

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
August 21, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Buoy 10 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, 2015.

Stock Status

- Passage at Bonneville Dam through August 17 totals nearly 21,000 adult Fall Chinook. Chinook passage to date has been tracking within expectations. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by September 8.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead since July 1 totals about 141,000 fish. Passage to date has been tracking lower than expectations. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by August 11.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) typically begins review stock status in late August or early September.

River Conditions

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 148 kcfs, which is slightly higher than the ten-year average of 144 kcfs for August 17.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 72° F, which is similar to the recent ten-year average (71° F) for August 17.

Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The Early Fall fishery is underway and expected to continue through August. Season structure consists of three (9-hour) fishing periods per week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday) in Zones 4-5 using large mesh (9-inch minimum) gear. Commercial periods are in place through August 28.
- Harvest through August 17 includes 4,197 Chinook and 8 Coho, which is within expectations for this point in the season. Analysis of the coded-wire tags (CWTs) for August 9-14 indicated that stock composition was generally within expectations.

Recreational Fisheries

- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery include 1,050 Chinook kept from 15,348 angler trips during Aug 1-16. Catch rates are expected to improve as the fishery progresses. This fishery transitions to mark-selective regulations for Chinook during September 8–14 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.

- 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 9,000 Chinook.
- The Buoy 10 fishery opened August 1 and Chinook retention is scheduled to be open through September 7. Preseason modeling for Chinook harvest (including release mortalities) totals 34,845 fish. LCN wild tule impacts allocated to this fishery total 4.1%.
- The Buoy 10 fishery got off to a strong start and effort and catch rates remain high. Catch through August 20 includes 18,600 Chinook kept from 46,600 angler trips. Coho harvest through the same date totals 15,000 kept. Catch projections through August 23 total 25,400 Chinook mortalities from 59,800 anglers. LCN tule impacts are projected to be 3.7% by August 23.
- Available CWT data from the Buoy 10 fishery indicates stock composition is currently higher for LRH stock than expected preseason (21% v 17%).
- The projected catch of 25,400 Chinook represents 73% of the Chinook allocated and 90% of the Buoy 10 impacts allocated for LCN tules.
- Given that the catch rates at Buoy 10 are higher than expected and the stock composition is weighed heavier to the LRH stock than expected, modifications to the fishery are needed in order to meet the season objective and remain within the ESA impacts allocated.

<i>Recommendation: 2015 Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery</i>	
Option 1	Continue fishery under existing regulations until impact allocation is reached: Effective Wednesday August 26 through Wednesday September 30: retention of Chinook is prohibited.
Option 2	Implement mark-selective regulations to maintain the opportunity for Chinook retention through Labor Day. Effective Monday August 24 through Monday September 7: only Chinook with a clipped adipose fin and a healed scar at the location of the fin may be retained.
Daily Bag Limit:	Chinook minimum size 24-inches. Coho minimum size 16-inches. Daily limit is 2 adipose fin-clipped salmon or steelhead or 1 of each. Only 1 Chinook may be retained. Release all salmon other than adipose fin-clipped Chinook and adipose fin-clipped Coho.
Additional:	Fishers participating in the adjacent fisheries may have unclipped Chinook onboard while in transit through the Buoy 10 area per permanent regulations.
Area:	From a true north and south line through Buoy 10 upstream to a projected line from Rocky Point of the Washington Shore through Red Buoy # 44 to the navigation light at Tongue Point on the Oregon bank.

- Option 1 estimates catch at 28,300 kept Chinook through August 25. ESA impacts to LCN tules are estimated at 4.1% of the 4.1% allocated.

- Option 2 proposes mark-selective Chinook regulations to carry the fishery through Labor Day (September 7). Catch expectations for this fishery includes 32,000 kept Chinook. ESA impacts to LCN tules are estimated at 4.2% of the 4.1% allocated.
- The return of Select Area Bright (SAB) stock to Youngs Bay has been much lower than expected so far this year which has prompted concerns about adequate escapement for hatchery broodstock needs. Oregon's action plan to alleviate these concerns include:
 - Reduction of The Youngs Bay commercial fishery to two 12-hour periods during week 34 from a standard 3.5-day period.
 - The fishing structure for week 35 has not yet been adopted but is expected to be much less than the standard 24/7 schedule.
 - Recreational fisheries in Youngs Bay upstream of the commercial fishing area will likely be modified to reduce harvest of SABs in the area.
- SABs are mass-marked with a left-ventral fin clip. Allowing only adipose fin-clip Chinook to be retained (Option 2) will also help to reduce the harvest of SABs and further alleviate escapement concerns.

Future Meetings

- No hearings are currently scheduled. A hearing may be needed as early as Wednesday August 26 to review non-Indian fisheries and consider non-Indian commercial fisheries.