



2020 Non-Treaty Columbia River Summer/Fall Fishery Plan May 13, 2020

Due to unforeseen situations, including run size updates, catch estimates, and public/staff health concerns related to COVID-19, fishing regulations may be modified.

Management Intent and Expectations for Summer Chinook and Sockeye Fisheries

- The preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 38,000 fish to the Columbia River mouth. Under the *U.S v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA), the allowable total fishing mortality (kept + release mortality) for all non-treaty fisheries is 6,460 adult fish, of which a total mortality of 2,540 is available for in-river fisheries.
- Based on WDFW's Upper Columbia Management Agreement, the available harvest for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 10% of the total allowed for in-river non-treaty fisheries.
- There is not enough harvestable allocation to cover directed summer Chinook fisheries outside of Colville and Wanapum subsistence fisheries. Existing allocations are sufficient to cover indirect mortalities in recreational steelhead/sockeye fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam and commercial Select Area fisheries.
- The mainstem recreational fishery will be closed to summer Chinook retention (including jacks) but remain open to steelhead/sockeye. The daily bag limit is one hatchery steelhead beginning June 16.
- The preseason forecast for sockeye is 246,300 fish. Non-treaty fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed for an impact limit of $\leq 1\%$ of the run ($\leq 2,463$ fish). Commission guidance allocates the harvestable share approximately 80% to recreational fisheries and the balance to commercial fisheries. Recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam and from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam are projected to catch 900 and 200 sockeye, respectively. From May 16 through July 31, the daily bag limit may include up to two sockeye; all sockeye are considered adults.
- Effective March 1, barbless hooks are required when fishing for salmonids in the mainstem Columbia from the mouth upstream to the Oregon-Washington state line upstream of McNary Dam.

Management Intent for Fall Season Fisheries

- This fishery plan reflects the intent of Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission policies/regulations and the management objective to optimize harvest of fall Chinook and hatchery Coho in non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries while remaining within the limitations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

- This fishery plan was developed during the 2020 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and North of Falcon (NOF) meetings in March and April, which included input from the Columbia River Advisory Groups and other members of the public.
- The non-treaty fishery conservation responsibility for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead is shared between recreational and commercial fisheries.
 - Commission guidance allocates ESA impacts for the most constraining fall Chinook stock as no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries. Commission guidance allows for the use of gillnets in Zones 4/5, and up to 2% of ESA impacts on the most constraining stock to (6.7% of the 30% commercial allocation) be available for alternative gear commercial fisheries.
- The preseason forecast, after ocean fisheries, for Upriver Bright fall Chinook (URB) at the Columbia River mouth is 227,570 adult fish and includes 10,900 Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW). Based on these forecasts, the allowed harvest rate (HR) limit on URB and SRW Chinook for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries is 15%. However, due to non-treaty fisheries exceeding allowed harvest rates in recent years, and the breakpoint in the harvest rate schedule being well within the margin of historical forecast error, a conservative approach to preseason fishery planning has been employed. All fisheries incorporate a split-season structure which limits the combined non-treaty URB/SRW HR to 8.25% prior to an in-season run-size update. The initial URB run-size update typically occurs in mid-September. Additional fishing opportunity is planned to access the full 15% harvest rate if the URB runsize is projected to be at least 200,000 adults in-season.
- Total preseason shares of URB/SRW impacts for Columbia River fisheries are expected to be 70% recreational and 30% commercial, which is consistent with Commission guidance for the most constraining Chinook stock.
- Based on the preseason forecast, the ESA impact for Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tules is limited to a 38% exploitation rate (ER), which is shared between ocean and in-river fisheries. The total full-season ER is expected to be 38.0%, with a 28.0% ER for ocean fisheries and a 10.0% ER for in-river fisheries. Total preseason shares of LCR tule impacts for Columbia River fisheries are expected to be 74% recreational and 26% commercial.
- The preseason Coho forecast is 140,190 adults to the Columbia River. The ESA-impact ER limitation for Lower Columbia River natural (LCN) Coho is 18%, which includes both ocean and in-river fisheries. The total ER is expected to be 16.9%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 6.3% or 37% of the total.

Fall Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fall fishery expectations outlined in this fishery plan are based on a preseason Chinook model run that is summarized in Table 1.
- Catch expectations are primarily based on stock-specific preseason abundance forecasts and prior-year stock-specific harvest rates. Total-season catch expectations are based upon a full season, assuming an in-season assessment of the URB return allows for a 15% SRW/URB HR. Pre-update fishery regulations are based upon an 8.25% SRW/URB HR.
- Preseason modeling indicates that recreational fisheries occurring prior to the run-update cannot be structured with typical season-lengths given the 8.25% HR available prior to the run update. Area-specific recreational Chinook retention seasons are based on recent-year (2013-2017) observed

average URB harvest shares. However, since fisheries upstream of the Lewis River stand to benefit disproportionately from a potential re-opening of Chinook retention after an in-season run update, the base URB harvest shares have been adjusted to allocate a higher portion to fisheries downstream of the Lewis River for use prior to a run update.

- In-season management decisions by the Columbia River Compact/Joint States for commercial and recreational fall-season fisheries will be based on the MA, the state commissions' policies/regulations, and this preseason plan.
- Catch expectations (including release mortalities) for adult fall Chinook in mainstem fisheries (excluding tributary and Hanford Reach recreational, and Select Area commercial fisheries) total 64,900 adults, including 43,800 in recreational fisheries (67%) and 21,100 in commercial fisheries (33%).
- Harvest, season structures, and impacts accrued will be influenced by actual fall Chinook abundances and stock-specific harvest rates in each respective fishery.
- The upriver summer steelhead forecast is well below average returns; similar to both 2017 and 2019. To limit overall impacts on steelhead, the daily bag limit for hatchery steelhead will be limited to one fish beginning June 16. Additionally, retention or angling closures are scheduled to occur in the mainstem Columbia River and lower reaches of select tributaries and the night-fishing closure for salmonids will be in effect as seen in Table 2.

Goals/expectations for fall recreational fisheries include:

- The Buoy 10 recreational fishery will begin on August 14 with a one salmon (Chinook and hatchery Coho only) daily limit through August 27.
 - From August 28 through September 22, Chinook retention is closed. The daily limit is one adult hatchery Coho.
 - If in-season estimates of URB abundance allows for a 15% HR, Chinook retention is expected to reopen on or about September 23 and continue through December 31, still with a one adult salmonid daily bag limit.
 - Total mortality (kept + release mortalities) expectations include 19,420 Chinook, (3.4% URB/SRW harvest rate, 6.3% LCR wild ER), and up to 18,200 Coho.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam varies by river section based on area-specific sub-allocations for URB Chinook. The daily adult bag limit for all sections is one salmonid throughout the season and all steelhead must be released August 1 through October 31. Wild Coho may not be retained.
 - From the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to west Puget Island, Chinook and hatchery Coho retention will be allowed August 14 – 27 and is expected to re-open on or about September 23 through December 31. From August 28 through September 22, salmon/steelhead angling is closed.
 - From west Puget Island upstream to the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line, Chinook and hatchery Coho retention will be allowed August 1 – 31 and is expected to re-open from about September 23 through December 31. From September 1 – 22, salmon/steelhead angling is closed.

- From the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam, the fishery will be open for Chinook and hatchery Coho retention August 7 through September 6 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only. The fishery is expected to re-open 7-days/week on or about September 23 through December 31. Salmon/steelhead angling is closed from August 1 – 6, Mondays through Thursdays during August 10 through September 3, and September 7 – 22.
- Total mortality (kept + release mortalities) expectations for the area from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam, include 19,160 adult Chinook (6.2% URB/SRW harvest rate, 0.9% LCR wild ER).
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington will be open to Chinook and Coho retention August 1 through September 8 and is expected to re-open on or about September 23 through December 31. The daily adult limit is one salmonid; wild Coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released. Salmon/steelhead angling is closed September 9 – 22. Total mortalities (kept + release mortalities) expectations include 5,240 adult Chinook (0.9% URB/SRW harvest rate).
- The areas listed below are closed to steelhead retention during the specified periods (for more detail see Table 2). However, when salmon fisheries are closed to angling, they are also closed to angling for steelhead.
 - Buoy 10 upstream to The Dalles Dam August 1 through October 31,
 - The Dalles Dam upstream to John Day Dam August 1 through December 31 (and Jan – Mar 2021),
 - John Day Dam upstream to Highway 395 at Pasco, WA September 1 through December 31 (and Jan – Mar 2021).
- During fall fisheries (August 1 through December 31) from Buoy 10 upstream to the OR/WA border (upstream of McNary Dam) each legal angler aboard a vessel may continue to deploy angling gear until the daily adult salmonid limit for all anglers aboard has been achieved.
- As described previously, barbless hooks are required when fishing for salmonids.
- The dates, area restrictions, and catch expectations described above are based on preseason planning and input from the recreational fishing community. In-season events may change many of these expectations.

Goals/expectations for fall commercial fisheries include:

- The August (Early Fall) fishery is modeled to begin during the week of August 9 and is expected to continue into the week of August 30, with fishing periods occurring 1-2 days per week primarily on Monday and Wednesday nights. The one period planned for the final week of August may occur on Sunday night (August 30). Fishery structure is expected to include up to seven 9-hour (9 PM – 6 AM) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The harvest expectation for pre-update fisheries includes 13,150 adult Chinook (2.6% URB/SRW harvest rate; 1.5% LCR wild ER). Additional fishing periods, potentially with reduced hours, may be considered to meet harvest guidelines.
- If in-season estimates of URB abundance allow for a 15% HR, additional commercial fisheries during the late fall portion of the season (mid/late September and October) are expected. Based on preseason modeling, commercial fisheries are expected to have about 1.8% URB/SRW HR and 0.7% LCR wild Chinook ER available for use during this timeframe.

- Potential commercial periods in mid/late September may occur starting the week beginning September 13 in Zones 4-5 following a run size update. Periods would likely be 10-hours (8 PM – 6 AM) with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction.
- Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch tangle nets may occur in October if in-season indications of abundance warrant a fishery.
- Due to the low projected returns for steelhead and Coho, and below average expectations for LRH Chinook, commercial pound net and seine fisheries will not occur this fall. These low forecasts combined with limited available impacts are not conducive for an economically viable fishery, resulting in no strong support for an alternative gear fishery in 2020.
- The dates, areas, gear restrictions, and catch expectations described above are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events may change many of these expectations.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Table 1. Columbia River Fall Chinook Fishery Model Summary

Ocean Option:		Chin3120-Final	10-Apr	MR2020-Final Preseason										
Columbia River Model Option:		Model	MR2020-Final Preseason											
				Non-Treaty Catch Sharing										
Management Guidelines		Goal/Guideline	SRW	SRW - IMPACTS			Brights - Mainstem							
Harvest Rate		45.00%	45.0%	Sport	Impact	Percent	Sport	Mortalities	Percent	Harvest				
Non-Treaty		15.00%	15.0%	Comm	10.49%	70%	Sport	32,800	70%	32,800				
Treaty		30.0%	30.0%		4.51%	30%	Comm	14,100	30%	14,100				
% of Harvestable Surplus			Total	LRH - Impacts			Chinook - Mainstem							
Non-Treaty		50%	35%	Sport	Impact	Percent	Sport	Mortalities	Percent	Harvest				
Treaty		50%	43%	Comm	7.43%	74%	Sport	43,800	67%	43,800				
McNary Escapement		60,000	107,300	Comm	2.60%	26%	Comm	21,100	33%	21,100				
LRH Ocean/Inriver Exp. Rate		38%	38.0%											
Non-Treaty Wild B Index Steelhead		2%	<2%											
Treaty Total B Index Steelhead		13%	13%											
Upriver Coho to Bonneville Dam		50%	70%											
Lower Columbia Chum		5%	0.54%											
				Total	LRH	LRW	BPH	URB	LRB	PUB	SAB	SRW	LRH	SRW
Ocean Harvest				56,370	9,560	5,550	9,900	23,450	800	7,110			ER	HR
Columbia River Run				420,430	50,210	19,220	45,450	227,570	7,720	69,250	1,000	10,900	10.03%	15.00%
				2020 Fisheries										
Harvest Below Bonneville				Fishery Description										
Zone 4-5 Wk 33. Aug 9-15			Aug 10, 12	840	40	0	180	570	0	50	0	30	0.1%	0.25%
Zone 4-5 Wk 34. Aug 16-22			Aug 17, 19	3,020	260	0	990	1,450	10	290	0	70	0.3%	0.64%
Zone 4-5 Wk 35. Aug 23-29			Aug 24, 26	5,020	450	20	1,510	2,400	40	590	0	120	0.6%	1.06%
Zone 4-5 Wk 36. Aug 30-Sep 5			Aug 31	4,270	360	0	1,360	1,550	90	910	0	70	0.5%	0.68%
Zone 4-5 Wk 38. Sep 13-19				3,630	300	180	690	1,710	170	580	0	80	0.4%	0.75%
Zone 4-5 Wk 39. Sep 20-26				2,400	120	140	460	1,110	90	470	0	50	0.2%	0.49%
Zone 4-5 Wk 40. Sep 27-Oct 3				1,180	0	0	220	650	120	180	0	30	0	0.29%
Oct Coho Tanglenet			Coho target	740	60	60	0	530	0	90	0	30	0.1%	0.23%
Select Areas			Full Season	4,740	3,710	0	180	290	0	80	460	10	0.4%	0.13%
Buoy 10 Kept + Morts		1 fish limit	Aug 14-27/Sep 23-Dec 31	19,420	4,360	550	3,450	7,750	220	1,980	140	370	6.3%	3.41%
TP to Lewis		1 fish limit	Aug 1-31/Sep 23-Dec 31	6,800	260	150	170	5,170	100	910	50	250	0.4%	2.27%
Lewis to Bonn		1 fish limit	Aug 7-Sep 6; 3d-wk/Sep 23-Dec 31	12,360	400	0	700	8,980	230	2,060	0	430	0.6%	3.94%
Tributary Sport		MSF	Average season	2,770	1,670	1,110	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.2%	0.00%
Lower River Total				66,230	12,010	2,210	9,920	32,170	1,080	8,200	660	1,540	10.0%	14.13%
Bonneville Dam Passage				284,100			28,920	195,410		59,770		9,360		
Harvest Above Bonneville														
Z6 - Bonn to Hwy 395		1 fish limit	Aug 1-Sep 8/Sep 23-Dec 31	5,240			740	1,980		2,520		90		0.87%
Treaty Comm. and C&S			Average season	116,480			15,910	68,230		32,340		3,270		30.0%
Hanford Reach Sport			Average season	7,720				7,720				0		
McNary Dam Passage				107,330				107,330						
Lower Granite Dam Passage												6,064		
Escapement														
Hatchery				38,210	1,050	12,270		6,640	24,920	340				
Natural				23,760		10,080			9,770	200				
Hatchery Surplus				14,450	17,010	2,190	107,330	6,640	15,150	140				
Natural Surplus				10,570		3,080			790	(1,000)				
					9,270	890	47,330							

Table 2. Columbia River mainstem and tributary steelhead regulation summary for the 2020-21 season.

Water Body	June 16-June 30	July	August	September	October	November	December	Jan-March	Comments	
Columbia River mainstem										
Below Bonneville Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Daily limit 1			Converts to closed to angling when Chinook/coho retention ends. Permanent night closure.	
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Daily limit 1			Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Permanent night closure.	
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention						Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Permanent night closure.	
John Day Dam to McNary Dam	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1		Closed to retention					Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Permanent night closure.	
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1		Closed to retention					Converts to closed to angling when Chinook retention ends. Night closure.	
Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam	Closed to angling for steelhead				Daily limit 1. Ringold Springs Hatchery only (ADRV).		TBD		Dependent upon actual UCR and RSH returns. Fishery through 3/31 (Bank 4/1-15). Permanent night closure.	
Columbia River tributaries										
Cowlitz/Lewis/Kalama WA tributary lower reaches		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention	Daily limit 1					Permanent night closure	
Wind/White Salmon/Klickitat WA tributary lower reaches		Closed to angling for steelhead								Additional restrictions closed to fishing and time, to provide more protection. Permanent night closure.
Drano Lake		Closed to angling for steelhead								Additional restrictions closed to fishing and time, to provide more protection. Permanent night closure.
Deschutes River (OR) river lower reach/mouth area closure		TBD - likely closed to angling							Potential specific dates and area to be determined.	
Eagle/Herman OR tributary lower reaches/mouth area closures		TBD - likely closed to angling				Note: A/B-index upriver summer steelhead catch accounting (green cells)			Potential specific dates and area to be determined.	