

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT – FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
August 18, 2009**

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial gillnet
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2009 Fall Season Forecasts and Harvest Rates and Dam Counts.

- The 2009 pre-season forecasts were shown in Fall season Fact Sheet #1.
- Based on the pre-season forecasts, under the 2008-20017 *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. There is no specific harvest rate limit for A steelhead, but there is an expectation that the A steelhead harvest rates will remain with in 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%.
- Bonneville Dam Counts for fall Chinook and coho have been above average to date. Through August 16, the fall Chinook count was 13,543 compared to a 10 year average count of 9,600 adults. The coho count was 1,395 compared to a 10 year average count of 275 adults.
- From August 12-17, each day had a larger steelhead count at Bonneville Dam than any daily count recorded previously. The peak count was 34,053. The total A and B index steelhead counts through August 16 were 325,010 which includes 110,052 unmarked fish. Therefore roughly 30% of the A and B index fish are wild steelhead. The vast majority of steelhead to date are A Index steelhead based on historic run timing.
- TAC will meet later this week to update the A index steelhead run size and will be updated other runs within the next few weeks.

<i>Recommendation - Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Monday, August 24 to 6:00 PM Thursday, August 27	3.5 days
	6:00 AM Monday, August 31 to 6:00 PM Friday September 4	4.5 days
	6:00 AM Tuesday, September 8 to 6:00 PM Saturday, September 12	4.5 days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be no minimum mesh size restriction for these three openings.	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect. The standard 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	

- Estimated catches are shown in the table below. Effort is presumed to be close to last year's high levels.

Standard Spring Creek Sanctuary, No minimum mesh restriction									
Days	Start	End	Nets	Total Chinook	URBs	MCBs	Tules	Total Steelhead	Total B
3.5	24-Aug	27-Aug	475	15,618	10,151	1,422	4,045	3,016	591
4.5	31-Aug	4-Sep	600	31,733	18,155	3,002	10,576	4,306	903
4.5	8-Sep	12-Sep	660	40,315	23,715	5,137	11,462	5,211	1,566
12.5		Subtotal		87,666	52,021	9,562	26,083	12,533	3,060
				URB impacts	19.3%				
				B Steelhead					
				Impacts	5.4%				

- A preliminary catch update through August 15 for the August Platform and Hook and Line fishery is: 200 Chinook Adults; 160 jacks; 1,549 Total Steelhead; 1,267 Group A; and 282 Group B. This update does not include very much data from recent days when the Steelhead counts at Bonneville have been very high. The Platform and Hook and Line Fishery below Bonneville Dam has dropped to no observed effort or catch since late July. Sales have been ongoing in the platform and hook and line fishery.
- Steelhead catches could be greater than predicted by the model. But presuming that the steelhead run is greater than forecast, the harvest rates should be similar to predictions. Examination of previous year's harvest date (which the model is based on) indicates that the weekly harvest rates in terms of catch per day per net is variable but is not necessarily correlated with run sizes or with the use of mesh restrictions. Higher catch rates do not always occur with larger run sizes. Lower catch rates do not always occur when mesh size restrictions are implemented.
- The tribes have opted not to propose a mesh size restriction for the first three openings because the expected steelhead harvest rates are within the range of recent years. Typically B steelhead harvest rates do not increase until mid September. Should the steelhead (especially B steelhead) harvest be higher than desired in these openings, the tribes may propose mesh restrictions for later openings.
- The tribes have proposed the standard spring creek sanctuary. Modeling suggests that enough Spring Creek tules will escape the tribal fishery to meet the hatchery escapement goal. The tribes may consider additional appropriate actions if any problems occur in meeting the escapement goal. Should the goal be met by mid September, the tribes may also reduce or eliminate the sanctuary.
- The expected catches in these fisheries are well within the harvest rates and catch limits agreed to in the *U.S. v. Oregon* 2008-2017 Management Agreement and are expected to be low enough to allow additional fishing time to be proposed at a later date.
- Tribal catch monitors are in place to estimate the total tribal harvest. Tribal staff will work closely with state staff to ensure data such as coded wire tags are collected and appropriately analyzed. Net flights will be done once per week during each commercial gillnet opening to estimate the total fishing effort. Additionally, we anticipate collecting genetic samples from

the tribal fishery this year. We will not be sampling the tribal fishery for PIT tags in 2009 but expect to begin sampling for PIT tags in 2010.

- 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 on Thursday September 10 to set additional fall commercial salmon gillnet fisheries.

Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

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