**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12**
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**
**October 6, 2020**

| ***Fisheries under consideration:*** | Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon |
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*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 5, the flow at Bonneville Dam was 111 kcfs, which is higher than the recent ten-year average for this date (99 kcfs).
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is currently 65°F which is slightly warmer than the recent 10-year average of 64.4°F.

## STOCK STATUS

### *Salmon/Steelhead*

- Run size forecasts and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall 2020 Fact Sheet #1.
- Through October 5, a total of 373,082 adult-sized and 54,586 jack-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam.
- McNary Dam fall Chinook passage through October 5 totals 164,334 adult Chinook. The fall Chinook run at McNary is typically 87% complete based on 10-year average run timing.
- USFWS staff at Spring Creek Hatchery report that Chinook broodstock needs have been met.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 105,368 A/B-Index fish.
- The *U.S. vs OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday, October 5 to review salmon and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and harvest in fall season fisheries.
  - TAC updated the in-season projections for adult bright and tule fall Chinook returning to the Columbia River mouth. Projections for URB, PUB, and BPH stocks are now 295,200, 88,800, and 52,500, respectively (total of 435,500 upriver fish). Given the preseason forecasts for lower river stocks, the total fall Chinook return is now expected to include 514,500 adults (22% greater than the preseason forecast).
  - TAC updated the in-season projection for A-Index and B-Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. Given current information, TAC now expects 77,200 total A-Index fish (including 33,600 unclipped) which is 90% of preseason forecast, and 32,300 B-Index fish (8,600 unclipped) which is 336% of forecast. The A-Index projections were based on the recent 10-year average run timing while the B-Index passage projections assume their timing is five days earlier than the recent 10- year average. The aggregate A-/B-Index abundance is expected to total 109,500 fish.

- The total return of early-stock Coho (defined as those passing through September 30) was 91,649 adults. The pre-season forecast for Coho returning to Bonneville Dam was 33,880 early stock fish. The late stock count at Bonneville Dam through October 4 is 6,236. The late stock pre-season forecast was 9,400. While the late stock counts are tracking ahead of expectations, it is too early to update the run.

## 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

***Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery***

- The Buoy 10 fishery was open to Chinook and hatchery Coho retention August 14-27 as planned preseason. In-season action was taken to increase the daily bag limit to two fish effective September 5 and allow Chinook retention (1 fish per day) on September 5-6, September 11-13, and again effective September 19. The Buoy 10 fishery (and other fisheries upstream) are currently open to retention of hatchery Coho and Chinook with a two-fish daily adult bag limit. Through September 27, total adult Chinook mortalities (kept + released) are approximately 15,322 fish. Adult Coho catches include an estimated 6,191 kept and 7,549 released.

***Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries***

- The lower Columbia River recreational salmon fishery from the West Puget Island (WPI) line upstream to Warrior Rock was initially open to retention of Chinook and hatchery Coho August 1-31. The area from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point to WPI was open August 14-27. The full area from Tongue Point/Rocky Point to Warrior Rock was opened via in-season action from September 11-13 and again effective September 19. Preliminary catch estimates through September 30 include 7,969 adult Chinook and 630 Coho kept from ~38,600 angler trips. An additional 243 Chinook, 437 Coho, and 153 steelhead have been released.
- For the area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam, Chinook and hatchery Coho retention was open on a three-day-per-week schedule (Friday-Sunday) during August 7 through September 6. As with the other areas, Chinook retention was allowed during September 11-13 and again effective Sept 19 via in-season action. Preliminary estimates through September 20 include 9,083 adult Chinook and 436 Coho kept from ~38,100 angler trips. An additional 449 Chinook, 209 Coho, and 198 steelhead have been released.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam was open for Chinook retention from August 1 through September 8, as planned preseason. This area also reopened to Chinook retention for September 11-13 and again beginning September 19. Through October 4, approximately 4,660 adult Chinook and 210 adult Coho have been kept from ~16,900 angler trips. An additional 277 Chinook, 334 Coho, and 128 steelhead have been released.

***Mainstem Commercial Salmon Fisheries***

- Landings for the early fall mainstem non-treaty commercial fishery (six periods during August 10-27) total 16,612 Chinook (4,773 URBs), 348 Coho, and 406 white sturgeon.
- Preliminary landings for the late fall mainstem Zone 4-5 non-treaty commercial fishery (four periods during Sept 15-Oct 1) include 14,596 Chinook, 2,307 Coho, and 161 white sturgeon.
- The late fall tangle net fishery began September 30 with eleven fishing periods (5 AM-6 PM) scheduled through October 23. Preliminary landings for the initial two periods include 2,013 hatchery Coho and 373 Chinook from an average of 24 deliveries.
- Combined white sturgeon landings in 2020 non-treaty commercial fisheries total 1,114 fish (547 Select Area and 567 mainstem), or 98% of the annual guideline (1,140 fish).
- Based on the current run size and results for completed and ongoing fisheries, sufficient numbers of URBs are available for additional non-treaty Chinook-directed fishing opportunity.

| ***Recommendation: 2020 Non-Treaty Zone 4-5 Mainstem Commercial Fishery*** | | |
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| Season: | 8 PM Wednesday October 7 through 6 AM Thursday October 8 (Week 41) | 1 night |
| | 8 PM Monday October 12 through 6 AM Tuesday October 13 (Week 42) | 1 night |
| | 8 PM Wednesday October 14 through 6 AM Thursday October 15 (Week 42) | 1 night |
| | 8 PM Monday October 19 through 6 AM Tuesday October 20 (Week 43) | 1 night |
| | 8 PM Wednesday October 21 through 6 AM Thursday October 22 (Week 43) | 1 night |
| Area: | Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is 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: | Washougal and Sandy rivers. | |

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| Gear: | Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction.<br>Multiple net rule in effect which means nets not specifically authorized for the 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 required. |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon (except chum) and shad. **Sturgeon may not be possessed or sold.** |
| Additional: | 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to 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 Chinook catch for the proposed fishery is not expected to exceed 2,400 adults (1,365 URBs). The cumulative ESA SRW impact would be 5.1% in completed, on-going, and proposed commercial fisheries. No additional LCR wild tule impacts would be expected, so the current projected impact for commercial fisheries of 3.9% would remain unchanged.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.2% for A-Index and 0.4% for B-Index for ongoing and proposed commercial fisheries. Total non-treaty impacts are projected to be 0.5% and 1.0% for A-and B-Index steelhead, respectively.

***Non-treaty ESA Fall Chinook Impacts***

- For completed, ongoing, and proposed non-treaty fisheries, projected impacts for LCR tule and URB fall Chinook are:
    - LCR: 14.5% (10.1% planned preseason) vs approximately 14.6% available to in-river fisheries
    - URB: 12.8% vs 15.0% allowed

| Non-Treaty LRH and URB Impact Summary | | | |
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| Fishery | LRH ER% | URB/SRW HR% | Fishery Status |
| Z4-5 Aug Comm. (wk 33-35) | 1.04% | 1.62% | Complete |
| Z4-5 Sep Comm. (wk 38-39) | 2.39% | 2.46% | Complete |
| Z4-5 Oct Projected (wk 40-43) | 0.00% | 0.60% | Complete/Proposed |
| Coho Tangle Net | 0.11% | 0.30% | Ongoing |
| Select Areas | 0.40% | 0.08% | Ongoing |
| ***NT Commercial Sum*** | ***3.94%*** | ***5.06%*** | |
| Buoy 10 | 7.04% | 2.15% | Ongoing |
| TP-WR | 2.26% | 1.50% | Ongoing |
| WR-Bonn | 0.99% | 3.08% | Ongoing |
| Bonn-McNary | - | 1.03% | Ongoing |
| Tributary | 0.24% | 0.00% | Ongoing |
| ***NT Recreational Sum*** | ***10.53%*** | ***7.76%*** | |
| **Non-Treaty Total** | **14.47%** | **12.82%** | |

- Based on the preseason forecast, the allowed LCN Coho ER is 18%. Harvest to date is well below that limit and the return appears on track to exceed the forecast.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. No additional non-treaty hearings are anticipated at this time. Staff will continue to monitor the fisheries and stock status.