

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 27, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Buoy 10 recreational fishery
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 29, 2014.

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1–26 totals nearly 40,300 adults, which is about 33% of expected. Passage is typically 50% complete by September 8.
- The Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1 and is scheduled to shift to mark-selective regulations for Chinook over the three-day holiday weekend (August 30–September 1). During September 2–30, the fishery is closed to Chinook retention while the daily bag limit for hatchery coho will increase from two fish to three fish. Chinook retention is scheduled to re-open October 1.
- Chinook catch rates during August 11–24 were variable but averaged 0.30 Chinook kept per angler. Chinook catch rates have improved over the past two days (averaging 0.37 kept and 0.45 handled per angler).
- Catch estimates through Tuesday August 26 include 20,300 Chinook mortalities. Catch projections for August 27–September 1 total around 7,200 Chinook mortalities, plus an additional 1,000 Chinook mortalities have been reserved for September 2–December 31. This brings the season total catch projection to 28,500 Chinook mortalities.
- Chinook coded-wire-tags (CWTs) collected during August 1–21 have been analyzed. The data from these tags (189) have been applied to the Chinook harvest (14,411) during the same time period.
- When combined with catch projections through the end of the season, the LRH composition continues to be higher than expected, now 21% v 12% preseason expectation. Based on this updated CWT data and catch projections for the remainder of the season, the projected LRH mortalities for the currently adopted Buoy 10 fishery are expected to be 6,420, or 97% of the preseason allocation of 6,640 LRH mortalities.
- Coho catch rates continue to improve. Catch through August 26 is estimated at nearly 18,000 fish (including release mortalities). Season total catch is expected to remain within the preseason allocation.
- At this time it appears the Buoy 10 fishery can continue under regulations currently in place and remain within the ESA guidelines set forth for this fishery.
- Based on the updated CWT data, lifting the mark-selective regulations currently in place for August 30–September 1 would result in the LRH allocation for the Buoy 10 fishery exceeding the preseason guideline. This would negatively affect the mainstem recreational fishery upstream of Tongue Point.

Future Meetings

- A Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled via teleconference for 1:00 p.m. Wednesday September 3 to review salmonid stock status and ongoing non-Indian fisheries. An update on both commercial and recreational fisheries will be provided. Additional commercial periods and/or modifications to existing recreational regulations may be considered.