

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL UPDATE NO. 2
All data preliminary and subject to change
October 16, 2014

Salmonid Stock Status

- The 2014 Columbia River fall Chinook return is currently projected to reach 1,153,000 adult fish, including 658,100 URBs compared to the preseason forecast of 1,510,600 Chinook (919,000 URBs).
- The 2014 Bonneville Dam return of upriver summer steelhead (July-October) is currently projected to reach 305,000 fish including 45,000 Group B stock (9,900 wild).
- The 2014 Columbia River coho return is currently projected to reach 803,700 adult fish, compared to the preseason forecast of 638,300 coho.

Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries Update

- The Early Fall season consisted of three fishing periods per week in Zones 4-5 during August 3-29 and a final period on September 1. Catch included 47,700 Chinook, and 1,000 coho.
- The Late Fall season began September 14 in Zones 4-5 and has included nine fishing periods through October 10, and is currently scheduled to continue with three periods per week through October 24. Catch is projected to total 50,000 Chinook and 7,500 coho for all periods.
- Mainstem coho-directed fishing periods began October 1. Fishing periods occur in Zones 1-3 using either the traditional 6-inch gear or 3¾-inch tanglenet gear. Fishing periods utilizing tanglenet gear are mark-selective for coho, requiring the release of unclipped coho.
 - A total of seven tanglenet fishing periods occurred between October 1 and October 14. Two additional periods are scheduled for October 20 and October 21. Catch is projected to total 17,000 coho (4,000 released) and 2,000 Chinook for all periods.
 - Beginning October 9, fishing periods using traditional 6-inch gear are scheduled to occur 2-3 days per week through October 24. Catch is projected to total 31,000 coho and 1,300 Chinook for all periods.
 - Harvest to date is within expectations and the season is expected to continue as scheduled (through October 24).
 - Harvestable coho may remain available upon conclusion of the scheduled fishing periods.
- A pilot research seine fishery occurred during August 3 through September 24. The fishery was limited entry and individual fish quotas were assigned to each of the 10 permits issued. Landed catch includes 2,400 hatchery adult Chinook and 1,000 hatchery adult coho. Released fish include 4,200 unclipped adult Chinook and 2,200 unclipped adult coho.
- The Select Area commercial fisheries are ongoing and generally are scheduled to continue through October. Catch of both Chinook and coho have exceeded expectations to date. Combined catch includes 24,200 Chinook and 161,600 coho through October 12.

Recreational Fisheries Update

- The Buoy 10 fishery is open for the remainder of the year; however, current effort is minimal. Catch estimates through September 30 include 29,900 Chinook and 59,000 coho (including release mortalities) from 100,800 angler trips. Included in these estimates is the three-day Chinook mark-selective period which included a kept catch of 2,800 Chinook (4,300 released) from 8,500 angler trips.
- The lower Columbia River fishery is open for the remainder of the year; however effort is declining rapidly. Catch estimates include 28,200 Chinook and 8,100 coho (including release mortalities) from 145,000 angler trips through October 12. Included in these estimates is the seven-day Chinook mark-selective period which included a kept catch of 2,200 Chinook (6,300 released) from 13,500 angler trips.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 is open for the remainder of the year. The season total catch expectation for this fishery is 9,200 Chinook.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Impacts to lower Columbia natural (LCN) Chinook are currently projected at 41.0% compared to the allowed exploitation rate of 41.0% for ocean and in-river fisheries.
- Impacts to URB Chinook are projected to be 12.8% compared to the 15.0% ESA impact limit.
- Impacts to wild Group B steelhead are currently projected at 1.8% compared to the 2.0% ESA impact limit.
- Impacts to Lower Columbia River (LCR) coho are currently projected at 19.2% compared to the allowed exploitation rate of 22.5% for ocean and in-river fisheries.

Future Meetings

- A hearing via teleconference will likely be scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday October 23 to consider non-Indian mainstem commercial fisheries.