

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
September 20, 2010

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial gillnet Non-Indian fisheries
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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 passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1 through September 19 totals 354,000 adults, including 243,100 bright stock and 110,900 tule stock. Based on the recent 5-year average, adult Chinook passage is typically 81% complete by September 19.
- Fall Chinook passage at Lower Granite Dam during August 18 through September 19 totals 21,000 adults. Counts in 2009 through the same time were 9,900. The 2010 forecast for Snake River Wild fall Chinook (SRW) is 5,300 adults at the Columbia River mouth.
- Summer steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam during July 1 through September 19 totals 355,900 fish. Coho passage through September 19 totals 43,000 adults. A total of 82,900 adult coho are expected to pass Bonneville Dam in 2010.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 20 and updated the Upriver Bright (URB) river mouth run size to 279,900 fish versus the 319,200 preseason forecast. The Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule stock was updated to 123,800 adults at the Columbia River mouth versus the preseason forecast of 162,900. The Group A steelhead run was updated to 306,000 and the Group B steelhead run was updated to 52,000 fish at Bonneville Dam.
- Escapement at Spring Creek Hatchery through September is 11,900 males, 16,700 females and 2,000 jacks. The escapement goal has been achieved.
- Returns of Big Creek Hatchery stock fall Chinook through September 14 total about 15,300 adults, compared to the preseason expectation of 6,900. These returns include 5,600 fish collected at the hatchery and 8,900 harvested in the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough fishery. The escapement goal of 3,000 adults (1,000 females) has been achieved.
- Escapement of Lower River Hatchery (LRH) Chinook to Washington tributaries is in the early stages in most areas.
 - Elochoman returns are tracking similar to preseason expectations – hatchery is closed – no broodstock collection is occurring.
 - Cowlitz and Washougal – too early to tell – fish collections are occurring – just started at Washougal.
 - Toutle Hatchery returns are tracking similar to preseason expectations.
 - Kalama Hatchery returns are tracking below preseason expectations.
 - Washougal Hatchery – strong early returns – fish present throughout the river.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- Fall commercial gillnet fishing periods began on August 23. The fourth commercial gillnet period concluded on the evening of September 17. Platform hook and line fisheries have been ongoing for both subsistence and commercial purposes since August 1.
- Through last week, the tribes are estimating 17.4% impact on Group B steelhead (compared to 20% available) and are not proposing any additional gillnet fishing periods at this time.

NON-INDIAN FISHERIES

Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery remains open for fin-clipped coho and steelhead. Chinook retention closed as scheduled effective September 1. Effort and catch in September has been light.

Mainstem Recreational Fishery

- The mainstem recreational fishery remains open for fin-clipped coho and steelhead in all areas. Chinook retention closed downstream of the Lewis River as planned effective September 12. The estimated kept catch of adult Chinook during August 1 through September 12 is 12,400 fish.

Mainstem Commercial Fishery

- Seven commercial fishing periods were conducted during August.

2010 Fall Non-Treaty Chinook Harvest Summary							
	<u>Total Catch</u>		<u>URB Catch</u>		<u>LRH Catch</u>		Comments
	Preseason	In-season	Preseason	In-season	Preseason	In-season	
Buoy 10	12,470	6,900	2,280	1,130	2,910	3,600	Completed
Mainstem Sport	17,160	14,800	10,420	7,720	2,120	2,610	Projected
Zone 6 Sport	2,480	2,170	1,810	1,590	-	-	Projected
Total Mainstem Sport	32,110	23,870	14,510	10,440	5,030	6,210	
August Commercial	19,440	22,520	5,100	9,960	3,820	5,240	Completed
September Commercial	17,380	6,160	5,900	1,840	940	-	Planned
October Coho Commercial	1,310	1,250	470	540	-	50	Planned
Total Mainstem Commercial	38,130	29,930	11,470	12,340	4,760	5,290	
Select Areas Commercial			360	310	NA	NA	In Progress
Non-Treaty Mainstem Total	70,240	53,800	26,340	23,090	9,790	11,500	

- Based on the in-season run size of 279,900 URBs and the preseason run size of 85,600 LRHs, a total of 23,090 URBs and 10,910 LRHs are available for harvest in non-Indian fisheries.

- Based on the preseason run size forecast and projected ocean harvest information, no LRH impacts remain for in-river fisheries. Although it is too early to update the LRH run size, there are some indications that the run will be similar to or slightly greater than the preseason forecast.
 - No further directed Chinook fisheries are planned downstream of the Lewis River.
 - Non-Indian fisheries occurring from now until December are expected to have minimal or no additional impact on LRH Chinook. By late September, the majority of LRH have moved out of the mainstem Columbia and into the tributaries.

<i>Recommendation - 2010 Non-Indian Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season	8 PM Wednesday September 22 to 6 AM Thursday September 23. (10 hours) 8 PM Sunday September 26 to 6 AM Monday September 27. (10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5.
Sanctuaries:	Lewis-B, Washougal, and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8” minimum mesh size restriction. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of six white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only.
Additional Rules:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- Chinook catch for the proposed fisheries is expected to be 2,100 – 5,000 fish. Approximately 1,800 URBs are available for commercial harvest in September based on the current URB run size.
 - Staff has proposed two commercial openers in order to provide access to remaining available fish while Chinook are still relatively abundant. However, the second fishery may need to be rescinded on Friday, September 24 if the results of the first opener indicate higher than expected total catch or catch of URBs.
- About 1,750 white sturgeon remain on the 2010 commercial guideline. Sturgeon catch for the proposed fisheries is expected to be 400 – 500 fish.
- Sturgeon target fisheries may be proposed for October.
- Limited late coho fishing is expected to occur in mid-October.

Recommendation - 2010 Non-Indian Recreational Fishery

Effective Wednesday, September 22, increase the daily bag limit to include up to two Chinook adults in the area from the Lewis River upstream to Bonneville Dam.

- Given the lack of LRH impacts for conducting target Chinook fisheries downstream of the Lewis River, the proposal is intended to provide additional opportunity to harvest remaining URB Chinook in the area currently open for Chinook retention. Few if any LRH are projected to be harvested in this area.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- If adopted, the Joint Staff will review results of the September 22 commercial fishery and may call for a Compact hearing on Friday September 24 if needed to cancel the September 26 fishery.
- The Joint staff will continue to review catches and run sizes and may recommend a Compact hearing for early next week to consider treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fisheries.