

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 6, 2007

Fisheries under consideration:	Columbia River Recreational Fisheries Update Treaty Indian Commercial
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2007 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 26, 2007)

River Conditions and Stock Status

- Columbia River water temperatures during August averaged 70 °F, which is equal to the recent 10-year average. Flow averaged 144 kcfs in August, which is less than the 10-year average of 155 kcfs. September flow has averaged 108 kcfs, which reflects the seasonal decrease in spill at Bonneville Dam.
- TAC met September 5 to review Chinook and steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC concluded that the tule stock is tracking above expectations and the bright stock is tracking slightly below expectations. Steelhead are tracking above preseason expectations. TAC will meet again September 12.
- TAC will be adjusting the 2007 Bonneville adult Chinook passage to account for large tule jacks destined for Spring Creek hatchery. These jacks (referred to as “stubbies”) meet the adult length criteria at Bonneville Dam counting stations, but are determined to be 2-year old fish upon arrival at the hatchery.
- Passage of fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through September 4 totals 61,019 adults (adjusted), including 10,315 tules and 50,704 brights. Typically the run is 50% complete around September 7.

2007 Non-Indian Recreational Fisheries-Buoy 10

- 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 4, an estimated 29,800 anglers kept 4,000 Chinook and 6,300 coho, compared to the preseason catch expectation of 4,300 Chinook and 12,000 coho. Coho catch rates peaked on September 3 and 4, but have since stabilized.
- About 350 Chinook remain on the Buoy 10 guideline. Approximately 100 fish are needed to account for catch-and-release mortality during the remainder of the coho retention fishery at Buoy 10.

2007 Non-Indian Recreational Fisheries- Lower Columbia River

- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy. 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for Chinook and coho on August 1. Chinook retention is prohibited below the Lewis River during September 5-30. Non-adipose fin-clipped coho must be released from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Hood River

Bridge. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day with only one Chinook per day allowed downstream of Bonneville Dam.

- Preseason catch expectations for this fishery included 10,800 adult fall Chinook and 1,000 coho. During August, anglers harvested an estimated 4,550 Chinook (3rd highest August total) 3,000 steelhead and 178 coho from 42,600 angler trips.
- During September 1-3, an estimated 1,560 Chinook, 50 steelhead and 100 coho were harvested from 12,800 angler trips.
- The estimated harvest of 6,100 Chinook to date for this fishery leaves approximately 4,700 fish available for harvest (based on preseason expectations).
- Staff will continue to monitor this fishery and provide regular updates.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Columbia River Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday September 13, 2007 at the **Rainier City Hall, Council Chambers Room, 106 West B Street, Rainier Oregon** to consider commercial fishing periods for the late fall season and update the ongoing lower Columbia River recreational fisheries will continue to monitor this fishery and provide regular updates.