

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT #11
Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery Update
September 5, 2008

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008)

- The recreational Chinook salmon fishery from Tongue Point to Bonneville Dam opened September 1.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today to review fall Chinook run sizes and provided the following statement:

“Based on the counts at Bonneville to date along with the bright Chinook/tule Chinook sampling, TAC believes that the Spring Creek Hatchery tule run size (BPH) is about 25,000 fish greater than the pre-season forecast. TAC also believes the Upriver Bright (URB) forecast is about 25,000 fish greater than the preseason forecast (189,000 vs 164,400). Both runs appear early timed as well (about 4-5 days for the BPH run and 3-4 days for the URB run). **It is still early to update fall Chinook run sizes with a high level of precision.** Dam counts can be quite volatile this time of year. The updated forecasts may still change up or down, based on counts over the next few days. Currently, it appears that fisheries to date along with on-going Chinook fisheries are within their overall ESA impact limits as well as other overall management limits.”
- An estimated 8,360 Chinook were caught in the Buoy 10 fishery, including 2,550 URBs, or 1,300 above the guideline for this fishery of 1,250 URBs.
- Based on the Buoy 10 catch, about 25% fewer URBs were available for the mainstem recreational fishery, but this deficit was offset some by the recent run upgrade. Currently, about 4,500 URBs remain available for the lower Columbia River recreational fishery, compared to the preseason expectation of 4,900. This translates to an available catch of approximately 8,300 Chinook based on expected stock composition.
- Fishing effort in the lower Columbia River has been high, as expected. However, catch rates have been variable, depending on location.
- Considering TAC’s run size upgrade, and fishery effort and catch rates observed from September 1-4, the Joint Staff believes that the current guideline of about 8,300 Chinook will allow the fishery to continue through at least the middle of next week with little risk of exceeding available impacts.
- The TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday, September 8 to review Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam and may further refine in-season run size forecasts. Staff will review weekend catch information and provide a fishery and stock status update Tuesday (September 9) afternoon.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No recreational fishery hearings are scheduled at this time.