

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 17
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 18, 2008

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Mainstem Recreational Fisheries
---------------------------------------	--

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008) and Fact Sheet #16 (Sept. 16, 2008)

- Columbia River Chinook returns have been greater than expected, specifically for stocks destined for areas above Bonneville Dam. Through September 16, Bonneville dam counts have totaled 180,831 bright stock Chinook and 83,132 tule stock Chinook compared to the preseason expectation of 170,900 brights and 75,200 tules at Bonneville Dam.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to *U.S. v Oregon* met this morning and upgraded the upriver bright (URB) Chinook runsize to 212,500 fish to the Columbia River mouth, compared to the preseason estimate of 164,400 fish. TAC also updated the group B index summer steelhead to 90,000 fish, compared to the preseason estimate of 49,700 fish.
- The "2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement*" (2008-2017 MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries. With run sizes of at least 200,000 URB fall Chinook, including at least 6,000 Snake River wild fall Chinook, the 2008-2017 MA allows for a 38% URB impact rate allocated 27% for treaty Indian fisheries and 11% for non-Indian fisheries. This is compared to the preseason limits of 23% and 8.25% respectively.
- According to the "2008 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" allowable non-Indian URB ESA impacts are to be shared 53% recreational and 47% commercial
- Non-Indian fall fisheries, shown in the table below, have been managed inseason to remain within the URB guidelines/limits set preseason.

<i>Non-Indian Impact Summary</i>						
Fishery	Preseason URB Run = 164,400			In Season URB Run = 212,500		
	Catch	URB Catch	Impact	Catch	URB Catch	Impact
Buoy 10	6,513	1,254	0.76%	8,274	2,547	1.20%
LCR Sport, 9/1-16	9,217	4,855	2.95%	9,200	4,728	2.23%
Zone 6 Sport	1,235	1,110	0.68%	1,538	1,403	0.66%
Sum	16,965	7,219	4.39%	19,012	8,678	4.08%
SAFE	8,353	214	0.13%	8,476	276	0.13%
August Commercial	13,686	3,401	2.07%	14,400	4,291	2.02%
Sept/Oct Commercial	8,463	2,733	1.66%			
Sum	30,502	6,348	3.86%	22,876	4,567	2.15%
Total Non-Indian	47,468	13,567	8.25%	44,388	15,145	6.23%

- Although run sizes for Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam have been upgraded, lower river Chinook stocks cannot be updated inseason. These lower river Chinook are also listed under the ESA and must be managed very conservatively to remain within the allowable impacts limits. These stocks include the lower river wild (LRW) Chinook, which are a bright stock that returns to the Lewis River and natural origin tule stocks that return to various tributaries below Bonneville Dam.
- Following the URB runsize upgrade, the LRW is the most constraining stock in the lower river, and this stock is being managed for impacts not to exceed 10% of the population. Fisheries outlined in the 2008 allocation agreement resulted in sharing of the ESA impacts to LRW Chinook of 45% sport and 55% commercial in in-river fisheries.
- Since most of the allowable LRW impacts allocated to the recreational sector have been utilized, there is little recreational opportunity available in the area below the Lewis River. By opening only the area above the mouth of Lewis River, LRW impacts will not be accrued, and staff believes this will help provide opportunity for Chinook angling that will likely continue for the remainder of the season without further modifications to open times and areas.

Joint Staff Recommendation
<p>Effective Saturday, September 20 until December 31 or further notice, allow the retention of Chinook in the area from the Warrior Rock-Bachelor Island line (located above the mouth of the Lewis River) upstream to Bonneville Dam:</p> <p>Retention of adipose fin-clipped coho and steelhead allowed. Up to 2 adult salmon and/or steelhead in combination may be retained, but only 1 may be a Chinook. Retained Chinook do not have to be fin-clipped.</p> <p>The area from the Warrior Rock-Bachelor Island line downstream to the Tongue Point-Rocky Point line will remain closed to retention of Chinook (adults and jacks) but will remain open for adipose fin-clipped coho and steelhead.</p>

- ✓ These fisheries will continue as long as ESA impacts remain available to the recreational sector, or through December 31.
- ✓ Staff will monitor the fisheries and provide updates and/or recommendations as needed.
- ✓ The projected catch for this fishery is about 2,500 Chinook, of which 76%, or 1,900 fish, are expected to be URBs. No catch of LRW stock fish are expected. The impact for this fishery is estimated to be 0.89% for URBs, and would bring the total recreational URB impact for the season to 4.98%.
- ✓ WDFW intends to open a sport fishery below Little Goose Dam on the Snake River. Impacts needed to cover this fishery total 0.5%.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The treaty tribes are recommending a hearing for the afternoon of September 18 via teleconference.

An additional hearing is scheduled via teleconference for Tuesday September 23 at 2 PM to consider non-Indian commercial fisheries.