

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #6
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 3, 2014

Fisheries under Review:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon Buoy 10 recreational fishery Lower Columbia River recreational fishery
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 29, 2014.

Stock Status

- Passage at Bonneville Dam through September 2 totals nearly 120,000 adult Fall Chinook. Chinook passage to date has been significantly less than expectations (313,000 expected). Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by September 8.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead since July 1 totals nearly 206,000 fish. Counts to date are within expectations. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by August 11.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on September 2. TAC reported that the both tulle and bright Chinook passage is well below expectations and passage must increase significantly in order to meet preseason forecasts. TAC also reviewed steelhead stock status and reported that total passage is tracking to meet preseason forecast; however it was too early to update the individual stock components within the steelhead return. TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday September 8 and/or Wednesday September 10.

Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall fisheries was 86,400 adult Chinook, including 2,900 LRH stock (3.4% of Chinook catch).
- Thirteen fishing periods have occurred in Zones 4-5 from August 3–September 2. All periods were nine hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Catch estimates (actual and preliminary) through September 2 total 44,500 fall Chinook. The most recent period (Sep 1-2) accounted for over 35% of the total catch.
- CWT data is complete through August 23, and the majority of the tags are processed for Aug 24-29. Stock composition of the Chinook catch is slightly higher than expected (3.9% v 3.4%) for LRH stock and the URB stock is tracking slightly behind expectations (56% v 60%).
- Given Chinook passage to date, the increasing abundance of fall Chinook in Zones 4-5, high catch rates and a slightly higher than expected LRH stock component, no additional fishing periods are recommended at this time.
- The late-fall commercial season is scheduled to begin the week of September 14. Based on the preseason run size and CWT data in hand, approximately 48,000 Chinook remain available for September Chinook-directed fisheries. Industry has requested consideration of an earlier start date if warranted.

Recreational Fisheries

- Catch estimates for the B10 recreational fishery include 23,900 Chinook kept (6,500 released) from 74,100 angler trips during Aug 1-29. Estimated catch during the August 30-September 1 mark-selective fishery is 2,900 Chinook kept (5,000 released) from 8,600 angler trips. The fishery is currently closed for Chinook retention as scheduled. CWT data (to date) indicates stock composition is higher for LRH than expected preseason (21% v 12%). Total fishery Chinook mortalities are estimated at 30,020 (66% of preseason), but LRH impacts are 101% of the preseason allocation. Estimated coho harvest through September 1 totals 32,200 fish (including release mortalities) compared to the 56,500 fish available.
- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery include 4,700 Chinook kept (100 released) from 59,000 angler trips during Aug 1-31. Catch to date for this fishery is well below expectations; however catch rates are expected to improve. This fishery transitions to mark-selective regulations for Chinook during September 7–14 in the area from Tongue Point upstream to Warrior Rock.
- The area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to remain open for Chinook through December. Catch rates have been fairly low in this area, but are also expected to improve.
- CWT data for this fishery has not yet been analyzed.
- Based on inseason modeling, the fishery is expected to remain within the available Chinook guideline (43,000 mortalities/ 2,700 LRH). Run size, catch rates and stock composition are all variables effecting Chinook allocation and season structure.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 opened August 1 and is scheduled to remain open through December 31. The season total catch expectation for this fishery is 14,000 Chinook.

Non-Indian ESA impacts

- Based on preseason run size estimates and actual, on-going and planned non-Indian fisheries for the 2014 fall season, ESA impacts are expected to total 10% for URB Chinook (15% allowed), 41% for LRH Chinook (41% allowed) and 2% for wild Group B steelhead (2% allowed).

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled via teleconference for 4 p.m. Wednesday September 10 to review salmonid stock status and consider non-Indian fisheries.