

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 4, 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 September 3, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 108 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 113 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at the Bonneville Dam forebay is 69.3°F compared to a five-year average of 70.2°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 239,017 adult and 46,267 jack fall Chinook through September 3. Based on the recent 10-year average timing curve, passage typically reaches 50% complete by September 9. The clip rate for adult Chinook at Bonneville Dam is 43%
- Based on sampling at Bonneville Dam through September 3 these counts include 145,378 bright stock fish and 62,209 adult tules and 31,427 jack aged tules that are just above the adult size limit.
- McNary Dam passage totals 38,214 adult and 4,667 jack fall Chinook through September 3. Based on 10-year average run timing, passage at McNary Dam would be 14% on September 3 and would reach 50% on September 18.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Counts of A and B-Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through September 3 total 114,016 fish. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is 66% complete by September 3 based on the recent 10-year average timing. The count of unclipped steelhead from that same time period totals 42,289 fish (38% of total).
- TAC met on September 3 and maintained the in-season projection for the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam of 132,000 total fish (including 44,900 unclipped). This compares to the preseason forecast of 89,900 total A-Index fish (including 36,000 unclipped). It is too early to reliably provide an in-season assessment of the B-Index steelhead return. It is also too early in the upriver fall Chinook return to reliably provide an updated abundance expectation.

- TAC will continue to monitor and assess the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns during the fall management period and will provide updates as warranted. TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday September 9.
- From July 1 – August 30, 584 steelhead have been sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, 536 have been A-Index fish (299 clipped and 237 unclipped) and 48 have been B-Index fish (31 clipped and 17 unclipped). The proportions of A- and B-Index fish in the sample are typical for this point in the run.
- Through September 3 a total of 53,153 adult and 4,790 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. The clip rate for coho at Bonneville is 22%.

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. No catch has been observed below Bonneville Dam to date for this fall season.
- Preliminary catches for the treaty platform and hook and line fishery for August 1-17 (Weeks 31-33) included 431 Chinook and 459 steelhead. This catch included 431 URB's and 20 B-Index steelhead).
- The treaty fall fishery model has been set to use the maximum scalars from the first two gillnet openings to project catches for this week and next week. This results in conservative catch projections. 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.
- With the actual and modeled gillnet fisheries, the remaining Chinook and B-Index steelhead projected to be available after these planned gillnet openings would be sufficient for at least some additional gillnet fishing time and to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the fall management period.

Table 1. 2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (actual through 8/31 and projected through 9/14)

Week	Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
31-33	Preliminary	Platform/ H&L	August 1- 17	na	431	229	459	20	3
		Gillnet Start	Gillnet End						
34	Preliminary	8/19	8/22	163	6,550	3,477	393	68	219
35	Preliminary	8/26	8/30	281	15,821	8,399	1,349	246	903
36	Projected	9/2	9/6	300	38,100	13,200	2,170	760	3,100
				Subtotal	60,902	25,305	4,371	1,094	4,225
37	Projected	9/9	9/13	375	57,800	19,700	2,610	1,040	3,700
				Total	118,702	45,005	6,981	2,134	7,925
				Allowed at Projected URB and B run size		78,540		4,830	
				Harvest Rate as of Sept 7		9.7%		3.4%	
				Remaining after Sept 7		53,235		3,736	
				Expected Harvest Rate by Sept 14		17.2%		6.6%	
				Remaining Available After Sept 14		33,535		2,696	

- Based on these catch projections, the planned fisheries are well within their allowed harvest. At the end of the proposed fisheries, the treaty fishery would be within the allowed URB harvest rate down to a run size of 196,000 and within the B-Index harvest rate down to a run size of 16,500. (Through September 2, TAC estimated that just under 11,300 B-Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam)

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2024 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Monday September 9 through 6:00 PM Friday September 13 (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 9 to consider additional treaty Indian commercial gillnet fisheries.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3b
September 4, 2024

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i> Non-treaty Select Area 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 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

- River conditions measured at Bonneville Dam are provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 3a.

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.
- 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 and steelhead Adult Fish Facility sampling estimates are provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 3a.

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.
- The current TAC in-season A-Index steelhead abundance projection is provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 3a.

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 2024 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

2024 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Recreational and Commercial Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) recreational fishery was open August 1–29 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, August 30 – September 3 for Chinook and hatchery coho, and is scheduled to be open September 4 – December 31 for hatchery coho.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) recreational fishery is scheduled to be open August 1 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.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) recreational fishery is scheduled to be open August 1 through September 15 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1 – December 31 for coho retention.
- BON upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (Pasco, WA) recreational fishery is scheduled to be open August 1 through September 15 for Chinook and coho retention and October 1 – December 31 for coho retention.
- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay opened August 6. The Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel fisheries opened August 26, while the Deep River fishery is currently scheduled to open September 16.
- The mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) began on August 8 and may continue through October 31 in Zones 1-3. Seine fishers are limited to individual fishery quotas as presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.
- The early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fishery began on August 7 and continued through August 30 with nine total fishing periods.
- Dependent on in-season factors, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 may occur starting mid-September. 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 are scheduled to occur beginning the week of September 15 and continue through October 31 totaling thirty-two periods.

Fall Chinook and Coho mortalities in non-treaty mainstem fisheries.				
Area	Chinook		Coho	
	Through Sep. 1	Season Total Expectation	Through Sep. 1	Season Total Expectation
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	20,876	39,570	23,410	29,100
WPI-WR	8,427	12,290	684	3,250
WR-BO	2,317	12,690	96	-
BO-Hwy 395*	3,606	5,880	87	-
Tributaries	-	1,200	-	-
<i>Recreational subtotal</i>	<i>33,146</i>	<i>71,630</i>	<i>24,277</i>	<i>38,300</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	27,804	29,320	2,021	1,800
Zone 4-5 Late Fall placeholder	-	1,590	-	2,550
Zone 1-3 ECF Seine	81	1,890	2	6,750
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	-	2,000	-	9,500
Select Areas*	4,065	5,010	6,983	30,900
<i>Commercial subtotal</i>	<i>31,950</i>	<i>39,810</i>	<i>9,006</i>	<i>51,500</i>
Non-Treaty Total	65,096	111,440	33,283	89,800

* Through August 31, 2024

- Preliminary in-season Columbia River mainstem recreational catch and effort details can be found on the web at [Fishing Report - Columbia Zone | Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife \(myodfw.com\)](https://myodfw.com), or [Columbia River recreational fishing | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife](https://www.wa.gov) and selecting *Columbia River mainstem recreational catches* which will redirect you to the ODFW website location.
- Current Columbia River mainstem and Select Area commercial landings can be found at [ODFW Columbia River Commercial Fishery Landings \(state.or.us\)](https://state.or.us).

Deep River Commercial Select Area

- Fishers have requested earlier September opportunity in the Deep River commercial Select Area fishery to harvest fall Chinook and coho. A revised start date would be consistent with the 2023 fishery and additional periods would connect to the remainder of the previously-adopted periods. Therefore, staff recommend adding the following periods to the previously-adopted Deep River season.

Recommendation: 2024 Select Area Fall Season – Deep River Fishery

Adopt the following fishing periods for Deep River:

6 PM – 9 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday nights September 5 through September 12 (5 periods)

Other regulations for the currently-adopted periods, including area, mesh size, net length, etc. would be in effect.

All other previously-adopted periods and regulations for the Deep River fall-season fishery remain in effect.

- The expected harvest is 160 and 150 local-origin coho and fall Chinook, respectively.
- ESA impacts accrued with this recommendation are expected to remain within the estimates provided in Fall Fact Sheet #1 when the Select Area fall-season fisheries were adopted.
- A voluntary logbook program will be implemented throughout the season to obtain additional catch information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

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