

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 16
Columbia River Compact
October 18, 2006**

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

Management guidelines, allocations, and run size forecasts for the 2006 fall season were presented in the 2006 Fall Fact Sheets #1 and #9

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- On October 10, the TAC updated the Chinook river mouth run size to 421,400 adults. The Upriver Bright forecast increased slightly to 225,900 adults.

Coho

- The 2006 preseason Columbia River forecast for coho totaled 256,600 adults, including 189,900 early stock and 66,700 late stock.
- Coho abundance in the Columbia River appears to be greater than the preseason projection, with nearly 236,300 coho accounted for, compared to the 256,600 predicted return.
- On October 17, the TAC updated the Columbia River coho run, estimating a return of 368,000 coho, including 236,000 early stock and 132,000 late stock.

2006 Columbia River Coho Accounting				
	Expected	In Hand	Projected	Comment
Harvest	65,340	68,976	69,690	Season Total (proj.)
<i>Early</i>	49,790	49,072	49,786	
<i>Late</i>	15,550	19,904	19,904	
Hatchery	104,900	80,600	198,380	
<i>Early</i>	74,400	68,482	120,817	
<i>Late</i>	30,500	12,118	77,564	
Bonneville	82,030	90,307	103,159	
<i>Early</i>	65,630	65,415	65,415	
<i>Late</i>	16,400	24,892	37,744	
Total Run	256,600	239,883	371,230	
<i>Early</i>	189,900	182,969	236,018	
<i>Late</i>	66,700	56,914	135,212	

FISHERY UPDATE

Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- The late fall season is currently under way, with 9 fishing periods occurring between September 19-October 17.
- Through October 17, a total of 8,070 white sturgeon have been landed in commercial fisheries (including Select Areas), which is 70 fish over the 2006 harvest guideline.

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings, Fall 2006</i>				
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
<i>August Totals</i>	Ave 125	10,740	830	1910
<i>September Totals</i>	Ave 100	9,820	10,900	1,380
<i>October Totals</i>	Ave 115	4,650	16,150	1,880
Season Total		25,210	27,880	5,170
Late Fall Fisheries				
		14,470	27,050	3,260
Sep 19, Z 1-5 (8")	161	6,800	2,500	700
Sep 25, Z 1-5 (9")	95	300	600	600
Sep 27, Z 1-3 (6")	123	1120	7400	50
Sep 27, Z 4-5 (8")	27	1600	400	30
Oct 2-3, Z 1-3 (no min)	201	920	6330	580
Oct 2-3, Z 4-5 (8")	21	1540	330	100
Oct 8-9, Z 1-5 (no min)	237	1370	9150	550
Oct 12-13 Z 4-5 (8")	16	590	150	50
Oct 15-16 Z 1-5, (9")	95	230	190	600

- Coho test fishing was conducted in Zones 1-3 during the daylight hours of October 16. Each of the four fishers conducted 3-4 drifts with a 6" mesh maximum.
- Test fishing data indicates that coho are present in the lower river and abundance (catch/drift) appears to be within expectations.

2006 Coho Test fishing							
Date	Zone	# Drifts	Catch/Drift	Total	Ad-Clipped	No Clip	No Clip/No Tag
16-Oct	2	3	13	39	31	8	5
16-Oct	2	4	20	79	70	9	8
16-Oct	2	4	9	35	25	10	8
16-Oct	3	3	36	109	88	21	21
TOTAL		14	19	262	214	48	42

IMPACT SUMMARY

- Treaty Indian impacts to Wild B steelhead are projected at 14.2% compared to the 15% limit. The projection includes late fall permit fisheries.
- Treaty Indian impacts to URB Chinook are projected at 18.36%, which includes the late fall permit fisheries. Treaty Indian fisheries are limited to a 23.04% impact rate to URBs.

- Non-Indian impacts to URB Chinook are estimated at 7.76%, compared to the 8.25% limit. The URB estimate includes season projections for sport fisheries and SAFE fisheries and commercial impacts through Oct 17. An estimated 3,100 Chinook remain available for harvest.
- The non-Indian exploitation rate to the ESA-listed LRH component is projected to be 48.2% compared to the guideline of 49%.
- The projected exploitation rates on Columbia River coho are estimated at 12.3% for early coho and 13.7% for late coho. This compares to the ESA limit of 15.0% for either stock.
- The harvest rate on Oregon State-listed wild coho is projected at 7.0%, compared to the Oregon State limit of 7.5%.

FISHERY PROPOSALS

<i>Recommendation</i>		
Season:	7 PM Thursday October 19 through 7 AM Friday October 20 7 PM Tuesday October 24 through 7 AM Wednesday October 25	(12 hours) (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy and Washougal rivers	
Gear:	8-inch minimum and 9 ¾ - inch maximum mesh size	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon. No sales of sturgeon allowed.	
Other Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	
Expected Catch:	Chinook: 2,000 Coho: <1,500	

<i>Recommendation</i>
The Joint Staff recommends sturgeon sales/retention be prohibited in all commercial Select Area fisheries for the remainder of the season

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff requests a Compact hearing at this time, but will continue to monitor the ongoing fisheries and review salmon stock status.