COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10a
Columbia River Compact
September 24, 2019

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty mainstem commercial salmon

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 2019 Fall Report was distributed on July 22, 2019. Links to the on-line reports are: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports or http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam was 93.3kcfs as of September 23, which is similar to the ten-year average for this date. Flows have been fluctuating.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 69.3°F as of September 23, which is close to the recent ten-year average.

STOCK STATUS

- The U.S. vs OR Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday September 23, 2019 to review and discuss information relative to the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead return, the upriver fall Chinook return, and the upriver component of the early-stock Coho return. TAC maintained the current 2019 aggregate A-/B-Index return expectation of 69,200 fish based on Bonneville Dam passage to date and recent ten-year average passage timing; the passage expectation includes 34,300 unclipped natural- and hatchery-origin fish. TAC did upgrade the projection for the B-Index component; this upgrade has the effect of reducing the expectation for the A-Index component. Of the aggregate return, TAC now expects 64,700 of these fish to be A-Index (32,600 unclipped) and 4,500 to be B-Index (1,700 unclipped). TAC updated the 2019 upriver bright and tule stock fall Chinook Bonneville Dam passage expectation. Given the information currently available, TAC expects the Columbia River mouth return of fall Chinook to total 355,900 adult fish (102% of preseason forecast). This total includes 173,100 URBs, 68,900 PUBs, and 33,700 BPH. The bright stock return is expected to be greater than the preseason forecast while the BPH stock component is expected to be less than forecast. TAC updated the expected passage of upriver early-stock Coho at Bonneville Dam to 53,500 adults. This in-season projection is about 40% of the preseason expectation. TAC will continue to monitor the steelhead, Chinook, and Coho returns and will provide additional in-season updates when available. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, September 30.
- Through September 23, a total of 224,034 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Passage of the total Chinook run is Chinook is typically 85.9% complete by September 23. The clip rate for chinook is 36.1%
- The bright chinook count through September 23 is 190,859. The adult aged tule count through September 23 is 24,707.
• Chinook jack passage to date is 35,295 which is above last year but well below the 10-year average to date of 66,166.
• The adult Chinook count at McNary Dam is 74,985 through September 23. Based on 10-year average run timing, the run at McNary would be 65.4% complete.
• Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 63,714 total A/B Index fish of which 31,956 are unclipped. The total A/B Index steelhead run is typically 94% complete by September 24. The counts for unclipped fish total slightly more than the clipped hatchery fish. This has not been observed since clipped and unclipped counts for steelhead began at Bonneville Dam in 1994.
• TAC will continue to monitor the steelhead and Chinook returns and will provide additional in-season updates when available. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, September 23.
• Run year counts at Bonneville Dam through September 23 total 46,490 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). The total to date is more than last year (25,749) but less than the 10-year average passage to date of 60,060. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 86.5% complete by September 23. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 17.9%.
• The Coho jack count to date is 3,795 This is less than last year and less than the ten-year average to date of 3,984.
• Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in the 2019 Fall Fact Sheet #1.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead
• The 2018-2027 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho.
  • The allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 31.25% of the URB run based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 23% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-treaty fisheries.
  • The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
  • The management goal for adult fall Chinook at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
  • The allowable non-treaty impact rates for wild summer steelhead (A-Index and B-Index) during fall fisheries is 2% each.
  • Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead.
  • The goal for upriver Coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
  • Fisheries are managed based on preseason forecasts until in-season run size updates become available.
2019 Treaty Indian Fall Fisheries

- Fall management period platform and hook and line fisheries began August 1. Early August catches are generally low. Low levels of fishing just downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to occur.

- Commercial gillnet fisheries typically begin in mid to late August. Given uncertainties about run sizes, the tribes chose to begin gillnet fisheries in late August this year.

- The tribes also allowed a limited amount of ceremonial permit gillnet fishing during the week of August 19 to help meet needs for fish that were not met in the spring and summer management periods.

- Four weekly commercial gillnet fisheries have been conducted and the fifth one is in progress.

- Preliminary harvest estimates along with projections for this week and next are presented in the table below. TAC updated run sizes were used to model fisheries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31-34 Preliminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 Preliminary</td>
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<td>35 Preliminary</td>
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<td>36 Preliminary</td>
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<td>37 Preliminary</td>
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<td>38 Preliminary</td>
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<td>39 Preliminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
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<tr>
<td>39 Preliminary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- Catches for platform and hook and line fisheries in weeks with commercial gillnet openings are included in the gillnet estimate.

- The tribes have planned an additional commercial gillnet opening and will adopt regulations consistent with the following.
2019 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Gillnet Fishery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seasons:</th>
<th>Extend the ongoing gillnet fishery through 6 PM Thursday September 26. (3.5 days total)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Area:</td>
<td>All of Zone 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanctuaries:</td>
<td>Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear, including the Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary are in effect.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gear:</td>
<td>Set and Drift gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowable Sales:</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional:</td>
<td>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- Extending the fishery this week is expected to catch an additional 20 B-Index Steelhead over the current two night fishery.
- Based on expected catches through September 28, the treaty fishery would be within its allowed limits even at lower than forecast run sizes.
- This includes reserving B-Index steelhead for late fall platform and hook and line fishing. Recent year’s late fall platform fisheries have harvested up to 60 B-Index steelhead.
- The preliminary harvest of adult aged BPH stock is expected to total 16,400 through the end of this week.
- The projected catches through the week ending September 28 (plus expected late fall platform catches) will be within the URB harvest rate limit down to a run size of 118,743 and will be within the B-Index steelhead run size limit down to a run size of 1,523.
- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remains within management limits. Set net counts will be made by air for each week of commercial gillnet fishing. State and tribal staff work collaboratively to ensure biological sampling of fall season fisheries occurs and that data are shared regularly.
- Platform and hook and line fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville, and Yakama Nation tributary fisheries do not require Compact action at this time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- There is a Compact Hearing scheduled for 11:00 AM Wednesday, September 25 via teleconference to consider mainstem commercial salmon fisheries.
Fisheries under consideration: Non-treaty mainstem recreational salmon and steelhead

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STOCK STATUS

Salmon/Steelhead

- Through September 23, an estimated 215,566 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which similar to preseason expectations.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 63,714 total A/B-Index fish.
- Counts of early stock Coho at Bonneville Dam from August 1 through September 23 total 46,486 adults which is less than expectations.
- The U.S. vs OR Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 23, 2019 to review and discuss the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead return, the upriver fall Chinook return, and the upriver component of the early-stock Coho return.
  - TAC maintained the current 2019 aggregate A-/B-Index return expectation of 69,200 fish including 34,300 unclipped natural- and hatchery-origin fish. TAC upgraded the B-Index projection which has the effect of reducing the expectation for the A-Index component. TAC now expects 64,700 A-Index steelhead (32,600 unclipped) and 4,500 B-Index steelhead (1,700 unclipped) to pass Bonneville Dam in 2019.
  - TAC updated the 2019 upriver fall Chinook Bonneville Dam passage expectation. Given the information available, TAC expects the Columbia River mouth return to total 355,900 adult fall Chinook (102% of preseason forecast) which includes 173,100 URBs, 68,900 PUBs, and 33,700 BPH. The bright stock return is expected to be greater than the preseason forecast while the BPH stock component is expected to be less than forecast.
  - TAC updated the expected passage of upriver early-stock Coho at Bonneville Dam to 53,500 adults. This in-season projection is about 40% of the preseason expectation.

- Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in the 2019 Fall Fact Sheet #1.
RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 80.7 kcfs, which is lower than the recent ten-year average for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 68°F which is higher than the recent 10-year average (67°F) for this date.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The 2018-2027 U.S. vs Oregon Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho.
  - The allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty Chinook fisheries is 31.25% of the URB run based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the surrogate for SRW Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 23% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-treaty fisheries.
  - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
  - The management goal for adult fall Chinook at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
  - The allowable non-treaty impact rates for wild summer steelhead (A-Index and B-Index) during fall fisheries is 2% each.
  - Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian impacts are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead.
  - The goal for upriver Coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
  - The ESA impact limit to LCR tule fall Chinook is 38% in 2019 given the pre-season forecast. Harvest of LRH stock is the surrogate for LCR Chinook. This exploitation rate (ER) limit includes impacts in ocean and Columbia River fisheries combined.
  - In 2019, fishery impacts to LCN Coho are limited to a 23% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.

2019 NON-TREATY FALL RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery
- The Buoy 10 fishery was open to adult Chinook retention during August 1–20 as planned preseason. The fishery remains open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit.

Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries
- The lower Columbia River salmon fishery from Puget Island upstream to Warrior Rock was open to Chinook retention August 1–27 as planned preseason; Chinook retention in the area from Tongue Point to Puget Island was open concurrent with the Buoy 10 fishery. The fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit.
- For the area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, Chinook retention was open through Thursday, September 5. The fishery is currently open to retention of hatchery Coho with a two-fish daily bag limit.
• The fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam is ongoing and is currently open for Chinook and Coho with a one salmonid daily bag limit. Preseason plans were to manage this fishery in-season based on actual catches and the URB run size.

• A summary of actual and projected fall Chinook and URB mortalities in mainstem recreational fisheries is provided below:

| Estimated fall Chinook mortalities (kept and release mortalities) in 2019 mainstem recreational fisheries (projected through Sept 25) |
|---|---|---|
| Area | Total Catch$^a$ | URB Catch$^a$ |
| Buoy 10 | 14,499 | 2,080 |
| TP-WR | 2,817 | 1,933 |
| WR-Bonn | 5,765 | 3,869 |
| Bonn-McNary | 4,392 | 2,938 |
| Sum | 27,473 | 10,819 |
| Total Allowable URBs (9/23 TAC update) | | 9,997 |
| Recreational URB Balance | | (823) |
| Non-retention URBs (thru December) | | 450 |
| Recreational URB balance | | (1,273) |

$^a$ Includes release mortalities

Mainstem Steelhead Recreational Fisheries

• Preseason plans for 2019 summer-fall recreational steelhead fisheries included actions designed to reduce steelhead take including reduced bag limits (one fish when open), area-specific steelhead retention closures, and night fishing closures.

• In response to subsequent in-season run downgrades for upriver steelhead, the states of Washington and Oregon expanded time/area-specific hatchery steelhead closures in the mainstem Columbia River as described below:

  Buoy 10 upstream to John Day Dam: Aug 1 – Sep 30

  John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam: Sep 30 – Oct 31

  McNary Dam upstream to the OR/WA Border (upstream of McNary Dam): Oct 1 – Nov 30.

Rationale/Recommendations

• Even though yesterday’s URB run upgrade provided for additional SRW/URB take, kept catch in the Bonneville-Hwy 395 recreational fishery, and the proportion estimated as URB stock, were both considerably higher than expected resulting in exceedance of the recreational SRW sub-allocation.

• Based on the current URB run size and catch estimates, recreational fisheries are expected to utilize 79% of the non-treaty URB/SRW allocation assuming the Bonneville-Hwy 395 fishery closes effective Thursday September 26 and all Coho-directed recreational fisheries remain open through December.
- Closing all salmon retention from Buoy 10 to Hwy 395 effective September 26 would result in an allocation usage of 76% recreational and 24% commercial, assuming non-treaty commercial fisheries can access their remaining allocation.

- Since few URB mortalities would be expected to occur in the Buoy 10 fishery from this point forward (16 fish), maintaining Coho-directed opportunity in this fishery could be considered.

- Due to continued concerns regarding upriver steelhead returns, especially to B-Index steelhead hatchery programs in the Snake River, state staff recommend that steelhead retention remain closed upstream of Bonneville Dam for the duration of 2019.

- Due to declining abundances of summer steelhead in the lower Columbia River, ongoing and planned fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam beginning November 1 will not impact summer steelhead and will be shifting focus to winter steelhead fishing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation: 2019 Mainstem Recreational Fishery</th>
<th>Buoy 10 upstream to Bonneville Dam</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective 12:01 AM Thursday, September 26, through Thursday, October 31, angling for and retention of salmon and steelhead is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Buoy 10 line upstream to Bonneville Dam. All other permanent regulations remain in effect.</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation: 2019 Mainstem Recreational Fishery</th>
<th>Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Effective 12:01 AM Thursday, September 26, through December 31, angling for and retention of salmon and steelhead is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge, near Pasco, WA. All other permanent regulations remain in effect.</td>
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**Non-Treaty Fisheries ESA Impact Summary**

- Considering information currently available, non-treaty fisheries (including completed, ongoing, and planned fisheries) are expected to remain within the ESA constraints for both salmon and steelhead through the remainder of the management guideline seasons.
  - Total exploitation rate of lower Columbia River (LCR) Chinook is not expected to exceed 38% for the combined ocean and in-river fisheries.
  - SRW impacts are not expected to exceed the in-river non-treaty 8.25% ESA impact limit with the proposed salmon fishery closure.
  - Impacts to wild A-Index and wild B-Index steelhead are currently projected at 0.5% and 0.9%, respectively.
  - Impacts to Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) Coho are not expected to exceed the 23% exploitation rate for ocean and in-river fisheries.
FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled for 11 AM Wednesday September 25 to consider mainstem non-treaty commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor stock status and ongoing fisheries, and recommend additional hearings as needed.