

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10
Columbia River Compact Hearing
October 15, 2012

Fisheries Under Consideration: Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial
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Management guidelines, allocations, and preseason run forecasts for the 2012 fall season were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1, dated July 26, 2012.

STOCK STATUS

- Bonneville Dam counts through October 14 include:
 - 345,600 adult Fall Chinook. Passage is typically 98% complete by this date.
 - 216,600 Steelhead since July 1. Passage is typically 99% complete by this date.
 - 51,300 adult Coho. Passage is typically 86% complete by this date
- Current run size updates provided by TAC include:
 - Fall Chinook: 295,800 URBs, 75,200 MCBs and 60,800 BPH to the Columbia River. The inseason forecast is 87% of preseason for these components combined.
 - Upriver summer steelhead: 192,000 Group A and 26,200 Group B. The total in-season forecast (218,200) is 60% of preseason.
- The Columbia River coho return will be less than the preseason forecast of 240,800 adults. Indicators include:
 - The early stock upriver component was 20,000 fish less than expected at Bonneville Dam. Harvest and escapement data indicates the lower river component will also be less than forecast. As a conservative measure, staff is using an inseason run size of 110,000 adult early stock for fishery management (184,600 preseason).
 - The late stock upriver component is tracking behind passage expectations at Bonneville Dam. Lower river harvest and escapement data is very minimal, but may follow the same pattern of low counts observed for the early stock component. As a conservative measure, staff is using an inseason run size of 46,000 adult late stock for fishery management (56,200 preseason).
 - Low river levels, warm temperatures and lack of rain until recently has likely delayed coho migration.
 - The inseason management run size totals 156,000 adult coho (65% of forecast).

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERY REVIEW

- The early fall commercial fishery is complete. The season included nine fishing periods during August, mainly in Zones 4-5. Catch included 23,600 Chinook, 300 coho and 1,000 white sturgeon.
- The late fall commercial fishery is currently underway and has consisted of five periods during September 19-30 and seven periods to date in October. All periods were conducted with an 8” minimum mesh restriction, except for the October 10 period which was a coho-directed fishery and used a 6” maximum mesh restriction.
- The white sturgeon harvest allocation for 2012 commercial fisheries is 2,080 fish. Harvest to date (mainstem and Select Areas) totals 1,900 fish. Sturgeon sales were discontinued effective October 7.

2012 Non-Indian Commercial Fall Harvest Data (preliminary)						
Date	Mesh	Target	# periods	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon
September 19-30	8-inch min	Chinook	5	10,662	976	306
October 2-15*	8-inch min	Chinook	7	2,870	625	38
October 10	6-inch max	Coho	1	25	946	--
Late Fall Total			13	13,557	2,547	344
August Total			9	23,583	283	1002
Grand Total				37,140	2,830	1,346

* Catch projected for Oct 11-12 and Oct 14-15, no sturgeon sales after Oct 4-5 period.

- Staff estimates that sufficient numbers of URB Chinook are available for commercial harvest and LRH Chinook impacts will be minor.
- At the reduced coho run sizes, the number of coho available for all fall mainstem commercial fisheries has declined to an estimated 3,700 fish, leaving a balance of 870 fish (after October 15).
- Based on the information provided today, staff is making the following recommendations:

2012 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery		
Season	7 PM Tuesday October 16 to 7 AM Wednesday October 17 (12 hours) 7 PM Thursday October 18 to 7 AM Friday October 19 (12 hours) 7 PM Sunday October 21 to 7 AM Monday October 22 (12 hours)	
Area:	Zones 1-5.	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy rivers.	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8" minimum mesh size restriction. <u>Multiple net rule in effect</u> , 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 <u>lighted buoys</u> on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, a lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon.	
Additional Rules:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.	

- ✓ Catch expectations for the proposed seasons total 550 Chinook and 600 coho.
- ✓ Due to the uncertainty in the actual coho return, staff is not recommending any further coho or Chinook directed periods.
- ✓ Staff will continue to monitor landings and stock status, but expects this proposal will be the final recommendation for the 2012 fall season.

FUTURE HEARINGS

- The Joint Staff is not recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled at this time.