

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10**  
**September 17, 2009**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial gillnet
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*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2009 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 29, 2009)*

***Stock Status***

- TAC met on September 16 to review stocks status and fisheries. Fall Chinook passage through September 16 totals 236,147 adults and 87,262 jacks. The adult run is typically near 75% complete by this time. 2009 has seen a remarkable fall Chinook jack return.
- Fall Chinook counts at Lower Granite Dam are no longer tracking at similar levels to 2008, but they are still higher than average. Jack returns to Lower Granite Dam are still at record levels with a peak jack count of over 2,158 on September 14.
- A and B Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam through September 15 is 540,955 TAC has updated the Group A steelhead run to 565,000 fish, compared to the preseason forecast of 278,900 fish at Bonneville Dam. The Group B steelhead run is expected to be smaller than forecast with a run size of between 40,000 and 50,000 at Bonneville. The overall summer steelhead run may still be close to the record run observed in 2001.
- Coho passage through September 15 totals 106,189 adults. Coho passage at Bonneville is typically 50% complete on September 15.
- TAC updated the URB run size to 206,000 at the river mouth and thinks that the URB run is early. The BPH run was downgraded to 41,000 adults at the Columbia River mouth based on a determined that BPH timing is about five days early.

***2009 Management Guidelines for Treaty Indian Fisheries***

- Based on the pre-season forecasts, under the 2008-2017 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, the tribal fall season fishery is allowed a 27% harvest rate on the Upriver Bright fall Chinook stock and a 20% harvest rate for B Index steelhead. If the river mouth URB run size were to be less than 200,000, then the URB harvest rate would be 23% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 15%. There is no specific harvest rate limit for A steelhead, but there is an expectation that the A steelhead harvest rates will remain within the range of recent harvest rates. In the past ten years the fall season wild A steelhead harvest rate has ranged from 2.5-8.8%.

***Review of Treaty Indian Fisheries***

- Sales of platform and hook and line caught fish continued from the summer management period and are ongoing.

- The tribes initially set three weeks of commercial gillnet fisheries beginning on August 24. The table below shows the preliminary harvest to date as well as projections for this week and the proposed fishery for next week.
- Effort in the tribal fishery has been slightly higher than in 2008 with this week's net count being the highest since at least 2000. Prices have been lower than in 2008.

**Zone 6 Fall Chinook harvest to date and projected future harvest.**

Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	URB Catch	BPH Catch	URB Harvest Rate	Total Steelhead catch	B Steelhead	B Harvest Rate
Platform	Through 8/23		821	619	123	0.3%	1,379	594	1.5%
Gillnet #1	8/24-8/27	532	9,158	4,532	3,928	2.2%	3,753	209	0.5%
Gillnet #2	8/31-9/4	693	17,859	7,972	6,752	3.9%	5,460	410	1.0%
Subtotal			27,838	13,123	10,803	6.4%	10,592	1,213	3.0%
Gillnet #3	9/8-9/12	706	23,009	14,969	5,806	7.3%	5,473	1,326	3.3%
Subtotal			50,847	28,092	16,609	13.6%	16,065	2,539	6.3%
Projected Gillnet #4	9/14-9/18	707	21,259	12,565	5,103	6.1%	5,491	1,316	3.3%
Subtotal			72,106	40,657	21,712	19.7%	21,556	3,855	9.6%
Projected Gillnet #5	9/22-9/25	600	11,568	6,063	1,651	2.9%	6,021	387	1.0%
Subtotal			83,674	46,720	23,363	22.7%	27,577	4,242	10.6%
Grand Total			83,674	46,720	23,363	22.7%	27,577	4,242	10.6%

- Based on the pre-season forecast river mouth run size, the URB impact rate through September 18 is expected to be only 19.7%. The Group B impact rate is expected to be 9.9%. After the proposed fishery next week, the expected URB harvest rate would be 22.7% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 10.6%

<b>Recommendation - Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</b>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tuesday, September 22 to 6:00 PM Friday, September 25	3.5 days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be no minimum mesh size restriction for these three openings.	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will be reduced to the small sanctuary of a 0.5 mile upstream and downstream of the hatchery ladder.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, sockeye, walleye, carp, yellow perch, catfish, bass and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches in fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 38-54 inches in fork length in the Bonneville pool may be retained for subsistence.	
Note:	24-hour Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers	

- The proposed fishery is within the harvest rate limits agreed to within the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.
- The tribes have proposed to reduce the standard Spring Creek sanctuary. The hatchery appears to have enough fish on hand their escapement needs and there are still fish entering the hatchery each day.
- Yakama Nation tributary and below Bonneville fisheries are ongoing and do not require Compact Action at this time.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The treaty tribes may request a Compact hearing in the afternoon on Thursday September 24 to set additional fall commercial salmon gillnet fisheries.