

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6b**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 17, 2012**

Fisheries Under Consideration:    Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial
--

*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**

***Fall Chinook***

- Chinook passage at Bonneville through September 16 totals 271,065 adults, including 223,454 bright stock and 47,611 tule stock. Based on the average 10-year timing curve, bright passage is typically 72% complete and tule passage is typically 91% complete by this date.
- Chinook escapement to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 14 totals 7,800 females (4,000 goal), 7,400 males, and 1,400 jacks.
- Chinook escapement to Big Creek Hatchery has been lower than expected but broodstock escapement goals are expected to be met.
- Chinook passage (adults) through September 16 is 87,315 at McNary Dam and 15,439 at Lower Granite Dam.

***Upriver Summer Steelhead***

- Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 – September 16 total 191,238 fish. Based on the average 10-year timing curve, passage at Bonneville Dam (July-October) is typically 88% complete by this date.

***Run size updates***

- TAC has reviewed salmonid stock status weekly since August 27, and met again this morning (September 17). Based on recent improved counts at Bonneville Dam, TAC updated the fall Chinook river mouth run sizes to 308,300 URBs, (353,000 preseason), 81,500 MCBs (90,700 preseason) and 63,500 BPH (60,000 preseason).
- TAC also provided inseason estimates for steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam which has been less than expected. Inseason estimates remain at 185,000 Group A steelhead (311,800 preseason) and 20,000 Group B steelhead (52,800 preseason).

**NON-INDIAN FALL FISHERY UPDATE**

***Recreational Fall Salmon Fisheries***

- The Buoy 10 fishery was open for Chinook retention August 1 through September 3 (Labor Day) with a daily bag limit of two fish/one Chinook. Chinook retention is currently scheduled to re-open October 1 through December 31 with a two fish/two Chinook adult bag limit. Preseason catch expectations were 13,900 Chinook and 9,200 coho. Catch (plus release mortalities) through September 9 includes 19,300 Chinook and 7,400 coho.

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam opened August 1 with a two fish/one Chinook adult daily limit. Chinook retention was allowed through September 9 downstream of the Lewis River (Warrior Rock boundary line).
  - Chinook retention remains open upstream of the Warrior Rock line with a two fish/two Chinook adult daily bag limit effective September 10.
  - A mark-selective fishery was open from Tongue Point/Rocky Point upstream to Warrior Rock from September 10-16 with a two fish/one adipose fin-clipped Chinook adult bag limit.
  - Beginning October 1, the area from Tongue/Rocky Point upstream to Warrior Rock is scheduled to re-open to Chinook retention (two fish/two Chinook).
  - Preliminary kept catch through September 16 totals 21,800 adult Chinook, 800 coho, and 5,100 steelhead from 115,000 angler trips.
  - The preliminary total catch expectation for the LCR fishery (August 1 – December 31) is around 29,000 Chinook and 1,500 hatchery coho.
- The mainstem fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (in Pasco, Washington) began on August 1 with a two fish/two Chinook adult daily limit and a catch expectation of 6,700 Chinook.
- The Snake River opened for retention of hatchery fall Chinook September 1 and is scheduled to continue through October. The open area includes the Hwy. 12 Bridge near Pasco, WA upstream to the Oregon state line (above Lower Granite Dam). Daily bag limits include three hatchery adult Chinook.

#### ***Select Area Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries***

- Expected returns of SAFE stocks to Select Area fishing sites were 32,800 coho and 4,300 SAB fall Chinook. Fisheries began in August and continue through October with specific time, area and gear restrictions for each area.
- Landing through August 31 total about 9,400 Chinook and 700 coho. The sturgeon guideline for SAFE was met earlier this year. Coho landings are tracking less than expected.

#### ***Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries***

- Early fall (August) fisheries included nine 9-hour fishing periods. Gear was restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh and all but the first period was restricted to the area upstream of the Warrior Rock line (Zone 4-5). Weekly sturgeon landing limits were in place throughout the season. Catch included 23,600 Chinook, compared to the 25,300 preseason expectation for August. A total of 300 coho and 1,000 white sturgeon were also landed.
- Preseason planning for the late fall season included an expectation to begin the week of September 16 in Zones 4-5 and continue through September and possibly extend into October. No Zone 1-5 target Chinook season was planned for 2012 due to expected LCR tulle limitations. The preseason catch expectation for the late fall Zones 4-5 fishery was 17,200 Chinook. The preseason plan included expectations for an 8 or 9-inch minimum mesh size and fishing hours of 8 PM to 6 AM.
- Coho fishing in 2012 is expected to be limited. Target coho periods may occur in early October in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours with unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh. The

preseason catch expectation is 5,500 coho for all mainstem non-Indian commercial fisheries. Additional coho could be available if harvest in other fisheries is less than expected.

- The 2012 annual commercial allocation of white sturgeon is 2,080 fish. A total of 527 fish remain on the commercial allocation.
- The Compact hearing scheduled for Thursday September 13 was re-scheduled for today (September 17) due to declining counts at Bonneville early last week. Fishing early in the week of September 16 was contingent upon a large URB run size and available LRH impacts.

**Non-Indian Fisheries Stock Composition**

- The table below illustrates the preseason Chinook catch expectations by fishery and the corresponding number of LRH and URB Chinook compared to the actual (completed fisheries) or expected (ongoing/planned fisheries). The number allowed is based on current URB and preseason LRH run size forecasts. The number of URBs remaining is based on a 15% harvest rate.

<b>Summary of 2012 Fall Non-Indian Fisheries</b>							
<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Total Chinook Catch</b>		<b>LRH</b>		<b>URB</b>	
		<b>Preseason</b>	<b>In-season</b>	<b>Preseason</b>	<b>In-season</b>	<b>Preseason</b>	<b>In-season</b>
Early August	Complete	2,290	1,310	1,210	830	570	220
Late August (Z 4-5)	Complete	22,970	22,280	3,520	3,170	11,040	8,780
September (Z 4-5)	Planned	17,240	15,810	1,710	1,620	9,610	8,400
October Coho	Planned	2,050	1,820	100	100	990	850
<i>Commercial Total</i>		<i>44,550</i>	<i>41,220</i>	<i>6,540</i>	<i>5,720</i>	<i>22,210</i>	<i>18,250</i>
Buoy 10	Complete	13,940	20,000	4,140	5,130	3,500	5,450
Lower River	Ongoing	25,100	30,130	5,150	4,910	13,450	15,690
<i>Sport Total</i>		<i>39,040</i>	<i>50,130</i>	<i>9,290</i>	<i>10,040</i>	<i>16,950</i>	<i>21,140</i>
Mainstem Total		83,590	91,350	15,830	15,760	39,160	39,390

- Total catch and stock composition (LRH and URB catch) for the August commercial fisheries were similar to or less than preseason expectations but were considerably higher than expected for both the Buoy 10 and the mainstem sport fishery (Aug 1-Sept 9 downstream of the Lewis).

<b>ESA Impact Sharing</b>				
	<b>LRH</b>		<b>URB</b>	
	<b>Preseason</b>	<b>In-season</b>	<b>Preseason</b>	<b>In-season</b>
Sport	56%	65%	45%	50%
Commercial	44%	35%	55%	50%

- Chinook remaining from ocean sport fisheries covered much of the increased in-river recreational LRH catch, however; fewer LRH remain available for September commercial fisheries, compared to preseason expectations.
- Considering complete, ongoing, and planned fisheries, non-treaty steelhead impacts are projected to be 1.2% for wild Group A and 1.7% for wild Group B steelhead.

## FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>2012 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i>	
Season	8 PM Wednesday September 19 to 6 AM Thursday September 20 (10 hours) 8 PM Sunday September 23 to 6 AM Monday September 24 (10 hours) 8 PM Tuesday September 25 to 6 AM Wednesday September 26 (10 hours)
Area:	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.
Sanctuaries:	Washougal, and Sandy Rivers as applicable.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8" minimum mesh size restriction.  Multiple net rule in effect, 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 5 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:	<b>24-hour</b> Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ This proposal is consistent with the preseason plan in regard to timing and fishing area.
- ✓ Catch expectations are: 11,400 Chinook, 1,900 coho and 200 white sturgeon
- ✓ Additional commercial fishing opportunity is expected next week but the extent will be dependent upon future in-season run updates.

## FUTURE HEARINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact Hearing be scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday September 25 to review non-Indian and treaty Indian commercial fisheries.