

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 10, 2024

***Fisheries under
consideration:***

Treaty Zone 6 commercial gillnet

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 October 10, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 76.9 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 92.2 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 63.2°F The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 6.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

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

Fall Chinook

- Bonneville Dam passage totals 486,344 adult and 99,408 jack fall Chinook through October 9. Based on the recent 10-year average run timing, passage typically reaches 97% complete by October 9. The clip rate for adult Chinook at Bonneville Dam is 38%.
- Based on sampling at Bonneville Dam these counts include 356,530 bright stock fish and 88,628 adult tules and 41,183 jack aged tules that are just above the adult size limit.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has collected 46,680 adult and over 40,921 jack aged tules and completed spawning on September 24.
- McNary Dam passage totals 155,062 adult and 26,693 jack fall Chinook through October 9. Based on 10-year average timing, passage at McNary Dam would be 92% complete on October 9. The clip rate at McNary Dam is 38%.
- Through October 9, a total of 33,261 adult and 5,626 jack fall Chinook have passed Lower Granite Dam.
- Counts of A and B-Index steelhead at Bonneville Dam from July 1 through October 9 total 167,456 fish. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is typically 98% complete by October 9 based on the recent 10-year average timing. The count of unclipped steelhead from this same time period totals 56,963 fish (34% of total).
- From July 1 – October 4, a total of 1,013 steelhead have been sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, 678 have been A-Index fish (396 clipped and 282 unclipped) and 335 have been B-Index fish (235 clipped and 100 unclipped). The proportions of A- and B-Index fish in the sample are typical for this point in the run. Sampling for the year will conclude this week.

- Through October 9 a total of 164,022 adult and 19,739 jack Coho have been counted at Bonneville Dam for this run year. Early run coho counted at Bonneville through September 30 totaled 143,767 adults and 15,959 jacks. Late run coho through October 9 total 20,255 adults and 3,780 jacks. Based on 10-year average run timing, late run coho would be expected to reach 27% completion at Bonneville Dam on October 9. The clip rate for early run coho at Bonneville was 47% and for late run coho to date is 87%.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday October 7 to review and discuss information relative to the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns.
- TAC updated the current in-season projection for the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam to 122,100 total fish (including 44,600 unclipped). TAC also updated the in-season projection for B-Index steelhead abundance and now expects 49,900 total B-Index fish (including 13,200 unclipped) to return to Bonneville Dam.
- TAC updated the 2024 upriver bright and tule stock fall Chinook Bonneville Dam passage expectation. Given the information currently available, TAC now expects the Columbia River mouth return of adult-aged fall Chinook to total 635,650 adult fish. This total includes 342,800 URBs, 76,100 PUBs, and 118,000 BPH.
- This was TAC's final scheduled in-season abundance update meeting for the fall management period.

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 updated 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 updated in-season run size, treaty Indian fisheries are limited to 20% 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 until updated in-season abundance projections are available from TAC.
- The ESA-impact limit for 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 fall season fisheries is increased to 20% at the updated in-season run size.

2024 TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Platform and Hook-and-Line and Gillnet Fisheries

- 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. Treaty platform and hook-and-line fall fisheries generally harvest only a small proportion of the total ESA impacts allowed in treaty mainstem fisheries.
- 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 and for Week's 34-40 are available. CWT data are available for week's 34 through 40. The stock composition for Week 40 is used to project stock composition of Week's 41-42. There have been minor changes in the total catches compared to what was reported last week based on reviewing creel and CWT data. Effort for week 42 is assumed to be similar to the actual count observed this week (week 41), but effort could continue to decrease.
- The treaty fall fishery model has been set to use the average scalars from the gillnet openings to project catches for this week and next. Based on past years, this practice results in more reasonable catch projections later in the season. Given the relatively low total harvest rates for the planned fisheries, the planned fisheries are still conservative. 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 to allow for uncertainties in catches or run sizes.
- 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 to keep the platform fishery open through the remainder of the fall management period.

2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary through 10/4, modeled through end of season)									
Week	Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho	
31-33	Preliminary Platform/ H&L Gillnet/Platform/H&L	August 1- 17	na	431	229	486	20	3	
34	Preliminary	8/19	8/22	163	6,566	3,485	393	68	219
35	Preliminary	8/26	8/30	281	9,836	5,842	1,308	238	876
36	Preliminary	9/2	9/6	300	16,698	8,104	1,307	321	1,880
37	Preliminary	9/9	9/13	336	21,569	9,956	1,316	433	1,822
38	Preliminary	9/16	9/20	288	11,468	4,717	2,327	1,180	2,042
39	Preliminary	9/23	9/28	320	10,225	6,643	2,356	1,281	2,362
40	Preliminary	9/30	10/4	225	3,558	2,504	1,197	553	1,208
41	Projected	10/7	10/11	93	800	400	500	300	300
			Subtotal		81,151	41,880	11,190	4,394	10,712
42	Projected	10/14	10/17	90	700	400	540	300	400

2024 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (preliminary through 10/4, modeled through end of season)								
Week	Fishery	Dates	Set Net Count	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B Steelhead	Coho
			Subtotal	81,851	42,280	11,730	4,694	11,112
	Late Fall Platforms			250	250	800	400	400
			Total	82,101	42,530	12,530	5,094	11,512
	Allowed at Projected URB and B run size					102,840	9,980	
	Harvest Rate as of Oct 12					12.2%	8.8%	
	Remaining after Oct 12					60,960	5,586	
	Expected Harvest Rate through end of season					12.4%	10.2%	
	Remaining Available at End of Season					60,310	4,886	

- For the fisheries to date, plus planned fisheries the expected total season harvest rates for the PUB and BPH stocks are shown in the box below. These harvest rates are based on the current TAC run size estimates and expectations at Bonneville Dam.

Stock	River Mouth Harvest Rate	Harvest Rate based on Bonneville Dam Run Size
PUB Harvest Rate	9.1%	10.5%
BPH Harvest Rate	27.5%	36.8%

- Based on these catch projections, the planned fisheries are well within allowed harvest rates. At the end of the proposed fisheries, the treaty fishery would be within the allowed URB harvest rate down to a run size of 180,000 and within the B-Index harvest rate down to a run size of 34,000. Through October 6, TAC estimated that just over 48,000 B-Index steelhead have passed Bonneville Dam. Tribal staff estimate based on TAC estimates of bright stock fish at Bonneville that over 263,000 URBs have already passed Bonneville Dam.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following two fishery periods:

2024 Treaty Indian Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Season:	6:00 AM Monday October 14 through 6:00 PM Thursday October 17 (3.5 days)
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Set and Drift Gillnets with no mesh size restriction
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 small Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary (150-feet around the hatchery ladder) is 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 Nation 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 do not request an additional Compact Hearing at this time.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8b
October 10, 2024

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Mainstem recreational salmon
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RIVER CONDITIONS

- River conditions measured at Bonneville Dam are provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 8a.

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 information is provided in Fall Fact Sheet No. 8a.

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 7 and reviewed upriver fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. This was TAC's final scheduled in-season abundance update meeting for the fall management period.
 - TAC updated the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam to 122,100 total fish including 44,600 unclipped. TAC updated the expected total B-Index steelhead to 49,900, including 13,200 unclipped, to return to Bonneville Dam.
 - TAC also updated the expected upriver fall Chinook run to 342,800 URBs, 76,100 PUBs, and 118,000 BPH.

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.
- The 2018–2027 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for upriver stocks of fall Chinook.
 - The allowable URB harvest rate (HR) for non-treaty fisheries is 15%.
 - Preseason non-treaty fisheries planning was limited by the expected harvest of URB fall Chinook. Fishery planning for the mainstem recreational fisheries upstream of Warrior Rock was particularly impacted by URB harvest limits.
- The respective Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission policies provide guidance for 2024 non-treaty fall fisheries management.
 - Allocation of fall Chinook ESA impacts for the most constraining stock is no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries.
 - Washington’s policy allows for the use of gillnets in any zone downstream of Bonneville Dam, while Oregon’s policy allows for the use of gillnets in Zones 4/5 only. Therefore, Chinook-directed gillnet fisheries will be restricted to Zones 4/5 this year.
- Additional management guidelines for 2024 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1.

2024 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay opened August 6, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel fisheries opened August 26, and Deep River opened September 5. Knappa Slough was closed beginning October 2 due to concerns with the coho broodstock return to Big Creek Hatchery. Preliminary catch estimates for the combined Select Area fisheries through October 5 include 11,528 Chinook and 56,583 coho.

Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fisheries

- The mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) began on August 8 and will continue through October 31 in Zones 1–3. Seine fishers are limited to individual fishery quotas as presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1. Preliminary catch estimates through October 4 include 74 kept and 34 released Chinook, 14 kept and 9 released coho, and 16 released steelhead.

Mainstem Commercial Drift Net Fisheries

- Preliminary catch estimates for the early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fishery include 28,038 Chinook and 2,046 coho. Additionally, an estimated 558 steelhead were handled.
- Late-fall commercial fishing periods in Zones 1–3 targeting hatchery coho with live-capture techniques using 3.75-inch tangle nets began on September 16 and are scheduled to continue through October 31 totaling thirty-three periods. Preliminary catch estimates through October

4 include 1,340 Chinook and 4,856 hatchery coho. Additionally, an estimated 288 steelhead have been handled.

- According to the preseason fishery plan, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 were modeled to occur starting mid-September. A total of fifteen periods were adopted at the Compact/Joint State hearings on September 10, 18, and 25.
 - Preliminary catch estimates through October 7 include 14,188 Chinook and 1,657 coho. Additionally, an estimated 320 steelhead were handled.
 - Preliminary catch estimates from the October 8 period are not yet available.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs, actual use in the early-fall fishery, actual and projected use in the late-fall fishery, and expected needs for full-season Select Area, tangle net, and ECF fisheries, an URB HR balance remains available for additional mainstem commercial fisheries. Therefore, staff recommend the following commercial periods:

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i>	
	Six 12-hour fishing periods during October 20 – November 1.
Week 43	7 PM Sunday October 20 to 7 AM Monday October 21 7 PM Tuesday October 22 to 7 AM Wednesday October 23 7 PM Thursday October 24 to 7 AM Friday October 25
Week 44	7 PM Sunday October 27 to 7 AM Monday October 28 7 PM Tuesday October 29 to 7 AM Wednesday October 30 7 PM Thursday October 31 to 7 AM Friday November 1
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 river mouth sanctuaries.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule is 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 required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad.
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.

- Chinook catch for the recommended periods is expected to be up to 940 adults. At this harvest level, the additional ESA impact expectations are 0.00% ER for LCR Chinook and 0.13% HR for SRW Chinook.
- ESA impacts to Chum are expected to be <0.01% for the recommended periods.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.00% for A-Index and 0.02% for B-Index for the recommended periods.

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 to west Puget Island (WPI) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan (including hatchery coho retention open through December 31) and re-opened for Chinook retention with in-season action from September 12 through October 13. Preliminary estimates through October 6 include 18,368 kept and 17,440 released Chinook, and 34,828 kept and 20,180 released coho from approximately 98,900 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was reopened for Chinook and hatchery coho retention with in-season action from September 20 through October 13. Current regulations allow for hatchery coho retention through December 31. Preliminary estimates through October 6 include 13,636 kept and 2,424 released Chinook, 3,233 kept and 1,264 released coho, and 887 released steelhead from approximately 48,600 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended in-season through October 13. Under the current regulations Chinook retention is scheduled to close effective October 14 but hatchery coho retention remains open through December 31. Preliminary estimates through October 6 include 15,769 kept and 817 released Chinook, 1,937 kept and 753 released coho, and 281 released steelhead from approximately 59,000 angler trips.
- BON upstream to Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA (Hwy 395) recreational fishery was open consistent with the preseason plan and was extended with in-season action through October 13. Under the current regulations Chinook retention is scheduled to close effective October 14 but coho retention remains open through December 31 (wild coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released). Preliminary estimates of catch and effort through October 6 include 10,195 Chinook kept and 3,280 released Chinook, 2,056 kept and 260 released coho, and 297 released steelhead from approximately 39,500 angler trips.
- Considering current abundance expectations for URBs, estimated use in completed and expected need for ongoing fisheries, an URB HR balance remains available for recreational fisheries. Therefore, staff recommend the following additional recreational Chinook retention opportunities.

Recommendation: 2024 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries

Effective Monday, October 14 through Tuesday, December 31, retention of one Chinook is allowed in the daily adult bag limit for the mainstem Columbia River fisheries from the Buoy 10 line upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, WA. All other previously-adopted and relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.

- For this recommendation, the projected Chinook catches and associated ESA impact estimates include:
 - 70 adults, 0.01% LCR ER, and 0.01% SRW HR for the Buoy 10 fishery.
 - 350 adults, 0.04% LCR ER, and 0.06% SRW HR for the WPI to WR fishery.
 - 1,330 adults, 0.13% LCR ER, and 0.30% SRW HR for the WR to BON fishery.
 - 1,060 adults and 0.20% SRW HR for the BON to Hwy 395 fishery.

Non-treaty ESA Impacts and U.S. v. OR Management Guidelines

- 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, and proposed 2024 non-treaty fisheries is provided in the table below:

Summary of expected LCR and SRW fall Chinook ESA impacts in non-treaty mainstem fisheries. all data are preliminary and subject to change						
Area	LCR			SRW		
	Current ^a	Proposed	Total ER	Current ^a	Proposed	Total HR
Buoy 10 +TP-WPI	1.49%	0.01%	1.50%	0.81%	0.01%	0.82%
WPI-WR	1.54%	0.04%	1.58%	2.17%	0.06%	2.23%
WR-BO	1.48%	0.13%	1.61%	3.47%	0.30%	3.77%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.11%	0.20%	2.31%
Tributaries	0.27%	--	0.27%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>4.78%</i>	<i>0.19%</i>	<i>4.97%</i>	<i>8.56%</i>	<i>0.57%</i>	<i>9.13%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	0.77%	--	0.77%	1.39%	--	1.39%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall	1.63%	0.00%	1.63%	2.20%	0.13%	2.33%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	0.22%	--	0.22%	0.34%	--	0.34%
Emerging Comm. Fisheries	0.19%	--	0.19%	0.10%	--	0.10%
Select Areas	0.40%	--	0.40%	0.75%	--	0.75%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>3.21%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>3.21%</i>	<i>4.78%</i>	<i>0.13%</i>	<i>4.90%</i>
Non-Treaty Total	7.99%	0.19%	8.18%	13.33%	0.70%	14.04%

^a includes completed, ongoing, and planned fisheries

- ESA impacts to LCR tule fall Chinook, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 41% ER limit; the expected in-river ER is 8.18% compared to the preseason in-river ER of 10.54%.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 14.57% out of the 15% allowed.
- The SRW ESA-impact rate is projected remain within the 15% allowed for non-treaty fisheries.

- Impacts to LCN coho, including ocean fisheries, are expected to remain within the 23% ER limit. LCN coho were the most constraining coho stock during the 2024 pre-season ocean/in-river fisheries planning process that resulted in a total expected LCN ER of 23.0%. The in-river rate is expected to remain within 7.67% ER.
- Impacts to Chum from in-river fisheries are expected to be 1.14% compared to the 5% limit.
- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.33% and 0.64% out of the allowed 2% HR, respectively.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time.