

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7a
Columbia River Compact
September 25, 2012

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

STOCK STATUS

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 314,212 adults, including 264,327 bright stock and 49,885 tule stock. Based on the average 10-year timing curve, bright passage is typically 85% complete and tule passage is typically 98% complete by this date.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 202,752 fish. Based on the average 10-year timing curve, passage at Bonneville Dam (July-October) is typically 93% complete by this date.
- Coho passage at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 37,746 early stock adults. Early stock coho continue through September 30. Based on the average 10-year timing curve, early stock passage is typically 87% complete by this date.
- TAC has reviewed salmonid stock status weekly since August 27, and recently met on Monday (September 24) to provide the following updates:
 - Fall Chinook: 299,200 URBs, 75,800 MCBs and 60,900 BPH to the Columbia River.
 - Upriver summer steelhead: 190,000 Group A (35% wild) and 21,000 Group B (20% wild).
 - Columbia River coho: TAC reviewed adult passage at Bonneville Dam and updated the projection for early stock and maintained the pre-season forecast for late stock coho at Bonneville Dam. TAC projections include 41,200 early stock coho and 18,200 late stock coho at Bonneville Dam.
 - All of the above run size updates are less than pre-season forecasts.

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.
- Current modeling suggests at least 16,000 Chinook are available for the entire late fall fishery which began September 19, this includes 14,000 fish for Chinook-directed periods and additional 2,000 Chinook set aside for potential coho-directed fisheries in October.
- The late fall commercial fishery is currently underway. Two fishing periods were conducted last week on the evenings of September 19 and 23 and a third period is scheduled for tonight (September 25). All periods are in Zones 4-5 with an 8” minimum mesh restriction. Catch expectations included 11,400 Chinook, 1,900 coho and 200 white sturgeon.
- Chinook catch estimates include 4,130 fish for the September 19 period and 2,330 fish for the September 23 period. Catch for the September 25 period is expected to be about 1,500

fish, which would bring the total projected catch to 8,000 Chinook, leaving a balance of 8,000 for additional Chinook and coho directed fisheries.

- A balance of 527 sturgeon remained on the commercial guideline prior to the onset of the late fall season. Catch estimates total 150 fish from the first three periods, leaving about 375 fish available for commercial harvest for the remainder of year.
- A limited number of coho are available for commercial harvest. Preseason planning estimated a total of 5,500 coho available for all mainstem commercial fisheries. Coho catch estimates include 280 fish from August, 500 expected fish from the three current September periods (September 19-25), leaving a balance of around 4,700 fish based on preseason run sizes and projections.

NON-INDIAN ESA-IMPACT REVIEW

- Staff has provided the following table which estimates ESA impacts based on current run sizes estimates and actual/projected harvest estimates.

| 2012 Non-Indian ESA impact projections | | | |
|---|------|-------|-----------|
| Fishery | LRH | URB | Wild B |
| | | | Steelhead |
| Buoy 10 | 2.8% | 1.8% | 0.0% |
| LCR Sport | 2.0% | 5.2% | 0.4% |
| Above BON sport | 0.0% | 0.5% | 1.0% |
| Early Fall Comm | 2.0% | 3.0% | 0.0% |
| Late fall Comm | 1.0% | 2.8% | 0.04% |
| Select Area Comm. | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.0% |
| Total (actual & projected) | 8.2% | 13.4% | 1.44% |
| Limit (inriver) | 8.7% | 15.0% | 2.0% |

FISHERY RECOMMENDATION

| 2012 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery | | |
|--|---|------------|
| Season #1 | 8 PM Thursday September 27 to 6 AM Friday September 28 | (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 River and Sandy River. | |
| Season #2 | 7 PM Sunday September 30 to 7 AM Monday October 1 | (12 hours) |
| | 7 PM Tuesday October 2 to 7 AM Wednesday October 3 | (12 hours) |
| Area: | Zones 1-5. | |
| Sanctuaries: | Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal River and Sandy River. | |
| The following applies to both seasons: | | |
| Gear: | Drift gillnets only. 8" minimum mesh size restriction. NO Multiple net rule in effect, which means nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may NOT be onboard. | |

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| | 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, a lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required. |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 2 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 expectations total 4,500 Chinook, 1,500-2,000 coho and 300 white sturgeon.

FUTURE HEARINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Joint State/Compact Hearing be scheduled for 2 p.m. Tuesday October 2 to review non-Indian and treaty Indian commercial fisheries and consider modifying the recreational sturgeon fishery upstream of the Wauna powerlines, which is scheduled to re-open for retention October 20.