

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – 2006 FALL FACT SHEET**  
**PRELIMINARY POST-SEASON SUMMARY**  
**November 28, 2006**

**Stock Status**

***Total Fall Chinook***

- The 2006 fall Chinook run was forecast at 473,900 adults including 364,600 (77%) bright and 109,300 (23%) tule Chinook. The majority (82%) of the run was destined for hatcheries and natural spawn areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The preliminary final run size estimate totals 421,000 fall Chinook of which 78% are estimated to be bright stock and 22% are tule stock. An estimated 79% of the total run is destined for areas above Bonneville Dam

***Bright Chinook***

- Preseason forecasts for bright Chinook stocks included 249,100 Upriver Bright (URB) stock, 86,600 Mid-Columbia Bright (MCB), 16,600 Lower River Wild (LRW), and 12,400 Select Area Bright (SAB).
- The preliminary final run estimate of 225,900 Upriver Bright (URB) Chinook was 91% of the preseason forecast. Final run sizes for other bright stocks are not yet available.

***Tule Fall Chinook***

- The preseason tule forecast included 57,500 Lower River Hatchery (LRH) and 51,800 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) Chinook.
- The preliminary final run estimate of 35,600 BPH Chinook was 69% of the preseason forecast. Final run sizes for LRH and LRW stocks are not yet available.

***Total Coho***

- The preseason forecast of 256,600 coho included 189,900 early stock and 66,700 late stock.
- TAC upgraded the run in-season (10/18) to 368,000 fish including 236,000 early stock and 132,000 late stock.
- Current in-season projections (11/27) are for returns of 220,000 early and 120,000 late stock coho.

***Management Guidelines***

- Endangered Species Act limits restrict harvest to 31.29% for listed Snake River fall Chinook (based on URB harvest rate index) and 17% for wild B Index steelhead.
- Stock-specific escapement goals and management constraints for 2006 fall fisheries were directed by the “2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon” developed under *U.S. v. Oregon*, and an associated Biological Opinion.
- The 2005-2007 Management Agreement provides that the 31.29% URB impact rate is allocated 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries. Impacts to wild B index steelhead are allocated 15% to treaty Indian fisheries and 2% for non-Indian fisheries.
- Through the North of Falcon process, impacts to URB Chinook were allocated preseason at 50% each for non-Indian sport and commercial fisheries.
- As part of the annual 8,000 sturgeon commercial allocation, 5,300 sturgeon were set aside for non-Indian mainstem fall commercial fisheries.

## **Fisheries Review**

### ***Non-Treaty Sport Fisheries***

- The mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to Pasco, Washington opened August 1 under permanent regulations with a two-fish/one-Chinook bag limit downstream of Bonneville Dam. Fisheries remain open through December 31.
- Catches in the Buoy 10 fishery were below average with 1,725 Chinook and 3,900 coho retained from 39,500 angler trips.
- Near-record catches during August in the mainstem sport fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam combined with an inseason downgrade of the URB run to 198,700 resulted in a Chinook retention prohibition on September 14 downstream of Bonneville Dam and September 15 upstream.
- Recreational fisheries reopened to Chinook retention on September 30 upstream of Bonneville Dam and on October 13 downstream.
- The projected catch for the Tongue/Rocky Point to Bonneville Dam area includes 13,700 Chinook (including jacks), 1,200 coho, and 4,200 steelhead kept from 89,300 angler trips.
- A projected 600 Chinook were kept in the fishery above Bonneville Dam.

### ***Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fisheries***

- The early fall commercial fishing season consisted of eight fishing periods between August 2-25 resulting in landings of 10,741 Chinook, 830 coho, and 1,911 white sturgeon.
- The late fall commercial season consisted of ten fishing periods during September 19-October 25 resulting in landings of 15,270 Chinook, 27,542 coho, 3 chum, and 3,492 white sturgeon.
- Select Area fisheries opened August 3 in Youngs Bay and September 5 in Tongue Point, Blind Slough, and Deep River. Landings include 4,557 Chinook, 37,653 coho, 0 chum, and 114 white sturgeon. Fisheries in Knappa Slough were delayed for 2 weeks in an effort to ensure LRH Chinook escapement goals at Big Creek Hatchery were achieved.
- Ex-vessel prices averaged \$2.07 for bright Chinook, \$1.33 for coho, and \$1.92 for white sturgeon.
- Green sturgeon retention was prohibited in commercial fisheries effective July 7, 2006.

### ***Treaty Indian Fisheries***

- Treaty Indian fall commercial fisheries consisted of seven weekly set net fishing periods during August 21-October 6 resulting in a harvest of 77,691 Chinook, 19,534 steelhead, 7,555 coho, and 55 walleye.
- Additionally, an estimated 1,164 Chinook, 1,639 steelhead, 60 coho, and 4 walleye were harvested in mainstem platform (August 1-20) and permit (late fall) C&S fisheries.

### ***Summary of ESA Impacts (Preliminary)***

- Treaty Indian impacts to URB Chinook were 16.6% and 14.2% for wild B steelhead.
- The non-Indian exploitation rate to ESA-listed LRH Chinook was 48.3% compared to the 49% guideline, based on the preseason LRH run size.
- Non-Indian impacts to URB Chinook totaled 7.94% including 4.26% for sport fisheries and 3.68% for commercial fisheries.
- Preliminary exploitation rates on ESA-listed early and late stock coho are 12.5% and 16.7%, respectively compared to the 15% maximum limit. The preliminary harvest rate of unmarked coho is 8.1%, compared to the 7.5% limit defined under the Oregon State listing. These rates are based on the preliminary TAC run size updates and ocean fishery estimates.