

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12
Columbia River Compact
September 27, 2011**

Fisheries Under Consideration: Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial

Management guidelines, allocations, and preseason run forecasts for the 2011 fall season were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1, dated July 28, 2011.

Stock Status and Inseason Forecasts

- Passage at Bonneville through September 26 totals 355,500 adult Chinook (294,600 bright stock and 60,900 tule stock) and 112,600 adult early stock coho. Chinook passage is around 90% complete. Counts of late stock coho begin October 1.
- TAC reviewed salmonid stock status and fishery data on September 26 and updated the inseason estimates for upriver Chinook, coho and steelhead. The current forecasts include:
 - 331,900 URB and 68,100 BPH Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. These estimates are similar to last week’s estimates (URB +3%; BPH -3%). Both projections are less than the preseason forecasts.
 - 360,500 upriver steelhead, including 51,100 Group B steelhead. This estimate is less than last week’s projection of 370,800 fish at Bonneville Dam and slightly less than the preseason forecast of 366,800 Group A/B steelhead at Bonneville Dam.
 - 124,700 upriver early stock adult coho at Bonneville Dam. This is TAC’s first update for coho. The estimate is much greater than the preseason expectation of 44,800 early stock coho at BON. TAC will meet tomorrow (9/28) to update the early coho river mouth run size. Counts of late stock coho begin October 1.
- Agency staff has recently reviewed escapement and harvest data for early stock coho and can account for over 173,000 early stock coho in hand. The preseason forecast was 168,500 fish. Current projections for the total return could reach 260,000 early coho (based on the Bonneville early update and other preseason projections).
- It is too early to make any assumptions regarding the late stock coho return. The preseason forecast for late coho is 102,300 fish.

Non-Indian Commercial fisheries

2011 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fall Season Landings (rounded)					
Date	Zone	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	Deliveries
04-Aug	1-5	1,000	0	896	159
Aug 16-30 (7 periods)	4-5	24,300	1,750	355	67-126
<i>Early Fall season</i>		<i>25,300</i>	<i>1,750</i>	<i>1,251</i>	
Sep 18	1-5	10,300	3,400	339	172
Sep 19	4-5	6,000	1,800	91	106
Sep 20	4-5	5,300	2,200	80	94
Sep 22 - Rescinded	4-5				
<i>Late Fall (to date)</i>		<i>21,600</i>	<i>7,300</i>	<i>510</i>	
Total		47,000	9,100	1,761	

- CWT data is complete for all mainstem commercial fisheries and for LCR sport fisheries through September 21.
- Based on a forecasted URB run size of 331,900, updated stock composition from mainstem fisheries, an estimated 3,100 URBs remain available for non-Indian harvest. The harvestable balance takes into account projected harvest in the on-going sport fisheries (including Snake River), and any October commercial coho fisheries.
- Based on the information currently in hand, staff estimates approximately 3,000 coho remain available for commercial mainstem harvest. Staff will be able to develop more precise estimates as the run progresses and additional hatchery and dam escapement data becomes available.
- A balance of 782, or 23% of the 2011 commercial white sturgeon guideline remain available.

Fishery Recommendation

<i>2011 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i>	
Option 1	8 PM Wednesday September 28 to 6 AM Thursday September 29, 2011 (10 hours) 8 PM Thursday September 29 to 6 AM Friday September 30, 2011 (10 hours)
Area/ sanctuaries:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore. Only Washougal and Sandy sanctuaries apply.
Option 2	8 PM Wednesday September 28 to 6 AM Thursday September 29, 2011 (10 hours)
Area/ Sanctuaries:	Zones 1-5. Grays River, Elokomina-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Washougal, and Sandy Rivers
The following rules apply to both options above:	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8" minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule in effect for Zone 4-5 fishery option only , which means 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 7 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) in the remaining openers. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only. Sales of white sturgeon from fall Select Area fisheries is prohibited.
Additional Rules:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ Catch estimates include:
 - Option 1 (Zone 4-5): 3,000 Chinook, 1,000-1,500 coho, and 200 white sturgeon.
 - Option 2 (Zones 1-5): 2,200 Chinook, 2,500 coho, and 400 white sturgeon
- ✓ Total harvest in all non-Indian fisheries (including either option) is projected to be within the 15% guideline for Upriver Bright fall Chinook based on current run size forecast and expected future fisheries.
- ✓ LRH impacts are projected to total 36.3% compared to the 37% allowed.
- ✓ Although the season recommended here is a Chinook directed fishery, coho will also be landed in either option. Catch from the proposed fishery, and run size updates will determine if there are coho remaining for harvest in October.

Future Hearings

No hearings are planned at this time.