

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact
August 13, 2008

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty Indian commercial Non-Indian commercial salmon
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008)

Treaty Indian Fisheries

- Tribal fall season fisheries will be managed for a 23% harvest rate on the river mouth URB run size. They will also be managed for a 15% harvest rate on the combined hatchery and wild B-Index steelhead run size. These harvest rates are part of the 2008-2017 U.S. v. Oregon Management Agreement.
- Platform hook and line fisheries in Zone 6 have been ongoing since June 16. Commercial sales have been allowed. Yakama Nation tributary and below Bonneville Dam fisheries are also in place.
- Catch projections are shown in the table below. Projected catches are based on recent year averages for the platform fishery and a fishery model using average recent year harvest rates scaled to the forecast abundance. Projected effort is based on 2007 effort which was higher than average.

Projected 2008 Fall Season Zone 6 Tribal Harvest							
Platform		Projected Catch Through 8/18		Adult Chinook	URB	Steelhead	B-Index Steelhead
				200	100	2500	500
Gillnet							
Date	Days	Nets	Adult Chinook	URB	Steelhead	B-Index Steelhead	
Projected	7/15-7/17	3.5	300	2200	1300	3200	100
Projected	7/22-7/24	3.5	350	7800	3200	2000	350
Projected	7/28-7/31	4.5	475	21500	7000	2800	540
Platform and Gillnet Through 9/6		11.5		31,700	11,600	10,500	1490

- Net counts will be made by air during each weekly commercial fishing period in the fall season.
- State and tribal staff work cooperatively to estimate total catches and sample fisheries to determine the stock composition of the catch. Catches will be reported as they become available.

- The tribes expect to be able to propose additional commercial gillnet fisheries at a later date. Commercial fisheries may extend to late September.

Treaty Indian Impacts

- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be close to 11,600 URBs through September 6. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 7.1% harvest rate which provides ample room for additional fishing opportunity even if the run size is less than the pre-season forecast.
- Treaty Indian harvest is projected to be close to 1500 B-Index steelhead through September 6. Based on the pre-season run size, this would equate to a 3.4% harvest rate which also provides ample room for additional fishing opportunity even if the run size is less than the pre-season forecast.

Treaty Indian Recommendation

<i>Treaty Indian Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Dates:	6:00 AM Tuesday, Aug 19 to 6:00 PM Friday, Aug 22, 2008	3.5 Days
	6:00 AM Tuesday, Aug 26 to 6:00 PM Friday, Aug 29, 2008	3.5 Days
	6:00 AM Tuesday, Sept 2 to 6:00 PM Saturday, Sept 6, 2008	4.5 Days
Area:	All of Zone 6	
Gear:	There will be an 8” minimum mesh size restriction	
Sanctuaries:	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries applicable to these gear types remain in effect including the standard Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary.	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, sockeye, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 42-60 inches in the Bonneville Pool may also be retained for subsistence.	
Additional	24-hour Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers	

- The Yakama Nation is expected to propose that commercial sales continue to be authorized in regularly scheduled Zone-6 tributary fisheries as well as the below Bonneville Washington shore bank fishery as was done in summer season fisheries.
- The expected catches are well within the harvest limits in the U.S. v. Oregon 2008-2017 Management Agreement.

2008 Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early August was 5,200 Chinook, with 43% (2,200 fish) of the catch expected to be bright stock. A total of 2,459 white sturgeon are allocated to the August portion of the fall fishing season.
- Four 12-hour fishing periods occurred on the nights of August 3, 5, 7, and 10. Open areas included all of Zones 1-5 (except tributary mouth sanctuaries) with a 9-inch minimum mesh restriction and a 10 white sturgeon weekly landing/possession limit.
- Landings for the early August fishery were higher than expected. Stock composition, based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI), indicates the proportion of bright stocks (54%) is also higher than expected. CWT data should be available later this week.

<i>Early August Commercial Fishery Landings, 2008</i>				
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
Aug. 3-4 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	133	793	0	860
Aug. 5-6 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	104	2,194	3	281
Aug. 7-8 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	139	1,841	6	242
Aug. 10-11 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	168	2,751	7	922
Early August Total		7,579	16	2,305

- Estimated Chinook landings to date represent 94% of the combined guideline of 8,030 Chinook reserved for early (5,160 Chinook) and mid-August (2,870 Chinook) fisheries, leaving a balance of 450 Chinook for the mid-August timeframe.
- Estimated white sturgeon landings to date represent 94% of fish reserved for August fisheries. An additional 3,659 white sturgeon are currently available for late fall fisheries.
- The late August fishery was allocated 5,600 Chinook and is expected to occur on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday during the last week of August (modeled dates were August 24, 26, and 28).

2008 NON-INDIAN MAINSTEM COMMERCIAL RECOMMENDATION:

<i>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Salmon Fishery</i>		
Season:	8 PM Tuesday August 19 to 6 AM Wednesday August 19	(10 hours)
	8 PM Sunday August 24 to 6 AM Monday August 25	(10 hours)
	8 PM Tuesday August 26 to 6 AM Wednesday August 27	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4- 5	
Sanctuaries:	Lewis-B, Washougal, and Sandy Rivers	
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.	

- ✓ Expected catch from this proposal is <5,600 Chinook and 200 white sturgeon.
- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2008 Fall Management Agreement, but does shift timing of the late August fishery earlier.
- ✓ Starting the late August fishing periods earlier allows for a fish to be on the market during the third week of August, which was part of the original fall agreement.
- ✓ In addition, the earlier start date will provide data on Chinook abundance, and may diffuse some of the uncertainty in catch rates for the fishing periods scheduled for the last week of August (August 24, 26 and 28).
- ✓ Staff has struggled with developing a fishing period that poses little risk of affecting future fisheries while maximizing harvest early in the season. Industry opinion has been mixed. Staff feels there is some merit in delaying a decision today until CWT data is available, but

also recognizes that the industry feels strongly about putting fish on the market when the quality of the fish is high.

- ✓ Fishing on August 19 may require reduced fishing time in late August (August 28).
- ✓ Some fishers have requested a fishing period on August 14 in Zones 2-5. Staff estimates approximately 1,100 Chinook would be caught which would be 650 fish over the combined early-mid August guideline, and would be subtracted from the late August guideline. To remain within the guidelines established in the 2008 Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement, a fishery on August 14 would need to occur farther upriver.

2008 Youngs Bay Select Area Commercial Fishery

- The fall commercial fishery in Youngs Bay opened August 6 with one fishing period each week (6 AM Wednesday through 6 PM Thursday) each week during August to target Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook. A summer season occurred during June 18-July 31.
- Consistent with a high return prediction for SAB fall Chinook, the combined landings (June 18-August 7) in Youngs Bay include 1,604 Chinook which is the highest Chinook catch for this period.
- At the August 11, 2008 Compact, staff was asked to evaluate the potential for adding additional fishing time in Youngs Bay to harvest additional SABs.
- After reviewing recent SAB catches in the mainstem commercial and recreational fisheries and prior hatchery escapement versus SAB runsize, average fecundity, egg loss rates, etc., staff concludes that the fishing periods previously adopted for Youngs Bay fall commercial fisheries will maximize harvest without jeopardizing hatchery escapement needs (1,200 adults).

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Joint Staff recommends a Compact (via telephone) be scheduled for 2:00 PM Thursday, August 21 to review non-Indian commercial fisheries.