

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9
October 4, 2023

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Mainstem recreational salmon upstream of Bonneville Dam
--	---

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 2023 Fall Report was distributed on July 10, 2023. Links to the reports are:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> or
<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of October 3, the recent five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 84 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 94 kcfs. The current five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 65°F which is the same as the five-year average. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet which is also the same as the five-year average.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2023 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Fall Chinook

- Columbia River fall Chinook are comprised of multiple management components: Select Area Brights (SAB), Lower River Hatchery (LRH), Lower River Wild (LRW), Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH), Upriver Bright (URB), Pool Upriver Bright (PUB), and Lower River Bright (LRB). The LRH and BPH stocks are referred to as tule stock and the remaining stocks are referred to as bright stock.
- Bonneville Dam passage through October 3 includes 509,192 adult-sized fall Chinook.
- McNary Dam passage through October 3 includes 169,665 adult fall Chinook.
- Based on visual stock sampling, a total of 367,458 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 122,497 adult tules and 19,237 adult-sized tule jacks (primarily BPH stock) have also passed Bonneville Dam.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 108,022 A/B-Index fish.
- From July 1 through September 29, CRITFC staff have sampled 469 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 393 A-Index fish (154 unclipped) and 76 B-Index fish (17 unclipped).

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through September 30 totaled 106,025 adult early-stock Coho (defined as Coho passing prior to October 1). This is the sixth highest passage of early-stock upriver Coho since 2000. Late stock Coho passage during October 1-3 totals 5,342 adult fish.

In-Season Run Size Updates

- Preseason abundance estimates for upriver-origin fall Chinook stocks (BPH, PUB, and URB) and upriver summer steelhead (A- and B-Index) are updated in-season by the *U.S. v. OR* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Lower river Chinook stocks (SAB, LRH, LRW, and LRB) are not updated in-season.
- TAC met on October 2 and reviewed Chinook and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and associated sampling data along with Chinook harvest data from lower river fisheries.
 - TAC updated the expected total A-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 91,800 fish including 33,600 unclipped fish. TAC updated the expected total B-Index steelhead run size at Bonneville Dam to 20,700 fish including 5,200 unclipped fish.
 - TAC also updated the expected upriver fall Chinook run to 378,000 URBs, 57,000 PUBs and 153,000 BPH at the mouth of the Columbia River. TAC will continue to meet and provide run size updates as appropriate during the fall management season.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Based on information available preseason and input from the public, a fishing plan was developed for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries during the North of Falcon management process. This fishing plan is available on the ODFW and WDFW websites.
- Additional management guidelines for 2023 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1 and Fall Fishery Update #1.

2023 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area commercial fisheries are on-going in all four sites (Youngs Bay, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep River). Preliminary catch estimates for the combined Select Areas through September 30 include 8,424 Chinook and 44,863 Coho.

Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Preliminary estimates for the Early-Fall Zone 4-5 fishery include 27,597 Chinook and 1,617 Coho landed along with 334 steelhead handled.
- The Late-Fall commercial fishery in Zones 1-3 targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets began on September 18. Preliminary catch estimates through September 29 include 1,415 Chinook and 5,125 hatchery Coho. Steelhead handle and associated ESA impact rates are tracking within expectations.
- The Late-Fall commercial fishery in Zones 4-5 began on September 17. To date, ten periods (September 17, 24, 26, 28 and October 1, 4, 8, 11, 15 and 18) have been adopted by both states while the September 19 period was adopted by Oregon-only action. Preliminary catch estimates through October 2 include 3,705 Chinook and 851 Coho. Additionally, an estimated 87 steelhead were handled.

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) fishery is ongoing and Chinook retention was extended in-season. Preliminary catch estimates through October 1 include 18,490 kept and 15,518 released Chinook, and 9,897 kept and 7,096 released Coho from approximately 78,400 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and re-opened with in-season action. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 30 include 8,585 kept and 630 released Chinook, 823 kept and 409 released Coho, and 447 released steelhead from approximately 35,800 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BO) fishery was also open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended in-season. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through September 30 include 16,436 kept and 1,475 released Chinook, 1,370 kept and 744 released Coho, and 153 released steelhead from approximately 51,100 angler trips.
- BO upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) fishery is on-going; Chinook retention is planned to continue through October 15, Coho retention is scheduled to continue through December 31 (unclipped Coho allowed upstream of the Hood River Bridge), hatchery steelhead retention is scheduled to be allowed November 1 – December 31 downstream of The Dalles Dam. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through October 1 include 12,123 Chinook kept and 1,124 released Chinook, 860 kept and 237 released Coho, and 257 released steelhead from approximately 36,900 angler trips.
- At this time, the preliminary projected full season LCR Chinook ER is 4.35% (as compared to 6.57% ER pre-season) and SRW HR is 8.99% (as compared to 7.41% HR pre-season) for these recreational fisheries.
- Based on the updated URB run size, declining Chinook abundance, recent fishery performance, catch projections, and available ESA balances, additional Chinook retention opportunity upstream of Bonneville Dam can be considered at this time.

Recommendation: 2023 Fall Season Recreational Salmon Fishery Upstream of Bonneville Dam

Effective Monday October 16, until further notice, retention of Chinook is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco. The daily adult bag limit is two salmon (Chinook or Coho) but only one may be a Chinook. All other relevant regulations remain in effect.

- Chinook catch is projected to be about 1,600 adults for the recommended LCR recreational fishery. ESA impact expectations include up to 0.19% SRW HR.
- Staff will continue to monitor Chinook abundance, stock composition, and fishery performance.

Non-treaty ESA Impacts

- Non-treaty fisheries will be managed to remain within the ESA impacts allocated for all listed species. A summary of impacts to ESA-listed fall Chinook in completed, on-going, planned, and proposed 2023 non-treaty fisheries is provided in the table below:

Summary of expected LCR and SRW fall Chinook ESA impacts in non-treaty mainstem fisheries.						
Area	LCR			SRW		
	Current ^a	Proposed	Total ER	Current ^a	Proposed	Total HR
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	2.18%	--	2.18%	0.65%	--	0.65%
WPI-WR	1.02%	--	1.02%	2.08%	--	2.08%
WR-BO	0.85%	--	0.85%	4.48%	--	4.48%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.78%	0.19%	1.97%
Tributaries	0.30%	--	0.30%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>4.35%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>4.35%</i>	<i>8.99%</i>	<i>0.19%</i>	<i>9.18%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	1.23%	--	1.23%	2.14%	--	2.14%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 38	0.00%	--	0.00%	0.26%	--	0.26%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 39	0.00%	--	0.00%	0.32%	--	0.32%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall weeks 40+	0.00%	--	0.00%	0.25%	--	0.25%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	0.10%	--	0.10%	0.56%	--	0.56%
Select Areas	0.40%	--	0.40%	0.12%	--	0.12%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>1.73%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>1.73%</i>	<i>3.65%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>3.65%</i>
Non-Treaty Total	6.08%	0.00%	6.08%	12.64%	0.19%	12.83%

^a includes completed and ongoing fisheries

- ESA impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 38% ER limit. LCR tule fall Chinook are the most constraining fall Chinook stock in 2023 and the in-river rate is limited to 9.41% ER.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 13.40% out of the 15% allowed. The SRW HR is projected to remain within the 15% allowed.
- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.29% and 0.50% out of the allowed 2% HR, respectively.
- ESA impacts to LCN Coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit with pre-season expectations of 19% ER. The in-river rate is expected to be 4.60% ER.
- ESA impacts to Chum from in-river fisheries are expected to be 1.14% compared to the 5% limit.
- Staff will review catch estimates and Chinook stock composition as fisheries progress and will determine if additional opportunities exist within current management guidelines.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.