

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**August 17, 2010**

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon Treaty Indian commercial fisheries
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*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2010 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 29, 2010)*

***Stock Status***

- Fall Chinook passage (Aug 1-16) totals 9,400 adults. Chinook passage is typically 50% complete by September 7.
- Bonneville Dam observations (BDO) began August 15. BDO supplies fishery managers with visual stock identification (VSI) for tule and bright Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville between August 1-14 are considered all bright stock.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam between July 1 and August 15 totals 251,000 fish. The majority of fish are Group A stock, as the Group B component is later-timed, with passage beginning in mid-late August.
- TAC met August 16 and reviewed steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam. TAC updated the Group A steelhead run size to a range of 375,000 – 400,000 fish, compared to the preseason forecast of 337,500 Group A Steelhead.

**Non-Indian Fisheries**

***Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery***

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall (August) fisheries was 19,400 adult Chinook. A total of 1,836 white sturgeon were allocated to the August portion of the fall fishing season.
- Preseason modeling for August fishing periods included three fishing periods in early August (7,700 Chinook), one fishing period in mid August (2,200 Chinook) and two fishing periods in late August (9,500 Chinook).
- Four 12-hour fishing periods were adopted for the nights of August 3, 5 and 8 (early August) and August 10 (mid-August). The first three periods occurred in Zones 1-5, and the August 10 period occurred in Zones 2-5. All periods required a 9-inch minimum mesh restriction and a weekly landing/possession limit of six white sturgeon.

<i>2010 August Commercial Fishery Landings</i>				
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
Aug. 3-4 (Z 1-5) 9"mesh	140	1,074	4	365
Aug. 5-6 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	145	1,505	6	297
Aug. 8-9 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	184	4,265	82	512
Aug. 10-11 (Z 2-5) 9" mesh	143	1,637	29	404
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,481</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>1,578</b>

- Stock composition (based on CWTs) shows tule catch represented a higher proportion of the catch than expected. CWT tag data is complete for the first three fishing periods, and partially complete for the August 10 fishing period.
- To date August commercial fisheries have harvested 343 URBs and 3,800 LRHs, leaving an available allocation of 3,600 URBs and 650 LRHs for the remainder of August.
- An additional 1,800 URBs and 900 LRHs are expected to be used in one (12 hour) September Zone 1-5 fishery.
- The fishing seasons (planned preseason) on Aug 19 and 22 in Zones 4-5 will likely not catch the remaining URBs allocated to August commercial fisheries. Market value and quality of these fish remains high in August; however, accessing these fish does require using some LRH stock impacts, even with the Zone 4-5 restriction in place.

<i>2010 Non-Indian Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season	8 PM Thursday August 19 to 6 AM Friday August 20 (10 hours) 8 PM Sunday August 22 to 6 AM Monday August 23 (10 hours) 8 PM Tuesday August 24 to 6 AM Wednesday August 25 (10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokom-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Washougal, and Sandy Rivers as applicable
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9" minimum mesh size restriction.  Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.  Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of <b>four</b> white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only.
Additional Rules:	<b>24-hour</b> Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- Staff is proposing a third fishing period (Aug 24) to allow the industry access to the URB impacts allocated to the August portion of the commercial fall season. Although LRH catch to date is slightly higher than expected, interception of the LRH stock will be minimized through area restrictions (Zones 4-5) and increased sanctuaries (B sanctuaries).
- If LRH impacts allocated to August commercial fisheries are exceeded in August fisheries, impacts allocated for September commercial fisheries would need to be reduced.
- Catch estimates include 1,500 Chinook for Aug. 19, 3,000-4,000 Chinook for Aug 22 and 5,000-6,000 Chinook for the final period on Aug 24.
- The proposed fishery will allow staff time to review landings through August 23 and propose modifications if necessary to the August 24 fishery.
- Sturgeon harvest is typically minimal in the Zone 4-5 area during this timeframe. Staff is reducing the weekly limit to four fish, in an effort to remain within the allocation remaining for August fisheries

### **Treaty-Indian Fisheries**

- Based on the pre-season forecasts, under the 2008-2017 *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement, the tribal fall season fishery is allowed a 25% harvest rate on the Upriver Bright (URB) fall Chinook stock and a 20% harvest rate for Group B steelhead. Group A steelhead harvest rates are expected to remain within those observed in recent years, ranging from 2.5-8.8%.
- Harvest expectations for 2010 fall season treaty Indian fisheries include 172,000 adult Chinook and 45,000 steelhead. These estimates are based on preseason forecasts and allowable impacts.
- Platform hook and line fisheries have been ongoing since August 1. Catch and effort has been minimal. Preliminary catch estimates through August 15 total 140 adult Chinook 98 jacks and 1,690 steelhead.

<b><i>Recommendation - Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i></b>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tuesday, August 24 to 6:00 PM Friday, August 27	3.5 days
	6:00 AM Monday, August 30 to 6:00 PM Friday September 3	4.5 days
	6:00 AM Tuesday, September 7 to 6:00 PM Friday, September 10	3.5 days
Area:	Zone 6	
Gear:	No minimum mesh size restriction.	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect. The small Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary will also be in effect.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, steelhead, walleye, shad, yellow perch, bass, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools, and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool, may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sales of fish caught during the open period for gillnet fishing are allowed after the end of the open period as long as the fish were landed during the open period.	
Note:	24-hour Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers	

- Since steelhead catch and associated impacts are expected to remain well within allowed catches and B steelhead impacts are typically low through mid September, mesh size restrictions to limit the harvest of steelhead are not necessary at this time.
- Given the high Spring Creek tule forecast, the small spring creek sanctuary (150-foot radius around hatchery ladder) is expected to allow the Spring Creek hatchery escapement goal to be met.
- Effort is expected to be similar to the high levels observed during the past few years. Catch projections are shown in the table below.

<b>Catch expectations for Treaty Indian fisheries</b>						
Date	# of Days	Nets	Adult Chinook	(URBs)	Steelhead	(Group B)
Aug 23- 26	3.5	500	19,800	9,800	3,800	500
Aug 30- Sep 3	4.5	600	38,100	16,100	5,500	1,000
Sep 7-10	3.5	700	46,000	21,700	5,200	2,000
	11.5		93,900	47,600	12,500	3,500
<b>Impacts</b>						
URB	15%					
Group B	4%					

- The expected catch is well within the harvest rates and catch limits agreed to in the U.S. v. Oregon 2008-2017 Management Agreement, and are expected to allow for additional weekly fishing periods later in the fall season.
- Steelhead catch could potentially be greater than projected due to the high abundance of steelhead passing Bonneville Dam. Harvest rates however, should be similar to projections.
- Net flights will occur once per week during each commercial gillnet opening to estimate the total fishing effort.

### **Future Meeting**

- The Joint Staff and treaty tribes request a Compact hearing be scheduled for 1 p.m. Thursday September 9 via teleconference. The agenda would include stock status review for Chinook and steelhead, and potentially consider additional commercial fishing periods for treaty and non-Indian fisheries. Staff may also provide an update on ongoing recreational fisheries.