

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact
September 12, 2002**

PURPOSE:	Review salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon stock status and consider non-Indian and treaty Indian fishing options.
TAC:	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the fall Compact report.

Management Guidelines

Endangered Species Act

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<u><i>Federally Listed Species</i></u>		
<u>Chinook</u>		
<i>Snake River Fall</i>	Threatened	May 22, 1992
<i>Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Chum</u>		
<i>Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Steelhead</u>		
<i>Snake River</i>	Threatened	October 17, 1997
<i>Upper Columbia River</i>	Endangered	October 17, 1997
<i>Middle Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<i>Lower Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<u><i>Oregon State Listed Species</i></u>		
<u>Coho</u>		
<i>Lower Columbia</i>	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- Coho salmon in the lower Columbia ESU are currently under review for listing under the Federal ESA.
- A combined treaty Indian and non-Indian Biological Assessment concerning fall fisheries has been submitted to the NMFS but a Biological Opinion had not been received at the time this Fact Sheet was completed.
- A Biological Opinion concerning fall fisheries in the Columbia River has been completed and was signed on ??date??.

2002 Management Agreement

- The states and tribes reached an agreement for management of 2002 fall fisheries. The 2002 Management Agreement allocates the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during August will be managed in accordance with the "2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

Excerpts From the 2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement

- ✓ URB fall chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated pre-season at 4.36% to the sport fishery and 3.89% to the commercial fishery. The Columbia River Compact will use this URB impact allocation as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning the Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries. Actual URB impacts in the fisheries may differ from pre-season estimates based on actual fishery catches, stock composition, and run-size updates. The *U. S. v. Oregon* TAC will update the URB run-size beginning in mid-September.
- ✓ The Buoy 10 sport fishery is modeled at 90% of the chinook catch estimated for a full fishery to the end of the year (with a two fish daily limit) which is expected to deliver enough chinook to continue the fishery through Labor Day. URB impacts with this fishery are projected to be 1.70%; or 39% of the total sport impacts of 4.36%.
- ✓ The mainstem sport fishery below McNary Dam is modeled at 95% of the chinook catch estimated for a full fishery to the end of the year (with a two fish daily limit), which is expected to provide enough chinook to continue the fishery through September, unless the mid-September URB run size and fishery updates indicate this fishery cannot continue past mid-September. URB impacts associated with this fishery are 2.66%; or 61% of the total sport impacts of 4.36%. For 2003 fall fishery discussions, the mainstem sport fishery will begin at 100%.
- ✓ Expectations for the commercial fishery include:
 - Late fall fishery to begin the week of September 15. Fishery to occur in as much of Zones 1-5 as possible and will target coho or chinook as determined by remaining impacts and inseason run strength. The late September chinook harvest will be determined by the mid-September URB run size update and the actual URB impacts remaining that can be used by the commercial fishery.
- ✓ Expected total catch of fall chinook in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of the Snake River and in lower Columbia River tributaries is 85,400 of which 45,300 (53%) are expected to be harvested by the sport fishery and 40,100 (47%) by the commercial fishery. These catch estimates are based on pre-season abundance forecasts and fishery impacts. Actual harvest sharing will be influenced by stock specific fall chinook abundances and relative harvest rates by each respective fishery.

- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a total impact rate (including ocean and Columbia River fisheries) of 49% on LRH (Coweeman) fall chinook.
- Ocean and lower river fisheries will be managed to provide for a Bonneville Dam escapement of at least 50% of the upriver coho salmon return.
- Combined ocean and freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 14% based on the 2002 Incidental Take Permit issued by the OFWC. Freshwater fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 5% impact rate on Oregon state-listed coho and the impact rate is expected to be 3% based on preseason fishery expectations.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed for an impact rate not to exceed 5% for Columbia River chum salmon.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries for 2002 will be managed to not exceed a 23.04% impact rate on URB fall chinook and 15% on wild Group B Index steelhead in accordance with the Fall Season Management Agreement.

Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Allocation

- 2002 represents the final year of the current 3-year Joint State Agreement on sturgeon fishery management.
- Recent sturgeon population estimates have not increased as expected which will likely result in a reduced white sturgeon harvestable number for the next agreement.

- Based on the most recent catch updates the sport catch guideline remains at 36,500 not to exceed 38,500 and the commercial catch guideline is 9,300 not to exceed 9,800.

Water Conditions

Flow Updates

- Flows have been above average this summer with flow measured at Bonneville Dam ranging between 137 kcfs and 182 kcfs during the month of August.
- Flows measured at Bonneville Dam during September have ranged between 100 kcfs and 125 kcfs.

Temperature Updates

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, typically increase rapidly through the month of July to a peak during the first half of August. Subsequently temperatures typically decline slowly during the last half of August and early September.
- Water temperatures have been below average with temperature measured at Bonneville Dam not exceeding 70°F this year. Temperatures have remained stable at 67°F since August 27.

Stock Status

Summer Steelhead

- A total of 24,980 summer steelhead passed Bonneville Dam during April 1-June 30 (Skamania index) which was slightly less than the record large return of 28,700 in 2001 and exceeds the preseason forecast of 17,400.

<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>						
		September 10	Cumulative Total Through September 10			
		Daily	2002	2001	2000	1999
Bonneville	Skamania Index	--	25,000	28,700	16,600	7,200
	Group A Index					
	Group B Index					
Total						
The Dalles						
John Day						
McNary						
Ice Harbor						
Lower Granite						
Priest Rapids						

- To date ??% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have passed The Dalles Dam, which is ??% of the recent 10-year average of ??%.
- Group A index steelhead returns typically peak in August with ??% of the hatchery fish and ??% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 10.
- Group B index steelhead typically peak in September with ??% of the hatchery fish and ??% of the wild fish passing Bonneville Dam by September 10.
- Returns of wild fish have also been strong to date with wild fish comprising ??% of the Group A index return and ??% of the Group B index return.
- Sampling at Priest Rapids Dam began in mid-July and through August 1 wild fish have comprised 29% of the passage over Priest Rapids Dam.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number		Number		Total	Number		Number		Total
Wild	%	Hatchery	%	Wild		%	Hatchery	%		
1984	52,500	27	143,200	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	19	38,400	81	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,800	78	57,500
1993	28,700	21	108,000	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	19	22,300	81	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,900	14	11,300	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,700	85	174,400	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,300	85	208,200	3,900	11	32,800	89	36,700
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	9	36,900	91	40,300
1999	56,600	32	119,900	68	176,500	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000	63,600	29	153,100	71	216,700	8,400	21	32,500	79	40,900
2001	137,200	27	377,900	73	515,100	12,000	14	74,300	86	86,400
2002 Proj.	105,000	28	264,700	72	369,700	21,600	36	39,000	64	60,600

- Preseason forecasts were for 369,700 Group A index steelhead (105,000 wild fish and 264,700 hatchery fish) and 60,600 Group B index steelhead (39,000 hatchery fish and 21,600 wild fish).
- Based on counts through September 9 the TAC updated Group A and Group B run sizes. A return of **369,700** summer steelhead to the Columbia River would represent the second largest return on record (since 1938) and **?compares?** to the preseason forecast of 369,700.

Fall Chinook

- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 15 to determine tule/bright stock proportions.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</i>				
		Sept. 10 Daily	Cumulative through September 10	
			2002	2001 1996-2000 Average
Bonneville	Bright Tules			
<hr/>				
	Total Counts			
The Dalles				
John Day				
McNary				
Priest Rapids				
Ice Harbor				
Lower Granite				

- Typically, **??%** of the bright adult return and **??%** of the tule adult run passes Bonneville Dam through September 10.

- Based on counts through September 9 the TAC updated river mouth run sizes to ?? brights and ?? tules.

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>				
	1996-2000	2001	2002 Preseason	9/10/02
Stock	Average	Return	Forecast	Update
URB				
SRW				
MCB				
BPH				
LRH				
LRW				
LRB				
SAB				
Total				

- A total of ?? males, ?? females, and ?? jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 10. The escapement goal of 7,000 adults, including 4,000 females, ??has been achieved??.
- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery have exceeded the escapement goal of ?? adults and have been comprised of ?? males, ?? females, and ?? jacks through September 10.
- Returns of jack fall chinook have been ?? to date with ?? brights and ?? tules (including adult-size jacks) counted at Bonneville Dam through September 10. Typically, ??% of tule jacks and ??% of bright jacks pass Bonneville Dam through September 10.

Sport Fishery Updates

Buoy 10 Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery (from the mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened August 1 for chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. Daily salmon bag limit was two fish prior to August 24 and two fish, of which only one could be a chinook, thereafter.
- An estimated ?? angler trips through September ?? resulted in an estimated ?? chinook (?? adults) and ?? coho being retained.
- In recent weeks chinook fishing has slowed and coho fishing has improved with catch rates ranging ??-?? chinook per rod and ??-?? coho per rod during September ??-??.
- Fishing has slowed since September ?? with catch rates averaging ?? chinook per rod and ?? coho per rod.

Lower Columbia River Salmon Fishery

- Under permanent regulations the Columbia River opened to summer steelhead angling May 16 below the I-5 Bridge and June 16 from the I-5 Bridge to the Hwy. 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington. Anglers were allowed to keep adipose fin-clipped summer chinook during June 28-July 31, 2002.
- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and coho on August 1. Nonadipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from Bonneville Dam. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day.

- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for coho on August 1. Nonadipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from Bonneville Dam. Daily adult salmon catch limit is two fish per day.
- An estimated ?? adult chinook were landed during the month of August from ?? angler trips.
- Effort has been high during September with nearly 1,000 boats counted on Thursday September 5 and ?? boats on Saturday September 7.
- Catch rates have declined from a peak of 1 adult chinook for every ?? boats to 1 adult chinook for every ?? boats.
- The estimated adult chinook catch for September 1-?? is ?? (?? season total) from ?? angler trips (?? season total).
- An estimated ?? marked steelhead were retained and ?? unmarked steelhead were released during the month of August.

Salmon Fisheries Above Bonneville Dam

- During the last half of August the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River had catch rates of ?? chinook, ?? marked steelhead kept, and ?? unmarked steelhead released per angler.
- Some chinook are being caught near the river mouths of the Washington tributaries in the Bonneville Pool.
- The Hanford Reach sport fishery opened on August 16. Effort and catch are beginning to increase. Last week, boat anglers averaged 1 chinook per every ?? rods.

Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Fishery

- Current regulations prohibit the retention of sturgeon in the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, including Youngs Bay, by boat and bank anglers every Sunday and Monday during March 3-May 13 and all days during July 25-September 30.

<i>Sturgeon Catch and Effort Through July in the Lower Columbia River Sport Fishery, 1994-2002</i>				
<u>Year</u>	<u>Angler Trips</u>	<u>Legals Kept</u>	<u>CPUE Kept/Trip</u>	<u>Regulation Enacted</u>
2002	141,400	36,200	0.256	One fish bag all year, retention prohibited Sunday and Monday during March 3-May 13 and all days during July 25-September 30.
2001	147,900	33,900	0.229	One fish bag all year, retention prohibited entire river during August and September.
2000	145,500	28,200	0.194	One fish bag all year, retention prohibited in estuary during April.
1999	137,700	28,500	0.207	One fish bag all year.
1998	151,000	31,200	0.207	One fish bag all year.
1997	145,600	27,300	0.187	One fish bag all year.
1996	135,200	32,100	0.237	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) prior to 4/1/96 and one fish bag thereafter.
1995	166,600	39,400	0.237	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) all year, fishery closed early.
1994	114,300	17,900	0.157	Two fish bag (1 & 1 rule) all year.

- A total catch of 36,200 legals were retained through July 24 which leaves 2,300 white sturgeon remaining on the 38,500 fish sport catch guideline.
- During 1998-2001 kept catch ranged between 1,400-2,800 white sturgeon in October, 1,200-1,400 white sturgeon during November, and 500-800 white sturgeon during December.

- Kept white sturgeon catch in 2001 totalled 4,100 in October, 2,400 in November, and 800 in December.

Commercial Fishery Updates

Lower River Fisheries

- Preseason adult chinook catch expectations were 16,800 in early August fisheries and 8,300 in late August fisheries for a total catch of 25,100.
- URB fall chinook adults were expected to total 2,670 in early August fisheries and 2,760 in late August fisheries. To date an estimated ?? URB adult fall chinook have been landed which is ?? to the preseason expectation of 5,430.
- Preseason expectations were for zero sturgeon to be landed during August fisheries due to the expectation that sturgeon retention would be prohibited in these fisheries.

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Update</i>							
Stock	Early August	Late August	Select Areas				
			Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
URB							
BPH							
MCB							
LRH							
LRW							
LRB							
SAB							
Others							
<i>Total Chinook</i>			0	0	0	0	0
Coho			0	0	0	0	0
W. Sturgeon			0	0	0	0	0
G. Sturgeon			0	0	0	0	0

- To date an estimated ?? white sturgeon have been landed in lower river commercial fisheries which leaves an estimated ?? white sturgeon remaining on the 9,800 fish commercial catch guideline.
- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week through the end of October and landings are expected to total 1,500-2,000 chinook and 13,000 coho. Based on LV clips an estimated ??% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay to date have been SAB's.
- Other Select Area fisheries are currently open four nights per week through the end of October with a total coho catch expectation of 11,400; including 2,700 in Tongue Point, 2,300 in Blind Slough, 4,400 in Deep River, and 2,000 in Steamboat Slough.

Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

<i>Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Update</i>								
Dates		Total Chinook	Chinook			Total Steelhead	Wild Steelhead	
			URB	BPH	MCB		A Index	B Index
Aug. C&S	<i>Total</i>							
Aug. 28 - 31	Ticket							
	Non-Ticket							
	<i>Total</i>							
Sep. 4 - 7	Ticket							
	Non-Ticket							
	<i>Total</i>							
Sep. 11 - 14	Ticket							
	Non-Ticket							
	<i>Total</i>							
Grand Total								

- During the first two fishing period landings included ?? coho, ?? white sturgeon, and ?? walleye.

<i>2001 Zone 6 Set Net Counts</i>						
Date	Mesh Restrictions	Bonn	The Dalles	John Day	Total	Comments
Aug. ??	None					2001 Aug 31 counts were 398
Sep. ??	None					97-99 Sep 3 counts range 366-498
Sep. ??	None					

Fishery Proposals

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Preseason catch estimates for all non-Indian commercial fisheries occurring during the month of August was expected to total 25,000 chinook, including 5,400 URB's. URB impacts and associated catch, not used during August commercial fisheries would transfer to September fisheries.
- Preseason catch expectations for late September fisheries (after September 14) include 8,500 chinook (3,900 URB's) and 10,000 coho.
- Based on chinook run size updates and commercial fisheries to date and an estimated ?? UBR's (?? total chinook) are available for harvest during commercial fisheries in late September.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods:	
Season:	7 AM - 7 PM Monday September 16 (12 hours). 7 AM - 7 PM Thursday September 19 (12 hours).
Area:	Mouth upstream to Longview Bridge (Zones 1-3)
Sanctuaries:	?? sanctuaries.
Gear:	6" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of five white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each of the open fishing periods. The possession or sale of green sturgeon is prohibited.
Expected Catch:	?? chinook. ?? coho ?? white sturgeon
Miscellaneous:	Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ Proposed fishery is consistent with Fall Management Agreement and results of North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ Closed days between open fishing periods are intended to increase participation and allow for fishery modifications to occur as needed.
- ✓ Nighttime fishing will reduce congestion and minimize conflicts with recreational anglers.
- ✓ Expansion to areas downstream to the I205 Bridge (in effect since 2000) will reduce congestion.
- ✓ Based on past monitoring results (94 drifts) 9-inch minimum mesh size regulation has been highly effective at reducing steelhead handle during the August timeframe.

Lower Columbia Sport Sturgeon Fishery

- Currently the retention of white sturgeon is allowed in the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, including Youngs Bay, during October 1, 2002 - December 31, 2002.
- An estimated 2,300 white sturgeon remain on the 38,500 fish sport catch guideline.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends modifying the currently adopted sport sturgeon fishery as follows:	
•	Prohibit the retention of sturgeon in the Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, including Youngs Bay, during October 1, 2002 - November 15, 2002.

- ✓ Proposed retention restriction regulation is consistent with the major tenets of the Joint State white Sturgeon Management Agreement.
- ✓ Proposed regulations would limit catches to within the 38,500 fish catch guideline.
- ✓ Proposed regulations would allow additional sturgeon retention opportunities during 2002.
- ✓ Expected catches during the last half of November through December would range between 1,000-2,000 white sturgeon kept.
- ✓ Proposed regulations would provide sturgeon retention opportunity during a time period when salmonid fishing opportunities in the lower Columbia River are at a minimum.

Treaty Indian Fishery Proposals

- The tribes may propose commercial fishery openings at this hearing.

Impacts Summary

<i>Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2001</i>			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S			
Commercial through Sep ??			
Proposed Commercial			
Late Fall C&S			
Treaty Indian Total			
Non-Indian Fisheries			
Early August Commercial			
Late August Commercial			
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)			
Buoy 10 Sport			
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)			
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)			
Remaining Commercial Fisheries			
Non-Indian Total			
Grand Total			

- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead by treaty Indian fisheries are estimated to total ??% through September ?? and are projected to total ??% for the season, including the proposed fishing period.
- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead are projected to total ??% for all non-Indian fisheries.
- Ocean and freshwater fishery impacts to Oregon state listed wild coho destined for Lower Columbia River tributaries are projected to total ??% with a ??% impact rate on early stock and a ??% impact rate on late stock.

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact hearing be scheduled for ??date and time?? at the Commission room in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters office located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon for the purpose of reviewing salmon and steelhead stock status, reviewing fisheries, and considering commercial fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 September 12, 2002