

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 19
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 23, 2008

Fisheries Under Consideration:* **Non-Indian Commercial*

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008) and Fact Sheet #16 (Sept. 16, 2008)

- TAC met on September 22 and reviewed salmon and steelhead stock status. TAC maintained the current river mouth inseason runsize estimate of 212,500 URB Chinook and 90,000 Group B steelhead. TAC downgraded the BPH tule stock to 96,500 fish (previously projected at 102,000 fish). TAC will update the early-stock coho runsize later this week, but indicators suggest it will likely be greater than the current inseason projection of 135,000 fish. Lower River Chinook returns cannot be updated in season.
- Currently in the Columbia River, recreational fisheries are in place from just above the mouth of the Lewis River upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington with a 1 Chinook bag below Bonneville Dam and a 2 Chinook bag above. In addition, a commercial Chinook fishing season is scheduled for the evening of September 23 in Zones 4-5 (above the Lewis River to Beacon Rock) and a daytime commercial sturgeon-directed fishery is scheduled to occur in Zones 1-5 on September 25.
- Staff is managing non-Indian fisheries to remain below 10.75% URB impacts, and the projected impacts for fisheries currently in place are listed in the table below.

| Non-Indian UpRiver Bright (URB) Adult Catch and Impacts | | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------|----------------|--|
| Allowable URB Impact | 11.0% | RunSize | <u>212,500</u> | |
| In-season URB guideline | 10.75% | | | |
| Sport (53%) | 5.7% | | | |
| Commercial (47%) | 5.1% | | | |
| Fishery | Status | URB catch | Impact | |
| Buoy 10 | Complete | 2,550 | 1.20% | |
| LCR Sport | Ongoing | 6,480 | 3.05% | |
| Zone 6 Sport | Ongoing | 1,400 | 0.66% | |
| Snake River Sport | Expected | 1,100 | 0.50% | |
| | | 11,530 | 5.41% 64% | |
| August Comm | Complete | 4,300 | 2.02% | |
| Sep Comm | Ongoing | 1,780 | 0.84% | |
| Oct Commercial | Future | | | |
| SAFE | Ongoing | 276 | 0.13% | |
| | | 6,356 | 2.99% 36% | |
| Total Non Indian | | 17,886 | 8.40% | |

- Impacts to the LRW stock are projected to total 9.3% (10% limit) and impacts to LCN Chinook tules are projected to total 36% (41% limit). Both of these impacts include ocean fisheries. Impacts to wild Group B steelhead in non-Indian in-river fisheries are projected to be 1.3% (2% limit). Impacts to LCN coho to date total 6.72% (8% limit), including ocean fisheries, and are shown in the table below.

| Fishery | LCN Coho Impact |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Mainstem Commercial | 1.28% |
| SAFE Commercial | 0.24% |
| B10 Sport | 1.04% |
| LCR Sport | 0.10% |
| Ocean | 4.07% |
| Sum | 6.72% |

- Additional commercial fisheries are planned for the remainder of September and into October. URB Chinook are available for harvest under the US v Oregon management agreement and the 2008 fall Chinook non-Indian allocation agreement, and sturgeon remain available under the 2006-2008 Joint State Sturgeon Accord.

Recommendation

| <i>Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i> | | |
|---|--|------------|
| Season #1: | 9 PM - 7 AM Wednesday September 24, 2008 | (10 hours) |
| | 9 PM - 7 AM Thursday September 25, 2008 | (10 hours) |
| Season #2: | 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday through Thursday nights from September 28 through October 3, 2008 | (12 hours) |
| Area | Zones 4-5 | |
| Gear | 8-inch minimum mesh size | |
| 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: | Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers. | |
| Additional Rules | <p>12-hour Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.</p> <p>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.</p> | |

- Projected catch from these fisheries include 9,000 Chinook, 3,500 coho and 800 sturgeon.
- Although there appears to be minimal risk of exceeding Chinook impact limits, staff projects that coho catch in the fishery may utilize up to 100% of the available LCN coho impacts

available for the remainder of the season. However, due to other constraints, future coho-directed fisheries are questionable.

- Joint Staff will continue to closely monitor all ongoing non-Indian fisheries and make further recommendations as needed.
- Cumulative URB impacts, including completed, ongoing, and projected fisheries include:

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| Snake River Sport | Expected | 1,100 | 0.50% | |
| | | 11,530 | 5.41% 50% | |
| August Comm | Complete | 4,300 | 2.02% | |
| Sep Comm | Ongoing | 6,176 | 2.91% | |
| Oct Commercial | Future | 600 | 0.28% | |
| SAFE | Ongoing | 276 | 0.13% | |
| | | 11,352 | 5.34% 50% | |
| Total Non Indian | | 22,882 | 10.75% | |

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 11 AM Thursday October 2 to review salmon stock status and non-Indian fisheries.