

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 11**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 23, 2005**

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i> <b>Non-Indian mainstem commercial</b>
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**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

*Management guidelines, allocations, and run size forecasts for the 2005 fall season were presented in the 2005 Fall Fact Sheets #1 and #10.*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Summer Steelhead***

- The 2005 Skamania index return of 12,719 was 83% of the preseason forecast of 15,300.
- Preseason forecasts were for 245,500 Group A index steelhead (57,500 wild fish) and 47,800 Group B index steelhead (9,400 wild fish).
- Passage to date indicates that steelhead returns are tracking slightly less than preseason forecasts.
- Based on counts through September 20, the TAC downgraded Group A and Group B steelhead run sizes to 227,800 Group A (including 53,400 wild) and 44,400 Group B (including 8,700 wild) for a total of 272,200 summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam.
- A return of 272,200 summer steelhead to the Columbia River would be similar to the ten-year average of 280,800.

***Fall Chinook***

- The 2005 preseason forecast for fall Chinook salmon returns included 671,400 adults, comprised of 477,200 brights (71%) and 194,200 tules (29%).
- Based on Bonneville Dam observations (BDO), adult passage through September 20 includes 257,529 brights (74%) and 92,765 tules (26%). Typically about 86% of the bright passage and 96% of the tule passage occurs prior to September 20
- Based on counts through September 20, the TAC updated the river mouth run size to 574,400 adults, including 391,600 (68%) brights and 182,800 (32%) tules.
- Bonneville Dam passage of jack fall chinook through September 20 includes

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>				
<b>Stock</b>	<b>2005</b>		<b>09/15/2005 Update</b>	<b>09/20/2005 Update</b>
	<b>2004 Return</b>	<b>Preseason Forecast</b>		
LRH	108,900	78,400	78,400	78,400
LRW	22,300	21,400	21,400	21,400
BPH	175,300	115,800	<b>95,000</b>	<b>104,400</b>
URB	363,500	354,600	<b>280,000</b>	<b>280,000</b>
MCB	121,900	89,700	<b>76,700</b>	<b>78,700</b>
SAB	7,100	11,500	11,500	11,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>799,000</b>	<b>671,400</b>	<b>563,000</b>	<b>574,400</b>

13,122 bright and 741 tule fall chinook (13,863 total). Ten-year average counts for this date typically total 23,900 bright jacks and 3,400 tule jacks. Typically 66% of the bright jacks and 96% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam by September 20.

- The McNary Dam escapement goal of 43,500 adults has been achieved with a total count of 84,700 adult fall Chinook through September 20.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has exceeded the escapement goals of 7,000 adults and 4,000 females. Returns total 22,600 Chinook, including 11,300 females through September 20.
- Several lower Columbia hatcheries have already achieved broodstock goals, several are on track to meet goals, and others remain considerably short of goals:

<i>2005 In-Season Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery/Weir/Fishery Counts</i>						
<b>Hatchery/Stock</b>	<b>As of:</b>	<b>Total Returns</b>	<b>Preseason projected</b>	<b>Brood-stock Goal</b>	<b>*Minimum Natural Spawn Goal</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Elochoman LRH	18-Sep	2,694	3,132	1,426	433	Have met min. natural spawn goal, will likely meet broodstock goal.
Cowlitz LRH	18-Sep	987	8,819	2,683	3,000	Too early to predict
Toutle LRH	18-Sep	1,151	8,686	1,604	500	Too early to predict - peak = next two weeks
Kalama LRH	18-Sep	3,247	6,595	2,300	500	Have met min. natural spawn goal, will likely meet broodstock goal.
Washougal LRH	18-Sep	106	20,841	2,090	3,000	NEED RAIN - Too early to predict, but potentially short
<b>Total WA LRH</b>		<b>8,185</b>	<b>48,073</b>	<b>10,103</b>	<b>7,433</b>	
Big Creek LRH	20-Sep	3,679	4,900	3,000	na	Broodstock goal achieved
Willamette LRH	20-Sep	612	1,100			
<b>Total OR LRH</b>		<b>4,291</b>	<b>6,000</b>			
Youngs Bay SAB	19-Sep	~3,000	4,300	--	na	
Klaskanine SAB	22-Sep	12	1,200	1,500	na	Fish in system; need rain
<b>Total SAB</b>		<b>~3,000</b>	<b>5,500</b>	<b>1,500</b>		
Bonneville BUB	21-Sep	<b>10,340</b>	<b>18,100</b>	<b>5,750</b>	na	~3,700 on hand; goal will be met

\*Minimum natural spawn goals for the Cowlitz and Washougal are for habitat below the hatcheries. Total return counts are made at the hatcheries.

Lower River Hatchery (LRH), Select Area Bright (SAB), Bonneville Upriver Bright (BUB)

### **Coho**

- The preseason run size forecast totaled 206,400 adults, including 178,200 early stock and 28,200 late stock.
- Early stock coho passage through the lower Columbia River typically peaks in mid-September.
- Late stock returns typically begin to enter the lower Columbia River in late September and peak in October.

**Early Stock Coho**

- Bonneville Dam counts through September 21 total 58,300 adult coho. Passage at Bonneville Dam is typically 80% complete through September 21.
- Based on fisheries and hatchery returns to date, early coho are tracking above the preseason forecast, at least for some programs.
- Sandy River wild coho passage over Marmot Dam typically peaks in October. Only 7 adults have passed Marmot Dam through September 19.
- Through September 20 a total of 309 adult early stock coho have passed Faraday Dam on the Clackamas River.

<i>Early Stock Coho Returns</i>					
Escapement					
	Returns	As of:	Proj. Total	Goal	Comments
Grays H.	0	15-Sep	925	1,300	Too early, need rain
Elochoman H.	67	22-Sep	752	800	Too early, need rain
Kalama H.	60	22-Sep	1800	500	Too early, need rain
Toutle H.	614	22-Sep	6,942	800	meeting expectation
Lewis H.	3,128	22-Sep	5,062	1,600	meeting expectation
<i>Total Washington</i>	<i>2,196</i>		<i>8,539</i>		
Big Creek H.	1,600	20-Sep	NA	700	No coho held yet; fish in system
Eagle Creek NFH	NA	--	NA	3,300	Fish in Clackamas
Sandy H.	NA	--	NA	1,200	Fish in system
Bonneville H.	13,600	21-Sep	NA	5,100	Goal achieved
<i>Total Oregon</i>	<i>15,200</i>		<i>NA</i>	<i>10,300</i>	
Bonneville Dam	58,312	21-Sep	70,000	--	
Willamette Falls	292	20-Sep	NA	--	

**FISHERY UPDATES**

***Buoy 10 Sport Fishery***

- The Buoy 10 fishery (Columbia mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened Aug 1 for Chinook and coho. Estimates through September 19 include 53,500 anglers, 9,200 Chinook and 6,800 coho.
- Preseason expectation included a Chinook catch of 12,400 and a URB impact of 0.90%

***Mainstem Sport 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. Retention of Chinook was prohibited effective September 18 from Tongue/Rocky Point upstream to Bonneville Dam

but the fishery remains open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead. Chinook retention remains open upstream of Bonneville Dam.

- During August 1-September 17, an estimated 17,500 Chinook were landed from 74,000 angler trips in the Tongue Point-Bonneville area.
- Preseason expectations were for a Chinook catch of 16,600 and total URB impact of 2.83%
- Bonneville Pool catch and effort are building, with most activity near the tributary mouths. The Zone 6 sport fishery is typically 50% complete by September 23.
- The states may want to consider a Joint State hearing to discuss the ongoing sport fisheries.

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

- Preseason modeling projected landings of 5,800 chinook, including 800 URB's during the early August commercial fishery and 7,300 chinook, including 2,700 URB's during the mid- and late August fisheries. URB impacts set aside for these fishing periods were 0.98%. The commercial white sturgeon protocol allocated 2,600 white sturgeon to August fisheries
- A total of eight fishing periods occurred during August 4-26 with the following landings:

<b><i>August Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings</i></b>					
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Aug 4-12	457	4,707	24	1,129	28
Aug 14-26	363	6,723	63	965	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>11,430</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>2,094</b>	<b>32</b>

- Based on CWT data, chinook landings during August fisheries were comprised of 54% brights and 46% tules as compared to preseason expectations of 59% brights and 41% tules.
- An estimated 3,924 URB adult fall chinook were landed during August fisheries, which is slightly greater than the preseason expectation of 3,470.

***September Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries***

- Six fishing periods were adopted at the September 16 Compact hearing consisting of three, 12-hour (6 AM-6 PM) periods in Zones 1-3 (below Longview Bridge) and three, 5-hour (8 PM-1 AM) periods in Zones 3-5 (above Longview Bridge) during September 19-23.
- Chinook landings during the first two fishing days were similar to expectations while coho landings were above expectations:

<b><i>September Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings</i></b>						
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon	
Sept 19-20 (Z 1-3)	141 ave.	3,588	13,208	96	2	
Sept 19-21 (Z 3-5)	46 ave.	3,338	192	238	0	
Sept 22 (Z 1-3)	nya	nya	nya	nya	nya	
Sept 22-23 (Z 3-5)	nya	nya	nya	nya	nya	
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,926</b>	<b>13,400</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>2</b>	

### Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week through the end of October and four nights per week in the other Select Areas. Preseason catch expectations were for 32,000 coho and 4,300 SAB fall chinook in Youngs Bay, 9,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, 2,000 coho in Blind/Knappa Sloughs, 6,000 coho in Deep River, and 1,000 in Steamboat
- Landings to date are ahead of preseason expectations in Youngs Bay and Tongue Point, on track for Blind Slough, and behind for Deep River:

<i>2005 Fall Select Area Commercial Fishery Landings</i>					
Site	Landings Period	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Youngs Bay	8/3-9/21	4,055	35,682	26	1
Tongue Pnt/S. Channel	8/30-9/21	1,879	16,453	16	1
Blind/Knappa Sloughs	8/30-9/21	2,120	1,683	0	0
Deep River	8/30-9/16	298	1,144	3	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>8,352</b>	<b>54,962</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>2</b>

- Based on LV clips, an estimated 73% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay have been SAB's.

### Sturgeon Harvest

- A total of 4,006 white sturgeon were landed in 2005 mainstem non-Indian commercial fisheries through August. An additional 324 white sturgeon have been landed in Select Area fisheries through September 21 (4,330 total), leaving 3,670 available for harvest. Carry-over of 183 white sturgeon from 2003-04 fisheries increases the available harvest to 3,853 fish
- An additional 334 white sturgeon were landed in the first two late fall fishing periods (September 19-21), leaving 3,519 available for harvest.

### Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Four weekly fishing periods were adopted in all of Zone 6 during August 22 through September 23. These periods occurred 4.5 days per week, with no mesh restriction in place until the week of Sept 6, when an 8-inch minimum was implemented.

<i>2005 Treaty-Indian Landings</i>					
Dates	Chinook	URB	Steelhead	Wild B	Coho
August Platform	520	492	3,399	198	0
<b>Commercial</b>					
Aug 22-26	3,859	382	1,218	74	11
Aug 31-Sep 3	10,035	6,253	930	65	72
Sep 7-10	36,627	23,156	1,507	91	883
Sep 13-16	37,995	16,775	2,776	291	1,350
Sep 19-23 (Projected)	24,926	11,005	3,300	238	2,073
Commercial Total	113,442	57,571	9,731	759	4,389
<b>Total</b>	<b>113,962</b>	<b>58,063</b>	<b>13,130</b>	<b>957</b>	<b>4,389</b>

- Projected treaty-Indian harvest rates to URB Chinook total 20.7%, or 90% of the Treaty Indian allocation.
- Projected treaty-Indian harvest rates to wild Group B steelhead total 11%, or 73% of the Treaty allocation.

## FISHERY PROPOSALS

### *September Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery*

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	6 AM to 6 PM Monday September 26 (12 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday September 27 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-3 upstream to the Kalama River
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A
Gear:	6 inch maximum mesh size unslackened floater gillnet or 9 inch minimum to 9 ¾ inch maximum mesh size
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of ten sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	8 PM Monday September 26 to 1 AM Tuesday September 27 (5 hours) 8 PM Tuesday September 27 to 1 AM Wednesday September 28 (5 hours)
Area:	Zones 3 –5 (upstream of the Kalama River)
Sanctuaries:	Kalama-A, Lewis A, Sandy and Washougal rivers
Gear:	8 inch minimum and 9 ¾ inch maximum mesh size
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of ten sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The expected catch is 3,000-4,000 chinook, 7,000-10,000 coho, and 600-1,000 sturgeon.
- ✓ Restriction of fishery to large mesh gear upstream of the Kalama River will minimize impacts on listed coho salmon.

## Impacts Summary

<i>2005 Fall Fishery Impacts Summary</i>			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
<b>Treaty Indian Fisheries</b>			
August C&S	520	492	0.18%
Commercial through Sep 16	88,516	46,566	16.63%
Commercial 19-23 (Proj. Total)	24,926	11,005	0.00%
<b>Treaty Indian Total</b>	<b>113,962</b>	<b>58,063</b>	<b>20.74%</b>
<b>Non-Indian Fisheries</b>			
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj Total)	9,300	2,250	0.80%
LCR Sport through Sep 17	17,465	9,170	3.28%
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	1,330	1,120	0.40%
<b>Sport Total</b>	<b>28,095</b>	<b>12,540</b>	<b>4.48%</b>
Early August Commercial	4,707	87	0.03%
Mid-Late August Commercial	6,723	3,836	1.37%
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	10,670	490	0.18%
September Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	13,150	6,000	2.14%
October Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	590	160	0.06%
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>35,840</b>	<b>10,573</b>	<b>3.78%</b>
<b>Non-Indian Total</b>	<b>63,935</b>	<b>23,113</b>	<b>8.25%</b>
<b>URB run Size</b>		<b>280,000</b>	

### Proposed Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff is recommending that a Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled for 1:00 PM, Monday October 3, 2005 via teleconference to discuss salmon stock status and consider additional non-Indian commercial fishing periods.