OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 13
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 22, 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 most recent reports are available at the following links: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports or https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of October 22, the flow at Bonneville Dam was ~94 kcfs, which is lower than the recent ten-year average for this date (104 kcfs).
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 60°F which is matches the recent 10-year average.

STOCK STATUS

Salmon/Steelhead

- Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall 2020 Fact Sheet #1.
- Through October 21, a total of 389,844 adult-sized and 57,756 jack-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 107,341 A/B-Index fish.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has been meeting regularly through the fall management season to review salmon and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and harvest in fall season fisheries. The most recent in-season run projections include:
  - URB Fall Chinook – 295,200
  - BPH Fall Chinook – 52,500
  - A-Index summer steelhead – 77,200 (33,600 unclipped)
  - B-Index summer steelhead – 32,300 (8,600 unclipped)
  - Early-stock Coho @ Bonneville Dam – 91,649
  - Late-stock Coho @ Bonneville Dam – 43,000

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.
  - Based on the in-season URB forecast exceeding 200,000 fish, the allowable impact rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the upriver bright stock (URB) return (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.

- 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 lower Columbia River (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 combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.
- In 2020, fishery impacts to LCN Coho are limited to an 18% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.

2020 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

Late-Fall Tangle-Net Commercial Salmon Fisheries

- The late-fall tangle net fishery began September 30 with eleven fishing periods (5 AM-6 PM) scheduled through Friday October 23. Preliminary landings (adults and jacks) through the initial 9 periods include 4,732 hatchery Coho and 864 Chinook from an average of 19 deliveries per period.
- Participating fishers have expressed interest in additional opportunity to provide fish for established markets. Ex-vessel prices for adult Coho and bright Chinook remain around $2/pound.
- Based on the current run size projections and results for completed and ongoing fisheries, sufficient ESA-impacts remain for additional non-treaty commercial fishing opportunity.

Recommendation: 2020 Non-Treaty Tangle Net Commercial Fishery		
Season:	5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 26 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 28 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 30	(13 hours each)
Area:	Zones 1-3. Upper deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A	

Gear:	Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net. Red corks at 25-fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline. The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is prohibited. Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad; all coho must be adipose fin-clipped. Sturgeon may not be possessed or sold.
Regulations:	Regulations typically in place for mark-selective commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, tangle-net certification, etc. **Soak times**, defined as the time elapsed from when the first mesh of the net is deployed into the water until the last mesh of the net is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 30 minutes. **Recovery Box**: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking. **Measuring mesh size**: Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the outside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact **Live Capture workshop:** Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.
Additional Rules:	**Multiple net rule in effect**: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. **Lighted Buoys:** Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required **24-hour** quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

- The expected landings for the proposed fishery include about 400 hatchery Coho adults and less than 50 Chinook.
- Since the proposed fishery is very late in the return, impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be negligible (0.00% for A-Index and 0.01% for B-Index).
- Due to the on-going COVID-19 situation, staff does not intend to conduct onboard monitoring of the proposed fisheries. Agency boats have conducted on-the-water observation periodically throughout the fishery.

Non-treaty ESA Fall Season Impacts

- For completed, ongoing, and proposed non-treaty recreational and commercial fisheries, projected season-total impacts are not expected to exceed:
  - URB/SRW Fall Chinook – 12.8% (15% allowed)
  - LCR tule Fall Chinook – 14.5% (14.6% available)
  - A-Index summer steelhead – 0.5% (2.0% allowed)
  - B-Index summer steelhead – 1.0% (2.0% allowed)
  - LCN Coho – 15.6% (18% allowed)
  - LCR Chum – 0.8% (5% allowed)

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. Staff will continue to monitor the fisheries and stock status, and may request an additional hearing if warranted.