OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 27, 2020

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-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 online. The 2020 Fall Report was distributed on July 22, 2020. Links to the online reports are:
https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports or
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp

STOCK STATUS

Salmon/Steelhead

- Through August 26, a total of 50,282 adult fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam which is higher than would be expected given the preseason forecasts and average run timing. Over the last 10 years, the average 50% complete date has been September 10.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 63,355 A/B-Index fish.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on August 24 to review the A/B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC stated that, based on the recent 10-year average passage timing, the aggregate run and the unclipped component are tracking consistent with the preseason forecast.
- Counts at Bonneville Dam through August 26 total 4,405 adult early stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1), which is consistent with expectations. Passage of upriver early stock Coho is typically 50% complete by September 11.
- Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall 2020 Fact Sheet #1.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flow at Bonneville Dam is currently 137.9 kcfs, which is the same as the recent ten-year average of 138.0 kcfs for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 70°F at Bonneville Dam which is lower than the recent 10-year average of 71.1°F. This year, Bonneville Dam water temperature briefly peaked at 72°F in early August.

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 45% of the upriver bright stock (URB) return based on preseason forecasts (URB stock is the

surrogate for Snake River wild (SRW) Chinook). This impact limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.

- However, due to non-treaty fisheries exceeding allowed harvest rates in recent years, and the breakpoint in the harvest rate schedule being well within the margin of historical forecast error, a conservative approach to preseason fishery planning is being utilized. All fisheries incorporate a split-season structure which limits the combined non-treaty URB/SRW harvest rate (HR) to 8.25% prior to an in-season run-size update. The initial URB run-size update typically occurs in mid-September. Additional fishing opportunity is planned to access the full 15% HR if the URB run size is projected to be at least 200,000 adults in-season.
- 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.

- The ESA impact limit to LCR tule fall Chinook is 38% in 2020 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 2020, fishery impacts to LCN Coho are limited to an 18% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.

2020 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- At the July 30, 2020 Compact Hearing, seven commercial fishing periods in Zones 4-5 were adopted for the early fall (August) portion of the season. Based on preseason modeling, this season structure had an expected catch of approximately 13,150 adult Chinook (including 5,970 URBs), assuming an impact rate of 2.6% for Snake River wild fall Chinook.
- Landings for the initial five periods (between August 10-25) total 11,833 Chinook, 198 Coho, and 321 white sturgeon. Estimated handle of summer steelhead in this fishery is lower than modeled preseason.
- Preliminary adult stock composition based on coded-wire tag (CWT) recoveries through August 25 indicates URB Chinook were less abundant in the catch, and BPH Chinook more abundant, than modeled preseason. Actual stock proportions were 14% LRH (preseason: 9%), 42% BPH (30%), 34% URB (50%), 7% PUB (11%), and 2% LRB (<1%).
- Although landings to date have been higher than expected, the relative rate of SRW impact accumulation has been lower. Through the initial five periods, the fishery has accrued an estimated 3,865 adult URB mortalities out of the 5,970 allocated for the early fall season.

- The 6th fishing period just concluded at 6:00 am today so formal estimates of catch and stock composition are not yet available. Initial reports suggest that catches were spotty and landings will likely be somewhat lower than the initial period this week; visual inspection of the landed Chinook indicates the proportion of bright stocks in the catch was slightly lower than what has been observed to date.
- Based on available information, it appears the majority of the URB sub-allocation planned preseason for August mainstem non-treaty commercial fisheries has been achieved; therefore, not enough URBs remain available for the currently scheduled August 31 period.

Recommendation: 2020 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery
Rescind the mainstem non-treaty commercial fishing period previously adopted for 9 PM Monday August 31 to 6 AM Tuesday September 1.

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- 2020 fall Select Area commercial fisheries began August 4 in Youngs Bay. Landings through August 20 have been extremely poor with only 74 Chinook and 9 Coho delivered.
- Fisheries in the Tongue Point/South Channel and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough sites opened this week (August 24). Reports for the initial period suggest catch was low in these sites as well.

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery opened to Chinook and hatchery Coho retention August 14 as planned preseason. The fishery is currently open to Chinook retention through August 27 and is planned to remain open to retention of hatchery Coho with a one-fish daily bag limit after that date. As of August 26, approximately 12,000 Chinook have been kept (3,600 released) along with 2,500 kept Coho (4,000 released) from about 48,800 angler trips. Total Chinook mortalities are tracking consistent with preseason expectations for the Chinook retention period.

Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The lower Columbia River recreational salmon fishery from Tongue Point/Rocky Point upstream to Warrior Rock is currently open to retention of Chinook and hatchery Coho. As planned preseason, the subarea between Tongue Point/Rocky Point and Puget Island is open August 14-27 (i.e. concurrent with the Buoy 10 fishery) while the subarea between Puget Island and Warrior Rock is scheduled to be open August 1-31. Through August 23 about 2,100 Chinook have been kept along with 20 Coho from 16,200 angler trips. An additional 46 Chinook, 16 Coho, and 100 steelhead have been released. Total Chinook mortalities were tracking ahead of preseason expectations for the retention period, but appear to have moderated this week.
- For the area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, Chinook and hatchery Coho retention is currently scheduled to be open on a three-day-per-week schedule (Friday-Sunday) from August 7 through September 6. Through August 23 about 350 Chinook have been kept (47 released) from 6,300 angler trips. An additional 180 steelhead have been released; no Coho have been observed in the catch. Chinook catch is tracking ahead of preseason expectations; however, overall catch has been low, as expected at this point in the season.

- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam is ongoing and is planned to be open for Chinook and Coho retention through September 8 with a one salmonid daily bag limit. Through August 23, an estimated 123 adult Chinook have been kept (2 released) from approximately 1,200 angler trips.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM September 3 to consider Treaty commercial fisheries. The Joint Staff will continue to monitor recreational salmonid fisheries and will recommend additional hearings as needed.