

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 11**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**October 11,2016**

***Fisheries under consideration:*** Treaty Commercial Gillnet fishery

*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 most recent report is the 2016 Fall Report (July 12, 2016). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

### **STOCK STATUS**

- Passage at Bonneville Dam since August 1 totals 428,819 adult fall Chinook through October 6. For the fifth consecutive week, the U.S. v OR Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) downgraded the fall Chinook return on October 3 and currently estimates 707,600 adult fish will return to the Columbia River, both upriver and lower river stocks. This total includes 418,400 upriver bright (URB) Chinook and 45,200 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook.
- Passage at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 166,023 upriver summer steelhead through October 6. TAC has not revised the estimated steelhead run of 171,200 fish to Bonneville Dam. The current forecast includes 129,200 Group A stock (31,900 wild), and 42,000 Group B stock (6,400 wild). All components of the return are less than preseason forecasts except for the Group B hatchery return, which is greater than forecasted.
- The early run (prior to October) coho run size at Bonneville Dam was 29,908 adults, substantially less than the pre-season prediction of 47,200. The late run forecast to Bonneville is 37,100 adult fish. October counts will need to be much higher than the observed counts in the first few days of October in order for the run to reach the forecast run size. Based on previous year's PIT tag data, most coho returning to areas upstream of The Dalles Dam tend to pass Bonneville in September. Klickitat coho tend to be later timed.

### **2016 Treaty Indian Fisheries**

- Based on the updated Columbia River mouth forecasts of 418,400 URB fall Chinook and 42,000 Group B-steelhead, the corresponding impact limits under the MA for treaty Indian fisheries are 125,520 adult upriver bright fall Chinook and 8,400 B steelhead. Actual allowed catches are based on actual, not forecast run sizes.
- The tribes are currently in the eighth weekly commercial gillnet fishery. Preliminary catches are available for the first six weeks along with projections for the previous and current weeks. The tribes have also modeled catches for a fishery next week. The preliminary and projected catches are shown in the table below.

2016 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary catches)					
Fishery	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead
Platforms through 8/20	na	1,358	962	950	60
Aug 22-26 (4.5 days)	423	8,977	8,007	725	88
Aug 29-Sept 2 (4.5 days)	454	19,355	13,804	514	74
Sep 5-9 (4.5 days)	644	47,183	32,169	1,641	336
Sep 12-16 (4.5 days)	703	30,153	20,078	1,691	331
Sept 19-23 (4.5 days)	586	17,815	11,940	2,236	950
Sept. 26-30 (4.5 days)	440	8,151	5,561	2,183	965
Oct. 3-7 (4.5 days) projected	297	4,000	3,000	1,500	977
Oct. 10-14 (4.5 days) projected	220	1,205	953	1,333	844
Subtotal		138,197	96,474	12,773	4,625
Oct. 17-21 (4.5 days) modeled	220	1205	953	1333	844
Total		139,402	97,427	14,106	5,469
<b>Allowed at updated run size</b>			125,520		8,400
<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 14</b>			23%		11%
<b>Remaining After Oct 14</b>			29,046		3,775
<b>Remaining harvest rate after Oct 14</b>			7%		9%
<b>Expected Harvest Rate by Oct 21</b>			23%		13%
<b>Remaining After Oct 21</b>			28,093		2,931
<b>Remaining harvest rate after Oct 21</b>			7%		7%

- The above table includes a small amount of harvest from bank fishing downstream of Bonneville totaling 290 Chinook, 260 steelhead, and 50 coho.
- Additionally, the total tribal coho catch is 3,814.

- The projected catch rates for this week is based on recent year average harvest rates scaled to observed catch rates so far this fall. Next week's projected catch rates assumes the same conditions as this week in order to be conservative. 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 the tribes may consider an additional fishing period the following week.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has met its egg take goal. The Snake River fall Chinook production programs will also meet their egg take goals. WDFW staff have estimated that the natural origin return of Chinook to the Hanford Reach is just over 107,000 fish.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2016 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	6 AM Monday October 17 to 6 PM Friday October 21 (4.5 days)
<b>Area:</b>	Zone 6
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary will be 150 feet around the hatchery ladder.
<b>Gear:</b>	Gill nets with no minimum mesh restriction.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	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.
<b>Additional:</b>	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.

- The tribes have opted to remove the minimum mesh size restriction for next week’s opening to allow fishers continued flexibility in the gear used next week. The tribes estimate this will make only a very small difference in catch as effort is expected to continue to drop as the Chinook run declines. The tribes do not expect many of the remaining fishers to switch gear at this late stage in the fishery, but a few will. The tribes are well within their allowed harvest limit on B steelhead and any increase in B steelhead catch is expected to be small. Most A- run steelhead have passed through Zone 6 already.
- 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.
- Dam operations in Zone 6 this week will require some precaution taken on the part of the Treaty fishermen in order to keep people safe and protect fishing gear. On October 13, The Dalles dam will not be generating any electricity between the hours of 1130 – 2030. During this time the dam will continue to discharge a minimum of 50 kcfs of water through a combination of the spillway, sluiceway and the North Wasco turbine. In order to meet the Bonneville minimum discharge of 80 kcfs the BON pool will need to make up the additional water that will not be coming out of The Dalles. At this time the tributary rivers below The Dalles dam are putting in ~8 kcfs. This changes will likely result in the Bonneville pool exceeding the 1.5’ treaty fishing range. In preparation for this operation, there will be an attempt to store water in Bonneville to be drafted out during The Dalles outage. Fill will most likely be spread across the 11th -12th with draft occurring on the 13th. For the Dalles, John Day and McNary pools they will likely be lowered starting on the 11th through the 12th to allow them to store water while the outage is occurring on the 13th. Unfortunately load uncertainty, flow uncertainty and actual duration of the outage are all variables so the exact outcome is not predictable, which underscores need for precautions to be taken on the part of the fishers.