

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FISHERY UPDATE #1
September 5, 2013

Stock Status

- Passage of Fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through September 4 totals 273,820 adults. Chinook passage for both bright and tule stocks have exceeded preseason passage expectations to date. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by September 9.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead since July 1 totals 182,898 fish. Counts have been less than expected. On August 26, the *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) downgraded the Group A run size to 199,000 fish (68% of preseason). It is too early to update the Group B preseason forecast of 31,600 fish, but TAC noted counts of Group B fish are also tracking less than expected.
- TAC will continue to review the status of salmon and steelhead on a weekly basis and is scheduled to meet again on Tuesday September 10.

Non-Indian Fishery Update

- The August commercial season consisted of eight fishing periods during August 11-29. Preliminary landings total 45,600 Chinook and 700 sturgeon. CWT data indicates stock composition was slightly lower for LRH and URB when compared to preseason.
- The late-fall commercial season is expected to begin the week of September 15. Based on the preseason run size and CWT data in hand, approximately 9,000 Chinook remain available for September Chinook-directed fisheries.
- Catch estimates for the B10 recreational fishery include 15,500 Chinook kept (4,100 released) from 37,200 angler trips during Aug 1-22. Estimated catch during the August 23-September 1 mark-selective fishery, is 6,800 Chinook kept (8,600 released) from 20,900 angler trips. Chinook catch was the highest on record since 1988. The fishery is currently closed for Chinook retention as scheduled. CWT data (to date) indicates stock composition was slightly lower for LRH and slightly higher for URBs when compared to preseason. Estimated coho harvest through September 1 totals 6,800 fish (including release mortalities) compared to the 13,100 fish available.
- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery include 12,600 Chinook kept (1,100 released) from 69,000 angler trips during Aug 1-31. The fishery experienced record high catch in August. This fishery transitions to mark-selective regulations for Chinook during September 6-12 in the area from Tongue Point upstream to Warrior Rock.
- The area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to remain open for Chinook (1-fish bag) through December. Catch rates have been lower than average in this area, and current catch projections are based on this lower rate.
- Based on inseason modeling, the fishery is expected to remain within the available Chinook guideline (26,100 mortalities) if current catch rates continue through September, especially in the area upstream of Warrior Rock. Runsize, catch rates and effort shifts are all variables that play into catch projections. Any changes to these variables effect future catch projections.

- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 opened August 1 and is scheduled to remain open through December 31. The season total catch expectation for this fishery is 7,200 Chinook.
- Based on preseason run size estimates and actual, on-going and planned non-Indian fisheries for the 2013 fall season, ESA impacts are expected to total 15% for URB Chinook (15% allowed), 39% for LRH Chinook (41% allowed) and less than 2% for wild Group B steelhead (2% allowed).

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff is not recommending any additional Compact/Joint State hearings at this time. Staff will continue to monitor fisheries and stock status and request a hearing as early as next week if warranted.