

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
September 9, 2026

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Non-treaty mainstem commercial salmon Mainstem recreational salmon
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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 September 4, the five-day average outflow at Bonneville Dam was 90 kcfs compared to a five-year average of 109 kcfs. The five-day average water temperature at Bonneville Dam was 70°F which is the same as the five-year average. The five-day average visibility at Bonneville Dam was 7 feet which is the same as the five-year average.

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 September 8, a total of 296,997 adult-sized fall Chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. The recent 10-year average 50% passage date is September 7.
- Based on visual stock sampling, a total of 167,746 adult bright stock fish (URB and PUB stocks) have passed Bonneville Dam. A total of 84,850 adult tules and 44,401 adult-sized tule jacks have also passed Bonneville Dam. Bright stock passage is 48% complete and tule passage is 71% complete on September 8, based on recent 10-year average run timing.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Passage of summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 – September 8 totals 49,684 A-/B-Index fish.
- From July 1 through September 4, CRITFC staff sampled 361 total steelhead at Bonneville Dam including 338 A-Index fish (167 unclipped) and 23 B-Index fish (9 unclipped). Stock composition is generally tracking as expected for this point in the run.

Coho

- Through September 8, 35,116 adult early-stock coho (defined as coho passing prior to October 1) have passed Bonneville Dam.
- Passage of upriver early-stock coho is 41% complete by September 8, based on a recent ten-year average run timing.

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.

- TAC met on September 8, 2026 to review and discuss information relative to the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead and upriver fall Chinook returns including Bonneville Dam passage information and outputs from passage projection models. In addition to reviewing run size information, TAC also discussed ongoing fall fisheries.
- Based on the passage to date and assumptions of passage timing, TAC updated the expected A-Index steelhead abundance at Bonneville Dam to 54,900 total fish including 17,700 unclipped fish. It is too early to provide an in-season assessment of the B-Index return.
- TAC provided the first 2026 in-season run size update for the upriver fall Chinook stocks. Based on passage to date, assumptions of passage timing at Bonneville Dam, and harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam, TAC expects the total return of adult-aged fall Chinook to be 657,000 fish at the Columbia River mouth. The total includes 270,900 URB, 106,300 PUB, and 140,200 BPH fall Chinook.
- TAC will continue to monitor and assess the upriver A-/B-Index summer steelhead, upriver fall Chinook, and upriver coho returns during the fall management period and will provide updates as appropriate. TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday, September 14.

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.
- The respective Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commission policies provide guidance for 2026 non-treaty fall fisheries management.
 - Current policy 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 policy guidance regarding use of gillnets in commercial salmon fisheries is not concurrent. 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.
- Additional management guidelines for 2026 fall fisheries were presented in Fall Fact Sheets #1a and #2.

2026 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES

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 opened August 25. Preliminary catch estimates for the combined Select Areas through September 5 include 25,123 Chinook and 18,667 coho.

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 Commercial Drift Net Fisheries

- Preliminary catch estimates for the early-fall Zone 4/5 commercial fishery include 29,655 Chinook and 1,032 coho. Additionally, an estimated 400 steelhead were handled.
- Late-fall commercial fishing periods in Zones 1–3 targeting coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets and other live-capture techniques are scheduled to begin on September 15 and continue through October 30.
- According to the preseason non-treaty fishery plan, late-fall Chinook-directed commercial periods in Zones 4/5 were expected to 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.
- Considering current abundance expectations, actual use in the early-fall fisheries, and expected needs for Select Area, tangle net, and ECF fisheries, an URB HR balance of 2.01% and LCR ER balance of 0.46% remains available for additional mainstem commercial fisheries.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Late-Fall Fishery</i>		
Season:	8 PM Thursday September 10 to 6 AM Friday September 11	10 hours
	8 PM Thursday September 17 to 6 AM Friday September 18	10 hours
	8 PM Sunday September 20 to 6 AM Monday September 21	10 hours
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 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.	

- Chinook catch for the recommended periods could be up to 16,500 adults. At this harvest level, the additional SRW/URB HR is modeled to be 2.03% and LCR Chinook ER would be 0.71%.
- ESA impacts to wild upriver summer steelhead are expected to be up to 0.01% for A-Index and 0.06% for B-Index fish for the recommended periods.
- This recommendation provides sufficient time for staff to assess the results of the first period and remaining balances resulting from TAC's run size update next Monday before the remaining periods are prosecuted.

Buoy 10 and Mainstem Fall Recreational Salmon Fisheries

- Buoy 10 upstream to west Puget Island (WPI) recreational fishery was scheduled to be open August 1–9 and August 25 – September 2 for Chinook and hatchery coho, August 10–24 for hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and September 3 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention. Following in-season action, the Chinook adult daily bag limit for August 25 – September 2 was modified to hatchery Chinook.
 - Preliminary estimates through September 7 include 33,341 kept and 25,011 released Chinook, 44,660 kept and 22,392 released coho, and 50 released steelhead from approximately 108,700 angler trips.
- WPI to Warrior Rock (WR) recreational fishery was open through September 2 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and will be open October 1–15 for coho retention, and October 16 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention. Salmonid angling is currently closed in this area from September 3–30, per the preseason plan.
 - Preliminary estimates through September 2 include 7,279 kept and 681 released Chinook, 225 kept and 101 released coho, and 210 released steelhead from approximately 35,300 angler trips.
- WR to Bonneville Dam (BON) recreational fishery is scheduled to be open through September 15 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, and October 1–15 for coho retention and October 16 – December 31 for hatchery coho retention. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 16–30, per the preseason plan.
 - Preliminary estimates through September 6 include 6,840 kept and 966 released Chinook, 249 kept and 164 released coho, and 77 released steelhead from approximately 24,200 angler trips.
- BON upstream to Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA (Hwy 395) recreational fishery is scheduled to be open through September 15 for Chinook and coho retention, and October 1 – December 31 for coho retention. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 16–30 per the preseason plan. Wild coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released August 1 – September 11 and October 16 – December 31.
 - Preliminary estimates through September 6 include 3,817 kept and 588 released Chinook, 45 kept and six released coho, and four kept and 57 released steelhead from approximately 13,300 angler trips.
- Weekly catch updates can also be found on the [myODFW Columbia River Recreation Report page](#).

- The Buoy 10 coho fishery is tracking below expectations for unclipped coho mortalities as compared to the preseason plan, while handle rates have remained high. Therefore, staff recommend increasing the daily coho bag limit as follows:

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Mainstem Recreational Salmon Fisheries</i>
Effective Saturday, September 12 through Saturday, October 31, the daily adult bag limit is three salmon (hatchery coho) for the mainstem Columbia River fishery from the Buoy 10 line upstream to west Puget Island. All other previously-adopted and relevant permanent regulations remain in effect.

- Unclipped coho mortalities would not likely exceed an additional 400 fish, resulting in the total for the Buoy 10 fishery being approximately 75% of the preseason expectations. Chinook handle in the Buoy 10 fishery will decline over the remainder of the fall season. This action is not expected to measurably increase ESA impacts to LCR or SRW fall Chinook.
- Staff will continue to monitor abundances, stock composition, and fishery performance. Additional retention opportunities may be considered this fall if possible.

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, planned, and proposed 2026 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	3.53%	--	3.53%	1.73%	--	1.73%
WPI-WR	0.55%	--	0.55%	1.29%	--	1.29%
WR-BO	1.50%	--	1.50%	3.54%	--	3.54%
BO-Hwy 395	n/a	n/a	n/a	2.40%	--	2.40%
Tributaries	0.30%	--	0.30%	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Recreational Total</i>	<i>5.88%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>5.88%</i>	<i>8.96%</i>	<i>0.00%</i>	<i>8.96%</i>
Zone 4-5 Early Fall	1.47%	--	1.47%	1.55%	--	1.55%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 37	--	0.10%	0.10%	--	1.09%	1.09%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 38	--	0.37%	0.37%	--	0.53%	0.53%
Zone 4-5 Late Fall week 39	--	0.24%	0.24%	--	0.41%	0.41%
Zone 1-3 Tangle net	0.36%	--	0.36%	0.39%	--	0.39%
Emerging Comm. Fisheries	0.21%	--	0.21%	0.10%	--	0.10%
Select Areas	0.40%	--	0.40%	0.25%	--	0.25%
<i>Commercial Total</i>	<i>2.44%</i>	<i>0.71%</i>	<i>3.15%</i>	<i>2.29%</i>	<i>2.03%</i>	<i>4.32%</i>
Non-Treaty Total	8.32%	0.71%	9.03%	11.25%	2.03%	13.28%

^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 and the expected in-river ER is 9.03% compared to the preseason in-river ER of 9.94%.
- The expected URB HR is projected to be 14.22% out of the 15% allowed. Harvest limitations on URBs influenced preseason fisheries planning this year.
 - Projected fisheries are covered for an URB run size down to about 256,000 adults.
- 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 23.0% ER limit and within the expected preseason in-river ER of 7.6%.
- Impacts to Columbia River chum from in-river fisheries are expected to be 0.7% HR compared to the 5% limit.
- Cumulative impacts for A- and B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries are expected to be 0.49% and 0.87% out of the allowed 2% HR, respectively.
- Staff will continue to monitor Chinook abundance, stock composition, and fishery performance. Based on these factors and available LCR and URB fall Chinook, additional Chinook and coho harvest opportunity may be considered this fall.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes have requested a Compact hearing for Tuesday, September 15 to consider additional treaty fisheries.