



Washington  
Department of  
**FISH and  
WILDLIFE**



## 2009 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement

May 18, 2009

### Management Intent for 2009 Summer and Fall Season Fisheries

- WDFW and ODFW Commission guidance states in part that "Commercial and recreational fishing opportunity will be scheduled to optimize the non-treaty harvest of Chinook and coho and to provide a balanced opportunity to each fleet. When developing recreational and commercial fishing options, the Department shall consider fair and reasonable catch opportunity, stability and duration of fisheries, as well as sharing of the conservation responsibility."
- Fisheries in 2009 are structured to optimize the harvest of Chinook and coho within Endangered Species Act (ESA) limits and to provide a balanced opportunity for each fleet. This agreement was developed during the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and North of Falcon meetings during March and April of 2009.
- The ESA limits for 2009 are:
  - A 38% exploitation rate for lower Columbia River wild/natural tule Chinook (LCN tule). The Lower River Hatchery (LRH) stock is the surrogate for LCN tules.
  - A 20% exploitation rate for Lower Columbia wild/natural (LCN) coho. These two guidelines include impacts from both the ocean and freshwater fisheries (primarily the Columbia River).
- Impacts on LCN tule Chinook and LCN coho that are not used in ocean fisheries may be allocated to Columbia River fisheries, and impact overages from ocean fisheries are to be subtracted from Columbia River fisheries.
- The preseason forecast for Upriver Bright (URB) fall Chinook is 269,700 and for Snake River wild fall Chinook (SRW) is 6,649. Based on these forecasts, the ESA harvest rate limit on URB/SRW Chinook in 2009 is 11% for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries.

- Management objectives for Columbia River Chinook fisheries include maximizing the harvest of URB fall Chinook within the ESA limits on SRW fall Chinook, and minimizing impacts on LCN tule Chinook, which will likely be the most constraining stock for Columbia River fisheries in 2009.
- The non-Indian conservation burden for ESA-listed Chinook is shared between sport and commercial fisheries. Based on preseason expectations, sharing of LCN tule impacts are expected to be 58% sport and 42% commercial. The sharing for URB/SRW impacts is expected to be 48% sport and 52% commercial.
- Most of the conservation burden for LCN tule Chinook is in the commercial fishery because LCN tule impacts are necessary to provide meaningful opportunity for Columbia River sport fisheries.

#### Preseason Fishery Expectations

- The fishery expectations outlined in this agreement are based on Model Run (MR2009-Final) and are primarily limited by the portion of LCN tule impacts that are allocated to Columbia River fisheries, and equal an 11.5% in-river harvest rate on LCN tule Chinook. Modeled non-Indian catch estimates are based on pre-season abundance forecasts and past harvest rates referenced in MR2009-Final.
- Total URB/SRW fall Chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are estimated to be 9.6%, compared to the guideline of 11%. A minimum of 0.5% SRW impacts will be set aside to allow for sport fisheries in the Snake River.
- The Columbia River Compact/Joint States will use the LCN tule impact allocations as the primary guidance for making in-season management decisions for fall Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries.
- The total fall Chinook catch expectation in mainstem fisheries (excluding tributary sport and SAFE commercial) is 27,800 Chinook in sport fisheries (36%) and 48,400 in commercial fisheries (64%). The total catch is greater for the commercial fishery because the URB limit is 11% and does not constrain fisheries.
- These catch projections are based on preseason forecasts of abundance, fishery harvest rates, and fishery stock compositions. Actual harvest will be influenced by stock-specific fall Chinook abundances and stock specific harvest rates by each respective fishery.

Goals/expectations for the sport fishery include:

- The Buoy 10 sport fishery will begin on August 1 with a two fish daily limit. Chinook retention will be allowed through August 31. No more than one Chinook may be retained per day. Fishery catch expectations include 10,700 Chinook and 119,100 coho. Beginning September 1, an additional coho may be retained per day, bringing the total daily limit to three adipose fin-clipped coho (Chinook retention closed).
- The mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam will begin August 1 with a daily limit of two fish, but only one Chinook. From the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to the Lewis River, the fishery will be open for Chinook retention through September 13. Beginning September 14, Chinook retention will only be allowed upstream of the Lewis River. The total catch expectation for this fishery includes 15,100 Chinook and 1,900 coho.
- The mainstem sport fishery from Bonneville Dam to Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington will begin on August 1 with a two fish daily limit. The total catch expectation is 1,900 Chinook for this fishery.
- To maximize opportunity, sport fisheries are expected to remain open for hatchery coho and steelhead throughout normal seasons and areas, including times and areas closed for Chinook retention.

Goals/expectations for the commercial fishery include:

- Planned fishing days are Sundays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays.
- An early August salmon fishery during the first week of August (modeled dates were August 4 and 6). Mesh size will be 9-inch minimum and area is Zones 1-5. Total catch expectation is 3,000 Chinook.
- A mid-August fishery is planned for August 9 in Zones 1-5, if possible. Total catch expectation is 2,300 Chinook. Mesh size is 9-inch minimum.
- A late August fishery is expected to occur in Zones 4-5 beginning the week of August 16 for about six days. Mesh size is 9-inch minimum. Total catch expectation is 14,100 Chinook.
- A late fall fishery is expected to begin September 20 with a one-day target Chinook season in all Zones. Catch expectation for this fishery is 6,800 Chinook. A late fall fishery of about 6-8 days will continue in Zones 4-5 with target Chinook fishing in late September. The catch expectation for the Zones 4-5 fishery is 18,400 Chinook. Mesh size is 8-inch minimum.
- Coho fisheries are expected to begin in late September and continue into October. The preseason catch expectation is 31,000 fish. Additional coho would be available for harvest if ocean quotas are not achieved or if the

Buoy 10 fishery catches less than expected. The fishery would likely occur in Zones 1-3 and would target coho during daylight hours with unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh nets.

- The dates, areas, mesh restrictions, and catch expectations are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events will likely change many of these expectations.
- Sturgeon management will be consistent with sturgeon protocol developed with the Commercial Advisor Group and adopted at the December 18, 2008 Compact hearing.
  - Catch expectations are 2,000 white sturgeon for August fisheries and 3,200 for September/October fisheries. These guidelines include actual harvest in 2009 winter/spring fisheries (~1,800) and the anticipated summer season allocation of 600 fish.
  - Landing limits are expected to be in place throughout the fall fisheries (likely starting at about 10 fish/week).

#### Summer Chinook Fishery Expectations:

- Recent guidance by the Washington and Oregon commissions states in part that "Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available." "The allocation of available harvest downstream of Priest Rapids Dam shall be 50% for the recreational fishery and 50% for the commercial fishery."
- The preseason estimate for upper Columbia summer Chinook is 70,700 fish. Based on an escapement goal of 29,000 at the Columbia mouth, the allowable harvest for all non-treaty fisheries in 2009 is 18,262 Upper Columbia summer Chinook. Based on the summer Chinook management plan and negotiations with the Colville tribes, the available harvest for sport and commercial fisheries downstream of Priest Rapids Dam is 8,000 Chinook, or 4,000 each for the sport and commercial fisheries. This total includes fish that were re-allocated from Colville tribal and WDFW sport fisheries above Priest Rapids Dam.
- The mainstem sport fishery below Bonneville Dam will be open from June 22 through July 5 with a two fish daily limit. Total catch expectation is 3,000 summer Chinook.

- The mainstem sport fishery from Bonneville Dam to Priest Rapids Dam will be open from July 1 through July 31 with a two fish daily limit. Total catch expectation is 1,000 summer Chinook.
- Retention of sockeye will be allowed concurrent with the summer steelhead season through July 31.
- The commercial fishery below Bonneville Dam is expected to be open June 18 from the mouth upstream to the Longview Bridge, June 23 or 24 in Zones 1-5 and June 30 in Zones 1-5. 600 white sturgeon are allocated to the summer season fishery. White sturgeon landing limits are expected to be about 5 fish/week.
- Sale of sockeye may be allowed during the summer season commercial fishery.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

# Columbia River Fall Chinook Fishery Model Summary

Ocean Option: PPMC - Final/April  
 Columbia River Model Option: Model 2009-Final

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Management Guidelines	Total	Goal/Guideline
Snake River Wild HR	36.61%	38.00%
Non-Indian	9.61%	11.00%
Treaty Indian	27.00%	27.00%
% of Harvestable Surplus		
Non-Indian	27%	50%
Treaty Indian	36%	50%
McNary Escapement	106,600	60,000
LRH Ocean/Inriver Exp. Rate	38.0%	38%
Non-Indian Wild B Index Steelhead	1.9%	2%
Treaty Indian Total B Index Steelhead	15%	15%
Upriver Coho to Bonneville Dam	71%	50%
Lower Columbia Churn	1.6%	5%

Non-Indian Catch Sharing					
SRW			Brights - Mainstem		
Impact	Percent	Catch	Percent	Impact	Percent
Sport	47.8%	19,800	34%	19,800	34%
Comm	52.2%	38,200	66%	38,200	66%
Chinook - Mainstem			LRH - Impacts		
Impact	Percent	Catch	Impact	Percent	Catch
Sport	36%	27,800	58%	4.65%	58%
Comm	64%	48,400	42%	3.42%	42%

	Total	BPH	URB	LRH	LRW	BUB	PUB	LRB	SAB	SRW	LRH	ER	SRW	HR
<b>Ocean Harvest</b>	53,510	16,320	7,510	26,490	460	1,400	1,280	50						
<b>Columbia River Run</b>	532,890	56,520	269,680	88,160	8,610	50,220	46,070	1,660	11,960	6,650				
<b>Harvest Below Bonneville</b>	2,970	520	550	1,260	0	180	110	10	350	10	1.0%			0.2%
Early - Mid August	12,000	220	370	3,470	30	60	60	0	7,790	10				0.1%
Select Areas	10,740	1,440	2,190	3,260	100	1,630	710	50	1,360	50	2.6%			0.8%
Buoy 10	15,100	670	8,500	2,590	180	2,080	1,010	70	10	210	2.1%			3.2%
Mainstem Sport	2,260	450	480	1,010	0	150	90	0	70	10	0.8%			0.2%
Mid - Late August	14,100	4,050	5,250	800	0	2,870	1,030	90	10	130	0.6%			1.9%
Z4-5 Mid - late August	6,780	370	1,960	970	190	2,790	350	90	50	50	0.8%			0.7%
Z1-5 Sept Chinook	18,410	550	3,360	90	0	13,510	440	450	10	80	0.1%			1.2%
Sept/Oct Z4-5	3,930	10	1,540	170	280	1,720	140	60	10	40	0.1%			0.6%
October Coho	6,670	0	0	6,670	0	0	0	0	0	0				0.0%
Tributary Sport	92,970	8,290	24,210	20,280	770	25,000	3,950	830	9,640	600	8.1%			9.0%
Lower River Total	322,250	46,940	245,470			9,960	19,880			6,050				
<b>Bonneville Dam Passage</b>														
Harvest Above Bonneville	1,910		1,720			10	180			40				0.6%
Zone 6 - Bonn to Hwy 395	108,940	27,180	72,810			2,980	5,960			1,800				27.0%
Treaty Comm. and C&S	5850		5850							0				
Hanford Reach Sport	106,580		106,580											
McNary Dam Passage														
Lower Granite Dam Passage														
<b>Escapement</b>														
Hatchery	19,760		67,880			15,270	13,730		2,320					
Natural	16,100		28,630			13,750	3,460		1,630					
Hatchery Surplus	3,660		106,580		7,830	1,520	10,280	830	690					
Natural Surplus	9,100		46,580		870	9,050	1,460		730					