

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 14, 2024

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Treaty Zone 6 commercial gillnet
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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 2024 Fall Report was distributed on July 5, 2024. 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 August 13, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 127 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 148 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 71.2°F compared to a five-year average of 71.4°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Stock status and forecast information was presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Fall Chinook

- Bonneville Dam passage totals 10,336 adult and 1,326 jack fall chinook through August 13. Based on the recent 10-year average timing curve, passage is typically 50% complete by September 9. The clip rate for adult chinook at Bonneville Dam is 32%

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Counts of A and B-Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through August 13 total 67,670 fish, which is tracking above expectations for the total run given the forecast. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is 50% complete by August 18 based on the recent 5-year average timing. The count of unclipped steelhead from that same time period totals 30,556 fish (45.2% of total) and is also tracking above expectations. It is too early to update the A-Index or B-Index components with any precision.
- From July 1 – August 8, 418 steelhead have been sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, 402 have been A-Index fish (206 clipped and 196 unclipped) and 16 have been B-Index fish (9 clipped and 7 unclipped). The proportions of A- and B-Index fish in the sample are typical for this point in the run. Sampling at the AFF is limited at water temperatures above 70° F and is paused if temperatures reach 72° F.

Coho

- Through August 13 a total of 257 adult and 136 jack Coho have been counted at Bonneville Dam for this run year. Coho counted at Bonneville through September 30 are considered early run. Based on 10-year average run timing, early run coho would be expected to reach 50% completion at Bonneville Dam on September 11.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The 2018–2027 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for upriver stocks of fall Chinook, summer steelhead, and Coho.
 - The allowable harvest rate for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries is 45% of the URB run based on the preseason forecast. This limit is allocated 30% for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
 - The escapement goal at Spring Creek Hatchery is 6,000 adult fall Chinook (BPH stock).
 - The management goal for adult fall Chinook passage at McNary Dam is 60,000 fish.
 - Based on the pre-season forecast, treaty Indian fisheries are limited to 13% of the total B-Index steelhead and catches of A-Index steelhead are expected to remain within historic rates.
 - The goal for upriver Coho passage at Bonneville Dam is 50% of the ocean abundance.
- Fisheries are managed based on preseason forecasts unless updated in-season abundance projections are available from TAC.
- The ESA-impact limit Snake River wild fall Chinook is 45% for combined treaty Indian and non-treaty fisheries based on preseason forecasts. Of this, 30% is allocated for treaty Indian fisheries and 15% for non-treaty fisheries.
- The impact rates for B-Index steelhead in treaty fisheries fall fisheries is 15% at the pre-season forecast run size.

2024 TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Platform and Hook-and-Line Fisheries

- Treaty platform and hook-and-line fall fisheries generally harvest only a small proportion of the total ESA impacts allowed in treaty mainstem fisheries. Most impacts occur in commercial gillnet fisheries adopted in mid-August.
- The commercial sale of fish caught with hoop net, dip net, or hook-and-line was previously allowed by the Columbia River treaty tribes during the fall season beginning August 1.
- During the fall season, some tribes may open fisheries in the area below Bonneville Dam consistent with tribal regulations and MOUs/MOAs between the states and tribes. Harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam is expected to be relatively low. Catch downstream of Bonneville is counted as part of the total tribal mainstem catch.
- Preliminary catches for the treaty platform and hook and line fishery for August 1-10 (Weeks 31-32) includes 197 Chinook. Based on skin color calls, this catch included 186 brights and 11 tules). The catches also included, 360 A-Index and 20 B-Index steelhead, and zero coho.
- The treaty fall fishery model has been set to use higher than average catch rates, but recent set net effort along with pre-season forecasts for the first weeks of fall gillnet fishing (Table 1 below). The model will be adjusted to account for actual fishery performance and actual run sizes as the season progresses. The projected catches for weeks with commercial gillnet fisheries include the expected catch in the platform and hook and line fishery for those

weeks. Because of the large expected remaining allowed catch after these openings, the model is sufficiently precautionary for early season fisheries.

- The model projects platform and hook-and-line fisheries for weeks 31-33 which do not include gillnet fisheries. The actual preliminary catches through week 32 are part of this projection. With the actual and modeled gillnet fisheries, the remaining Chinook and sockeye after these planned gillnet openings would be sufficient to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the summer management period leaving a small buffer to address uncertainties in catch projections.

Week	Fishery	Dates	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
31-33	Projected	Platform/ H&L	August 1-22	na	1,900	960	570	50	80
		Gillnet Fishery Dates							
34	Projected	8/19	8/22	250	5,200	3,400	580	130	260
35	Projected	8/26	8/30	320	10,700	5,600	630	130	140
36	Projected	9/2	9/6	430	27,200	11,000	1,290	490	580
		Total			45,000	21,000	3,100	800	1,060
		Allowed at Forecast run size				78,540		4,830	
		Expected Harvest by Sept 14				20,960		800	
		Remaining after Sept 14				57,580		4,080	
		Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 14				8.0%		2.5%	
		Remaining Harvest Rate After Sept 14				22.0%		12.5%	

- Based on these catch projections, the planned fisheries are well within their allowed harvest
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

Season:	6:00 AM Monday August 19 through 6:00 PM Thursday August 22 (3.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday August 26 through 6:00 PM Friday August 30 (4.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday September 2 through 6:00 PM Friday September 6 (4.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Set and Drift Gillnets with an 8-inch minimum mesh size
Allowable Sales:	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 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.
Sanctuaries:	Standard closed areas applicable to gillnets are in place. The standard Spring Creek

Hatchery sanctuary is also in place.

Additional: 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch and effort will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Total catch is determined through a tribal creel program. Fish ticket data are used as a supplement to the creel program. Setnet effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. Driftnet effort is estimated through the creel monitoring program. Catches for the platform fishery are typically summed with and reported with gillnet catches for any week with a commercial gillnet opening. Any harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam is part of the total allowed catch for any species. Tributary harvest is managed under separate limits.
- No Compact action is needed for Zone 6 platform fisheries, fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam or Yakama tributary fisheries.
- Treaty commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal members and their families as well as to communities along the river and on reservations.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The treaty tribes request a Compact hearing during the week of September 2 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2b
August 14, 2024

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i> Non-treaty mainstem commercial tangle net
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RIVER CONDITIONS

- River conditions measured at Bonneville Dam are provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 2a.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2024 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead encountered in fall-season fisheries 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.
- Through August 12, a total of 9,259 adult-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is September 9.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 – August 12 totals 66,369 A-/B-Index fish.
- From July 1 through August 8, CRITFC staff have sampled 418 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 402 A-Index fish (196 unclipped) and 16 B-Index fish (7 unclipped). Stock composition is generally tracking as expected for this point in the run.

Coho

- Coho counts at Bonneville Dam through August 12 total 213 adult early-stock coho (defined as coho passing prior to October 1). Passage of upriver early-stock coho is typically less than 0.1% complete by August 12.

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 August 12 to review steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and associated sampling data. TAC did not make a run size update. TAC will continue to monitor and assess the A-/B- Index steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns as the season

progresses and will provide updates to Chinook and A-/B- Index steelhead return expectations as warranted. TAC is scheduled to meet again next Monday, August 19.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Based on information available pre-season 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.
- Current policy guidance for Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) coho ESA impacts prioritizes use in Select Area commercial fisheries (OR/WA), mainstem commercial Chinook-directed fisheries (OR/WA) and commercial hatchery coho-directed fisheries (OR), followed by recreational fisheries (OR/WA), and then coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries (OR/WA).
- Guidance from Washington's and Oregon's Fish and Wildlife Commissions regarding allowable commercial gears in coho-directed fisheries is not concurrent. Washington's policy allows for the use of any gear, while Oregon's policy does not allow for the use of gillnets. Therefore, no mainstem gillnet fishery is expected to occur this year; however, a coho-directed fishery using tangle net gear and live-capture techniques is planned.

2024 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) fishery is scheduled to be open August 1–29 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, August 30 – September 3 for Chinook and hatchery coho, and September 4 – December 31 for hatchery coho.
 - Preliminary catch estimates through August 11 include 3,485 kept and 3,110 released Chinook, and 3,260 kept and 2,173 released coho from approximately 15,600 angler trips.
- Fall recreational salmon fisheries from WPI upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) also opened August 1.
 - WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) fishery is planned to remain open through September 4 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, then be open September 5–11 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through August 11 include 482 kept and 18 released Chinook, zero kept and two released coho, and 354 released steelhead from approximately 4,600 angler trips.
 - WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) fishery is planned to remain open through September 15 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention and then be open October 1 – December 31 for coho retention. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through August 11 include 169 kept and nine released Chinook, zero kept or released coho, and 103 released steelhead from approximately 2,700 angler trips.
 - BON upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) fishery is planned to remain open August 1 through September 15 for Chinook and coho retention and October 1 – December 31 for coho retention. Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through

August 11 include 120 Chinook kept and zero released Chinook, zero kept or released coho, and 103 released steelhead from approximately 1,100 angler trips.

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay opened August 6. Preliminary catch estimates for Youngs Bay through August 8 include 29 Chinook and zero coho. The Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel fisheries open August 26, while the Deep River fishery opens September 16.

Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fisheries

- The mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) began on August 8 and may continue through October 31. Considering the preseason forecasts, available ESA impacts, and release mortality rates, the 2024 seine fishery was modeled to occur in Zones 1–3 with an allowed harvest of 1,890 adult hatchery Chinook and 6,750 adult hatchery coho. Seine fishers are limited to individual fishery quotas as presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fisheries began on August 7 and are scheduled to continue through August 30 with one to three fishing periods per week totaling nine 9-hour fishing periods.
 - Preliminary catch estimates for the first period include 281 Chinook and one coho. Additionally, an estimated 18 steelhead have been handled.
- Dependent on in-season factors, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 may begin the week of September 15. Periods would likely be 10-hours (8 PM–6 AM); gear regulations would include an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction.
- Late-fall commercial fishing periods in Zones 1–3 targeting hatchery coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets and other live-capture techniques were planned preseason to begin the week of September 15 and continue through October with up to five daytime fishing periods per week. Therefore, staff recommend the following:

Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

Season:	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 16	32 periods
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 18	(Monday through Thursday 18 hrs each)
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 20	(Friday 14hrs)
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 23	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday September 24	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 25	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday September 26	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 27	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 30	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 1	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 2	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 3	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 4	

Season continued:	<p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 7 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 8 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 9 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 10 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 11</p> <p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 14 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 15 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 16 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 17 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 18</p> <p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 21 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 22 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 23 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 24 4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 25</p> <p>4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 28 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 29 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 30 4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 31</p>
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:	<p>Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed.</p> <p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is <u>prohibited</u>. Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad; all coho must be adipose fin-clipped.
Regulations:	<p>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, live-capture fishery certification, etc.</p> <p>Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the web is deployed into the water until the web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed <u>30 minutes</u>.</p>

Regulations continued:

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 inside 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.

- Up to 9,500 adult hatchery coho and 2,000 adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling. The ESA impact rate to LCN coho is projected at 1.40% ER for this proposed fishery. Pre-season ESA impact expectations to Chinook include 0.35% LCR ER and 0.54% SRW HR.
- Expected steelhead handle is approximately 322 fish. ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.02% for A-Index and 0.08% for B-Index for the proposed fishery.
- Pre-season ESA impact expectations for Chum is 0.03% for this proposed fishery.
- Staff intends to observe this proposed fishery and continue collecting data via voluntary logbooks. Data collected from the fishery will be utilized to evaluate pre-season modeled expectations.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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