

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12
Columbia River Compact/Joint State hearing
September 26, 2007

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

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2007 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 26, 2007)

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- Bonneville Dam adult Chinook passage through September 24 totals 127,193 fish, including 111,719 brights and 15,474 tules.
- TAC's September 24 updated run sizes include 118,000 URBs and 17,000 BPH at the Columbia River mouth.
- McNary Dam adult Chinook passage totals 37,000 fish (Aug. 9- Sep. 25). Daily passage has significantly increased over the last few days. Passage is about 75% complete by September 25. TAC is reasonably confident that the escapement goal of 43,500 fish will be reached.
- The Spring Creek hatchery escapement goal of 4,000 females will not be met. Only 2,500 females are expected to return. An estimated 2,500 females are in the hatchery and daily returns are down to 200 total fish a day.

Steelhead

- Bonneville Dam steelhead passage (Jul 1- Sep 25) totals 294,111 fish. Total passage (July-Oct) is generally 92% complete by September 25. The preseason forecast was 297,900 fish, including 241,500 Group A and 56,400 Group B fish.
- TAC's September 17 updated run sizes include 290,000 Group A fish (63,800 wild) and 22,000 Group B fish (6,600 wild). Steelhead passage and sampling at Bonneville Dam suggest the wild component may be higher than the in-season forecast currently in place.

Coho

- At Bonneville Dam all coho passing through September are considered early stock coho. Bonneville Dam coho count through September 24 totals 58,247 adults and 2,317 jacks. Passage is about 90% complete. Preseason expectations totaled 79,200 early stock coho at Bonneville Dam. The 50% upriver escapement requirement is expected to be met.

NON-INDIAN FISHERIES

Commercial Fisheries

- August commercial landings included nearly 3,981 Chinook, 57 coho and 2,737 white sturgeon.
- September 19- 24 commercial landings include 2,816 Chinook, 5,010 coho and 1,635 sturgeon. Landings from today's fishery are not available, but are expected to be within expectations.

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings, Fall 2007</i>				
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
August Totals	Ave 117	3,981	57	2,737
Sep 19, Z 1-5 (9")	148	42	56	1,457
Sep 21, Z 4-5 (8")	57	1,804	398	88
Sep 24, Z 1-3 (6")	145	970	4,456	90
Sep 26, Z 1-3 (6") proj.	145	700	4,000	100
Season Total		7,497	8,967	4,472

Chinook Impacts to date

2007 Preliminary Non-Indian Chinook ESA- Impacts (Actual/Projected)							
Mainstem Harvest		Allocation Allowed		Impacts to Date		Remaining impacts	
		URB	LRH	URB	LRH	URB	LRH
Recreational	13,351	4.17%	2.78%	4.13%	3.37%	0.04%	-0.59%
Commercial	10,941	4.08%	2.56%	4.00%	1.33%	0.08%	1.23%
Total	24,292	8.25%	5.34%	8.13%	4.70%	0.12%	0.64%

- The table includes all mainstem harvest/stock composition through September 21. The table also includes projected harvest/stock composition for the recreational fishery above Bonneville Dam (through Dec 31) and for the commercial fishing periods on September 24 and September 26. The table does not account for other any future fisheries (October commercial or additional recreational).

Coho Impacts to date

2007 Preliminary Non-Indian Coho ESA- Impacts (Sep 24)			
Fishery		Total Catch	Unmarked Only Catch/Mortality
	SAFE	5,659	57
	Mainstem	5,067	1,272
	Buoy 10	6,296	641
	MS sport	278	6
Columbia R.	Catch		1,976
Columbia R.	Impacts (ER)		1.70%
Ocean	Impacts (ER)		12.3%
Total	Impacts (ER)	17,300	14.0%

- Impacts to listed coho to date are minimal, considering the limited amount of coho caught compared to the estimated 30,000 available for harvest.

RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>2007 Mainstem Commercial Salmon Fishery –Late Fall</i>		
Season:	8 PM Thursday September 27 to 6 AM Friday September 28, 2007	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5	
Sanctuaries:	Large sanctuaries: Lewis B, Sandy and Washougal rivers	
Gear:	8 – inch minimum mesh size. It will be legal to have onboard a commercial vessel more than one net, as long as the nets are of legal size for the fishery, or the net has a minimum mesh size of 9 inches. The length of any one net cannot exceed 1,500 feet in length. 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.	
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. The weekly white sturgeon limit in Select Areas remains at 5 white sturgeon for each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). Green sturgeon retention prohibited.	
Misc. Rules:	12- hour Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers. Landings must be reported within 12 hours after the fishery closes.	

- Estimated catch includes 1000 Chinook (50% URBs, 1% LRH), 300 coho and 100 sturgeon. Impacts associated with this fishery include 0.42% URBs and 0.01% LRH.
- Staff believes the recommended fishery poses little risk in constraining October fisheries and will result in minimal impacts.

2007 Preliminary Non-Indian ESA- Impacts (Actual/Projected)							
Mainstem Harvest		Allocation Allowed		Impacts to Date		Remaining impacts	
		URB	LRH	URB	LRH	URB	LRH
Recreational	13,351	4.17%	2.78%	4.13%	3.37%	0.04%	-0.59%
Commercial	10,941	4.08%	2.56%	4.00%	1.33%	0.08%	1.23%
Total	24,292	8.25%	5.34%	8.13%	4.70%	0.12%	0.64%

- The table above includes all proposed, potential and future fisheries and the associated impacts to Chinook for the fall season.

- The table above includes estimated steelhead handle and associated incidental impacts to wild steelhead occurring August through October.

Estimated Non-Indian steelhead Kept and Release Mortalities			
Aug-Oct	Total		Wild B
	Steelhead	Wild B	Impact rate
LCR sport	5,281	71	1.08%
LCR Comm	529	21	0.32%
BON-PRD	18,695	31	0.47%
Non-Indian Total	24,504	123	1.87%

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing is scheduled via teleconference for 2:30 PM Thursday September 27 to consider treaty Indian fisheries and non-Indian fisheries for the following week.