

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7
October 4, 2010

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial
--------------------------------	-----------------------

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

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Preseason expectations for fall Chinook returns to the Columbia River mouth totaled nearly 560,000 fish. Included in this total were 483,300 fish that were expected to pass Bonneville Dam. Bonneville passage of fall Chinook was expected to include 342,100 bright stock, and the remaining 141,100 fish were expected to be tule stock returning to Spring Creek hatchery.
- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1 through October 3 totals 447,400 adult fish, of which 331,300 are bright stock. Daily counts of Chinook at Bonneville are steadily decreasing, and tule passage is basically complete.
- Fall Chinook passage at Lower Granite Dam during August 18 through October 3 totals 34,200 fish, which is a record high. Passage is typically 85% complete by October 3.
- Lower River fall Chinook have typically moved out of the Columbia River and into the tributaries by the end of September. Hatchery returns to date appear to be within preseason expectations.
- On October 3 the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) updated the river mouth return of Upriver Bright (URB) fish to 326,600 adults, compared to the preseason forecast of 319,900 fish. TAC also updated the Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) river mouth run sizes to 127,300 adult Chinook (141,100 preseason). The 2010 impact limit for URBs remains 25% for treaty fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- Preseason expectations for upriver summer steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam during July through October totaled 436,600 fish. Included in this total are 99,100 Group B fish.
- Summer steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam during July 1 through October 3 totals 374,400 fish. The run is tracking less than expected. The overall run is typically 97% complete by the first week of October.
- The current TAC estimate for upriver steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam includes 314,000 Group A stock (123,100 wild) and 71,000 Group B fish (19,600 wild). The impact limit for Group B steelhead is 20% for treaty Indian fisheries. The impact limit for wild Group B steelhead is 2% for non-Indian fisheries.

Coho

- Preseason forecasts for Columbia River coho totaled 286,600 fish, which included 188,000 early stock and 98,600 late stock. The 2010 exploitation rate (ER) allowed for ocean and in-river fisheries on Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) coho is 15%.
- In-river fisheries were modeled based on an allowance of 3.8% ER, or 25% of the total ER limit. Preseason catch expectations for mainstem non-Indian fisheries include 13,000 hatchery coho in lower river sport fisheries and 8,200 coho in commercial fisheries.
- Coho passage at Bonneville Dam through October 3 totals 63,100 adult fish. Fish passing through September 30 are considered early stock. Counts of early coho at Bonneville Dam totaled 58,300 adults, compared to the preseason expectation of nearly 62,000 adult coho. Beginning October 1, coho passing Bonneville are considered late stock. The preseason expectation for late coho at Bonneville is 21,000 adult fish. Late coho passage at Bonneville Dam is typically 50% complete by October 13.
- Hatchery returns of coho in the lower river tributaries are beginning to build. Through September 29, an estimated 7,000 early coho and 5,000 late coho have returned to Washington facilities. Preseason projected returns include 30,000 early and 60,000 late hatchery coho to Washington lower river facilities.

NON-INDIAN FISHERIES

Recreational Fisheries

- Season total catch estimates from the Buoy 10 fishery are 6,800 Chinook and 8,000 hatchery coho from 51,300 angler trips. Chinook retention was allowed August 1-31. Preseason catch estimates included 12,500 Chinook and 11,900 hatchery coho.
- The fishery from Tongue Point upstream to Bonneville Dam opened August 1. Chinook retention was allowed river wide through September 11. Beginning September 12, Chinook retention is open upstream of the Lewis River mouth to Bonneville Dam. The daily Chinook limit was increased effective September 22 to include two adult Chinook. Catch estimates through September 30 are 17,200 Chinook and 1,200 coho from 106,500 angler trips. Season total estimates include 18,100 Chinook and 2,000 coho. Preseason catch estimates included 17,200 Chinook and 1,000 hatchery coho.
- The fishery above Bonneville Dam (Bonneville Dam upstream to Hwy 395 near Pasco, Washington) Opened August 1. Preseason catch estimates totals 2,500 adult Chinook. The fishery appears to be tracking within expectations, with most of the effort concentrated near the mouths of the Klickitat and Deschutes rivers.
- The Hanford Reach fishery is tracking within expectations. Through September 23, Chinook catch totals 3,100 fish. Fall Chinook escapement to the Hanford Reach area is estimated to reach 55-75,000 fish this year, based on current passage and recent year average timing.

Mainstem Commercial Fishery

- Seven commercial fishing periods were conducted during August. All periods included a 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Area restrictions increased as the August fishery progressed. Landings from August fisheries totaled 22,525 Chinook and 472 coho.
- September fisheries consisted of one 10-hour fishing period on September 22-23. The fishery was conducted in Zones 4-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. Landings from this period included 5,582 Chinook and 642 coho.

- For 2010, commercial fisheries were allocated 4,800 fish (20%) from the total allowable harvest of 24,000 white sturgeon. A balance of 1,587 white sturgeon remain available for mainstem commercial harvest in 2010. Sturgeon retention is Select Area fishing sites is closed.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Fall season fisheries have been ongoing in Select Area sites and are scheduled to continue through October. Preseason catch expectations included 12,000 Chinook and 43,000 coho. The majority of Chinook catch is complete and coho catch is starting to slow. Total catch includes 20,000 Chinook and 54,300 coho.

2010 Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery	
Season #1:	7 PM Tuesday, October 5 to 7 AM Wednesday, October 6 (12 hours each) 7 PM Thursday, October 7 to 7 AM Friday, October 8 7 PM Sunday, October 10 to 7 AM Monday, October 11
Area:	Zones 1-5
Gear:	Drift gill nets. 8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size
Season #2:	6 AM – 6 PM Tuesday, October 12 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-3
Gear:	Drift gill nets. 6-inch maximum mesh size; un-slackened floater gillnet
The following applies to all proposed fisheries stated above	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 8 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. Select Areas remain closed to white sturgeon retention.
Miscellaneous Rules:	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.
Sanctuaries:	As applicable: Elokomin-B, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers.
Additional Rules	24-hour Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- The proposed and on-going fisheries are expected to remain within the 8.25% URB harvest rate limit. Impacts to wild Group B steelhead would not exceed 1% (2% limit). Additional harvest/impacts to LRH Chinook are not anticipated.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint staff will continue to review catches and run sizes and will recommend future hearings as needed.