

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9**  
**September 10, 2009**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial gillnet Deep River Select Area commercial
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*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2009 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 29, 2009)*

***Stock Status***

- TAC met on September 9 to review stocks status and fisheries. Fall Chinook passage through September 9 totals 198,356 adults and 67,831 jacks. The adult run is typically near 50% complete by this time. 2009 has seen a remarkable fall Chinook jack return. The total jack return is already the second highest since at least 1990. The cumulative jack count to date is over twice as high as any cumulative jack count to date since at least 1990. A record daily jack count of 4,293 occurred on September 9.
- Fall Chinook counts at Lower Granite Dam are tracking at similar levels to 2008 when the Snake River wild run size at the Columbia River mouth was 6,400. Jack returns to Lower Granite Dam are also at record levels.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam saw record daily counts for all but two days during the period from August 11 through August 22. Daily passage has dropped to near average levels in recent days. A and B Index steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam through September 9 is 517,705. TAC has updated the Group A steelhead run to 565,000 fish, compared to the preseason forecast of 278,900 fish at Bonneville Dam. It is too early to update the B steelhead run. Early indications suggest that the B steelhead are likely to be no greater than their pre-season forecast and possibly less than forecast. The overall summer steelhead run may be close to the record run observed in 2001.
- Coho passage through September 9 totals 82,107 adults which is also well above average. Coho passage at Bonneville is typically 50% complete on September 15.
- TAC did not update the URB run size, but stated the run appears to be early and may be less than predicted. The BPH run was downgraded to 41,000 adults at the Columbia River mouth based on a determination that BPH timing is about five days early.

***2009 Management Guidelines for Treaty Indian Fisheries***

- Based on the pre-season forecasts, under the 2008-2017 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, the tribal fall season fishery is allowed a 27% harvest rate on the Upriver Bright fall Chinook stock and a 20% harvest rate for B Index steelhead. If the river mouth URB run size were to be less than 200,000, then the URB harvest rate would be 23% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 15%. There is no specific harvest rate limit for A steelhead, but there is an expectation that the A steelhead harvest rates will remain within the range of recent harvest rates. In the past ten years the fall season wild A steelhead harvest rate has ranged from 2.5-8.8%.

**Review of Treaty Indian Fisheries**

- Sales of platform and hook and line caught fish continued from the summer management period and are ongoing.
- The tribes initially set three weeks of commercial gillnet fisheries beginning on August 24. The table below shows the preliminary harvest to date as well as projections for this week and the proposed fishery for next week.
- Effort in the tribal fishery has been slightly higher than in 2008 with this week’s net count being the highest since at least 2000. Prices have been lower than in 2008.

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Nets</b>	<b>Total Adult Chinook Catch</b>	<b>URB Catch</b>	<b>BPH Catch</b>	<b>URB Harvest Rate</b>	<b>Total Steelhead catch</b>	<b>B Steelhead</b>	<b>B Harvest Rate</b>
Platform	Through 8/23		821	619	123	0.23%	1,379	594	1.04%
Gillnet #1	8/24-8/27 (3.5 days)	532	9,158	4,532	3,928	1.68%	3,753	209	0.37%
Gillnet #2	8/31-9/4 (4.5 days)	693	13,994	6,926	6,002	2.57%	5,460	410	0.72%
Subtotal			<b>23,973</b>	<b>12,077</b>	<b>10,053</b>	<b>4.48%</b>	<b>10,592</b>	<b>1,213</b>	<b>2.13%</b>
Projected Gillnet #3	9/8-9/12 (4.5 days)	706	18,138	10,113	6,025	3.75%	5,610	589	1.04%
Subtotal			<b>42,111</b>	<b>22,190</b>	<b>16,078</b>	<b>8.23%</b>	<b>16,202</b>	<b>1,802</b>	<b>3.17%</b>
Projected Gillnet #4	9/14-9/18 (4.5 days)	700	15,150	8,405	5,243	3.12%	6,650	981	1.72%
Grand Total	(17 days)		<b>57,261</b>	<b>30,595</b>	<b>21,321</b>	<b>11.35%</b>	<b>22,852</b>	<b>2,783</b>	<b>4.89%</b>

- Based on the pre-season forecast river mouth run size, the URB impact rate through September 12 is expected to be only 8.2%. The Group B impact rate is expected to be 3.2% after the proposed fishery next week, the expected URB harvest rate would be 11.3% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 4.9%.
- If the URB run size and B Index steelhead run sizes are lower than forecast (Staff used 225,000 URBs and 40,000 B steelhead as an example), then after September 18, the expected URB harvest rate would be 13.6% and the B steelhead harvest rate would be 7%.
- Even if the URB run were to drop below 200,000, and the allowed harvest rate were to drop to 23%, the tribal fishery would still only have a 15.7% URB harvest rate (at 195,000 URB run size).

<b>Recommendation - Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</b>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Monday, September 14 to 6:00 PM Friday, September 18	4.5 days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be no minimum mesh size restriction for this opening.	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect. The standard (large) Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will also be in effect.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, steelhead, sockeye, walleye, carp, yellow perch, catfish, bass and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 43-54 inches in fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 38-54 inches in fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be retained for subsistence.	
Note:	24-hour Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers	

- The proposed fishery is within the harvest rate limits agreed to within the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement.
- The tribes have proposed to maintain the standard Spring Creek sanctuary. The hatchery is expected to meet their escapement needs and may have sufficient females on hand already. After next week, it is likely the tribes will reduce the sanctuary.
- Yakama Nation tributary and below Bonneville fisheries are ongoing and do not require Compact Action at this time.
- The treaty tribes may request a Compact hearing in the afternoon on Thursday September 17 to set additional fall commercial salmon gillnet fisheries.

### **Deep River Select Area Fishery**

<b>Joint Staff Recommendation – Deep River Fishery:</b>	
<b><i>Rescind the Friday night openers and change the open hours for the rest of the season to 7 PM to 9 AM</i></b>	
<b><i>The fishing season from September 14 through October 31 would be:</i></b>	
Season:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 14 through October 30 Open 7 PM – 9 AM (14 hours)
Area:	The Deep River fishing area includes all waters downstream of the town of Deep River to the mouth defined by a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore.
Gear:	Restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross the navigation channel.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon. Sales of white sturgeon are not allowed.
Additional Rules:	<b>24-hour</b> Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- A majority of the fishers who are participating in this fishery have requested these changes.
- Buyers are having trouble processing fish that are delivered on Saturday mornings.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The Joint staff recommends a Compact hearing on Thursday, September 17 to consider treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fisheries.