

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12
September 25, 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

Fall Chinook

- The total 2009 adult fall Chinook preseason forecast was 532,900 adults to the Columbia River mouth, including 269,700 URB and 88,150 LRH adult Chinook.
- Adult passage at Bonneville Dam through September 23 includes 208,186 brights and 30,904 tules. Generally 84% of the bright passage and 96% of the tule passage is complete by September 21.
- Chinook migration over Bonneville Dam appears to be 5-7 days early for tules, and about 4 days early for brights.
- TAC met September 21 and downgraded the URB run to 203,000 fish at the river mouth. TAC also updated the BPH run to 41,000 fish at the river mouth.
- The McNary Dam counts through September 23 totals 79,338 adult fall Chinook. Passage is typically 50% complete around September 15. Passage goals at McNary Dam have been achieved annually for over the past 20 years. The current management goal is 60,000 adults.
- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 23 total 13,609 adult Chinook, including 6,865 males, 6,744 females, and 10,620 jacks (goal: 7,000 adults including 4,000 females). Although the adult goal has been achieved, the hatchery has experienced a higher than expected mortality and it is not clear at this point whether the egg-take goal will be fully met.
- Returns of tule fall Chinook Big Creek Hatchery were much earlier and pond mortality was higher than normal, but it appears production goals will be met.
- TAC is scheduled to meet again on September 28 to review passage and run size estimates.

Summer Steelhead

- Preseason forecasts for upriver summer steelhead totaled 351,000 steelhead (similar to recent average). Of those, Group A index fish were expected to total 278,900 fish and Group B index fish were expected to total 56,900 fish.
- Steelhead passage during July 1 through September 23 totals 559,103 fish, including 160,148 unmarked fish. Daily passage during August reached record highs. Daily passage during September has been comparable to recent years.
- TAC met on September 24 and reviewed steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and predicts the total upriver run will be approximately 584,000 fish, including an estimate of 38,000

Group B steelhead. The inseason update reflects a record (since 1984) Group A component, while the Group B component is expected to be at or below average.

Columbia River Coho

- The 2009 pre-season forecast for coho returns to the Columbia River included 703,000 adults, comprised of 466,600 early stock (66%) and 236,500 late stock (34%). About 160,000 of these coho were expected to return to areas above Bonneville Dam.
- Passage at Bonneville through September 23 totals 121,902 adult and 5,509 jack coho. Coho passing Bonneville Dam are considered early stock through September 30 and late stock from October 1 onward.
- TAC will begin to update the coho forecast in the upcoming weeks.

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	1.6%
Gillnet #1	8/24-8/27	532	9,158	4,532	3,928	2.2%	3,753	128	0.3%
Gillnet #2	8/31-9/4	693	17,859	7,972	6,752	3.9%	5,460	367	1.0%

Fishery	Dates	Nets	Total Adult Chinook Catch	URB Catch	BPH Catch	URB Harvest Rate	Total Steelhead catch	B Steelhead	B Harvest Rate
Gillnet #3	9/8-9/12	706	23,009	14,969	5,806	7.4%	5,473	806	2.1%
Subtotal			50,847	28,092	16,609	13.8%	16,065	1,894	5.0%
Gillnet #4	9/14-9/18	707	15,328	4,960	3,441	2.4%	6,816	1,493	3.9%
Subtotal			66,175	33,052	20,050	16.3%	22,881	3,387	8.9%
Projected Gillnet #5	9/22-9/25	671	16,237	7,073	1,299	3.5%	6,450	1,550	4.1%
Subtotal			82,412	40,125	21,349	19.8%	29,331	4,937	13.0%
Projected Gillnet #6	9/29-10/1	650	11,268	7,228	282	3.6%	3,745	1,241	3.3%
Subtotal for current fisheries			93,680	47,353	21,631	23.3%	33,076	6,178	16.3%
Late Fall			300	200	0	0.1%	200	100	0.3%
Grand Total			93,980	47,553	21,631	23.4%	33,276	6,278	16.5%

- Based on the updated river mouth run size (203,000), the URB impact rate through September 25 is expected to be only 19.8%. The Group B impact rate is expected to be 13.0%. After the proposed fishery next week, the expected URB harvest rate would be 23.3% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 16.5%. If the B steelhead run were to drop to 35,000, the expected total harvest rate would be 17.9%.

Recommendation - Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tuesday, September 29 to 6:00 PM Thursday, October 1	2.5 days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be no minimum mesh size restriction.	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect including the standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary.	
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 use the standard Spring Creek sanctuary because of questions regarding whether the total egg take will be met. No nets were observed in the reduced sanctuary that was used this week.
- Yakama Nation tributary and below Bonneville fisheries are ongoing and do not require Compact Action at this time.
- At this time the tribes anticipate this will be the last commercial gillnet opening, but will assess the catches and run sizes at the conclusion of this opening.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- None requested at this time.