

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6a**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 7, 2006**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial salmon Non-Indian SAFE commercial salmon
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*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2006 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 27, 2006)*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Fall Chinook and steelhead***

- Bonneville Dam counts of fall Chinook total 115,043 fish through September 6, including 100,976 brights and 14,067 tules. Based on the 5-year average, 39% of the brights and 41% of the tules are over by September 6.
- TAC met this morning to review run sizes and fisheries. TAC concluded that there was no reason to change the preseason projections of 249,100 URB and 51,800 BPH Chinook.
- TAC also reviewed the Summer Steelhead run and concluded it was on track to meet preseason forecast.
- Spring Creek escapement through September 6 totals 2,500 adults, with over half the adults being female. Daily counts include about 500-600 Chinook. The escapement goal for Spring Creek Hatchery is 7,000 adults with 4,000 females.

**2006 FALL FISHERIES REVIEW**

***Treaty Indian Fall Season Fisheries***

Fishery	Nets	Chinook Catch		Steelhead Catch	
		Total	URB	Total	Wild B
Platform (thru 9/1)	--	360	319	1,389	10
August 21-24	205	1,688	1,494	1,322	25
August 28-Sept 1	266	7,097	4,206	1,457	32
Sept 5-9 (Proj)	461	18,157	10,894	4,157	93
<b><i>Subtotal</i></b>		<b><i>27,302</i></b>	<b><i>16,913</i></b>	<b><i>8,325</i></b>	<b><i>160</i></b>
Sept 11-15 (Proj)	500	20,000	12,000	6,500	171
<b><i>Total</i></b>		<b><i>47,302</i></b>	<b><i>28,913</i></b>	<b><i>14,825</i></b>	<b><i>331</i></b>

- Net counts are similar to previous years.
- Stock composition of the catch was based on CWTs for the first two periods. Stock composition for the third and fourth periods is based
- The URB harvest rate is estimated to be 6.8% through September 9 and 11.6% through September 15, compared to the guideline of 23.04%.
- The wild Group B harvest rate is estimated to be 1.6% through September 9 and 3.2% through September 15, compared to the guideline of 15%.

**Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Proposal**

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<b>Commercial Gillnet Fishery</b>	
Dates:	6:00 AM Monday, September 11 until 6:00 PM Friday, September 15 (4.5 days)
Area:	All of Zone 6
Gear:	8 inch minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries remain in effect. The standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will be used until we are certain to meet hatchery broodstock needs.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sockeye may not be sold but may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may also be retained for subsistence.
Miscellaneous Rules:	The quick reporting rule for Washington buyers will be in effect.

- Commercial sales of platform and hook and line caught fish will continue until further notice. The allowed sales would include the same species allowed under the commercial gillnet regulations. No Compact action is required.
- The Yakama Nation will also continue to allow commercial sale of fish caught in their Zone 6 tributary fisheries that overlap with commercial Zone 6 periods. Sales were allowed beginning June 8 and will continue until further notice. The general fishing schedule for these tributaries is:

<b>Tributary</b>	<b>Regularly Scheduled Opening</b>	<b>Allowed Commercial Sales</b>
		Coincides with open sales for Zone 6 platform fishery
Big White Salmon River	Closed Sundays	Each weekly open 6:00 AM Mon. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)
Klickitat River	6:00 AM Mondays to 6 PM Saturdays During the fall gillnet fishery then Tuesdays through Saturdays until December 23	Each weekly opening 6:00 AM Mon. to 6 PM Saturday. (no fishing Sundays)

- The tribes may consider additional gillnet openings at the scheduled September 14 Compact hearing.

## 2006 FALL FISHERIES REVIEW

### *Non-Indian Commercial SAFE Fisheries*

- Big Creek Hatchery escapement goal is 3,000 Chinook to obtain 1,500 females. Preseason expectations for hatchery returns were less than the escapement goal. Based on this, the fisheries in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough were delayed one week, with no fishing occurring during the last week of August.
- Chinook returns to the hatchery trap were low by the end of August, with very few fall Chinook staging at the hatchery trap and CWT tag data indicated a weak presence of Big Creek tags within the LRH component of harvested fish.
- On Aug 31 the Compact took additional steps to ensure that Big Creek Hatchery meets the escapement goal and rescinded the September 5-8 commercial fishery scheduled for the Knappa Slough area.
- Hatchery staff opened the fish trap on September 5. Between September 5-7, 391 Chinook have been trapped. In past years, peak collections of broodstock at Big Creek have occurred around September 12.
- On September 6 about 200-300 fish were observed in Big Creek below the trap. Additional fish are expected to move in with the onset on cooler, wetter weather conditions forecasted for the weekend.
- Staff will continue to monitor Chinook returns to Big Creek hatchery, and give updates as needed.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is in place for 9:30 a.m. Thursday September 14 to consider additional treaty Indian and late fall non-Indian commercial fishing periods. The meeting room is in the Council Chambers at Kalama City Hall, 320 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Kalama, Washington 98625.
- A Compact hearing may be necessary early next week to discuss Big Creek hatchery Chinook escapement.

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6b**

**Joint State Hearing  
September 7, 2006**

**Purpose: Update salmon stock status and review recreational fisheries in the Lower Columbia River**

*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2006 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 27, 2006)*

**STOCK STATUS**

- Bonneville Dam counts of fall Chinook total 115,043 fish through September 6, including 100,976 brights and 14,067 tules. Based on the 5-year average, 39% of the brights and 41% of the tules are over by September 6.
- TAC met this morning to review run sizes and fisheries. TAC concluded that there was no reason to change the preseason projections of 249,100 URB and 51,800 BPH Chinook.

**2006 FALL FISHERIES REVIEW**

***Buoy 10 Sport Fishery***

- Based on preseason forecasts, catch expectations for Buoy 10 included 8,500 Chinook. URB stock was expected to comprise 25% of the catch (2,100 fish), which would represent 0.84% of the run and 20% of the sport allocation.
- The 2006 Buoy 10 fishery has not performed within expectations. Through September 5 an estimated 36,000 anglers have landed 1,700 Chinook and 3,600 coho. Typically the Buoy 10 fishery is over 90% complete by the end of Labor Day weekend.
- Season projections are for about 2,300 Chinook, with 560 fish expected to be URB stock based on preseason proportions. About 1,500 URBs originally set aside for Buoy 10 fishery are expected to be available for upriver fisheries.

***Lower Columbia Sport Fishery***

- Based on preseason forecasts, catch expectations for the LCR sport fishery included 13,800 Chinook. URB stock was expected to comprise 56% of the catch (7,750 fish), which would represent 3.11% of the URB run and 75% of the sport allocation.
- The LCR sport fishery has performed exceptionally well, with catch and effort for August exceeding that seen in recent years. During August, an estimated 34,600 anglers have landed 5,000 Chinook.
- September catch continues to be successful. From September 1- 5 an estimated 16,500 anglers landed 3,400 Chinook.
- Cumulative catch through September 15 is projected to be 15,500 Chinook. Inseason CWT data indicates 63% of the catch is URB stock, compared to the preseason expectation of 56% of the catch.
- Considering the preseason forecast, inseason CWT data, B10 catch projections and sport allocation of URB impacts, the mainstem sport catch would be limited to 15,000 fish.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for **9:30 a.m. Thursday September 14** to consider additional treaty Indian and late fall non-Indian commercial fishing periods. The meeting room is in the Council Chambers at Kalama City Hall, 320 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Kalama, Washington 98625.
- The Joint staff is recommending a hearing take place early next week to review salmon stock status and update the ongoing recreational fisheries.