

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Joint Staff Report #3

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

August 30, 2010

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2010 fall season were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 29, 2010)

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam totals 63,649 adult through August 29. Passage is typically 50% complete on September 7. To date, 82% of the adult passage is bright stock.
- At this time, it appears Chinook passage is tracking below expectations for both tule and bright stock fish. Expectations include a total passage of 97,700 adults by August 29, with 71% bright stock fish. TAC will meet next week to review stock status.

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- Chinook retention (1 fish/day) in the Buoy 10 fishery is scheduled to be open August 1-31, with a 12,500 Chinook catch guideline. Buoy 10 is also scheduled to remain open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead retention through December. A total of 11,900 hatchery coho are allocated to the Buoy 10 fishery.
- Salmon catch rates at Buoy 10 have increased each week, although the rates have been slightly less than expected. The last half of August (weeks 34-35) typically has the highest catch rates, ranging from 0.25-0.45 in past years.
- Fishing effort has been within expectations. Weeks 34 and 35 typically see an average of 14,000 weekly angler trips, ranging from 9,000-19,000 anglers over the past five years.

Buoy 10 PRELIMINARY In-season Catch Estimates for Washington and Oregon, 2010					Chinook	Coho	Salmon
Week	Date	Angler trips	Chinook	Coho	per Angler	per Angler	per Angler
31	Aug 1	475	11	0	0.02	0.00	0.02
32	Aug 2-8	2,659	74	7	0.03	0.00	0.03
33	Aug 9-15	5,354	382	87	0.07	0.02	0.09
34	Aug 16-22	16,555	3,124	2,482	0.19	0.15	0.34
35	Aug 23-29	17,083	2,867	3,812	0.17	0.22	0.39
		42,125	6,459	6,388	0.15	0.15	0.30

- Chinook catch through August 29 totals 6,459 Chinook and 6,388 coho. This catch represents 52% of the Chinook allocation and 54% of the coho allocation.
- Catch projections for the final two days (August 30-31) include 500 Chinook and 800 coho). This would bring the total catch projection for Buoy 10 to 55% of the Chinook allocation and 61% of the coho allocation through August 31.
- Stock composition based on preliminary CWT data suggests that about 3,500 (56% of total catch) LRH stock fish have been harvested in Buoy 10, compared to a preseason expectation of 2,900 (23% of expected catch). The allocated catch of 12,500 fish represents an allocation

Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery

- The LCR sport fishery is scheduled to be open from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam from August 1 through September 11. Beginning September 12, Chinook retention is allowed only in the area above the mouth of the Lewis River. A total of 17,200 Chinook have been allocated to this fishery.
- August Chinook catch has been less than expected, with 1,000 Chinook kept from 25,000 angler trips through August 22.
- Effort began to increase substantially last week, with 800 boats counted on August 25 and 1,500 on August 28. Catch rates for last week were around 0.3 Chinook per angler trip. Angler effort and catch rates are expected to continue to increase over the coming weeks.
- CWT data from this fishery is not yet available.

Joint Staff Recommendation

- The Joint Staff is not recommending an extension of the Chinook retention period at Buoy 10. The Joint Staff is recommending that the fishery close as scheduled for Chinook retention on September 1. The fishery would remain open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead.
- Preliminary stock composition suggests that LRH fish are representing a higher proportion of the catch than expected. Additional CWTs are being read, and if the fishery were extended, more CWTs would also be collected. It is possible that additional CWTs could alter the stock composition significantly enough to bring the LRH impacts to within expectations.
- Although allowable total Chinook catch remains on the Chinook quota for Buoy 10, LRH impacts appear to have exceeded expectations so far. The season structure for this fishery has been achieved, with the retention period for Chinook continuing through August. Hatchery coho retention is scheduled for the remainder of the fall season.
- If the fishery is extended and LRH impacts continue to accrue at higher than expected rates, this fishery may reduce the LRH impacts available to the lower Columbia recreational fishery upstream to the Lewis River deadline.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday September 9 via teleconference.