

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact
September 9, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial salmon
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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2005 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 28, 2005)

STOCK STATUS

- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met September 8, 2005 and updated the upriver Chinook and Steelhead runsizes. TAC will continue to update runsizes as needed.
- The upriver Chinook runsize is estimated to include 286,000 URBs and 100,000 BPH. Preseason expectations were 354,600 URBs and 115,800 BPH returning to the Columbia River mouth.
- Steelhead are tracking about 93% of preseason expectation. TAC updated the run to 273,600 fish, compared to the preseason forecast of 293,300 fish passing Bonneville Dam.
- Bonneville Dam counts through September 8th have totaled 192,100 Chinook, including 146,900 brights and 45,200 tules. September 8th's dam count totaled nearly 23,700 chinook.

FISHERY REVIEWS

Non-Indian Fisheries

- August commercial fisheries landed 11,400 Chinook, compared to the pre-season expectation of 13,200 Chinook.
- Buoy 10 catch to date is about 9,000 Chinook. The final catch is expected to be about 10,000 fish, compared to the pre-season expectation of 12,400 Chinook.
- The mainstem sport fishery ramped up over the last couple of weeks, with landed harvest estimated at 9,000 Chinook through September 5th.
- Based on a URB runsize of 286,000 fish, total URB impacts include:
 - Completed fisheries (Buoy 10, August commercial): 2.1%
 - On-going fisheries (Mainstem sport, SAFE): 3.4%
 - Future fisheries (Sep/Oct commercial): 2.8%

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Three weekly fishing periods were adopted to take place between August 22 and September 10th. These periods occurred 4.5 days per week, with no mesh restrictions in place until the week of September 6th, when an 8-inch minimum was put in effect.

Fishery	Nets	Total Chinook Catch	URB Catch	Total Steelhead Catch	Wild B-Index Steelhead Catch
August Platform (Aug 1-21)	----	520	492	3,400	235
1 st Gillnet Opening (Aug 22-26)	187	3,859	3,357	1,217	83
2 nd Gillnet Opening (Aug 29- Sep 2)	262	10,035	8,429	930	72
3 rd Gillnet Opening (Sep 6-10)					
<i>Projected</i>	450	39,533	33,208	1,570	107
Total Catch (Proj) (Rounded)		54,000	29,800	7,100	514

<i>Recommendation</i>		
Season:	6 AM Monday September 12 to 6 PM Friday September 16	(4½ days)
Area:	All of Zone 6.	
Gear:	8” minimum mesh size restriction.	
Sanctuaries:	All standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries will be in effect. There will be a small Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary within a radius of 150 feet of the Spring Creek Hatchery fishway.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, sockeye, coho, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon between four and five feet total length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and between 45”-60” in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes.	
	The Quick Reporting rule will also be in effect for Washington Buyers.	

Following are the projected catches for the Treaty fishery proposal.

Fishery	Nets	Total Chinook Catch	URB Catch	Total Steelhead Catch	Wild B-Index Steelhead Catch
September 12-16	450	20,200	11,100	3,800	270
Total Cumulative Catch (Proj)		74,100	41,000	8,100	766

- Cumulative impacts to URBs through the recommended commercial gillnet opening are projected to be 14.3%, or 62% of the treaty allocation.
- Impacts to Wild Group B steelhead are projected to total 8.7% through the proposed fishing period shown above.

<i>Recommendation</i>
Allow the use of drift nets up to 800-feet in length during the Zone 6 commercial fisheries.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for Friday September 16th at 10:00 a.m. at the Public Service Center in Vancouver WA. The meeting will take place in the Clark County Commissioner’s hearing room on the 6th floor of the Public Service Center, which is located at 1300 Franklin St.