 12, and expects to provide more information about the returns then.
- Based on passage through September 9 and recent 5-year average run timing, the cumulative bright return to Bonneville Dam is expected to be 150,900 fish. Based on dam counts and estimates of in-season fishery catch and stock composition, the URB run at the river mouth would be 141,100 fish. This is 69% of the preseason forecast and would be the lowest return since 2007. This is the run size staff used for modeling expected harvest rates (HR) shown below.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through September 10 total 16,985 early stock adult Coho. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 50% complete by September 11.
- Run size forecasts, stock descriptions, and management guidelines for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheets #1 and #2.

2018 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fishery

- Preseason planning for Chinook-directed mainstem commercial fisheries in Zones 4-5 assumed six fishing periods during the early fall (August) season with an expected catch of approximately 9,980 Chinook, assuming a harvest rate of 2.1% for Snake River wild fall Chinook.
- For the four fishing periods that actually occurred, landings total 8,369 Chinook, 380 Coho, and 409 white sturgeon. The Chinook catch represents 84% of preseason expectations.
- Stock composition based on CWT data indicates the SRW/URB harvest rate will be 2.0%, based on the estimated URB river mouth run size noted above.

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area fisheries have been ongoing since August 1. Landings through September 8 include 3,930 Chinook, 1,452 Coho, and 52 white sturgeon which are all below expectations. The SRW/URB harvest rate is 0.15%, or 75% of preseason expectations, based on catch estimates projected through September 12-13.

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery was open to adult Chinook retention during August 1-24 as planned preseason. The fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit. Total Chinook mortalities are expected to be approximately 12,950 fish through September 12, with a SRW/URB Chinook HR of 2.0%, or 118% of the 1.7% expected preseason.

Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The lower Columbia River recreational salmon fishery from Tongue/Rocky Point upstream to Warrior Rock was open to Chinook retention August 1 – September 2 as planned preseason. The fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit. Total Chinook mortalities are expected to be approximately 4,920 fish through September 12, with a SRW/URB Chinook HR of 2.6%, or 200% of the 1.3% expected preseason.
- For the area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, Chinook retention is currently scheduled to remain open through Friday September 14, after which retention will be limited to hatchery Coho. Through Sunday September 9, an estimated 4,267 kept (118 released) adult Chinook have been retained from 26,611 angler trips. Projected Chinook mortalities through September 12 total 5,330, with a SRW/URB HR of 1.6% (based on partial CWT data), or 73% of the 2.2% expected preseason.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam is ongoing and open for Chinook and Coho with a two fish/one Chinook daily bag limit. The fishery was planned to be managed in-season based on actual catches and the URB run size. Through September 9, an estimated 661 adult Chinook have been kept and 94 released from approximately 4,700 angler trips. The expected SRW/URB HR for the fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge through September 12 is 0.4%.

ESA Impacts in Non-Treaty Fisheries

- Assuming an URB run size of 141,100 fish, non-treaty fisheries are projected to accrue a SRW/URB HR of 8.73% through September 12, compared to the allowed rate of 8.25% outlined in the 2018-2027 *US v OR* Management Agreement.
- Sharing of URB/SRW impacts between recreational and non-treaty commercial fisheries through September 12 is estimated to be 76%/24% (sport/commercial), compared to preseason expectations of 70%/30%.

<p><i>Recommendation: 2018 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries</i></p> <p>Effective 12:01 AM Thursday September 13, angling for, and retention of, all salmon and steelhead is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, WA.</p>
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<p><i>Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Recreational Salmon Fisheries</i></p> <p>Effective 12:01 AM Thursday September 13, angling for, and retention of, all salmon and steelhead is prohibited in all Select Area fishing sites in Oregon and Washington.</p>

<p><i>Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Commercial Salmon Fisheries</i></p> <p>Effective 12:00 PM (noon) Thursday, September 13, ongoing commercial fisheries in all Select Area fishing sites in Oregon and Washington will close.</p>

- Passage of adult bright fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam is currently tracking about 69% of preseason expectations. Based on average run timing, estimated fishery catches and CWT analysis, non-treaty fisheries are projected to exceed ESA impact limits for URB/SRW fall Chinook.
- There is still uncertainty in the predictors for the Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam, and the current run size estimates will change over the next few weeks.
- The Joint Staff recommendations presented in this Fact Sheet are based on the best information available for fisheries and passage expectations.
- A river mouth run size of 149,500 URBs is needed for non-treaty fisheries to be at the 8.25% ESA limit.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 3 PM September 12 to consider Treaty commercial fisheries; however the tribes may request this hearing be rescheduled.