

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT #13**  
**Lower Columbia River Recreational Fishery Update**  
**September 9, 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 Friday September 5 and upgraded the preseason forecasts for both the Spring Creek Hatchery tule (BPH) and Upriver Bright (URB) runs by 25,000 fish each. The TAC met again September 8 and maintained their previous run update.
- Fishing effort in the lower Columbia River has remained consistently high. Catch rates have been variable, depending on location and have generally declined this week with the recent weak tidal cycle.
- During September 1-7, an estimated 5,030 Chinook and 490 coho have been kept from 29,300 angler trips.
- The kept Chinook catch represents 61% of the estimated 8,300 Chinook available to the fishery based on the final Chinook catch in the Buoy 10 fishery, current in-season run forecasts, and expected stock composition.
- Based on current information, the Joint Staff estimates an additional 3,000 Chinook will be kept during September 8-14 bringing the cumulative kept Chinook catch to 8,000 through Sunday, September 14, which would represent 96% of the current Chinook catch guideline for this fishery. The projection assumes that catch rates will improve this week with larger tides.
- Changes to the URB run size and stock composition (based on coded-wire tags), and updated effort/catch projections will effect how long the fishery will continue.
- Staff will continue to monitor effort and catch rates to update catch estimates and projections and intend to provide another fishery update on Thursday, September 11. If catch projections indicate the fishery will exceed harvest limits prior to the September 16 scheduled Chinook retention closure, a Joint State hearing will occur on Thursday.