

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 16**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**September 16, 2008**

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	<b>Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem</b>
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**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***Salmon and Steelhead***

- The "2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement" (2008-2017 MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall season fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas.
- Based on the preseason forecast of 164,400 upriver bright (URB) fall Chinook, the 2008-2017 MA provides for a 31.25% URB impact rate allocated 23.00% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries. Allowable impacts at different URB and Snake River wild run sizes are based on a sliding scale abundance matrix.
- The allowable exploitation rate (ER) for wild/natural Lower River Chinook (LRH) in 2008 is 41% for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries.
- The allowable ER for wild/natural Lower Columbia River (LCR) coho in 2008 is 8% for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries. Based on preseason fishery expectations, Columbia River fisheries were allocated 2% of the total ER.
- The preseason forecast for Lower River Wild (LRW) fall Chinook is 3,800 fish to the mouth of the Columbia River, which is less than the escapement goal of 5,700 fish to the Lewis River. Ocean and Columbia River fisheries will be managed for a total ER of 10% or less on this stock.
- Non-Indian impacts to summer steelhead (Group A and B index) are limited to 2% during the fall season and impacts to chum salmon are limited to 5% of the run.
- Upriver bright and LRW Chinook and LCR natural coho are the three major stocks constraining Columbia River fisheries in 2008.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during the 2008 fall season will be managed in accordance with the "2008 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the NOF process.

**Excerpts From the 2008 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery  
Chinook Allocation Agreement**

- ✓ The preseason LRW impact allocations are 45% sport and 55% commercial and the URB impacts are allocated 53% sport and 47% commercial.
- ✓ The Columbia River Compact/Joint States will use impact allocations as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries.
- ✓ Preseason expectations for the commercial fishery included:
  - The **late fall** fishery is expected to begin **September 18, 21 or 23**. The total Chinook catch expectation for all late fall fisheries is 8,400, including 2,800 for a September Zone 1-5 target Chinook fishery, 4,800 for Chinook-directed fisheries in Zones 4-5, and 800 for any October coho fisheries that may occur.
  - Only 1,700 coho are available for mainstem commercial fisheries in 2008. Directed coho fisheries are not expected to occur unless the run size is upgraded or additional coho remain available from ocean fisheries. Available impacts will be used during Chinook target fisheries and may also be used for a late-season coho - fishery in mid- to late October to evaluate the run-size. Any target coho fisheries will generally occur in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours with an unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh size net.

***Sturgeon***

- The annual harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is allocated 80% recreational (32,000 fish) and 20% commercial (8,000 fish).
- The cumulative non-Indian commercial harvest during 2006-2007 was 16,073 leaving 7,927 for 2008 fisheries.
- At the December 13, 2007 hearing the Compact adopted the following protocol regarding white sturgeon retention in Columbia River commercial fisheries during 2008:

<i>2008 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</i>				
Fishery	Guideline	Adj'd Guideline	Catch	Remaining
Mainstem Winter/ Spring Gillnet	1,800	886	886	0
Mainstem Summer Gillnet	500	500	523	-23
Select Area Gillnet	400	400	468	-68
August Gillnet	2,000	2,470	2,809	-339
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,200	3,671	--	3,671
<b>Sum</b>	<b>7,900</b>	<b>7,927</b>	<b>4,686</b>	<b>3,241</b>

**STOCK STATUS**

***Fall Chinook***

- The total 2008 adult fall Chinook forecast was 376,800 adults to the Columbia River mouth, including 164,400 Upriver Bright (URB) and 3,800 Lower River wild (LRW) adult Chinook.
- Bonneville Dam observations (BDO) of fall Chinook migration is conducted to determine tule/bright stock separation. Adult passage through September 14 includes 170,200 brights and 85,700 tules. Generally 70% of the bright passage and 85% of the tule passage is complete by September 14.

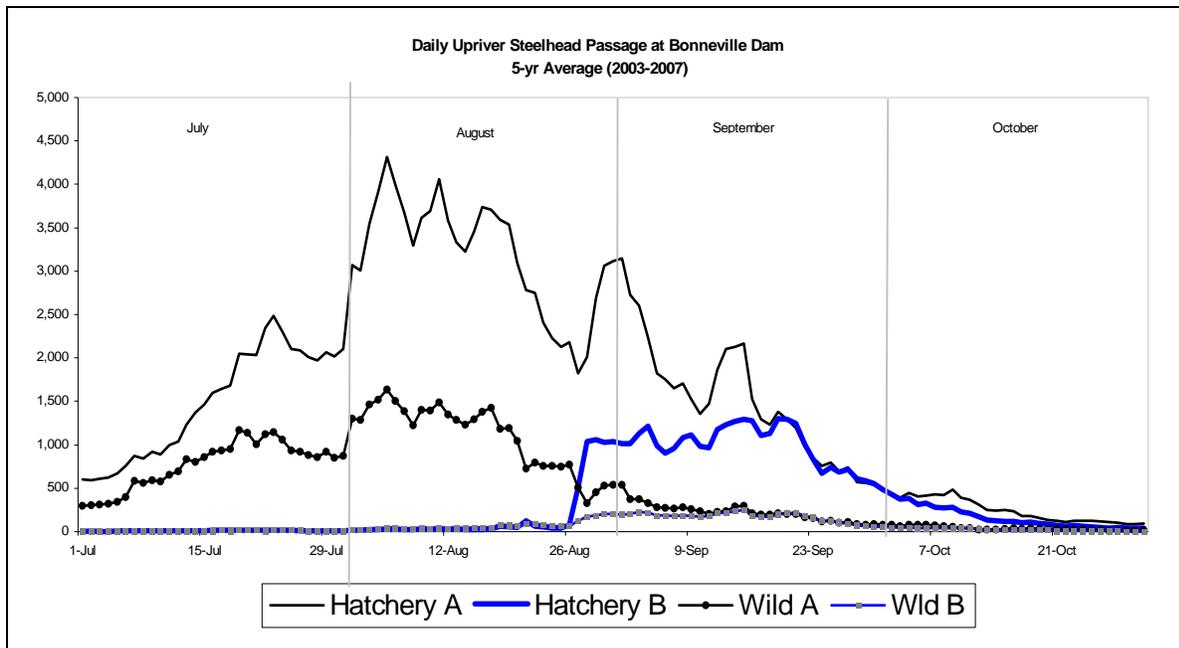
- TAC met September 15 and upgraded the URB stock to 208,000 fish at the river mouth. TAC also updated the BPH stock to 87,500 fish at the river mouth.
- Overall, Chinook migration over Bonneville Dam has been early (5-7 days) for tule stock, and is also tracking early (3-4 days) for bright stock, however, recent bright counts appear to be pushing the timing towards normal.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts (in Thousands)</i>					
Facility/ (Begin fall counting period)	Cumulative Total August - September 14				
		2008	2007	2006	Ten Year Average
	Bright	170.2	83.9	157.8	188.3
	Tules	85.7	23.8	24.9	83.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>255.9</b>	<b>107.7</b>	<b>182.7</b>	<b>271.3</b>
Bonneville (Aug 1)		114.6	49.4	90.4	115.1
The Dalles (Aug 4)		83.4	30.5	58.6	73.6
John Day (Aug 6)		49.8	22.0	33.9	48.2
McNary (Aug 9)		7.8	6.0	8.2	13.8
Priest Rapids (Aug 14) 9/12		15.2	5.9	5.2	5.7
Ice Harbor (Aug 12)		9.7	2.9	3.0	2.6
Lower Granite (Aug 18)					

- The McNary Dam counts through September 14 totals nearly 50,000 adult fall Chinook. Passage is typically 50% complete around September 15. The escapement goal has been achieved for about the last 20 years. The current escapement goal is 43,500 adults.
- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 12 total 20,400 adult Chinook, including 10,000 males, 10,400 females, and 700 jacks (goal: 4,000 females).

### ***Summer Steelhead***

- Preseason forecasts for upriver summer steelhead totaled 326,400 steelhead. Of those, Group A index fish were expected to total 266,300 fish and Group B index fish were expected to total 49,700 fish. The 2008 forecasts were similar to recent years.
- Passage of steelhead at Bonneville Dam during July 1 – September 14 has totaled 302,600 fish. Over all, the run is typically 83% complete by September 14, although each stock has specific timing. Group A index steelhead are usually 90% complete by September 14, while Group B fish are typically only about 50% complete by September 14.
- TAC has reviewed steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam and believes that the Group B component of the run is likely greater than the preseason expectation, perhaps as large as 70,000 fish or more. TAC also believes that Group A index steelhead are earlier timed this year, and the run may not be much more than the preseason expectation



### ***Columbia River Coho***

- The 2008 preseason forecast for coho returns to the Columbia River included 164,800 adults, comprised of 96,000 early stock (58%) and 68,800 late stock (42%). About 44,000 of these coho were expected to return to areas above Bonneville Dam.
- Bonneville Dam counts through September 10 total 55,300 adult coho. Total passage is typically 45% complete by September 14. Early stock coho are counted at Bonneville Dam through September 30, while all coho passing after September 30 are considered late stock coho. The early stock coho are typically 62% complete by September 14.
- TAC updated the early component of the coho run to about 150,000 early-stock coho to the river mouth, but recommended that in-season modeling use a lower estimate of 135,000 fish until TAC can make more confident predictions of final run size.

## **FISHERY UPDATES**

### ***Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery***

- The Buoy 10 fishery is currently closed to angling for salmon and steelhead.
- During August an estimated 34,000 anglers kept 8,200 Chinook and 8,100 coho compared to the preseason catch expectation of 6,500 Chinook and 4,000 coho.
- The URB stock component in Buoy 10 was higher than expected (32% compared to 19%) based on Coded Wire Tag (CWT) data.

- Impacts associated with this fishery are 1.22% for URBs, 2.14% for LCN tules, and 1.04% for LCN coho.

***Mainstem Recreational Fishery***

- This fishery closes to retention of fall Chinook on Wednesday September 17 downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Catch projections for the area from Tongue Point/ Rocky Point upstream to Bonneville Dam through September 16 total 9,100 adult Chinook, including an estimated 5,100 URBs and 1,500 LRH (based on preseason stock composition expectations).
- Total impacts associated with this catch are estimated at 2.47% on URBs and 1.87% on LCN tules.

***August Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries***

- Preseason catch expectations for all August fisheries were 13,700 Chinook, including 3,400 URBs. August fisheries were expected to use about 53% of the commercial allocation of URB impacts (3.86%). A total of 2,000 white sturgeon were allocated to Early Fall fisheries, which was adjusted to 2,470 based on rollover from winter-summer fisheries.
- Landings from August fisheries totaled 14,400 Chinook, 78 coho, and 2,809 white sturgeon. Chinook stock composition consisted of 31% URBs and 22% LRH compared to the preseason expectations of 25% URBs and 18% LRH.
- Impacts associated with August commercial fisheries include 2.06% URBs and 3.85% LCN tules, compared to the preseason expectation of 2.07% URBs and 3.06% LCN tules.

***Select Area Commercial Fisheries***

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries began in Youngs Bay with weekly fishing periods through August, followed by continuous fishing beginning September 2 through the end of October. Preseason catch expectations for the Youngs Bay fishery included 6,000 Select Area Bright (SAB) fall chinook and 18,500 coho.
- Fishing periods in the other Select Areas also began September 1 or September 2 with 3-4 nightly 12-hour fishing periods each week through September 19 followed by four nightly periods each week with expanded hours from September 22 through October 31. The combined preseason catch expectation is 10,400 coho. Site-specific coho catch expectations are for 3,400 in Tongue Point, 2,400 in Blind Slough, and 4,600 in Deep River.

<b><i>2008 Fall Select Area Commercial Fishery Landings</i></b>				
Site	Landings			White Sturgeon
	Period	Chinook	Coho	
Youngs Bay	8/6-9/12	9,569	8,590	58
Tongue Pnt/S. Channel	9/2-9/12	1,055	3,448	43
Blind/Knappa Sloughs	9/2-9/12	1,893	1,299	28
Deep River	9/1-9/12	158	2,074	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,675</b>	<b>15,411</b>	<b>131</b>

### *Sturgeon Harvest*

- Through September 12, a total of 4,686 white sturgeon have been landed in commercial fisheries (including Select Areas), leaving 3,241 available for harvest in mainstem fisheries. Select Areas were closed to retention of sturgeon on September 10.

### **Non-Indian Impact Summary**

- Impacts to URB Chinook total 6.68% including ongoing fisheries, compared to the 8.25% harvest rate limit.
- Impacts to LRH natural tule Chinook total 36% including ocean and ongoing in-river fisheries, compared to the 41% ER limit.
- Impacts to LRW Chinook total 5.5%, compared to the 10% ER limit.
- Impacts to LCN coho are still being calculated following the TAC update. Preliminary estimates - including projected impacts for the lower Columbia River recreational fishery, mainstem commercial fisheries proposed in this fact sheet, and expected catches in SAFE areas - indicate that the total exploitation rate, including ocean fisheries, is well below 7%, compared to the 8% ER limitation.
- Wild B steelhead impacts are estimated at 1.4%, including ongoing fisheries, compared to the 2% ESA limit.

## FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i>		
<b>Season #1:</b>	7 AM through 7 PM Thursday, September 18, 2008	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	9-inch minimum and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size.	
<b>Season #2:</b>	7 PM Sunday, September 21 to 7 AM Monday, September 22, 2008	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	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.	
<b>Season #3:</b>	9 PM Tuesday, September 23 to 7 AM Wednesday, September 24, 2008	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5	
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	
Miscellaneous Rules:	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.	
<b>Season #4:</b>	7 AM through 7 PM Thursday, September 25, 2008	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	9-inch minimum and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size.	
<b>The Following applies to all proposed fisheries stated above</b>		
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 10 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. Select Areas remain closed to white sturgeon retention.	
Sanctuaries:	As applicable: Elokom-B, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B*, Sandy, and Washougal rivers. <b>*Including</b> all of the area from the upper boundary of the Lewis B sanctuary downstream to a line projected from the red navigation Marker 62 at the head of Deer Island, Oregon, across to the green navigation Marker 63 at Martin Island, Washington.	
Additional Rules	<b>12-hour</b> Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	
Expected Catch:	5,900-7,100 Chinook and 2,200 white sturgeon.	

- ✓ The proposed fisheries are consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process. This proposal is based on current run size estimates and allowable ESA impact limits.
- ✓ The seasons may need to be adjusted in order to remain within the impact allocation set aside for September commercial fisheries.

### Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled via teleconference at 2PM Tuesday, September 23 to review salmon stock status and ongoing fisheries.