



## 2021 Non-Treaty Columbia River Summer/Fall Fishery Plan

May 7, 2021

**Due to unforeseen situations, including in-season run size updates, catch estimates, and the on-going public health concerns related to COVID-19, fishing regulations may be modified.**

This fishery plan was developed during the 2021 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and North of Falcon (NOF) meetings in March and April, which included input from the public and members of the Columbia River recreational and commercial fishery advisory groups.

This fishery plan reflects the intent of current Oregon's and Washington's Fish and Wildlife Commission policies/regulations and the management objective to optimize harvest in non-treaty commercial and recreational fisheries while remaining within the limitations of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA).

### Management Intent and Expectations for Summer Chinook and Sockeye Fisheries

- The preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 78,800 fish to the Columbia River mouth. Under the *U.S. v Oregon* MA, the allowable total fishing mortality (kept + release mortality) for all non-treaty fisheries (including ocean) is 24,076 adult fish, of which 16,683 are available for in-river fisheries.
- Based on WDFW's Upper Columbia Management Agreement, the available harvest for summer Chinook fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is about 36% of the total allowed for in-river non-treaty fisheries.
- The preseason forecast for sockeye is 155,600 fish. Non-treaty fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed for an impact limit of  $\leq 1\%$  of the run ( $\leq 1,556$  fish).
- OR and WA policy guidance regarding allocations of summer Chinook and sockeye harvest impacts for commercial and recreational fisheries is not concurrent for either species at this time. Oregon rule allocates non-treaty sharing of summer Chinook harvest in fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam as 80% recreational and 20% commercial, while sharing in Washington policy is 70% recreational and 30% commercial. Allocation of sockeye is similar, with WA allocating 70% to recreational fisheries and 30% to commercial while OR rule allocates approximately 80% to recreational fisheries and the balance to commercial fisheries targeting Chinook. Due to the nonconcurrent guidance, staff is modeling fisheries using allocations for both species of 70% recreational and 20% commercial with 10% unallocated.
  - Summer Chinook (downstream of Priest Rapids Dam) and sockeye (downstream of Hwy. 395 at Pasco, WA) allocations:
    - Sport: 4,176 summer Chinook and 1,089 sockeye.

- Commercial: 1,193 summer Chinook and 311 sockeye.
  - Unallocated: 597 summer Chinook and 156 sockeye.
- Policy guidance regarding allowable commercial gears for summer Chinook is not concurrent at this time. Oregon rules do not allow use of gillnets for summer season mainstem commercial fisheries, but the Washington policy does. No other viable gears are currently available to the commercial fleet, therefore no fishery is expected to occur.
- The mainstem recreational fishery will be open June 16 to summer Chinook, steelhead, and sockeye retention (including Chinook jacks). The daily bag limit will be two adult salmonids, of which no more than one may be a sockeye and no more than one may be a steelhead. All wild Chinook and wild steelhead must be released. Adult hatchery Chinook retention will be allowed through July 5 downstream of Bonneville Dam and through July 31 upstream of Bonneville Dam. Sockeye, hatchery Chinook jacks, and hatchery steelhead retention is expected to remain open through July 31. Below are the summer Chinook and sockeye catch expectations:
  - Astoria-Megler Bridge to Bonneville Dam: 3,550 summer Chinook and 951 sockeye.
  - Upstream of Bonneville Dam: 626 summer Chinook (upstream to Priest Rapids Dam) and 138 sockeye (upstream to Hwy. 395 at Pasco, WA).
- 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

- The non-treaty fishery conservation responsibility for ESA-listed salmon and steelhead is shared between recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Commission guidance regarding allocation of fall Chinook is concurrent. Guidance in both states 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. WA policy allows for the use of gillnets in any Zone. OR policy allows for the use of gillnets in Zones 4-5, and up to 2% (i.e., 6.7% of the 30% commercial allocation) of ESA impacts on the most constraining stock to be available for alternative gear commercial fisheries. Due to nonconcurrent guidance, staff is modeling commercial gillnet fisheries only in Zones 4-5 and up to 2% of ESA impacts being available for alternative gear commercial fisheries.
- Guidance for recreational Chinook fishery objectives is not concurrent. The Oregon rules provide the guidance shown below, while the WA policy does not provide any specific guidance on season structure:
  - Buoy 10 to Tongue Point: August 1 through Labor Day (34 days; assuming Labor Day is September 3).
  - Tongue Point to Warrior Rock: August 1 through September 7 as non-mark selective (non-MSF) and an additional week of mark-selective (MSF) September 8-14 (45 days).
  - Warrior Rock to Bonneville Dam: August 1 through October 31 (92 days).
  - If established objectives for mainstem recreational fisheries are predicted to be met, additional opportunity for mainstem commercial fisheries shall be provided.

- Adaptive management allows for some consideration of impact-neutral fishery modifications (i.e., MSF vs non-MSF regulations in recreational fisheries).
- The preseason forecast of Lower River Hatchery fall Chinook (LRH) is 73,900 adults to the Columbia River mouth. Based on this forecast, the ESA impact for Lower Columbia River (LCR) wild tule Chinook is limited to a 38% exploitation rate (ER), which is shared between ocean and in-river fisheries. The allowed 38% ER is expected to be fully utilized, with a 27.05% ER for ocean fisheries and a 10.95% ER for in-river fisheries.
- Total preseason shares of LRH impacts for Columbia River fisheries are 70% recreational and 30% commercial, which is consistent with Commission guidance regarding allocation of the most constraining Chinook stock.
- The preseason forecast for Upriver Bright fall Chinook (URB) at the Columbia River mouth is 361,500 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%.
- The preseason Coho forecast is 1,343,200 adults to the Columbia River mouth. The ESA-impact ER limit for Lower Columbia River natural Coho (LCN) is 30%, which includes both ocean and in-river fisheries. The total ER is expected to be 10.1%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 3.6% or 36% of the total.
- The preseason forecast for A- and B-Index upriver summer steelhead is 96,800 total fish and includes 1,000 wild B-Index fish. The total HR on wild A-Index and wild B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fall-season fisheries is expected to be 0.6% and 1.0%, respectively, out of an allowed 2.0% on each stock.

#### Fall Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fall fishery expectations outlined in this fishery plan are based on preseason Chinook and Coho model runs that are summarized in “MR 2021-Preseason” and “Pre-season Coho catch and impact summary” tables below. These tables also provide each individual fishery’s catch expectation and associated impacts (i.e., HR and ER).
- Chinook catch expectations are primarily based on stock-specific preseason abundance forecasts and prior-year stock-specific harvest rates.
- Seasons are primarily based upon achieving the recreational/commercial allocation sharing for the most constraining stock (LRH) and, secondarily, to achieve the recreational Chinook retention season objectives described in the OR rules.
  - Adaptive management was utilized in the Tongue Point-Warrior Rock fishery by converting MSF days (i.e., September 8-14) into non-MSF days (i.e., September 8-9) as it was ESA impact neutral.
- In-season management decisions for non-treaty commercial and recreational fall-season fisheries will be based on the *U.S. v Oregon MA*, the state commissions’ policies/rules, 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 101,100 adults, including 65,200 in recreational fisheries (64%) and 35,900 in commercial fisheries (36%).

- 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 recent 10-year average returns and similar to returns in years 2017-2020 when fisheries were restricted. Daily bag limits are reduced in recreational fisheries in addition to retention and/or angling closures for the mainstem Columbia River and lower reaches of select tributaries. Commercial fisheries primarily fish with gear and at times to avoid peak B-Index abundance.

Goals/expectations for fall recreational fisheries include:

- The Buoy 10 recreational fishery will begin on August 1 and Chinook retention will continue through September 6 with a two salmon (Chinook and hatchery Coho only) daily limit, with no more than one Chinook. Wild/unmarked Chinook may not be retained from August 1 through 10. Wild Coho may not be retained. Steelhead may not be retained from August through October in this area.
  - From September 7 through December 31, Chinook retention will be closed and the adult daily limit increases to three fish. Wild Coho may not be retained. Only hatchery Coho may be kept through October 31.
  - Total mortality (kept + release mortalities) expectations include 26,990 Chinook and 93,827 Coho.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam varies by river section and is based on season-length objectives in OR rule. The daily adult bag limit in both sections is two salmonids from August 1 through December 31. Wild Coho may not be retained. Steelhead may not be retained from August through October.
  - From the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line, no more than one adult Chinook may be retained from August 1 through September 9; Chinook retention will be closed September 10 through December 31.
  - From the Lewis River/Warrior Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam, no more than one adult Chinook may be retained from August 1 through October 31; Chinook retention will be closed November 1 through December 31.
  - Total mortality expectations for the area from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam include 30,010 adult Chinook and 8,600 Coho.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, WA will be open to Chinook and Coho retention from August 1 through December 31. The daily adult limit is two salmonids with no more than one being a Chinook; wild Coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released. Total mortality expectations include 8,180 adult Chinook.
  - In this area, steelhead retention will be closed as follows (for more detail see steelhead regulation table below):
    - Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam from August 1 through October 31.
    - The Dalles Dam upstream to Highway 395 at Pasco, WA from September 1 through December 31 (and January through March 2022).

- 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. 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.
- 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) Chinook-target fishery is modeled to begin the week of August 8 and is expected to continue into the week of August 29, with fishing periods occurring two days per week on Monday and Wednesday nights. Fishery structure is expected to include eight, 9-hour (9 PM – 6 AM) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The harvest expectation includes 24,260 adult Chinook and 1,400 Coho.
- The Late Fall (mid/late September and early October) Chinook-target fishery will likely begin in mid-September and is modeled for one fishing period per week. Fishery structure is expected to include up to four, 10-hour (8 PM – 6 AM) periods in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. A total of 9,580 adult Chinook and 9,200 Coho have been set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
- Commercial fishing periods targeting hatchery Coho using 3.75-inch multifilament tangle nets are expected to occur around September 27 through October 31 for three fishing periods per week (Mon, Wed, Fri) from 4am – 10pm in Zones 1-3. A total of 2,050 adult Chinook and 36,000 Coho have been set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
- Due to the low projected returns for steelhead, commercial pound net and seine fisheries are not expected to occur in August or September this fall.
- If a strong Coho run materializes, then additional Coho-directed fisheries may occur during October (in addition to the fisheries included in preseason modeling). Any additional Coho-directed fisheries would also need Chinook and steelhead impacts; availability of these would be assessed in-season. Fisheries for potential consideration include 6-inch gillnet if staff receives further policy guidance allowing for consideration of this gear, or alternative gears (MSF beach seine, purse seine, and/or pound net).
- 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. Additional fishing periods, with modified hours, may be considered to meet harvest guidelines.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Columbia River Fall Chinook Fishery Model Summary

Ocean Option: Chin3721\_final 5-May  
 Columbia River Model Option: Model MR2021-Preseason Final

**MR2021-Preseason Final**

Management Guidelines	Goal/Guideline	SRW	Total URB
Harvest Rate	45.00%	45.0%	45.0%
Non-Treaty	15.00%	14.95%	15.00%
Treaty	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%
% of Harvestable Surplus		<b>Total</b>	
Non-Treaty	50%	34%	
Treaty	50%	35%	
McNary Escapement	60,000	172,800	
LRH Ocean/Inriver Exp. Rate	38%	38%	
Non-Treaty Wild B Index Steelhead	2%	1.0%	
Treaty Total B Index Steelhead	13%	13%	
Upriver Coho to Bonneville Dam	50%	81%	
Lower Columbia Chum	5%	1.6%	

Non-Treaty Catch Sharing					
SRW - IMPACTS			Brights - Mainstem		
Sport	Impact	Percent	Mortalities	Percent	Harvest
Comm	5.58%	37%	50,700	67%	50,700
Total	14.95%		25,100	33%	25,100
LRH - Impacts			Chinook - Mainstem		
Sport	Impact	Percent	Mortalities	Percent	Harvest
Comm	3.31%	30%	65,200	64%	65,200
Total	10.95%		35,900	36%	35,900

	Total	LRH	LRW	BPH	URB	LRB	PUB	SAB	SRW	LRH ER	SRW HR		
<b>Ocean Harvest</b>	70,870	11,330	5,690	9,220	36,650	980	6,990						
<b>Columbia River Run</b>	576,350	73,850	20,450	47,330	361,540	10,060	62,620	500	10,900	10.95%	14.95%		
<b>Harvest Below Bonneville</b>	<b>2021 Fishery Description</b>												
Zone 4-5 Wk 33. Aug 8-14	2 periods	Aug 9, 11	1,200	70	0	190	900	0	40	0	30	0.06%	0.25%
Zone 4-5 Wk 34. Aug 15-21	2 periods	Aug 16, 18	3,910	400	0	1,040	2,160	30	270	0	70	0.33%	0.60%
Zone 4-5 Wk 35. Aug 22-28	2 periods	Aug 23, 25	6,980	710	20	1,870	3,670	100	600	0	110	0.60%	1.02%
Zone 4-5 Wk 36. Aug 29-Sep 4	2 periods	Aug 30, Sep 1	12,170	1,210	0	3,160	5,860	260	1,690	0	180	1.14%	1.62%
Zone 4-5 Wk 38. Sep 12-18	<1 period	Date TBD	3,420	360	140	530	1,780	180	430	0	50	0.37%	0.49%
Zone 4-5 Wk 39. Sep 19-25	1 period	Date TBD	3,160	230	150	400	1,800	130	440	0	50	0.24%	0.50%
Zone 4-5 Wk 40. Sep 26-Oct 2	1 period	Date TBD	1,500	0	0	220	980	150	150	0	30	0.00%	0.27%
Zone 4-5 Wk 41 October	1 period	Date TBD	1,500	0	0	220	980	150	150	0	30	0.00%	0.27%
Oct Coho Tanglenet	3d/wk	Coho target	2,050	180	160	10	1,550	0	160	0	50	0.17%	0.43%
Select Areas		Full Season	5,900	4,920	0	200	490	10	70	210	10	0.40%	0.14%
Buoy 10 Kept + Morts	2 fish/1 CHF	8/1-10 MSF; 8/11-9/6 nMSF; 9/7-12/31 Coho only	26,990	6,320	1,320	3,590	9,940	590	3,700	170	290	5.85%	2.70%
TP to Lewis	2 fish/1 CHF	8/1-9/9 nMSF; 9/10-12/31 Coho only	10,730	770	660	220	7,560	200	1,250	60	230	0.76%	2.09%
Lewis to Bonn	2 fish/1 CHF	8/1-10/31 nMSF; 11/1-12/31 Coho only	19,280	700	0	910	13,450	580	3,640	0	410	0.73%	3.72%
Tributary Sport	MSF	Average season	3,970	2,570	1,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.29%	0.00%
<b>Lower River Total</b>			<b>101,390</b>	<b>18,440</b>	<b>3,850</b>	<b>12,550</b>	<b>51,120</b>	<b>2,380</b>	<b>12,610</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>1,540</b>	<b>10.95%</b>	<b>14.09%</b>
Bonneville Dam Passage			386,510			29,150	310,420		46,940		9,370		
<b>Harvest Above Bonneville</b>													
Z6 - Bonn to Hwy 395	2 fish/1 CHF	8/1-12/31 nMSF	8,180			560	3,110		4,510		90		0.86%
Treaty Comm. and C&S			142,640			12,950	108,460		21,230		3,270		30.0%
Hanford Reach Sport			12,560				12,560				0		
McNary Dam Passage			172,750				172,750						
Lower Granite Dam Passage											6,065		
<b>Escapement</b>				55,410	16,600	15,640		7,680	21,190	60			
Hatchery			27,490			13,100			9,040	40			
Natural			27,910	16,600	2,540	172,750	7,680	12,150	20				
Hatchery Surplus			13,660			6,100		70	(1,160)				
Natural Surplus				9,143	1,240	112,750							

## Pre-season Coho catch and impact summary

FRAM Run: bc-Coho2140\_Final

Catch Summary						
Fishery	Total Catch/Mort	Unmarked Catch/Mortality			Marked Kept Catch	
		Early	Late	Total	Early	Late
Mainstem	43,109	4,955	329	5,283	10,933	22,580
Youngs Bay	29,403	489	-	489	28,913	-
Blind/Knappa	15,493	659	-	659	14,833	-
Tongue Point	16,205	600	-	600	15,605	-
Deep River	8,700	-	127	127	-	8,573
LCR Sport Catch	8,600	521	361	882	3,179	4,539
B10 Catch	93,827	11,009	223	11,232	64,279	18,316
Ocean Catch	261,905	27,694	1,865	29,559	124,825	107,521
<b>Sum</b>	<b>477,241</b>	<b>45,928</b>	<b>2,905</b>	<b>48,833</b>	<b>262,566</b>	<b>161,529</b>
Exploitation Rates						
Fishery		Unmarked			Marked	
		Early	Late	Total	Early	Late
Lower Mainstem		0.76%	1.09%	0.91%	1.14%	4.01%
Upper Mainstem		0.14%	0.14%	0.14%	0.69%	0.08%
Select Areas		0.06%	0.05%	0.06%	9.95%	1.55%
B10 Sport		2.57%	0.81%	1.81%	10.78%	3.32%
LCR Sport		0.12%	1.31%	0.63%	0.53%	0.82%
Ocean		6.44%	6.76%	6.58%	20.93%	19.47%
<b>Sum</b>		<b>10.10%</b>	<b>10.15%</b>	<b>10.12%</b>	<b>44.02%</b>	<b>29.25%</b>

Columbia River mainstem and tributary summer steelhead regulation summary for the 2021-22 season.										
Water Body	June 16-June 30	July	August	September	October	November	December	Jan-March		
<b>Columbia River mainstem</b>										
Below I-5 Bridge	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention			Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)				
15-Bridge to Bonneville Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention							
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention							
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention						
John Day Dam to McNary Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention						
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention						
Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco to Priest Rapids Dam		Perm. Regs (Closed to angling for steelhead)								
<b>Columbia River tributaries</b>										
Cowlitz/Lewis/Kalama WA tributary lower reaches		Daily limit 1	Closed to retention	Daily limit 1						
Wind/White Salmon/Klickitat WA tributary lower reaches		Closed to angling for steelhead								
Drano Lake		Closed to angling for steelhead								
Deschutes River (OR) mouth bubble	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Perm. Regs - closed to angling (7/15-9/15)			Defaults to MS CR				
Eagle Cr. (OR) mouth bubble						Defaults to MS CR				
Herman Cr. (OR) Lagoon						Perm. Regs (closed to angling)			Perm. Regs (closed to angling)	
Herman Cr. (OR) mouth to RR bridge						Daily limit 1				
Eagle Cr. (OR) RR bridge to hatchery deadline			Daily limit 1							
Deschutes River (OR) lower reach (below Moody Rapids)			Daily limit 1							
John Day R (downstream of Tumwater Falls)			Daily limit 1		Closed to retention					
<b>Snake River</b>										
Mouth upstream to Couse Creek boat ramp	Closed by e-rule			TBD e-rule published by Sept 1						
Couse Creek boat ramp upstream to WA/OR/ID stateline	Closed by e-rule			TBD e-rule published by Sept 1						
Permanent regulations										
NOF regulations										
A/B-Index SSTH catch accounting										