

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 31, 2016

Fisheries under consideration:	Buoy 10 recreational salmon Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2016 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #1 (July 27,2016)

Stock Status

- Passage at Bonneville Dam through August 30 totals 105,061 adult Fall Chinook. Nearly 628,000 adult Fall Chinook are projected to pass Bonneville Dam this year. Passage for the past two days has been much less than expected. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by September 8.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead since July 1 totals 96,783 fish. Passage to date has been very low. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by August 13.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviews Chinook and steelhead stock status weekly. TAC has downgraded the Group A component to 123,400 fish (31,000 wild). This combined with the preseason forecast of 25,800 Group B fish brings the total projection to 149,200 steelhead at Bonneville Dam. TAC will meet again on September 7.

River Conditions

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 125 kcfs, which is less than the ten-year average of 138 kcfs.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 72° F, which is slightly higher than the recent ten-year average (71° F).

Recreational Fisheries

- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River recreational fishery include 3,770 Chinook and 1,035 Steelhead kept from 37,754 angler trips during August 1-28. Catch rates are improving, as expected. This fishery transitions to mark-selective regulations for Chinook during September 10–14 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 through December.
- The 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 7,900 Chinook.
- The Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1 and Chinook retention is scheduled to be open through September 5. Chinook retention was limited to hatchery fish on Sundays and Mondays through August 29 (9 days). Preseason modeling for Chinook harvest (including release mortalities) totaled 48,500 fish given the 6.5% LRH and 2.6% URB impacts allocated to the fishery. Nearly 22,000 hatchery Coho (plus release mortalities) are also allocated to this fishery.

- The Buoy 10 kept catch through August 29 includes 15,186 Chinook and 3,922 Coho from 74,753 angler trips. Effort has been high, but catch rates continue to be less than modeled.
- Buoy 10 CWT data indicates that stock composition is tracking generally within expectations.
- Catch projections for August 30-September 5 total 4,000 Chinook mortalities. Projections for September 6-December 31 total an additional 1,300 Chinook mortalities.
- Season total catch projections total 21,600 Chinook mortalities compared to the preseason expectation of 48,500 Chinook mortalities (45%).
- Based on the projected harvest and ESA impacts available, there is room for additional harvest opportunity.

<i>Recommendation: 2016 Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery</i>	
Action:	Effective September 6-14: Retention of Chinook is allowed.
Area:	From a true north and south line through Buoy 10 upstream to a projected line from Rocky Point of the Washington Shore through Red Buoy # 44 to the navigation light at Tongue Point on the Oregon bank.
Daily Bag Limit:	Chinook minimum size 24-inches. Coho minimum size 16-inches. Daily limit is two fish of which only one may be a Chinook. Only one hatchery steelhead may be retained per day. Release all salmon other than Chinook and adipose fin-clipped Coho.

–Catch estimates total 2,500 Chinook mortalities. Season total Chinook mortalities are projected to total 24,000 fish. ESA impacts are expected to total the 3.0% LRH and 1.2% URB impacts for the Buoy 10 fishery (less than half of the pre-season expectations).

–Staff will continue to closely monitor Chinook catch and stock composition as well as Coho catch.

Non-Indian Commercial Early Fall Fishery

- Eleven fishing periods have occurred in Zone 4-5 during August 7-31. These periods were nine hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Pre-season catch expectations were for approximately 51,600 Chinook to be landed given the 2.5% LRH and 3.9% URB impacts allocated to August commercial fisheries.
- Harvest through August 29 includes 36,234 Chinook and 318 Coho. Landings for August 30-31 are projected at 13,000 Chinook for a cumulative August catch of 49,234 fish.
- Coded-wire tags (CWTs) data available through August 26 indicates stock composition is tracking high URBs and low for BPH compared to preseason expectations.
- Given total LRH and URB impacts available for non-treaty fisheries, additional commercial harvest opportunity exists.

<i>Recommendation: 2016 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Fishery</i>	
Season:	10 PM Thursday September 1 to 2 AM Friday September 2 (4 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not authorized for this fishery may not be onboard. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, and shad
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period.

- Catch could range from 6,000-8,000 Chinook. Late August/early September is very volatile as Chinook abundance is rapidly increasing. This volatility makes estimating catch difficult.
- Staff is recommending a shorter period as a conservative measure given the timing of the fishery.
- Consistent with preseason planning, late fall commercial mainstem fisheries are expected to begin the week of September 18.

Non-Treaty Impact Summary

- Given current run size estimates, season total ESA impacts for proposed and on-going non-treaty fisheries (including pre-season ocean fishery expectations) are projected as follows:
 - LRH impacts at 36.1% (of 41.0% and URB impacts at 14.4% (of 15.0%),
 - Wild Group A steelhead at 1.0% and Wild Group B steelhead at 1.7% (of 2.0% each).

Future Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 2 PM Wednesday September 14 via teleconference to update recreational fisheries and consider non-treaty and treaty commercial fisheries.