

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
August 31, 2006

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian SAFE commercial salmon
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- *Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2006 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 27, 2006)*
- Preseason expectations for Early Fall fisheries included a harvest of 11,800 Chinook, with 2,350 fish (20%) being LRH stock.
- Preliminary landings total 10,740 Chinook and, based on CWT data, include 3,100 (29%) LRH stock.
- CWT data from August commercial fisheries indicate that Big Creek fall Chinook comprised only 8% of total LRH fall Chinook harvested, compared to 53% in August 2005.
- Buoy 10 catch has been lower than expected, resulting in limited CWT recoveries. No tags have been analyzed from Buoy 10.
- Big Creek Hatchery staff report very few (~20) fall Chinook are staging at the hatchery trap. Hatchery staff will open the fish trap on September 3. In past years, peak collections of broodstock at Big Creek have occurred around September 12.
- In 2005, 48% of fall Chinook harvest in Knappa Slough fisheries occurred during Week 37 (Sep 4-10). Big Creek Chinook represented 94% of the catch.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends rescinding the Knappa Slough Select Area fishery scheduled for September 5-8, 2006. Blind Slough will remain open as scheduled.

- ✓ Staff noted in Fall Fact Sheet #1 presented at the July 27 Compact hearing, and at subsequent hearings that preseason expectations for returns of fall Chinook to Big Creek Hatchery were low in 2006, and that modifications to SAFE fisheries might be required to ensure broodstock collection needs are met.
- ✓ Available information indicates a potential shortfall in meeting broodstock collection needs for Big Creek Hatchery.
- ✓ Delaying the just the Knappa Slough fishery will provide the greatest amount of conservation of Big Creek broodstock with the shortest duration of closed periods.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Compact hearing: **1:00 p.m. Thursday September 7** via teleconference to consider additional treaty Indian fisheries and to reevaluate Big Creek Hatchery fall Chinook returns.
- Compact hearing: **9:30 a.m. Thursday September 14** to consider additional treaty Indian and late fall non-Indian commercial fishing periods. The Meeting room is in the Council Chambers at Kalama City Hall, 320 N. 1st Street, Kalama, Washington 98625.