

2010 Upper Columbia, Okanogan and Similkameen River Summer Chinook and Sockeye Creel Survey

Location and Dates

From July 1st, 2010 through October 15th, 2010 the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife managed a salmon sport fishery in the upper Columbia River from Priest Rapids Dam upriver to Chief Joseph Dam. In addition, from July 1st, 2010 through September 15th, 2010 both the Okanogan and Similkameen Rivers were open for salmon fishing.

Creel Methods

A creel survey was conducted throughout the duration of the fishery to estimate catch and harvest of summer chinook and sockeye and to record any incidental encounters of ESA-listed steelhead. Angler interviews and effort counts were conducted five days per week on a Thursday through Monday schedule. Efforts counts were randomly selected and included both AM and PM time periods. All anglers encountered were interviewed as to the number of fish caught, number of fish released, species and origin, and the number of hours fished. Incidental encounters of ESA-listed fish were also recorded and an estimated “take” made for each species based on a 10% hook and release mortality. Snouts were taken from all adipose clipped coded wire tagged (CWT) fish encountered.

Creel Results

An estimated 17,420 anglers fished 62,699 hours and caught 3,285 summer chinook, of which 2,868 were retained and 417 were released (Table1). Approximately 40% of the chinook catch was of hatchery origin. An additional 10,702 sockeye were caught during the fishery, of which 10,662 were retained and 40 were released (Table 1). Catch per unit effort was 0.0524 for chinook and 0.1707 for sockeye.

Table 1. Estimated fishing effort and catch for upper Columbia River summer chinook and sockeye fishery, 2010.

River Sections ¹	Fishing Effort		Chinook Catch			Sockeye Catch		
	Anglers	Angler Hours	Retained	Released	Total	Retained	Released	Total
537	1,758	11,586	1,294	214	1,508	60	0	60
539	275	1,789	9	0	9	0	0	0
541	2,577	9,160	119	32	151	0	0	0
543	2,535	10,989	427	96	523	674	15	689
545	8,666	24,560	881	39	920	9,864	25	9,889
627	700	1,866	85	0	85	64	0	64
629	909	2,749	53	36	89	0	0	0
Total	17,420	62,699	2,868	417	3,285	10,662	40	10,702

¹ 537-Priest Rapids to Wanapum, 539-Wanapum to Rock Island, 541-Rock Island to Rocky Reach, 543-Rocky Reach to Wells, 545-Wells to Chief Joseph, 627-Okanogan, 629-Similkameen

Incidental Impacts on steelhead

There were an estimated 44 steelhead caught and released during the summer chinook fishery within the upper Columbia River. Applying a 10% hook and release mortality, an estimated 4.4 steelhead died as a result of the fishery, which represents 44% of the maximum steelhead impacts (10) as outlined in Permit 1554 with NOAA Fisheries.