

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #7**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**September 22, 2016**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial gillnet fishery Buoy 10 recreational salmon fishery Lower Columbia River recreational fishery Non-Indian commercial seine salmon fishery
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*Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2016 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #1 (July 27,2016).*

**Stock Status**

- Passage at Bonneville Dam since August 1 totals 394,540 adult fall Chinook. TAC currently estimates a fall Chinook return of 802,200 adult fish to the Columbia River, which is 84% of the preseason forecast. The inseason forecast includes 478,200 upriver bright (URB) Chinook and 52,300 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook (579,600 and 100,700 preseason, respectively). Daily counts this week have continued to be less than expected.
- Passage at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 145,392 upriver summer steelhead. TAC currently estimates a steelhead run of 166,100 fish to Bonneville Dam, which is less than the preseason forecast of 256,200 fish. The inseason forecast includes 127,900 Group A stock, (preseason forecast of 230,400 fish) and 38,200 Group B stock (preseason forecast of 25,800). The Group B inseason forecast includes 5,200 wild fish, which is less than the preseason forecast of 7,400 wild fish.

**Treaty Indian Fisheries**

- Based on the updated Columbia River mouth forecasts of 478,200 URB fall Chinook along with 38,200 Group B steelhead, the corresponding impact limits under the MA for treaty Indian fisheries are 143,460 adult upriver bright fall Chinook and 7,640 B steelhead. Actual allowed catches are based on actual, not forecasted run sizes.
- The tribes are currently in the fifth weekly commercial gillnet fishery. Preliminary catches are available for the first four weeks along with a projection for the current week. The tribes have also modeled catches for a fishery next week. The preliminary and projected catches are shown in the table below.

<b>2016 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches)</b>					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead
Platforms through 8/21	na	1,358	962	950	60
Aug 22-26 (4.5 days)	423	9,196	8,203	725	88
Aug 29-Sept 2 (4.5 days)	454	19,517	13,803	514	74
Sep 5-9 (4.5 days)	644	47,112	31,975	1,641	336
Sep 12-16 (4.5 days)	703	30,152	20,897	1,684	330
Sept 19-23 (4.5 days) projected	586	23,300	17,100	1,700	660
Subtotal		130,635	92,940	7,214	1,548
Sept. 26-30 (4.5 days) modeled	575	18,600	15,600	1,400	700
Total		149,235	108,540	8,614	2,248

<b>Allowed at updated run size</b>	143,460	7,640
<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 23</b>	19%	4%
<b>Remaining after Sept 23</b>	50,520	6,092
<b>Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 23</b>	11%	16%
<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Sept. 30</b>	23%	6%
<b>Remaining After Sept. 30</b>	34,920	5,392
<b>Remaining harvest rate after Sept. 30</b>	7%	14%

- The above table includes a small amount of harvest from bank fishing downstream of Bonneville totaling 260 Chinook, 240 steelhead, and 30 Coho.
- Additionally, the total tribal Coho catch is 1,563 fish.
- The projected catch rates for this week and next week are based on recent-year average harvest rates scaled to observed catch rates so far this fall. Platform and hook and line harvest is included in the weekly gillnet projections for weeks with gillnet fishing.
- These fisheries are similar in structure to recent years. The tribes expect that there will be remaining URB and B steelhead impacts after next week and that there may be at least one more fishing period the following week.
- The Spring Creek Hatchery has begun spawning fish. Based on the examination of fish held for spawning, hatchery staff has indicated there are not as many females as previously thought. In an effort to help increase broodstock collection, the tribes will use the larger Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary next week.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2016 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 26 to 6 PM Friday September 30	(4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear including the standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary.	
Gear:	Gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh restriction	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. 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 and may be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes	
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.	

–Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Set-net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fishing time after this period.

–Zone 6 platform and hook-and-line fisheries have been open for both subsistence and commercial use and do not require Compact action, nor do Yakama tributary fisheries.

***Recreational Fisheries***

- Catch estimates for the Buoy 10 fishery include 17,673 Chinook and 8,522 Coho kept from 90,671 angler trips through September 18. This fishery is currently open under mark-selective regulations for Chinook through September 22 and is scheduled to re-open October 1 for any Chinook. Season total catch projections (including release mortalities) are estimated at 19,450 Chinook.
- The lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery downstream of Warrior Rock is open under mark-selective regulations for Chinook through September 22 and is scheduled to re-open October 1 for any Chinook. Season total catch projections (including release mortalities) are estimated at 12,500 Chinook.
- The LCR recreational fishery from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to remain open for Chinook through December. Season total catch projections (including release mortalities) are estimated at 13,800 Chinook.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 is scheduled to remain open through December 31. The season total catch projection for this fishery is 6,700 Chinook.
- Season objectives for the recreational fisheries have been met, although actual catch has been less than modeled preseason, especially in the Buoy 10 fishery. Fisheries downstream of Warrior Rock have been modified in-season to allow for additional Chinook harvest opportunity through September 22.
- Based on the current Chinook run size projections and associated ESA impacts, some additional opportunity for Chinook retention exists.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2016 Buoy 10 and LCR Recreational Fisheries</i></b>	
Action:	Extend the current regulations through September 30
Area:	From a true north and south line through Buoy 10 upstream to the Warrior Rock deadline.

–Extending the mark-selective regulations for Chinook through September 30 will allow both fisheries to retain hatchery Chinook until October 1 when permanent regulations take effect that allow for retention of any Chinook (clipped or unclipped). Area-specific bag limits remain in place. All other permanent regulations remain in place.

–Catch estimates for the proposed fishery would include less than 1,000 Chinook mortalities. Season total Chinook mortalities are projected to total 19,500 for Buoy 10 and 27,200 for the LCR mainstem fishery.

***Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries***

- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and scheduled to continue through October. Harvest through September 19 includes 12,241 Chinook and 23,478 Coho, which is less than average.
- The Early Fall fishery consisted of 11 fishing periods in Zone 4-5 during August 7-31. These periods were nine hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Catch includes 46,615 Chinook and 427 Coho.

- The Late Fall fishery is underway with three periods currently scheduled. One Zone 4-5 period occurred on September 18 and another is scheduled for tonight. One Zone 1-5 period is scheduled for September 28. Actual landings from September 18 included 7,022 Chinook. Catch expectations for the remaining two periods combined range from 7,500 to 9,500 Chinook.
- Currently the harvest model includes 3,000 Chinook for October Chinook-directed fishing periods. Coho tangle net fishing periods, although minimal, are anticipated in early October; about 1,200 Chinook are set aside for these periods.
- The seine fishery is underway, with the final two days scheduled for September 26 and September 28. Landings through September 21 total 982 adult Chinook and 361 adult Coho (36% and 18% respectively, of the 2,700 Chinook and 2,000 Coho set aside for seine fisheries).
- With only two scheduled periods remaining for the seine fishery and harvestable fish remaining on the permits issued, additional fishing opportunity can be considered.

***Recommendation: 2016 Commercial Seine Fishery***

Extend the current season to include: September 27, September 29, and September 30 (3 days)

All other regulations currently in place remain the same, including open hours and allowable sales.

–The proposed fishery will provide additional opportunity to access harvestable hatchery salmon assigned to each permit.

–The recommendation is supported by the seine permit holders.

***Non-Treaty Impact Summary***

- Given current run size estimates, season total ESA impacts for actual, on-going, planned, and proposed non-treaty fisheries are projected as follows:
  - LRH impacts at 31.7% (of 41.0%) and URB impacts at 14.75% (of 15.0%).
    - Staff estimates a URB run size of around 465,000 fish would result in an ESA impact of 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
  - Wild Group A steelhead at 0.9% and Wild Group B steelhead at 1.3% (of 2.0% each).
    - Staff estimates a wild Group B run size of 3,500 fish would result in an ESA impact of 2% for non-treaty fisheries.

***Future Hearings***

- Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Thursday September 29 via teleconference to consider treaty commercial fisheries, non-Indian commercial fisheries, and review ongoing recreational fisheries.