

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Joint State Hearing
August 28, 2012

Fisheries under review:	Non-Indian recreational salmon
-------------------------	--------------------------------

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2012 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 26, 2012)

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1-27 totals 36,981 adults, the majority (90%) being bright stock. Adult Chinook passage is typically 50% complete by September 7.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam between July 1 and August 27 totals 150,602 fish. The majority of fish are Group A stock, as the Group B component is later-timed with passage beginning in mid-late August. Total passage is typically 50% complete by August 13.
- TAC met Monday August 27 to review steelhead stock status. TAC updated the forecast for Group A upriver summer steelhead to 191,000, or 61.3% of the preseason forecast. TAC agreed it was too early to update the Group B run size, but recognized Group B passage was tracking less than expected, indicating the Group B run may also be less than forecast.

Recreational Fall Salmon Fisheries

Buoy 10

- The Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1 with a daily bag limit of two fish/one Chinook. The fishery is currently open with Chinook retention scheduled through September 3 (Labor Day). After a September 4-30 closure, Chinook retention could re-open October 1 through December 31 with a two Chinook bag limit. Preseason catch expectations were 13,900 Chinook and 8,000 hatchery coho.
- Chinook catch rates have been good since August 7 averaging 0.40 Chinook per angler. Coho catch rates have been low but began to improve recently.
- The estimated catch (including release mortalities) through August 26 includes 15,300 Chinook and 2,800 hatchery coho.
- CWT data is complete through August 22 (147 tags). The preliminary data indicates LRH stock represents around 19% of the catch compared to 28% expected.
- The projected catch (kept plus release mortalities) for August 27-September 3 is 8,700 Chinook, bringing the season total to 24,000 Chinook.
- CWT data indicates additional fish are available for harvest due to the low LRH catch observed to date. When combined with expected savings from the ongoing ocean recreational fishery, the Buoy 10 fishery should be able to continue through September 3 without modification.

Lower Columbia Mainstem

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam opened August 1 with a two fish/one Chinook daily limit. The fishery is ongoing with Chinook (marked or unmarked) retention allowed through September 9 downstream of the Lewis River (Warrior Rock boundary line). Chinook retention will remain open upstream of the Warrior Rock line with a two fish/two Chinook daily bag limit effective September 10.
- In addition, an experimental mark-selective Chinook fishery was adopted for the area from Tongue/Rocky Point upstream to Warrior Rock for the week of September 10-16. Beginning October 1, the area from Buoy 10 upstream to Warrior Rock is scheduled to re-open to Chinook retention (two fish/two Chinook). The total catch expectation for the LCR fishery is 25,100 Chinook and 1,500 hatchery coho.
- Kept catch through August 19 totals 1,000 (950 kept) Chinook, 6,160 (3,650 kept) steelhead, and 3 coho from 26,780 angler trips. Chinook catches during August 20-26 are expected to be 2,000-3,000 fish.

Bonneville Dam to Highway 395

- The mainstem fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (in Pasco, Washington) began on August 1 with a two fish/two Chinook daily limit and a catch expectation of 6,700 Chinook.

Non-Indian Fall Salmon Fisheries ESA Impacts

- In season modeling, which includes complete, ongoing and future fisheries, estimates:
 - ESA impacts to LRH Chinook at 40.9% compared to 41% allowed
 - URB impacts are estimated at 12.1%, compared to 15% allowed.
 - Impacts to upriver summer steelhead are estimated at 1.7% for wild Group B stock and 2.0% for wild Group A, compared to 2% for non-Indian fisheries.

Future Meetings

- A Compact hearing is scheduled via teleconference for 2:00 p.m. Thursday September 6 to review treaty Indian fisheries.