

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
August 6, 2026

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Treaty commercial gillnet Non-treaty mainstem commercial tangle net
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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 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 August 4, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam is 121 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 138 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 71.0°F which is the same as the five-year average. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam is 7 feet, similar to the recent five-year average of 6.8 feet.

STOCK STATUS

- Run size forecasts for 2026 and stock descriptions for salmon and steelhead encountered in fall-season fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1a.

Fall Chinook

- Through August 4, a total of 2,582 adult-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is September 7.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 – August 4 totals 22,026 A-/B-Index fish.
- From July 1 through July 30, CRITFC staff sampled 187 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 181 A-Index fish (90 unclipped) and six B-Index fish (three unclipped). Stock composition is generally tracking as expected for this point in the run.

Coho

- Through August 4, 26 adult early-stock coho (defined as coho passing prior to October 1) have passed Bonneville Dam. Passage of upriver early-stock coho is typically less than 0.1% complete by August 4.

In-Season Run Size Updates

- Preseason abundance forecasts 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.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Based on information available preseason and input from the public, a 2026 fishing plan was developed for Columbia River summer and fall non-treaty fisheries during the North of Falcon 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.

- Current policy guidance for Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) coho ESA impacts prioritizes use in Select Area commercial fisheries (OR/WA), mainstem commercial Chinook-directed fisheries (OR/WA) and commercial hatchery coho-directed fisheries (OR), followed by recreational fisheries (OR/WA), and then coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries (OR/WA).
- Current policy 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 coho-directed gillnet fishery in the mainstem is expected to occur this year; however, a fishery using tangle net gear and other live-capture techniques is planned.

2026 TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Treaty Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- The treaty tribes allowed fall season commercial sales of platform and hook-and-line fish beginning August 1 which was a continuation from sales from the summer management period. The tribes expect sales to run continuously through the end of the fall management period. The treaty platform and hook-and-line fisheries harvest only a small portion of the total allowed impacts in fall season fisheries. Most impacts occur in the fall season commercial gillnet 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 treaty tribes will set three initial commercial gillnet openings for the fall management period and will plan additional openings as appropriate.
- The tribes' fishery model uses 5-year average set net counts as an index of expected fishing effort as well as recent average weekly harvest rates. The model will be adjusted for future openings to account for actual fishery performance and actual run sizes. The projected catches for weeks with commercial gillnet openings include the expected catches in the platform and hook-and-line fishery during those weeks. Due to the large expected remaining allowed catch after these openings, the model is sufficiently precautionary for early season fisheries.
- Fishing plans include using the standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary until such time as there is certainty that the broodstock needs will be met. These plans also include using an 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction to help control the harvest of B-Index steelhead.
- Modeled catches are shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Projected 2026 Fall Season Treaty Harvest (using preseason forecasts for all stocks)

2026 Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries (Modeled catches)									
Week		Gillnet Fishery	Dates	Expected Effort (Nets)	Total Adult Chinook	URB Chinook	Total Steelhead	B-Index Steelhead	Coho
31-33	Projected	Platform/ H&L	August 1-16	na	800	600	520	70	0
34	Projected	8/17	8/20	170	6,100	4,400	420	110	260
35	Projected	8/24	8/29	260	10,300	5,900	560	135	190
36	Projected	8/31	9/5	300	23,500	11,300	990	400	600
		Total			40,700	22,200	2,490	715	1,050
Allowed at Preseason Forecast Run Size						81,264		8,020	
Expected Harvest by 9/6						22,200		715	
Remaining after 9/6						59,064		7,305	
Expected Harvest Rate by 9/6						8.2%		1.8%	
Remaining Harvest Rate after 9/6						21.8%		18.2%	

- With the modeled gillnet fisheries, the remaining Chinook and steelhead available after these planned gillnet openings is sufficient to provide a large buffer to address uncertainties in catch projections.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have or will adopt gillnet regulations consistent with the following:

2026 Fall Season Treaty Commercial Gillnet Fishery		
Season:	6:00 AM Monday August 17 to 6:00 PM Thursday August 20 (3.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday August 24 to 6:00 PM Saturday August 29 (5.5 days) 6:00 AM Monday August 31 to 6:00 PM Saturday September 5 (5.5 days)	
Area:	Zone 6	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnet gear. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is also in effect.	
Gear:	Set and drift gill nets with an 8-inch minimum 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 may not be sold, but 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.	
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 impacts associated with the proposed fisheries fit within the harvest limits for URB run sizes down to 97,000 and for B-Index steelhead run sizes down to 5,500.
- 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 to supplement the creel program. Set net effort will be monitored by aerial surveys each week. Drift net 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 mainstem 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 since sales of fish from these fisheries were addressed at the July 22, 2026 Compact hearing.
- Treaty commercial fishing provides important economic benefits to tribal members and their families as well as to communities along the river and on reservations.

2026 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- Mainstem fall recreational salmon fisheries began August 1. Season length information can be found in the 2026 Columbia River Summer/Fall non-treaty fishery plan. Weekly catch updates will be provided throughout the season on the [myODFW Columbia River page](#).

Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries in Youngs Bay opened August 4. The Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Tongue Point/South Channel, and Deep River fisheries open August 24.

Mainstem Emerging Commercial Fisheries

- The mainstem Emerging Commercial Fishery (ECF) began on August 3 and may continue through October 16. Harvest in these fisheries is limited by the use of individual fishery quotas as presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1a.

Mainstem Fall Commercial Fisheries

- Early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fisheries began on August 5 and are scheduled to continue through August 31 with one to three fishing periods per week totaling ten 9-hour fishing periods. Dependent on in-season factors, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 may begin in early to 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 coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets and other live-capture techniques were planned preseason to begin September 15 and continue through October with up to five daytime fishing periods per week. Therefore, staff recommend the following:

Recommendation: 2026 Non-Treaty Late Fall Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

Season:	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday September 15	33 periods
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 16	(Monday through Thursday 18 hrs each)
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday September 17	(Friday 14hrs)
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 21	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday September 22	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 23	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday September 24	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday September 25	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday September 28	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday September 29	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday September 30	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 1	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 2	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 5	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 6	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 7	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 8	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 9	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 12	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 13	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 14	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 15	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 16	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 19	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 20	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 21	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 22	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 23	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Monday October 26	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Tuesday October 27	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Wednesday October 28	
	4:00 AM to 10:00 PM Thursday October 29	
	4:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 30	
Area:	Zones 1–3. Upper deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A	
Gear:	Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed.	
	Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.	
	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.	

There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.

The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is prohibited. Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net.

Allowable Sales:

Salmon (except chum) and shad; coho must be adipose fin-clipped from September 21 through October 30, with a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin.

Regulations:

Regulations typically in place for live-capture commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, live-capture fishery certification, etc.

Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the web is deployed into the water until the web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 30 minutes.

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

Measuring mesh size: Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact.

Live Capture workshop: At least one fisher on each boat must have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques to participate in this fishery.

Additional Rules:

Multiple net rule in effect: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.

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

24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

- Up to 11,500 adult coho and 2,200 adult Chinook were set aside for this fishery in preseason modeling. The ESA impact rate to LCN coho is projected to be up to 1.6% ER for this proposed fishery. Preseason ESA impact expectations to Chinook include 0.36% LCR ER and 0.39% SRW HR.

- Expected steelhead handle is approximately 202 fish. ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be 0.01% HR for A-Index and 0.06% HR for B-Index for the proposed fishery.
- Preseason ESA impact expectation for chum is 0.1% HR for this proposed fishery.
- Staff intend to observe this proposed fishery and continue collecting data via voluntary logbooks. Data collected from the fishery will be utilized to evaluate preseason modeled expectations.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes request another Compact Hearing during the week of August 31 to present plans for additional fall season commercial gillnet fisheries.