

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6
 Columbia River Joint State Hearing
 September 13, 2007**

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem Columbia River recreational
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Management guidelines, allocations, and preseason run forecasts for the 2007 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 27, 2006)

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- ESA impact limits for non-Indian fisheries are restricted to a 4.9% in-river exploitation rate for LRH stock and 8.25% on URB stock.
- Recreational fisheries were allocated 52% (2.56%) of the LRH limit and 51% (4.17%) of the URB limit.
- Based on preseason forecasts, catch expectations for recreational fisheries totaled 15,320 adult Chinook, including 7,850 URBs and 2,210 LRHs.

Preseason Impact Allocations		
Recreational	URB	LRH
Buoy 10	0.45%	1.03%
LCR	3.41%	1.53%
Zone 6	0.31%	--
	4.17%	2.56%
Limit	8.25%	4.90%
Allocation	50.5%	52.2%

STOCK STATUS

- Bonneville Dam counts of adult fall Chinook total 93,648 fish through September 12, including 79,160 brights and 14,488 tules. Based on the 10-year average, 66% of the brights and 76% of the tules are have typically passed Bonneville Dam by this date.
- The TAC met September 12 and concluded the URB run will not meet the preseason forecast of 185,200 adults. TAC estimated the run will fall in the range of 121,000-151,000 fish at the Columbia River mouth (65%-82% of the preseason forecast). The upper end of the range could only be achieved if the run is \geq four days late. TAC will meet again on Monday morning, September 17.
- The LRH run is more difficult to update since the fish can only be counted as they escape to hatcheries and spawning grounds. TAC may update this run in season if possible and is working towards the transfer of remaining LRH impacts from ocean fisheries that can be used for in-river fisheries. Preliminary estimates indicate about 1% of the total 42% ER may be available for transfer.

WATER CONDITIONS

Flow Updates

- Flow, as measured at Bonneville Dam, was relatively stable in August, averaging 145 kcfs. Average flows during August in the last ten years have been 156 kcfs.
- As typically occurs during September, flows have dropped significantly, averaging 108 kcfs. Flows during early September typically average 118 kcfs.

Temperature Updates

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, typically peak during the first half of August, and then decline slowly through early September.
- The average water temperature during August (70°F) is consistent with the ten-year monthly average.
- As of September 12, the water temperature is about 69 °F, which is also similar to the ten-year average.

FISHERY UPDATES

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery is closed for Chinook retention as scheduled during September 4-30. The fishery remains open for retention of hatchery coho and steelhead.
- Through September 9, an estimated 34,000 anglers kept 4,000 Chinook and 7,900 coho, compared to the preseason catch expectation of 4,300 Chinook and 13,000 coho.
- Partial CWT data indicates that the LRH stock component was higher than expected and the URB component was less than expected.
- Impacts associated with this fishery are 1.05% for LRH and 0.46% for URB, based on partial CWT data and the low end (121,000) of the projected URB run size.

Mainstem Recreational Fishery

- On the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, Chinook retention is prohibited below the Lewis River during September 5-30. The fishery remains open for retention of hatchery coho and steelhead.
- Preseason catch expectations for this fishery included 10,800 adult fall Chinook (6,310 URBs) and 1,000 coho.
- The allowable URB harvest drops to 4,120 fish for a URB run size of 121,000.
- During August 1-31, anglers harvested an estimated 4,350 Chinook, 140 coho, and 4,495 steelhead (1,885 released) from 46,900 angler trips in the Tongue Point-Bonneville Area.
- During September 1-4, anglers harvested an estimated 1,980 additional Chinook, and approximately 200 coho and 100 steelhead.
- The projected Chinook catch for September 5-16 is about 1,440 fish.
- CWT data through September 4 indicates the LRH stock component is much higher than the expected (42% compared to 18%) while the URB component is less than expected (40% compared to 56%)
- Based on current run sizes, impacts associated with this fishery (projected through September 16) are 3.05% for LRH and 3.03% for URB (at 121,000 run size).
- Under permanent regulations, the fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington is open August 1-December 31 with a two Chinook daily bag limit.

- This fishery is typically 30% complete by mid-September. The preseason catch expectation of 710 Chinook would be revised to 520 fish (380 URBs) at the lower end of the current URB run size projection.

STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- Joint staff believes the ongoing fishery from the Lewis River upstream to Bonneville Dam can continue through Wednesday September 19 with limited risk of exceeding the combined non-Indian URB impact limit.
- Coded-wire tag data indicates recreational fisheries have already exceeded the recreational LRH impact guideline; however, fisheries currently ongoing from the Lewis River deadline upstream to Highway 395 Bridge have very little impact on the LRH stock.
- TAC will be updating the URB run again on Monday, September 17. Further reductions of the URB run size will directly affect the currently scheduled fishing season.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff may ask for an emergency Joint State hearing following the Monday, September 17 TAC meeting if warranted.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for **10:00 AM Tuesday September 18** to consider late fall non-Indian and treaty Indian fishing periods. The meeting will occur at the Rainier City Hall, Council Chambers Room located at 106 B Street, Rainier, Oregon.