

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 1a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 22, 2026

<i>Fisheries underconsideration:</i> Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon 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 2026 Fall Report was distributed on July 10, 2026. 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

- Through July 20, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 122 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 161 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 68.0°F compared to a five-year average of 69.5°F. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet compared to the recent five-year average of 6.5 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Columbia River fall Chinook are comprised of seven major management components: Select Area Bright (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 LRW, SAB, URB, PUB, and LRB stocks are referred to as bright stock.
- The URB, BPH, and PUB Chinook are destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam, and in aggregate comprise the upriver run; abundance forecasts for these stocks are updated in-season by the *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Lower river stock components include SAB, LRH, LRW, and LRB Chinook; abundance forecasts for these stocks are not updated in-season.
- The forecast for the 2026 fall Chinook adult return to the Columbia River is 636,500 fish, which is lower than the 2025 actual return of 685,512 adults but 114% of the 2016–2025 average return (559,933 adults).
- Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total approximately 420,300 fall Chinook adults. Based on the recent 10-year average timing curve, passage is typically 50% complete by September 7.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. Fish passing during July through October are categorized for the purpose of fisheries management as A-Index or B-Index based on fork length (A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is predominantly A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end

of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia River and Snake River basins.

- Summer steelhead returns have been very low for the past decade and the preseason forecast for the combined A/B-Index steelhead return to Bonneville Dam (128,000 fish) indicates this trend is expected to continue in 2026. The A-Index forecast of 87,900 fish is 95% of its recent 10-year average return and the B-Index forecast of 40,100 fish is 158% of its recent 10-year average return.
- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1–20 total 8,412 fish, which is below expectations given the preseason forecast. The count of unclipped steelhead from that same time period totals 3,639 fish and is also tracking below expectations. Passage at Bonneville Dam (July–October) is 50% complete by August 19 based on the recent 10-year average timing.
- During July 1–17, 89 steelhead (50 clipped and 39 unclipped) were sampled at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility (AFF). Of the steelhead sampled since July 1, the majority have been A-Index fish with only three B-Index fish sampled to date. Sampling at the AFF is limited by COE and NOAA at forebay water temperatures above 70° F and is paused if temperatures reach 72° F.
- TAC provides in-season run size updates for both A- and B-Index steelhead. The first in-season run size update typically occurs in late August for A-Index fish and mid-September for B-Index fish.

Coho

- The 2026 forecasted return of coho to the Columbia River mouth is 358,700 adults, which includes 241,500 early stock and 117,200 late stock fish. The forecast is 94% of the recent 10-year average return of 381,100 adult fish. Bonneville Dam passage is expected to total 99,200 adult coho, consisting of 71,300 early stock and 27,900 late stock fish. The total passage expectation represents 67% of the forecasted ocean abundance of Columbia River coho destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam. No coho have been observed passing upstream of Bonneville Dam yet this year.
- TAC does not provide an in-season abundance projection for coho as the majority of the run returns to tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam. TAC monitors passage at Bonneville Dam but typically does not formally update the upriver coho abundance expectation.

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted</i>				
		2025 Forecast	2025 Return	2026 Forecast
Fall Chinook	Total Fall Chinook	736,200	685,512	636,500
	Lower River Hatchery - LRH	121,900	115,427	118,900
	Lower River Wild - LRW	14,500	19,801	15,500
	Bonneville Pool Hatchery - BPH	183,500	126,093	123,800
	Upriver Bright – URB	328,100	290,428	270,900
	<i>Snake River Wild - SRW</i>	<i>9,000</i>	<i>11,384</i>	<i>8,800</i>
	Lower River Bright - LRB	4,500	5,881	4,800
	Pool Upriver Bright - PUB	82,800	125,054	102,200
	Select Area Bright - SAB	900	2,828	400
Coho	Total Coho	342,100	471,411	358,700
	Early stock	254,900	287,297	241,500
	Late stock	87,200	184,114	117,200
Summer Steelhead	Total Upriver Steelhead	73,900	155,013	133,700
(to Bonneville Dam)	Upriver Skamania Index (total)	6,500	4,419	5,700
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>2,600</i>	<i>2,262</i>	<i>2,400</i>
	A-Index (total)	55,600	128,389	87,900
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>19,000</i>	<i>46,542</i>	<i>33,100</i>
	B-Index (total)	11,800	22,205	40,100
	<i>(wild)</i>	<i>1,100</i>	<i>1,318</i>	<i>4,500</i>
<i>Note: Italicized wild and hatchery components are included in the stock total</i>				

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 preseason forecast, treaty Indian fisheries are limited to 20% of the total B-Index steelhead; 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 TAC provides updated in-season abundance projections.
- Direction from the respective Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions provides guidance for 2026 non-treaty fall fisheries management and includes the following:

- Current guidance regarding fall Chinook allocation is concurrent. Allocation of the most constraining fall Chinook stock is no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries.
- Current guidance regarding use of gillnets in commercial salmon fisheries is not concurrent. Washington's policy allows for the use gillnets in any commercial fishing zone downstream of Bonneville Dam, while Oregon allows for the use of gillnets only in Zones 4-5. Therefore, mainstem Chinook-directed gillnet fisheries will be restricted to Zones 4-5 this year.
- Current 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).
- Current guidance regarding allowable coho-directed commercial gear is not concurrent. Washington's policy allows for the use of any gear, while Oregon 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 other live-capture techniques is planned.
- The ESA-impact limit to LCR tule fall Chinook is 41% ER in 2026 given the preseason forecast. Harvest of LRH stock is the surrogate for natural-origin LCR fall Chinook. The exploitation rate (ER) limit includes impacts in ocean and Columbia River fisheries combined.
- The ESA-impact limit to Snake River wild fall Chinook is 45% HR 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.
- For 2026, ESA impacts to LCN coho are limited to a 23% ER for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.
- Columbia River fisheries are limited to a 5% ESA impact limit on LCR chum.
- The allowable ESA impact rates for wild summer steelhead (A-Index and B-Index) during non-treaty fall fisheries is 2% each.
- Based on information available preseason and input from the public, a 2026 fishing plan was developed for Columbia River non-treaty summer- and fall-season fisheries during the North of Falcon (NOF) management process. This fishing plan has been available online at ODFW and WDFW websites since May. Specific recommendations for fall commercial fisheries will be considered at Compact hearings. Initial regulations for fall-season recreational fisheries are already established and have been publicized.

2026 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Drift Net Fisheries

- The Zone 4-5 August (early fall) fishery was modeled to begin the week of August 2 and continue through the month of August, with one fishing period occurring during the first week (Wednesday night), three nights per week (Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights) for the weeks of August 9 and August 16, two nights during the week of August 23 (Monday and Wednesday nights), and one night during the week of August 30 (Sunday night).

- The Zone 4-5 Late Fall Chinook-target fishery will likely begin in early to mid-September, dependent on the remaining commercial shares, in-season URB abundance expectation, and available ESA impacts.
- Commercial fishing periods in Zones 1-3 targeting hatchery coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets are expected to begin as early as September 15 and continue throughout October with up to five fishing periods per week. This fishery will be considered at a future Compact hearing.
- The following recommendation was developed during the 2026 NOF preseason process with input from the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group and public discussions with industry representatives. The fishing periods and regulations are consistent with the expectations laid out in the states' 2026 non-treaty Columbia River Summer/Fall Fishing Plan.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i>	
Season:	Ten 9-hour fishing periods during August 5–August 31.
Week 32 (1 period)	9 PM Wednesday August 5 to 6 AM Thursday August 6
Week 33 (3 periods)	9 PM Sunday August 9 to 6 AM Monday August 10
	9 PM Tuesday August 11 to 6 AM Wednesday August 12
	9 PM Thursday August 13 to 6 AM Friday August 14
Week 34 (3 periods)	9 PM Sunday August 16 to 6 AM Monday August 17
	9 PM Tuesday August 18 to 6 AM Wednesday August 19
	9 PM Thursday August 20 to 6 AM Friday August 21
Week 35 (2 periods)	9 PM Monday August 24 to 6 AM Tuesday August 25
	9 PM Wednesday August 26 to 6 AM Thursday August 27
Week 36 (1 period)	9 PM Sunday August 30 to 6 AM Monday August 31
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. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction.
	Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad.
Additional Rules:	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.

- Restricting the fishery to Zones 4-5 will reduce the catch of LCR tule Chinook and implementing a 9-inch minimum mesh size will reduce steelhead handle.
- Modeled preseason catch expectations total 25,800 adult Chinook (2.5% URB/SRW HR; 1.9% LCR tule natural-origin ER); about 2,400 coho (0.3% LCN coho ER) are available for this fishery. The expected ESA-impact rates for natural-origin A- and B-Index steelhead are 0.1%

and 0.2%, respectively. No impacts to chum are expected. The expected ESA impacts to SRW and LCR Chinook in the August fishery represent 59% and 65%, respectively, of the total expected commercial impacts to those stocks.

- Catch expectations reflect the modeled number of fish that may be harvested within allocated ESA impacts. Because fisheries are managed to remain within these limits, actual harvest may be more or less than modeled. Weekly adult Chinook preseason catch expectations are:
 - Week 32 = 290; Week 33 = 1,950; Week 34 = 7,600; Week 35 = 10,650; Week 36 = 5,320
- Staff will monitor landings and sampling data to determine if catch rates and stock composition are tracking within expectations. If they are not, there is adequate time to modify the fishery if needed.
- Ex-vessel prices (per pound) during the 2025 early fall fishery averaged \$4.65 for bright Chinook, \$0.30 for tule Chinook, and \$1.78 for coho.

Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fisheries

- The non-treaty preseason fishery plan incorporates guidance from the Oregon and Washington commissions for implementation of alternative-gear commercial fisheries. The guidance allows for up to 2% of the non-treaty ESA impacts for the most constraining stock to be set aside for alternative gear commercial fisheries (beach seine, purse seine, and pound nets) utilizing live capture methods to harvest hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho.
- The intent is to reserve sufficient ESA impacts to evaluate alternative gears for commercial use. In 2023, an Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) was designated by the WDFW Director to evaluate gears not currently legal in Washington for consideration to be legalized. It is anticipated that the ECF evaluation will occur over the course of five years.
- Six total permits have been made available for the fishery, three designated for pound nets and three for seines. Participants for the fishery were selected by lottery. For the 2026 fishery five of the available permits were filled, consisting of two pound nets and three seines.
- Individual Fisher Quotas (IFQs) have been calculated and assigned to each permit. Harvest in this fishery will be controlled by the application of these IFQs rather than by the number or duration of fishing periods.

2026 ECF IFQ Limits	
Adult Chinook kept	1,040
Adult coho kept	779
Steelhead handle	193

Release Mortality Rates			
	Beach Seine	Purse Seine	Pound Net
Chinook	33%	21%	7%
Coho	38%	29%	9%
Steelhead	5%	2%	6%

- Considering the preseason forecasts, available ESA impacts, and post-release mortality rates, the 2026 Emerging Commercial fishery was modeled to occur in Zones 1-3 with an allowed harvest of 5,200 adult hatchery Chinook and 3,895 adult hatchery coho.

Recommendation: 2026 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Seine Fisheries

Participants:	Those individuals possessing the proper licenses/permits issued by Washington or Oregon to participate in the 2026 Emerging Commercial Fishery established as per WAC 220-360-500. The required licenses/permits are an Emerging Fishery license and Experimental Fishery Permit in WA or an Experimental Gear Permit in OR. Permit holder must be present during all fishing operations and be in possession of applicable permits/licenses.
Season:	Weekdays from August 3 – October 16, except September 7 (Labor Day holiday). Daily open hours are 7 AM to 7 PM though active fishing may only occur for 8 consecutive hours within each 12-hour period.
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River in Zones 1-3.
Sanctuaries:	Elokom-B, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B river mouth sanctuaries and Select Area commercial fishing sites.
Gear:	Beach seine or purse seine: • Only one seine net is allowed per (primary) vessel. • Mesh size restricted to a 3.5-inch maximum (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure). • Net material to consist of 3-strand nylon, twine size $\geq$#12. • Seines may include a bunt of 1.0–2.0-inch knotless mesh. • Net length not to exceed 200 fathoms (<u>not</u> including associated lead nets). Net depth not to exceed 200 meshes (approximately 50 feet). • No restrictions on corkline, leadline, or use of stringers and slackers. • A chafing strip panel consisting of non-monofilament webbing (such as nylon seine web or polyethylene trawl web) is allowed on bottom of net; maximum panel depth is 5 feet. Chafing mesh not to exceed 3.5-inch stretched measure for beach seines and 5-inch stretched measure for purse seines. There are no restrictions associated with hangings used to connect the net to the chafing panel or the net or chafing panel to the leadline or corkline. • Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Lead net (optional): • Only one lead net is allowed per fishing operation. • Lead nets may not exceed 100 fathoms in length. Lead nets may be constructed of 3-strand nylon webbing, twine size $\geq$#12, $\leq$3.5-inch mesh size (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure) <u>or</u> nylon or cotton webbing with mesh size $\geq$14-inches. Lead nets may not be vertically slackened. • Seine net and lead net may not be connected. • Lead nets must be retrieved daily.
Allowable Sales:	Subject to IFQs as defined on individual permits. Allowable sales limited to adipose fin-clipped Chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, sockeye, pink salmon, and shad. Retained Chinook and coho must have a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin. All legal adult Chinook and coho caught must be kept and sold. Adult Chinook are $\geq$ 24 inches and adult coho are $\geq$ 20 inches total length.

Handling/ Sorting:	Hand sorting or use of a knotless dip net is required when sorting fish. All fish must be sorted and/or released prior to removing entire seine from water. Dry sorting is not permitted.
Sort Time:	Not to exceed 75 minutes. Beach Seine - defined as the elapsed time from when the outer towed end of the net first contacts the shore or block until the net is emptied of fish. Purse Seine - defined as the elapsed time from when all rings are pursed and out of the water until the net is emptied of fish.
Observer Program:	Mandatory: A WDFW or ODFW observer must be present at all times during fishing operations. Cooperation is required and includes transportation of observers to/from fishing site.
Additional Rules:	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.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Pound Net Fishery</i>	
Participants:	Those individuals possessing the proper licenses/permits issued by Washington or Oregon to participate in the 2026 Emerging Commercial Fishery established as per WAC 220-360-500. The required licenses/permits are an Emerging Fishery license and Experimental Fishery Permit in WA or an Experimental Gear Permit in OR. Permit holder must be present during all fishing operations and be in possession of applicable permits/licenses.
Season:	Weekdays from August 3 – October 16, except September 7 (Labor Day holiday). Daily open hours are 7 AM to 7 PM though active fishing may only occur for 8 consecutive hours within each 12-hour period.
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River in Zones 1-2.
Sanctuaries:	Not applicable.
Gear:	Pound Net: • Lead and jigger netting may be no larger than 3 1/8-inch stretch mesh. • The heart, spiller, tunnel, and live well (sorting chamber) netting may be no larger than 2½-inch stretch mesh. • Pound net may have an optional apron of webbing no larger than 2 ½ inch stretch mesh extending out flat along the river bottom from the bottom of all netting components. The apron may not exceed 3 feet in depth on the lead and jigger, and the apron may not exceed 6 feet in depth on the heart. Aprons must be anchored or weighed down in a manner sufficient to hold the apron to the river bottom. • Optional marine mammal gates may be used to prevent marine mammals from entering the heart during active fishing. • When not actively fishing for less than 24 hours, the following configuration must be put in place to allow fish free passage and to prevent unintended corralling of fish in heart compartment:

	1. The opening of the heart along the lead must remain open. All spillers (pots) and live wells must be moved (i.e., lifted, removed, etc.,) in a manner that creates an opening providing egress from the heart. 2. A midpoint panel of the lead <u>or</u> the panel nearest to the shore must be lifted or removed to provide free passage around the lead. If the shore panel is chosen to be lifted/removed, the minimum water depth at the nearest shore piling with netting shall be no less than 10 feet at any given point in tide. • When not actively fishing for more than 24 hours but less than 72 hours, the following configuration must be put in place to allow fish free passage and to prevent unintended corralling of fish in heart compartment: 1. The opening of the heart along the lead must remain open. All spillers (pots) and live wells must be moved (i.e., lifted, removed, etc.,) in a manner that creates an opening providing egress from the heart. 2. A midpoint panel of the lead <u>and</u> the panel nearest to the shore must be lifted or removed to provide free passage around the lead. The minimum water depth at the nearest shore piling with netting shall be no less than 10 feet at any given point in tide. 3. Spot checks must be conducted daily by the permit holder during which a logbook must be filled out. A WDFW or ODFW observer may be present during these daily spot checks. • While not actively fishing for more than 72 hours but less than 120 hours, all netting must be raised above the high-water line. • If the gear will not be fished for more than 120 hours, all netting must be removed from the piling within five days.
Allowable Sales:	Subject to IFQs as defined on individual permits. Allowable sales are limited to adipose fin-clipped Chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, sockeye, and pink salmon and shad. Retained Chinook and coho must have a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin. All legal adult Chinook and coho caught must be kept and sold. Adult Chinook are ≥ 24 inches and adult coho are ≥ 20 inches total length.
Handling/Sorting:	Hand sorting or use of a knotless dip net is required when sorting fish. Dry sorting is not permitted.
Observer Program:	Mandatory: A WDFW or ODFW observer must be present at all times during fishing operations. Cooperation is required, and includes transportation of observers to/from fishing site.
Additional Rules:	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 season structure and gear regulations were developed based on input from the ECF permit holders. Modifications may be necessary as the fishery progresses.
- Season total landings are subject to the IFQs outlined on each permit. Combined landings will not exceed 5,200 adult hatchery Chinook (0.30% URB HR; 0.10% SRW HR; 0.23% LCR tule natural-origin ER) and 3,895 adult hatchery coho (0.84% LCN coho ER). The ESA-impact rates for natural-origin A- and B-Index steelhead are expected to not exceed 0.02% and 0.02%, respectively. Chum impacts are expected to not exceed 0.01% HR.

- Modeled adult mark rates for these alternative gear fisheries are 69% for Chinook, 43% for early-stock coho, and 63% for late-stock coho.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Expected harvest in Select Area fishing sites includes a minimum of 43,900 adult coho (90% of the recent 10-year average landings), and about 12,400 adult fall Chinook (162% of recent 10-year average landings) including approximately 200 adult SAB fall Chinook and 8,900 LRH fall Chinook. Impacts to ESA-listed stocks in 2026 fall Select Area commercial fisheries are expected to be 0.50% HR for SRW Chinook; 0.40% ER for natural-origin LCR fall Chinook; 0.12% ER for LCN coho; 0.72% for chum; and 0.04% and 0.07% for natural-origin A- and B-Index steelhead, respectively.

Youngs Bay Select Area

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon waters and require Oregon state action.
- The Youngs Bay Select Area is open to either Oregon or Washington fishers who possess valid licenses (fishing and boat) issued by either state. Per permanent rule, all landings from Youngs Bay must be delivered to an Oregon-licensed buyer.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Select Area Fall Season - Youngs Bay Fishery</i>		
Season:	7 PM Tuesday August 4 – 7 AM Thursday August 6	(36 hours)
	7 PM Tuesday August 11 – 7 AM Thursday August 13	(36 hours)
	7 PM Tuesday August 18 – 7 AM Thursday August 20	(36 hours)
	7 PM Monday August 24 – 7 AM Friday August 28	(3.5 days)
	7 PM Monday August 31 – Noon Friday October 30	(60 days)
Area:	The Youngs Bay Select Area is defined as waters of Youngs Bay and Youngs River southeasterly of the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the regulatory marker(s) at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers, including the Walluski River downstream of the Highway 202 Bridge, and the Lewis and Clark River north (downstream) of the overhead power lines approximately 500 feet south (upstream) of Barrett Slough.	
Gear:	Gillnets with a maximum mesh size restriction of 9¾-inch through August 20 and a 6-inch maximum thereafter. Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline may not exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed upstream of regulatory markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River, in the lower Walluski River from the first dock near the mouth upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge, and in the Lewis and Clark River from the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the overhead power lines approximately 500 feet southerly (upstream) of Barrett Slough. 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. Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a 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. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of	

the net opposite the boat is required.

Allowable Sales: Salmon (except chum) and shad.

Additional Rules: 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 expected harvest of local-origin coho in Youngs Bay is about 22,700 fish.
- Fishing time in early August was reinitiated due to the discontinuation of the Select Area Bright fall Chinook program beginning in 2024, and the traditional fall-season upper boundary at Battle Creek Slough was removed in 2025 since the area was no longer needed as a sanctuary for returning SAB broodstock.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Areas

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the railroad bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon waters extend upstream from the railroad bridge in Blind Slough and require Oregon state action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.
- The broodstock return goal for Big Creek Hatchery (BCH) has become more difficult to achieve due to reduced releases and recent low returns in recent years. Based on the 2026 LRH forecast, the anticipated return of tule fall Chinook to Big Creek Hatchery is expected to be adequate to meet egg take needs.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Select Area Fall Season - Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery</i>		
Season:	7 PM Monday August 24 – 7 AM Tuesday August 25	(12 hours)
	7 PM Thursday August 27 – 7 AM Friday August 28	(12 hours)
	6 PM – 10 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from August 31 through October 30	(36 periods)
Areas:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough	
	The Blind Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Blind Slough and Gnat Creek from a north-south line represented by regulatory markers at the mouth of Blind Slough upstream to a regulatory marker in Gnat Creek located approximately 0.5 miles southeasterly (upstream) of the Barendse Road Bridge.	
	The Knappa Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Knappa Slough, Calendar Slough, and Big Creek Slough bounded to the north (upstream) by a line projecting from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Karlson Island to the northernmost regulatory marker at the mouth of Blind Slough and bounded to the west (downstream) by a line projecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwestern tip of Karlson Island through regulatory markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore.	
	The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed.	
Gear:	Gillnets with 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Maximum net length is 100 fathoms. There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly	

to the lead line is permitted.

Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a 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.

Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.

Allowable Sales: Salmon (except chum) and shad.

Additional Rules: 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 expected harvest of local-origin coho is about 11,300 fish.
- To help achieve Chinook broodstock needs at Big Creek Hatchery, the recommendation for the Blind/Knappa Slough fishery only includes two periods during the last week of August. The recommendation also includes a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction for the entire season to focus the fishery on coho.

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area

- All waters in this fishing area are concurrent jurisdiction waters and require Compact action.
- A license from either Oregon or Washington is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Select Area Fall Season - Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery</i>		
Season:	7 PM Monday August 24 – 7 AM Tuesday August 25	(12 hours)
	7 PM Thursday August 27– 7 AM Friday August 28	(12 hours)
	4 PM – 10 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from August 31 through October 30	(36 periods)
Areas:	The Tongue Point Select Area is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Tongue Point (midway between the red USCG light “2” at the tip of Tongue Point and the northern-most pier (#8) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility) to the flashing green USCG light “3” on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island, a line from a regulatory marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the northwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker located on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island. (i) If the marker on the eastern shore of Tongue Point is not in place, the downstream boundary is defined by a line projecting from a point (46°12'31.1"N latitude 123°45'34.0"W longitude) on the eastern shore of Tongue Point to the flashing green USCG light “3” on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island. (ii) If the marker on the Oregon shore is not in place, the upstream boundary is defined by a line projecting from a point (46°10'57.7"N latitude 123°44'35.3"W longitude) on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the	

railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on Lois Island.

The South Channel Area is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the Oregon shore at John Day Point projecting northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker on Settler Point projecting northwesterly to the flashing red USCG light “10” then projecting westerly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island.

Gear:	Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Maximum net length of 250 fathoms. In the Tongue Point Select Area, the lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom; however, unstored gillnets legal for use in South Channel may be onboard. In the South Channel Select Area, there is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly to the lead line is permitted. Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a 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. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad.
Additional Rules:	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 expected harvest of local-origin coho is about 6,500 fish.
- The Tongue Point/South Channel season structure mostly matches Blind Slough/Knapa Slough to maintain concurrency between the fisheries and to reduce the harvest of fall Chinook returning to Big Creek Hatchery during the end of August.

Deep River Select Area

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Compact action. Washington waters extend upstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Washington state action.
- A Washington license is required in Washington waters and either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Select Area Fall Season - Deep River Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 PM Monday August 24 – 9 AM Tuesday August 25	(15 hours)
	6 PM Thursday August 27 – 9 AM Friday August 28	(15 hours)
	6 PM – 9 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from August 31 – October 30	(36 periods)
	6 PM – 8 AM Monday and Wednesday nights from November 2 – November 12	(4 periods)

Area:	The Deep River fishing area includes all waters from West Deep River Road Bridge at the town of Deep River downstream to the mouth defined by a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore.
Gear:	Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Maximum net length is 100 fathoms. No weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross the navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream or channel any gillnet gear longer than three-fourths the width of the river, stream, or channel. "River, stream, or channel width" is defined as bank-to-bank, where the water meets the banks, regardless of the time of tide or the water level. This emergency provision shall supersede the permanent regulation and all other regulations that conflict with it. Nets not specifically authorized for use 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. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (except chum) and shad.
Additional Rules:	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 expected harvest of local-origin coho is about 3,400 fish.
- The Deep River season structure allows for access to fall Chinook, but still includes time in November to access returning late-stock coho.
- A voluntary logbook program will be implemented throughout the season to obtain additional catch information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. Joint staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/State Consideration</i>		
	Page(s)	Action
☒ Non-treaty mainstem commercial early fall	5	Compact
☒ Non-treaty mainstem commercial seine	7-8	Compact
☒ Non-treaty mainstem commercial pound net	8-9	Compact
☒ Youngs Bay Select Area	10-11	OR State
☒ Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area	11-12	Compact & OR State
☒ Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area	12-13	Compact
☒ Deep River Select Area	13-14	Compact & WA State

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 1b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 22, 2026

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Treaty Zone 6 commercial platform and hook-and-line Treaty commercial platform and hook-and-line downstream of Bonneville Dam Yakama Nation Zone 6 tributary Research Commercial Fishery for non-native fish in John Day Pool
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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 2025 Fall Report was distributed on July 10, 2026. 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 and STOCK STATUS

- River conditions and stock status were presented in Fall Fact Sheet 1a.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Management Guidelines applicable to treaty Fall Management Period fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet 1a.
- There are no management limits applicable to non-native fish species in the Columbia River.

2026 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 early to mid-August annually.
- The commercial sale of fish caught with hoop net, dip net, or hook-and-line will be allowed by the Columbia River treaty tribes during the fall season beginning August 1.
- Yakama Nation tributary fisheries are currently open for subsistence and commercial use under existing regulations. These fisheries are expected to occur throughout the fall season. The Yakama Nation allows commercial sale of Zone 6 tributary catch when sales are open for the Zone 6 platform fishery.
- 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.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted or will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2026 Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery – Zone 6 Platform and Hook-and-Line</i>	
Season:	12:01 AM August 1 through 6:00 PM December 31.
Area:	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook-and-line.
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 these gear types are in place.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

<i>2026 Yakama Nation Zone 6 Tributary Fishery</i>	
Season:	Beginning 12:01 AM August 1 6:00 PM December 31, and only during those days and hours when the tributaries listed below are open under lawfully-enacted Yakama Nation tribal subsistence fishery regulations for enrolled Yakama Nation members and when commercial sales are authorized for Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries.
Area:	Wind River, Drano Lake, and Klickitat River
Gear:	Hoop nets/bag nets, dip nets, and rod and reel with hook-and-line.
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 may be kept for subsistence purposes.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

<i>2026 Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery – Downstream of Bonneville Dam: Platform and Hook-and-Line</i>	
Season:	12:01 AM August 1 through 11:59 PM October 31 and only during days and times opened under tribal regulations.
Area:	Area as defined in tribal/state MOUs/MOAs.
Gear:	Hook-and-line and/or platform gear identified in tribal rules.

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 may not be retained in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam. Sales of fish are not authorized on COE property downstream of Bonneville Dam; fish must be transported elsewhere for sale.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- Typical harvest in early fall season platform fisheries prior the beginning of commercial gillnet fisheries ranges from 200-700 Chinook, 100-400 steelhead and very small numbers of coho.
- Typical harvest in fall season fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam is less than 100 chinook, less than 50 steelhead and less than 100 coho.
- Yakama nation tributary harvest in the fall season is highly dependent on tributary and hatchery returns to these areas. Harvest limits are separate from mainstem fisheries.
- Fisheries will be monitored through the tribal creel program and catches will be reported weekly.

2026 TREATY INDIAN SUMMER RESEARCH FISHERY FOR NON-NATIVE FISH

- To test the feasibility and practicality of using commercial fishing techniques as a tool to assist in the control of non-native fish, the tribes issued one research fishing permit in 2025 and one in early 2026 to test gillnets in selected backwater areas of the John Day Pool.
- The initial tests in 2025 were done over seventeen days in two areas over four permit periods and resulted in a harvest of 103 carp, 40 bass, 132 walleye, and 178 catfish. The only native fish caught were 31 northern pikeminnow and 26 suckers. In 2026, winter harvest in four days in February and March included 408 carp, 42 bass, 62 walleye, 15 crappie, and 54 catfish. Native fish caught included 7 northern pikeminnow, 23 suckers. No salmonids or sturgeon have been handled in any of the research fishing.
- The tribes plan to continue testing methods of harvesting non-native fish in 2026 starting this winter. One permit is expected, but more may possibly be issued. Fishing is not expected to occur throughout the entire permit period.
- Carp are the target species, but any other non-native species as well as pikeminnow may be retained for commercial or other purposes. Permits will require that no non-native species be released alive. Native northern pikeminnow and suckers may be retained or sold as there are no specific conservation concerns for these species.
- Because of the potential for introduction of northern pike from Lake Roosevelt upstream of Grande Coulee Dam and the likely adverse ecological effects from any introduction, any northern pike encountered will be retained and reported to fishery management agencies.

- Logbooks will be the primary tool to assess the program although there will be requirements for permit holders to have daily contact with their tribes' fishery managers. On the water monitoring will occur as staff availability allows. Permit holders will be required to attend gear while fishing. Exact permit language may vary by tribe, but permits will stipulate collection of data on number of fish handled by species including any juveniles. Descriptions of gears and number of gears used will be documented. The tribes may include various other limits for fishers as appropriate, and these could include time or location limits and additional restrictions if salmonids are handled. The tribes will reserve the right to limit or modify permits as needed to ensure compliance with permits and ensure minimal risk to listed salmonids or sturgeon. Individual permits may or may not be valid for the full duration of the planned time period.

<i>2026 Treaty Indian Summer Season Research Commercial Fishery (John Day Pool)</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Friday July 24 through 6:00 PM Saturday August 15 (22.5 days)
Area:	The following areas in the John Day Pool: Railroad Island slough (45.72504, -120.69580)- only the slough side waters up from the railroad tracks. Paterson Slough (45.70664, -120.46430)- only the slough side to the north of Hwy 14. Sundale slough (45.72008, -120.31364)- only the slough side waters up from the railroad tracks. Jones Canyon slough (45.71576, -121.24522)- only the slough south of the railroad tracks. Willow Creek slough (45.79306, -120.01470)- only waters south of the eastbound lanes of I-84. Alderdale slough (45.83741, -119.92876)- only waters north of Hwy 14. Paterson Slough (45.92950, -119.55259)- waters inside the mouth of the slough, across from Irrigon & Umatilla fish hatcheries.
Gear:	Gillnets Only.
Sanctuaries	These areas do not include any standard closed areas applicable to gillnet gear.
Allowed Sales	Yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, carp, northern pikeminnow and suckers may be sold or retained for other purposes. These species may be sold after the permit fishing period concludes. All other species including salmon, steelhead and sturgeon must be released. If any northern pike are handled, they must be killed and provided to tribal or state fishery programs.
Additional	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers for all areas as provided in WAC 220-352-315, except that all landings from treaty fisheries described above must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The planned permits are expected to have zero handle or mortality to adult or juvenile salmonids or sturgeon. Any mortality to these species will be accounted for under existing treaty fishery impacts for those species.
- The results of the permit research fishery will be shared with co-managers. Depending on the results, the tribes could propose additional research fisheries in other areas or at other times of the year at some later date.
- All fisheries will be monitored, and catches reported regularly. Treaty fall season salmonid fisheries will be modified as needed to keep harvest impacts within allowed limits.

- The tribes will bring their early fall season commercial gillnet fishing plans to a Compact hearing in mid-August.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes request a Compact Hearing on August 6 to consider fall season treaty commercial gillnet fisheries.