

FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
August 20, 2004

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Treaty Indian mainstem commercial
	Non-Indian mainstem commercial

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon

- A Management Agreement for upper Columbia River fall chinook, steelhead, and coho was reached by the *U.S. v Oregon* parties for fall fisheries occurring in 2004.
- The 2004 Fall Management Agreement provides that the 31.29% URB impact rate is allocated 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% non-Indian fisheries.
- A Biological Assessment of 2004 fall season fisheries was submitted to NOAA Fisheries on July 9 and the subsequent Biological Opinion was received on August 6, 2004.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild Group B index steelhead to no greater than 15%. All non-Indian fisheries outside the Snake River basin will be managed for an upriver wild steelhead impact rate to not exceed 2% on wild Group B index steelhead.
- Upriver fall chinook escapement goals include 7,000 adult fall chinook (4,000 females) to Spring Creek Hatchery and 43,500 adult fall chinook (natural and hatchery included) for spawning escapement above McNary Dam.
- Ocean and lower river fisheries will be managed to provide for Bonneville Dam escapement of at least 50% of the upriver coho salmon return.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed for an impact rate of less than 5% for Columbia River chum salmon.
- Based on the Incidental Take Permit issued by the OFWC and NOAA Fisheries' Biological Opinion, the freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 15% of the run entering the Columbia River.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during August will be managed in accordance with the "2004 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed during the North of Falcon negotiation process.
- Based on pre-season run size forecasts and North of Falcon negotiations, the catch allocation for commercial fisheries occurring during August is 22,100 chinook, including 4,950 URB's.

Excerpts From the 2004 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement

- ✓ URB fall chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated pre-season at 52% (4.29%) to the sport fishery and 48% (3.96%) to the commercial fishery. The in-season management objective is for allocation of URB impacts to approach 50% sport and 50% commercial, if possible. The Columbia River Compact/Joint States 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.
- ✓ **Expectations for the commercial fishery include:**
 - An August salmon fishery up to 3 nights per week during the first two weeks of August (modeled dates were August 3, 5, 8, 10, 12). Mesh size is 8-inch minimum and area is Zones 1-5. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.49% (12% of the total commercial impacts of 3.96%) and total chinook catch expectation is 12,000 fish. Chinook/URB impacts not used in this fishery will transfer to future commercial fisheries.
 - During the third week of August the fishery is expected to occur up to 2 nights per week in Zones 2-5 and Zones 3-5. Modeled dates were August 15 (Zone 2-5) and August 17 (Zone 3-5). Mesh size is 8-inch minimum. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.60% plus any impacts remaining from the first two weeks of August.
 - Late August Zone 4-5 fishery during the last week of August. Fishing is expected to occur up to 2 nights per week with breaks between fishing days. Modeled dates were August 23rd and 25th. Mesh size is 9-inch minimum. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.63% (16% of the total commercial impact of 3.96%). Chinook/URB impacts not used in this fishery will transfer to September fisheries.
 - Fishing areas and days in August fisheries may change based on in-season updates.
 - Sturgeon management will be consistent with sturgeon protocol adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.

Sturgeon

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2003-2005 are guided by a Joint State management plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- The annual allocation for commercial fisheries, including Select Area fisheries, is 8,000 white sturgeon, which represents 20% of the annual harvestable number of 40,000.
- Commercial fisheries will be further managed based on protocol adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.
- The white sturgeon protocol provides for possession and sales limits but does not specify whether possession and sales limits should be in the form of daily or weekly limits.

Protocol for Management of White Sturgeon in 2003-2005 Commercial Fisheries

- ✓ Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 2,000 for the winter-summer timeframe (January-July), 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,600 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).
- ✓ Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
- ✓ Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
- ✓ Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during winter and early fall timeframes if feasible.
- ✓ Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
- ✓ Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season specific catch expectation or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.
- ✓ Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers, landings and possession limits will be in the form of per vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
- ✓ Joint Staff will conduct an annual post season evaluation of white sturgeon retention with industry.

Water Conditions

Flow Updates

- Flows have been below average this summer with flow measured at Bonneville Dam ranging between 132 kcfs and 206 kcfs during July. In recent years the average flows during July have ranged between 150-300 kcfs.
- Flows remained stable during August with flows measured at Bonneville Dam ranging between 124 kcfs and 181 kcfs during the first 20 days of August. Flows during August have generally ranged between 100-200 kcfs in recent.

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. Temperatures typically decline slowly during the last half of August and early September.
- Water temperatures during the month of July measured at Bonneville Dam increased from 65°F during the first week of July to 70°F by the end of July. The average for recent years range between 62-72°F during July.
- Water temperatures at Bonneville Dam remained warm, ranging between 72-74°F in the forebay during August 8-17. In recent years water temperatures during August have typically fluctuated between 70-71°F. Water temperatures at the Bonneville trap in early August exceeded criteria for sampling steelhead and chinook.

<i>Summary of 2003 Actual and Current 2004 Forecasts of Adult Salmon and Steelhead Returns to the Columbia River. ¹</i>			
Species, stock	2003 Return	2004 Forecast	Comments
Fall chinook	893,200	634,900	Fifth largest since 1948
Upriver bright (URB)	373,200	287,000	Third largest since 1988
Snake River wild (SRW)	6,900	6,100	Similar to recent 5-year average
Mid-Columbia bright (MCB)	150,200	88,800	Forth largest on record (since 1980)
Bonneville upriver bright (BUB)	80,600	37,200	
Pool upriver bright (PUB)	67,500	49,500	
Lower river bright (LRB)	2,100	2,100	Formally a component of BUB stock
Bonneville pool hatchery (BPH)	180,600	150,000	Third largest on record (since 1980)
Lower river hatchery (LRH)	155,000	79,000	Fifth largest since 1989
Lower river wild (LRW)	26,000	24,200	Third largest since 1989
Select area bright (SAB)	8,100	6,000	Based on a five year average
Upriver summer steelhead	344,200	388,100	Third largest since 1984
Skamania index (May 1 - June 30)	14,200	18,300	12,800 hatchery and 5,500 wild
A-run index (length <78cm)	306,500	306,600	224,200 hatchery and 82,400 wild
B-run index (length ≥78cm)	37,700	63,200	50,500 hatchery and 12,700 wild
Coho	694,800	257,500	40% of recent 5-year average
Early stock	502,000	169,300	
Late stock	192,800	88,200	

¹. Columbia River mouth return, except summer steelhead is Bonneville Dam return.

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Fall chinook salmon returns are expected to be 634,900 adults, with brights comprising the majority.
- The 2004 fall chinook return is forecasted to be comprised of 406,000 brights (64%) and 229,000 tules (36%).
- Chinook passage over Bonneville Dam during August 1-18 has been relatively stable and similar to expectations with daily counts ranging between 300 and 1,000 adults.
- Through August 18, a total of 11,871 adult fall chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Typically about 5% of the adult fall chinook passage occurs prior to August 20.

Summer Steelhead

- The 2004 Skamania index return of 19,130 exceeded the preseason forecast of 18,300.
- A total of 20,945 summer steelhead passed Bonneville Dam during April 1-June 30 (Skamania index) which exceeded the previous 5-year average return of 18,331.

<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>						
		August 16	Cumulative Total Through August 16			
		Daily	2004	2003	2002	2001
Bonneville	Skamania Index	--	20,945	14,200	25,000	28,700
	Group A Index	1550	141,055	200,700	225,500	359,000
	Group B Index	0 ¹	418	2,300	13,000	6,500
	Total	1550	141,473	217,200	263,500	394,200
The Dalles		305	31017	60,400	125,000	181,500
John Day		305	25799	43,500	83,000	101,700
McNary		78	17761	30,400	62,500	95,700
Ice Harbor		167	12319	19,200	26,500	43,600
Lower Granite		8	3315	6,300	10,500	14,300
Priest Rapids		87	5115	6,100	8,000	12,000

¹ Preliminary. Sampling of steelhead at Bonneville Dam has been curtailed since late July due to high water temperatures. Sampling is expected to resume this week.

- To date 22% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have passed The Dalles Dam.
- Passage of Group A index steelhead over Bonneville Dam typically peaks in August while Group B index steelhead abundance typically peaks in September. On average, 51% of the Group A index and 15% of the Group B index runs pass Bonneville Dam prior to August 16.
- TAC met on August 17 to review the total upriver summer steelhead run. At this time the summer steelhead is at about 70% of the preseason forecast. Sampling at Bonneville Dam was curtailed for the last two weeks due to high water temperatures so information is not available to provide a current break out of hatchery and wild fish and A and B index fish.

<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	87,300	27	235,800	73	323,100	32,300	25	97,600	75	129,900
2003	67,000	22	238,700	78	306,500	6,400	17	30,800	83	37,700

COMMERCIAL FISHERY UPDATES

Early August

- At the July 29 hearing, the Compact adopted five (7 PM-7 AM) fishing periods on the nights of August 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12. Open area was all of Zones 1-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh size and a 5 sturgeon per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) landing and possession limit per vessel.
- The preseason catch expectation for the first two weeks (five fishing days) of August was 12,010 chinook, including 1,410 URBs (12%).
- Landings during the first four fishing periods are estimated to be 5,346 chinook, including 2,192 URBs (41%) and 1,522 white sturgeon.
- Chinook landings were less than preseason projections however URBs made up a larger than expected proportion of the catch.
- Due to the higher than expected URB impacts, the Compact met on August 11 and rescinded the August 12 fishing period.

Mid August

- At a hearing on August 13, the Compact adopted one (7 PM-7 AM) fishing period on the night of August 16. Open area was Zones 2-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh size and a 5 sturgeon per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) landing and possession limit per vessel.

- The preseason catch expectation for the third week of August (up to two fishing days) was 4,650 chinook, including 1,740 URBs.
- Landings for the August 16-17 fishing period are estimated to be 934 chinook, including 532 URBs (57%) and 604 sturgeon.

<i>August Commercial Fishery Landings, 2004</i>							
Date	Zones	Deliveries	Chinook	% URB	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Aug 3-4	1-5	131	1,461	61%	3	499	1
Aug 5-6	1-5	133	1,714	34%	4	294	1
Aug 8-9	1-5	153	966	32%	6	513	2
Aug 10-11	1-5	123	1,205	34%	11	216	2
Aug 16-17	2-5	156	934	57%	3	604	0
Aug 19-20	3-5	~100	750	44%	5	0	0
Total			6,280	44%	24	2,126	6

- In response to lower than anticipated landings on August 17, the Compact adopted one additional fishing period (7 PM-7 AM) on the night of August 19 in Zones 3-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh size and no sturgeon sales.

<i>August Commercial Fishery Chinook Catch Percent by Zone</i>					
Date	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
Aug 3-4	81%	12%	6%	0%	1%
Aug 5-6	77%	18%	5%	0%	0%
Aug 8-9	66%	23%	6%	5%	0%
Aug 10-11	83%	9%	2%	4%	2%
Aug 16-17	Closed	76%	14%	0%	10%
Aug 19-20	Closed	Closed			

- White sturgeon landings during the first three weeks of August were also similar to preseason expectations.

<i>August Commercial Fishery Sturgeon Catch Percent by Zone</i>					
Date	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Zone 4	Zone 5
Aug 3-4	77%	17%	3%	0%	3%
Aug 5-6	60%	33%	7%	0%	0%
Aug 8-9	58%	33%	8%	7%	0%
Aug 10-11	42%	40%	4%	3%	11%
Aug 16-17	Closed	83%	9%	0%	8%
Aug 19-20	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

<i>2004 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</i>		
Fishery	Commercial Allocation = Guideline	Catch
Mainstem Winter/ Summer Gillnet	2,000	1,879
Select Area Gillnet (thru 8/12)	400	176
August Gillnet (thru 8/17)	2,000	2,126
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,600	0
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	4,181
	Quota Remaining =	3,819

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The first three 30-hour fishing periods of the fall season occurred in Youngs Bay from noon Wednesday through 6 PM Thursday each week.
- Fall chinook landings were better than expected during the first week. Effort has generally been low. Chinook landings totaled 616 fish during the first two 30-hour fishing periods and based on LV fin clips SAB fall chinook comprised 95% of the catch.
- Due to mainstem fishing opportunities and aggregate landing limits, a total of 12 white sturgeon and zero green sturgeon were landed in Youngs Bay during the first two fishing periods.

Buoy 10 Sport 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, of which one could be a chinook.
- Chinook angling has improved with catch rates increasing from 0.06 chinook per rod during August 2-8 to 0.23 chinook per rod during August 9-15 and 0.29 chinook per rod during August 16-17.
- Coho catch rates are also improving with 0.18 coho per rod during August 16-17 after averaging just 0.07 coho per rod during August 9-15 and 0.05 coho per rod during August 2-8.
- Through August 17, estimates for the Buoy 10 fishery include 15,200 angler trips resulting in 3,100 chinook and 1,200 coho being kept.

Mainstem Sport 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. A summer chinook season was opened from Tongue Point/Rock Point line upstream to Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington during June 16-July 31. Retention of adipose fin-clipped chinook and adipose fin-clipped steelhead was allowed during this fishery.
- 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. Non-adipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from Bonneville Dam. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day and downstream from Bonneville Dam only one of the two fish adult bag limit may be a chinook.
- The total adult fall chinook catch through August 19 is estimated to be about 250 fish.

FISHERY PROPOSALS

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- The tribal fishing proposal and expected catches are provided in a supplemental attachment to this fact sheet.

Mainstem Commercial Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	7 PM Monday August 23 to 7 AM Tuesday August 24 (12 hours) 7 PM Wednesday August 25 to 7 AM Thursday August 26 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5
Sanctuaries:	Lewis -A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon only. No sturgeon sales allowed.
Expected Catch:	6,000-7,000 chinook
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2004 Fall Management Agreement and results of North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ Chinook catch during these two fishing periods is expected to be up to 7,000 chinook (2,800 URBs) and a 1.01% URB impact rate.
- ✓ The URB catch for August (observed and projected) will be up to 5,600 URBs (1.95% impact rate) compared to 4,950 URBs (1.72% impact rate) in the preseason fishing plan.
- ✓ Closed days between fishing periods provide the ability to update and modify the ongoing fishery as needed.
- ✓ The staff has proposed no sturgeon sales due to exceeding the 2,000 sturgeon allocation for August fisheries. A small weekly sturgeon possession and landing limit would maintain market availability and not limit management flexibility during the late fall season.

Scheduled Compact Hearings

- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, September 16, 2004 at the Water Resources Education Center (4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA) to consider non-Indian and treaty Indian commercial fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
August 20, 2004