

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #6a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 14, 2016

Fisheries under consideration:	Buoy 10 recreational salmon Lower Columbia River recreational fishery 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 since August 1 totals 321,869 adult fall Chinook and has generally been tracking behind expectations. TAC currently estimates a fall Chinook return of 860,300 adult fish to the Columbia River, which is 90% of the preseason forecast of 960,200 Chinook. The inseason forecast includes 527,100 upriver bright (URB) Chinook and 60,000 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook (579,600 and 100,700 preseason, respectively).
- Passage at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 124,667 upriver summer steelhead and has been tracking behind expectations. TAC currently estimates a steelhead run of about 149,200 fish to Bonneville Dam, which is less than the preseason forecast of 256,200 fish. The inseason forecast includes 123,400 Group A stock, (preseason forecast of 230,400 fish) and 25,800 Group B stock. The Group B stock remains at the preseason forecast until passage is estimated to be more than 50% complete, which typically occurs by next week.

River Conditions

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 86 kcfs, which is less than the ten-year average of 104 kcfs.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 68° F, which is slightly lower than the recent ten-year average (69° F).

Recreational Fisheries

- Catch estimates for the Buoy 10 fishery include 17,645 Chinook and 8,420 Coho kept from 89,838 angler trips through September 11. Chinook retention is allowed through September 14 and re-opens October 1 for the remainder of the year. Season total catch estimates (including release mortalities) are estimated at 20,900 Chinook.
- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery downstream of Warrior Rock include 10,989 Chinook, 975 steelhead, and 293 Coho kept from 62,209 angler trips through September 11. This fishery transitioned to mark-selective regulations for Chinook during September 10–14. Season total catch estimates (including release mortalities) are estimated at 11,300 Chinook.
- Catch estimates for the LCR recreational fishery from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam include 4,879 Chinook, 293 steelhead, and 112 Coho kept from 26,776 angler trips through September 11. This fishery is scheduled to remain open for Chinook through

December. Season total catch estimates (including release mortalities) are estimated at 15,900 Chinook.

- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 is scheduled to remain open through December 31. The in-season total catch expectation for this fishery is 7,400 Chinook.
- Inseason catch expectations for the Buoy 10 and LCR recreational fisheries are less than modeled preseason although the run size is also lower. The Buoy 10 fishery was modified inseason to allow for additional Chinook opportunity during September 6-14. The LCR fishery typically reaches peak catch rates in early September, which coincides with in-season Chinook run updates.
- Based on inseason modeling, the LCR fishery is projected to accrue 27,200 Chinook mortalities and use approximately 86% (3.8%) of the preseason allocation (4.4%) of URB impacts.
- Based on the current Chinook run size projections and associated ESA-impacts, some additional opportunity for Chinook retention exists.

<i>Recommendation: 2016 Buoy 10 and LCR Recreational Fisheries</i>	
Action:	Effective September 15-22: Retention of <u>hatchery</u> Chinook is allowed.
Area:	From a true north and south line through Buoy 10 upstream to the Warrior Rock deadline.
Daily Bag Limit:	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 hatchery (adipose or left-ventral fin clipped) Chinook and adipose fin-clipped Coho. All other permanent rules apply.

–Catch estimates for the proposed fishery would include 800 Chinook mortalities. Season total Chinook mortalities are projected to total 21,220 for Buoy 10 and 27,695 for the LCR mainstem fishery.

Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area fisheries are ongoing and scheduled to continue through October. Harvest to date includes 10,147 Chinook and 16,047 Coho, which is less than average.
- The Early Fall fishery consisted of 11 fishing periods in Zone 4-5 during August 7-31. These periods were nine hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Catch includes 46,615 Chinook and 427 Coho.
- The seine fisheries are underway and scheduled to continue through September 28. Landings through September 12 total 774 adult Chinook (29% of the 2,700 Chinook set aside for seine fisheries) and 265 adult Coho.
- Preseason plans included a Late-Fall Fishery to begin the week of September 18 in Zones 4-5, and a single fishing period in Zone 1-5 planned for the week of September 25 if impacts allowed. Based on the in-season run-size projection, up to 14,600 Chinook are available for Zone 4-5 fisheries and 3,500 Chinook for Zone 1-5.

Recommendation: 2016 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery		
Season #1:	9 PM Sunday September 18 to 5 AM Monday September 19	(8 hours)
	8 PM Thursday September 22 to 6 AM Friday September 23	(10 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	
Season #2:	8 PM Wednesday September 28 to 6 AM Thursday September 29	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers	
The following applies to both seasons:		
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule in effect: 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. Lighted Buoys: Nets fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then a lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net is 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.	

–The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2016 Fall Allocation Agreement, although the staff proposal incorporates additional time between fishing periods to allow for review of landings and the ability to modify future fisheries if needed.

–Catch estimates for the proposed periods include:

- 7,000 – 9,000 Chinook for September 18-19
- 5,000 – 6,000 Chinook for September 22-23
- 2,500 – 3,500 Chinook for September 28-29

–Chinook-directed fishing periods are also planned for October, but the extent will depend on actual catch in September and future run-size updates. At the current run size, approximately 6,900 Chinook are available for October Chinook fisheries.

Non-Treaty Impact Summary

- Given current run size estimates, season total ESA impacts for proposed and on-going non-treaty fisheries (including in-season ocean fishery expectations) are projected as follows:

–LRH impacts at 31.7% (of 41.0%) and URB impacts at 14.6% (of 15.0%).

- Staff estimates a URB run size of around 500,000 fish would result in an ESA impact of 15% for non-treaty fisheries.

–Wild Group A steelhead at 1.0% and Wild Group B steelhead at 1.7% (of 2.0% each).

- Staff estimates a wild Group B run size of 6,300 fish would result in an ESA impact of 2% for non-treaty fisheries.

Future Hearings

- The Joint staff will recommend additional hearings as needed, which could be next week.