



2026 Columbia River Summer/Fall Non-Treaty Fishery Plan

May 29, 2026

Fishing regulations may be modified from what is described in this document based on in-season abundance updates and catch estimates.

This fishery plan was developed during the 2026 Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and North of Falcon (NOF) meetings in March and April, which included stakeholder input from both the general public and members of the Columbia River recreational and commercial fishery advisory groups.

This fishery plan reflects the intent of current policies and/or regulations of the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions 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 Season Fisheries

- Oregon and Washington have policy guidance regarding allocations of summer Chinook and sockeye harvest impacts for commercial and recreational fisheries. Summer Chinook harvest allocation guidance is concurrent with 80% recreational and 20% commercial of the in-river harvestable surplus for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam. Sockeye ESA-impact allocation guidance is not concurrent; therefore, staff is modeling 70% recreational and 20% commercial, leaving the balance (10%) unallocated.
- Policy guidance regarding allowable commercial gears for summer Chinook is non-concurrent; Oregon rules do not allow the 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 non-treaty commercial fishery is expected to occur this summer.
- The preseason forecast for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 40,700 fish to the Columbia River mouth. Under the terms of the MA, the allowable total fishing mortality (kept + release mortality) for all non-treaty fisheries (including ocean) is 8,626 adult fish, of which 3,086 are available for in-river fisheries.
 - Based on WDFW's Upper Columbia Management Agreement and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission policy, the available harvest allocation for summer Chinook fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 10% of the total allowed for in-river non-treaty fisheries.
 - Summer Chinook allocations (mortalities) for fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam provide for a recreational allocation of 247 fish and commercial allocation of 62 fish.

- The preseason forecast for sockeye is 274,900 fish. Non-treaty fisheries downstream of the Snake River are managed to a harvest rate limit of $\leq 1\%$ of the total Columbia River run ($\leq 2,749$ fish).
- The preseason forecast for upriver summer steelhead (upriver Skamania Index, A-Index, and B-Index management stocks) is 133,700 total fish and includes 2,400 wild Skamania, 33,100 wild A-Index, and 4,500 wild B-Index fish. The total harvest rate (HR) on wild upriver Skamania, wild A-Index, and wild B-Index steelhead in non-treaty fisheries is expected to be 0.01%, 0.60%, and 0.10%, respectively, during the summer management season as compared to the ESA limit of 2% for each stock.
- The mainstem recreational fishery will be open for hatchery steelhead from June 16 through July 31 and sockeye retention will be allowed June 23 through July 5. The daily adult bag limit will be two adult salmonids, of which no more than one may be a steelhead; all sockeye are considered adults from the Astoria-Megler Bridge upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, WA. The fishery will be closed to retention of summer Chinook downstream of Priest Rapids Dam. The available recreational fishery summer Chinook allocation is anticipated to be sufficient to cover handle/release mortalities accrued during the summer season mainstem fishery.
- Continuing to fish for jack salmon is prohibited once the daily adult salmon and/or steelhead limit has been retained.
- Barbless hooks are required when fishing for salmonids in the mainstem Columbia from the mouth upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge.

Management Intent and Expectations 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 this year. Guidance in both states allocate impacts to the most constraining fall Chinook stock as no more than 70% to recreational fisheries and no less than 30% to commercial fisheries.
- Washington's policy for non-treaty commercial fisheries allows for the use of gillnets in any commercial fishing zone downstream of Bonneville Dam. Oregon's rules allow for the use of gillnets in Zones 4-5 only. Therefore, staff has modeled commercial mainstem gillnet fisheries in Zones 4-5 only.
- Current Oregon and Washington policy guidance on use of impacts on ESA-listed LCN coho is prioritized to Select Area commercial fisheries, mainstem commercial Chinook fisheries, and commercial hatchery coho fisheries (Oregon), followed by recreational fisheries, and then coho-directed mainstem commercial fisheries (Oregon and Washington).
- Current Oregon and Washington policy guidance regarding allowable coho-directed commercial gears is not concurrent. Oregon rules do not allow use of 6-inch gillnets for coho-directed fisheries while Washington does. Therefore, no 6-inch gillnet fishery is expected to occur in 2026.
- Oregon rules provide guidance regarding fall-season recreational fishery objectives for fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam, while the WA policy does not provide any guidance on season structure. The recreational fishery season objectives are not expected to be achievable in 2026.

- Oregon rules provide for up to 2% of ESA impacts of the most constraining stock to be available for alternative gear commercial fisheries and includes an expectation that the Department shall approve alternative gears for use. Washington policy supports the development and implementation of alternative gear commercial fisheries; additionally, an Emerging Commercial Fishery designation has been made by the WDFW Director to evaluate these gears for potential legalization. Therefore, the two states have set aside 2% ESA impacts of the non-treaty share for the most constraining stocks for use in alternative gear commercial fisheries; these impacts are considered part of the commercial share where numerical commercial allocation exists.
- The preseason forecast of Lower River Hatchery fall Chinook (LRH) is 118,900 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 41.0% exploitation rate (ER), which is shared between ocean and in-river fisheries. The total realized ER is expected to be 41.0%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 9.9% ER or 24% of the total, along with a 31.1% ER expected in ocean fisheries (1.5% South of Falcon non-treaty; 12.7% NOF non-treaty; 1.9% NOF Treaty; and 15.0% northern fisheries, i.e., Alaska/Canada).
- The preseason forecast for Upriver Bright fall Chinook (URB) at the Columbia River mouth is 270,900 adult fish, which includes 8,800 Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW). Based on these forecasts, the allowed HR limits on URB and SRW Chinook for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries are 15.0% on each. The total URB and SRW HRs for Columbia River non-treaty fisheries are expected to be 15.0% and 13.8%, respectively.
- Total modeled preseason shares of URB Chinook harvest 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 coho forecast is 358,700 adults to the Columbia River mouth. The ESA-impact limit for Lower Columbia River natural coho (LCN) is 23.0% ER, which includes both ocean and in-river fisheries. The total ER is expected to be 23.0%, with Columbia River fisheries accruing 7.6% ER or 33% of the total allowed.
- 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 1.1%, respectively, during the fall management period as compared to the ESA limit of 2% for 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 “Columbia River Fall Chinook Fishery Model Summary” and “Preseason coho catch and impact summary” tables below. These tables also provide catch expectations and associated impacts (i.e., HR or ER) for each individual fishery.
- Chinook catch expectations are primarily based on stock-specific preseason abundance forecasts and prior-year stock-specific harvest rates.
- Season structures are based upon achieving the recreational/commercial allocation sharing for the most constraining stock.

- In-season management decisions for non-treaty commercial and recreational fall-season fisheries will be based on the MA, ESA-impact limits, the state commissions' policies/rules, and this preseason plan.
- Catch expectations for adult fall Chinook in mainstem fisheries (i.e., excluding tributary and Hanford Reach recreational, and Select Area commercial fisheries) total 105,300 adults, including 66,000 in recreational fisheries (63%) and 39,300 in commercial fisheries (37%).
- Given the expected low return of summer steelhead again this year, the management approaches and steelhead fishery regulations will be similar to those enacted since 2017.
- Harvest, season structures, and ESA impacts accrued will be influenced by in-season abundance estimates for upriver stocks/species and stock-specific harvest rates in each respective fishery. The potential for additional harvest opportunities will be based on in-season fishery catch estimates, abundance expectations, allowable ESA impact estimates, and policy guidance/objectives.

Goals/expectations for fall recreational fisheries include:

- Regulations for summer steelhead fisheries are expected to be most similar to rules in place recently; see the included table summarizing preseason steelhead regulations for 2026. Daily bag limits will be reduced, in addition to retention and/or angling closures for the mainstem Columbia River and lower reaches of select tributaries.
- 2026 fall Chinook recreational fisheries were developed to reduce risk of in-season closures, aid in catch/stock estimation for in-season management, minimize effort shift, and limit additional regulation complexity.
- The dates, area restrictions, and catch expectations described are based on preseason planning and input from the recreational fishing community. Actual catches and stock composition of the catch will be monitored in-season, and fisheries may be adjusted accordingly with short notice (e.g., less than 24 hours).
- During fall fisheries (August 1 through December 31) from the mouth upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge, 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 Highway 395 Bridge.
- The Bachelor Island/Warrior Rock line is defined as: a line projected from the Warrior Rock lighthouse to the marker atop the piling dolphin located at the downstream end of Bachelor Island on the Washington shore.

- From Buoy 10 upstream to west Puget Island, the recreational fishery will be open August 1–9 and August 25 through September 2 for Chinook and hatchery coho, and August 10–24 for adipose fin-clipped hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho. The daily adult salmon limit is two fish but no more than one may be a Chinook. Wild coho may not be retained; steelhead may not be retained from August 1 through October 31.
 - From September 3 through December 31, retention of adult hatchery coho is allowed but Chinook retention will be closed.
 - Total mortality (kept catch plus release mortalities) expectations include 38,900 Chinook plus 46,400 coho mortalities are available to this fishery.
- Season structure for the mainstem recreational fishery from the west Puget Island line upstream to Bonneville Dam varies by river section. The daily adult bag limit is two salmonids but no more than one adult Chinook when open. Steelhead may not be retained from August 1 through October 31.
 - West Puget Island line upstream to the Bachelor Island/Warrior Rock line is open from August 1 through September 2 for Chinook and hatchery coho retention, October 1–15 for coho retention only, and October 16 through December 31 for hatchery coho retention only. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 3–30.
 - Bachelor Island/Warrior Rock line upstream to Bonneville Dam is open from August 1 through September 15 for Chinook and coho retention (hatchery coho only prior to September 12), October 1–15 for coho retention only, and October 16 through December 31 for hatchery coho retention only. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 16–30.
 - Total mortality expectations for the area from west Puget Island upstream to Bonneville Dam include 19,500 adult Chinook plus 7,300 coho mortalities are available for this fishery.
- The mainstem recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge will be open to Chinook and coho retention from August 1 through September 15, and October 1 through December 31 for coho retention only. Salmonid angling is closed in this area from September 16–30. The daily adult bag limit is two salmonids with no more than one being a Chinook; wild coho caught downstream of the Hood River Bridge must be released August 1 through September 11 and October 16 through December 31. Total mortality expectations (kept catch plus release mortalities) include 7,600 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 the Highway 395 Bridge from September 1 through December 31.

Goals/expectations for fall commercial fisheries include:

- The dates, areas, gear restrictions, and catch expectations described are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events may change some of these expectations. Additional fishing periods, potentially with modified hours, may be considered in-season to meet harvest guidelines.
- The August (Early Fall) Chinook-target fishery is modeled to begin the week of August 2 and is expected to continue through the month of August, with fishing periods occurring one to three nights per week. Fishery structure is expected to include ten, 9-hour (9pm–6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with a 9-inch minimum mesh size. The landings expectation includes 25,900 adult Chinook plus about 2,400 coho are available for this fishery.
- The Late Fall (September through October) Chinook-target fishery will likely begin early to mid-September, dependent on the remaining commercial share, in-season URB abundance expectation, and allowable harvest/ESA-impact limits. This fishery would include 10-hour (8pm–6am) periods in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. A total of 5,900 adult Chinook and 4,400 coho have been set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
- Commercial fishing periods targeting coho using 3.75-inch multifilament tangle nets in Zones 1-3 are expected to begin on September 15 and continue through October with periods being open on weekdays from 4am–10pm, but closing at 6pm on Fridays per industry request. Non-MSF coho retention is planned for up to three fishing periods during the first week of the fishery. MSF retention for coho begins the week of September 20 with up to five fishing periods per week. Up to 10,400 coho and 2,200 adult Chinook have been set aside for this fishery in pre-season modeling.
- Commercial fisheries will be structured with respect to gear, area, and time to reduce steelhead handle and avoid peak B-Index steelhead abundance.
- A limited entry alternative gear commercial fishery targeting hatchery Chinook and hatchery coho in Zones 1-3 is expected to be open on limited days from August through mid-October. Participants for the fishery were selected by lottery; expected gears include up to three pound nets and three seines (combination of beach and purse). Catches will be managed with the use of Individual Fisher Quotas (IFQs) and limited to no more than 2% of the allowed non-treaty impact rate for the most constraining stock.

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

Columbia River Fall Chinook Fishery Model Summary

Ocean Option: **Alt 1**
 Columbia River Model Option:

Chin_2526
Model MR2026-Preseason Final

MR2026-Preseason Final

Management Guidelines	Goal/Guideline	SRW	Total URB
Harvest Rate	45.00%	44.2%	45.0%
Non-Treaty	15.00%	13.8%	15.0%
Treaty	30.0%	30.4%	30.0%
% of Harvestable Surplus		Total	
Non-Treaty	50%	33%	
Treaty	50%	36%	
McNary Escapement	60,000	124,300	
LRH Ocean/Inriver Exp. Rate	41%	41.0%	
Non-Treaty Wild B Index Steelhead	2%	1.1%	
Treaty Total B Index Steelhead	20%	14.5%	
Upriver Coho to Bonneville Dam	50%	57%	
Lower Columbia Chum	5%	0.7%	

Non-Treaty Catch Sharing					
SRW - Impacts			Brights - Mainstem		
	Impact	Percent		Mortalities	Percent
Sport	9.5%	69%	Sport	36,300	70%
Comm	4.3%	31%	Comm	15,400	30%
Total	13.8%				
URB - Impacts			Chinook - Mainstem		
	Impact	Percent		Mortalities	Percent
Sport	10.5%	70%	Sport	66,000	63%
Comm	4.5%	30%	Comm	39,300	37%
Total	15.0%				
LRH - Impacts					
	Impact	Percent			
Sport	7.0%	70%			
Comm	2.9%	30%			
Total	9.9%				

	Total	LRH	LRW	BPH	URB	LRB	PUB	SAB	SRW	LRH	SRW			
		ER	HR											
Ocean Harvest	109,850	31,070	5,210	35,280	27,560	500	10,220							
Columbia River Run	636,560	118,870	15,540	123,840	270,880	4,830	102,210	400	8,800	9.95%	13.82%			
Harvest Below Bonneville	2026 Fishery Description													
Zone 4-5 Wk 32. Aug 2-8			1 period	290	70	0	10	180	0	20	0	10	0.03%	0.07%
Zone 4-5 Wk 33. Aug 9-15			3 periods	1,950	470	0	600	800	0	70	0	30	0.25%	0.29%
Zone 4-5 Wk 34. Aug 16-22			3 periods	7,670	1,360	40	3,550	2,050	30	650	0	70	0.65%	0.76%
Zone 4-5 Wk 35. Aug 23-29			2 periods	10,650	1,620	0	5,450	2,570	90	930	0	80	0.69%	0.95%
Zone 4-5 Wk 36. Aug 30-Sep 5			1 period	5,320	810	0	2,720	1,280	40	460	0	40	0.34%	0.47%
Zone 4-5 Wk 37. Sep 6-12			Sep. placeholder	5,900	340	0	2,800	2,070	40	650	0	70	0.07%	0.76%
Zone 4-5 Wk 38. Sep 13-19				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 4-5 Wk 39. Sep 20-26				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 4-5 Wk 40. Sep 27-Oct 3				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 4-5 Wk 41-43; Oct 4-24				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%
Zone 1-3 Fall TangleNet Coho Target			Coho target	2,180	620	0	120	1,050	30	360	0	30	0.36%	0.39%
Alternative Gear - Seine/Pound Net	MSF												0.16%	0.10%
Select Areas Full Season			Full Season	13,680	8,900	0	1,600	1,360	10	300	200	40	0.40%	0.50%
Buoy 10 to WPI Kept + Morfts	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1-9 nMSF; Aug 10-24 MSF; Aug 25 - Sep. 2 nMSF; Sep 3+ Co only		38,880	13,790	0	8,900	9,800	90	3,520	170	230	4.62%	2.66%
WPI to Lewis	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1 - Sep 2 nMSF; Oct 1+ Co only		8,470	1,710	300	310	5,080	40	810	10	170	0.99%	1.88%
Lewis to Bonn	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1 - Sep 15 nMSF; Oct 1+ Co only		11,070	1,480	90	480	7,040	90	1,890	0	230	1.10%	2.60%
Tributary Sport	MSF		Average season	1,650	1,110	540	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.30%	0.00%
Lower River Total				113,060	33,590	1,000	28,540	34,110	460	10,830	400	1,020	9.95%	11.42%
Bonneville Dam Passage				420,450			93,510	236,680		90,270		7,770		
								0.56292						
Harvest Above Bonneville														
Zone 6 - Bonn to Hwy 395	2 fish/1 CHF	Aug 1 - Sep 15 nMSF; Oct 1+ Co only		7,620			270	6,500		840		210		2.40%
Treaty Comm. and C&S			Average season	164,320			55,350	81,260		27,710		2,670		30.0%
Hanford Reach Sport			Average season	8,000				8,000				0		
McNary Dam Passage				124,340				124,340						
Lower Granite Dam Passage												5,365		
Escapement					85,270	14,540	37,890	140,920	4,360	61,710	0			
Hatchery					51,340		34,950	68,820		21,530	0			
Natural					33,930	14,540	2,940	72,100	4,360	40,180	0			
Hatchery Surplus					27,300		27,950			12,560	0			
Natural Surplus						6,606	1,640	12,100						

Note: Lower River total includes; strays and adult-size jacks (B10). Does not include below Bonneville Dam treaty harvest.

2026 Preseason coho catch and impact summary

FRAM Run: bc-Coho2619

Catch Summary					
Fishery	Unmarked Mortalities		Marked Mortalities		Total Mortalities
	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	
Tangle Net	3,200	500	3,900	3,900	11,500
Zone 4/5 Gillnet	3,500	200	2,700	300	6,700
Alternative Gear	500	300	3,000	900	4,700
Youngs Bay	800	-	21,900	-	22,700
Blind/Knappa	600	-	10,600	-	11,300
Tongue Point	400	-	6,100	-	6,500
Deep River	-	300	-	3,100	3,400
Buoy 10	7,300	700	32,600	5,800	46,400
Lower Columbia River	1,300	1,200	1,800	2,900	7,300
Ocean	22,500	8,700	68,200	61,400	160,900
Sum	40,300	12,000	150,800	78,300	281,400
Exploitation Rates					
Fishery	Unmarked			Marked	
	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Late</i>
Tangle Net	2.0%	1.0%	1.6%	2.3%	2.9%
Zone 4/5 Gillnet		0.3%	0.9%	1.6%	0.2%
Alternative Gear	0.3%		0.4%	1.7%	0.7%
Select Areas	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	22.3%	2.3%
Buoy 10	4.6%	1.4%	3.1%	18.8%	4.3%
Lower Columbia River	0.8%	2.3%	1.5%	1.1%	2.1%
Ocean	14.2%	16.7%	15.4%	39.4%	45.5%
Sum	23.6%	22.4%	23.0%	87.1%	58.0%

Columbia River mainstem and tributary summer steelhead regulation summary for 2026 fisheries

Water Body	June 16-June 30	July	August	September	October	November	December	Comments
Columbia River mainstem								
Below I-5 Bridge	Daily limit 1	Daily limit 1	Closed to retention		Permanent Regulations for winter steelhead (Daily limit 2)		Some periods of salmon/steelhead angling closures when salmon retention is closed.	
15-Bridge to Bonneville Dam								
Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam								
The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam		Daily limit 1		Closed to retention				
John Day Dam to McNary Dam								
McNary Dam to Hwy 395 bridge in Pasco								
Columbia River tributaries								
Wind/White Salmon (WA) tributary lower reaches	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)	Closed to angling for steelhead			Perm. Regs (Daily limit: 3 Wind R; 2 White Salmon R)		Lower reaches restricted. Closure improved enforceability.	
Drano Lake (WA)					Daily limit 1		Closure improved enforceability.	
Klickitat (WA) tributary lower reaches	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)				Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)		Lower reaches restricted. Closure improved enforceability.	
Deschutes River (OR) mouth	Daily limit 1	Thermal Angling Sanctuary Regs - closed to angling (7/15-9/15)		Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)			Combination of old perm. regulations (Herman/Eagle Cr. Closures, new permanent regulations, TAS), and intended MS regs by pool which affect these tribs. Note: Herman Cr. Youth and Disabled Angler Angling Area not included; see permanent regulations for this area.	
Eagle Cr. (OR) mouth	Perm. Regs (defaults to adjacent mainstem Col R.)							
Herman Cr. (OR) Lagoon								
Herman Cr. (OR) mouth to RR bridge				Perm. Regs (closed to angling)	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 2)			
Eagle Cr. (OR) RR bridge to hatchery deadline	Perm. Regs (Daily limit 3)							
Deschutes River (OR) lower reach (below Moody Rapids)	Daily limit 1			Closed to salmon/steelhead angling				
John Day R (downstream of Tumwater Falls)								
Snake River								
Mouth upstream to Couse Creek boat ramp	Perm. Regs (Closed to steelhead retention)		TBD e-rule published by Sept 1			Managed By E-reg. Proposed limits may change to be concurrent with Idaho.		
Couse Creek boat ramp upstream to WA/OR/ID stateline	Perm. Regs (Closed to steelhead retention)		TBD e-rule published by Sept 1			Limits may change to be concurrent with Idaho.		