

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact
August 19, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Treaty commercial salmon Treaty Indian commercial salmon
--------------------------------	---

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

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

WATER CONDITIONS, STOCK STATUS AND SPORT FISHERIES

- To date, Columbia River water temperatures during August are the warmest since 1998, averaging 72° F, which exceeds both the recent 5-year (69.1) and 10-year (70.0) averages for August.
- Bonneville Dam counts have been below average. August 1-17 counts include 6,542 brights and 73 tules for a total count of 6,615 fall Chinook. The ten-year average (1995-2004) counts include 9,830 brights and 153 tules for a total count of 11,154 fall Chinook.
- The Buoy 10 fishery is tracking below 2004, with Chinook catch rates for Week 33 at 0.11 Chinook/angler, compared to 2004 data of 0.23 Chinook/angler.

NON-TREATY COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

Early August

- Four 12-hour fishing periods took place between August 4 and 11. Open areas included all of Zones 1-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction and a 5 sturgeon landing limit.
- Preseason expectations were for a Chinook catch of 5,800 fish, including 810 URBs (13.9% of the Chinook catch) and <1,500 white sturgeon.

Mid-August

- Two 12-hour fishing periods took place between August 14 and 17. Open areas included all of Zones 2-5 with mesh restrictions and a sturgeon limits identical to the early August season.
- Catch expectations for were for 2,100 Chinook, including 350 URB (16% of the chinook catch), and <800 white sturgeon.
- Pre season expectations for URB impacts were 0.10% of the predicted URB run, or 2% of the 4.13% commercial allocation.

<i>August Commercial Fishery Landings, 2005</i>					
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Early August	110 ave	4,460	23	1,102	25
Aug 14-15	121	377	2	524	2
Aug 17-18	91	2,104	31	160	2
Total		6,941	56	1,786	29

- Total URB impacts set aside for early and mid -August combined is 0.33% of the predicted URB run, or 8% of the 4.13% commercial allocation.

Summary

- Total catch for early and mid-August seasons is 6,900 Chinook compared to the preseason expectation of 7,870 fish.
- Cumulative URB catch to date is estimated to be 770, compared to the preseason expectation of 1,160, a difference of 390 URBs.
- About 800 white sturgeon remain for the late August season based on the preseason guideline of 2,600 for August fisheries.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Late August Mainstem Commercial Salmon Fishery

Joint Staff Recommendation	
Season:	7 PM Monday August 22 to 7 AM Tuesday August 23 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 4- 5
Sanctuaries:	Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 5 white or green sturgeon combined may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The 5 sturgeon possession and sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.
Expected Catch:	3,000- 5,000 Chinook 400 white sturgeon

- The proposed fishery is consistent with 2005 Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement developed through the North of Falcon process.
- Preseason expectations for late August include a Chinook catch of 5,300, including 2,300 URBs (43% of the Chinook catch).

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

Recommendation	
Season:	6 AM Monday August 22 to 6 PM Friday August 26 (4½ days) 6 AM Monday August 29 to 6 PM Friday September 2 (4½ days) 6 AM Tuesday September 6 to 6 PM Saturday September 10 (4½ days)
Area:	All of Zone 6.
Gear:	There will be no minimum mesh size restriction for the first two openings. For the third opening, 9/6-9/10, there will be an 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.

- Sales of platform and hook and line caught fish will continue until further notice. The intent is to allow sales of platform caught fish through the end of the fall season commercial gillnet period.
- Additionally, the Yakama Nation will continue to allow the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead caught during its regularly scheduled openings in the Klickitat and Big White Salmon Rivers.

Following are the estimated catches to date along with projected catches of the Treaty fishery proposal.

Fishery	Nets	Total Chinook Catch	URB Catch	Total Steelhead Catch	Wild B-Index Steelhead Catch
August Platform (Aug 1-21)	----	300	300	370	20
1 st Gillnet Opening (projected)		21,200	12,600	1,600	85
2 nd Gillnet Opening (projected)		44,000	19,700	2,800	252
3 rd Gillnet Opening (projected)		43,000	20,100	2,800	187
Total Projected Catch		108,200	52,400	7,200	524
Total Cumulative Catch		108,500	52,700	7,570	544

- Impacts to URBs from the first three commercial gillnet openings are projected to be 14.8%, or 64% of the treaty allocation. Cumulative URB impacts are 14.9%.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends a possible Columbia River Compact hearing on Wednesday August 24 via teleconference to consider additional non-treaty commercial fisheries.
- The Joint Staff recommends a Columbia River Compact hearing for 1:00 PM Friday September 9, 2005 via teleconference to consider additional treaty Indian commercial fishing seasons.