

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #7
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 10, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon Research pilot seine commercial fishery
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 29, 2014.

Stock Status

- Passage at Bonneville Dam through September 9 totals 405,000 adult fall Chinook. Chinook passage has increased dramatically but is still tracking below expected passage (594,200) for this date and predicted run size. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by September 8.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead since July 1 totals just over 230,000 fish. Counts to date are within expectations. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 50% complete by August 11.
- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met today. TAC currently expects the bright Chinook run at Bonneville to be less than forecast but the run still appears to be very large, similar to 2013. The Spring Creek tule run may also be less than forecast. For steelhead, the total A and B steelhead run at Bonneville is tracking close to forecast. Available data also indicate the B steelhead run may be close to forecast. TAC is scheduled to meet again on Monday September 15.
- The LRH stock is the indicator stock for LCN tule stock. The pre-season forecast for LRH adults to the Columbia River is 100,700 fish, which allows for an exploitation rate (ER) of 41%. Updating the run in-season is challenging since escapement is based on hatchery returns, which are typically not complete until after the fall fishing season concludes.
- Data on LRH escapement to hatcheries and weirs is just beginning to become available as the fish move into the tributaries.
 - Escapement to Washington tributaries is currently tracking ahead of expectations, although it is too early in the season to make any conclusion regarding run size.
 - In Oregon, Big Creek escapement is tracking within expectations.
 - CWT data shows that the LRH stock component is representing a higher proportion of the overall catch compared to pre-season modeling.
- Ocean fisheries are still ongoing. The number of Chinook (if any) potentially available for in-river fisheries is limited.

Recreational Fisheries

- Catch estimates for the Buoy 10 (B10) recreational fishery include 24,000 Chinook kept (6,500 released) from 74,200 angler trips during Aug 1–29. Estimated catch during the August 30–September 1 mark-selective fishery is 2,800 Chinook kept (4,800 released) from 8,500 angler

trips. The fishery is currently closed for Chinook retention as scheduled. CWT data indicates stock composition for this fishery was higher for LRH than expected preseason (26% v 13%). Total fishery Chinook mortalities are estimated at 29,000 (63% of preseason), but LRH mortalities are 108% of the preseason allocation. The coho fishery at B10 is on-going; estimated harvest through September 7 totals 46,000 coho (including release mortalities) compared to the 56,500 fish estimated preseason.

- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery include 13,100 Chinook kept (460 released), 6,600 steelhead kept (5,500 released), and 4,030 coho kept (2,030 released) from 82,600 angler trips during Aug. 1–Sept. 7. Chinook catch to date for this fishery is tracking below expectations; however, catch rates have improved considerably in recent days. This fishery transitioned to mark-selective regulations for Chinook during September 8–14 in the area from Tongue Point upstream to Warrior Rock.
- The area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to remain open for Chinook through December. Catch rates have also improved recently in this area.
- Based on in-season modeling, the LCR fishery is projected to remain within the available Chinook guideline (43,000 mortalities including 2,700 LRH). Run size, catch rates and stock composition are all variables effecting Chinook allocation and season structure.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 opened August 1 and is scheduled to remain open through December 31. The season total catch expectation for this fishery is 14,000 Chinook.

Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall fisheries was 86,400 adult Chinook, including 2,900 LRH stock (3.4% of Chinook catch).
- Thirteen fishing periods occurred in Zones 4-5 from August 3–September 2. All periods were nine hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Catch estimates for the early-fall fishery total 47,730 fall Chinook (55% of expected).
- Analysis of CWT data is complete for this fishery. Based on 990 tags, stock composition of the Chinook catch was higher than expected (6.0% v 3.4%) for LRH stock and the URB stock was behind expectations (47% v 60%). However, given the lower than expected harvest, the LRH mortalities remained within the preseason allocation.
- Based on preseason planning, the late-fall commercial season is scheduled to begin the week of September 14. Based on preseason Chinook and steelhead run size forecasts and in-season CWT data and steelhead mark rates, about 40,000 Chinook remain available for September/October Chinook-directed fisheries. Industry has requested consideration of an earlier start date if warranted.

<i>Recommendation: 2014 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i>	
Season:	9 PM Sunday September 14 to 5 AM Monday September 15 (8 hours) 8 PM Tuesday September 16 to 6 AM Wednesday September 17 (10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule in effect, which means 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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, and shad.
Additional Rules:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240

- The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2014 Fall Allocation Agreement.
- Catch estimates for the proposed periods include about 16,000 Chinook and 5,000 coho.

Non-Indian ESA impacts

- Based on the preseason upriver Chinook run size forecast and actual, on-going, and planned non-Indian fisheries, ESA impacts are expected to total 8.0% for URB Chinook (15% allowed), 40.9% for LRH Chinook (41% allowed) and 2% for wild Group B steelhead (2% allowed).
- Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the salmon and steelhead run sizes, especially LRH Chinook and wild Group B steelhead. Additional information will be available early next week that will help determine the structure of upcoming non-Indian fisheries while remaining within the ESA constraints.

Mainstem Commercial Fisheries – Alternative Gear

- The research seine fishery began in August in Zones 1 and 2 and opened in early September for the rest of the river. Results so far have been mixed, some seiners are approaching their individual catch quotas, while others have struggled to capture salmon. Preliminary results are presented in the table below.

Preliminary 2014 Fall Seine Fishery Observation Summary												
Gear Type	Date	Zone	# Drifts	Marked Chinook		Marked Coho		Unmarked Chinook	Unmarked Coho	Chinook Mark Rate	Coho Mark Rate	Steelhead
				Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks					
Beach	8/19/2014	1	4	63	8	5	0	58	4	55%	56%	26
	8/21/2014	1	5	29	8	9	1	32	11	54%	48%	15
	8/26/2014	1	2	38	8	40	1	20	25	70%	62%	10
	8/28/2014	1	5	40	8	93	1	45	58	52%	62%	22
	9/3/2014	1	5	44	13	84	5	62	47	48%	65%	18
	9/3/2014	2	6	2	0	1	0	1	0	67%	100%	0
	9/3/2014	4	11	33	4	1	0	30	9	55%	10%	14
	9/3/2014	5	5	29	4	1	0	39	2	46%	33%	6
	9/4/2014	5	2	8	0	1	0	11	3	42%	25%	3
	Cumulative			45	286	53	235	8	298	159	53%	60%
Purse	8/21/2014	2	4	12	0	0	0	19	0	39%	0%	3
	8/26/2014	1	6	20	3	0	0	34	2	40%	0%	7
	8/28/2014	1	5	12	6	1	0	17	1	51%	50%	4
	9/2/2014	3	6	40	8	3	1	47	3	51%	57%	1
	9/3/2014	2	3	15	2	11	3	39	5	30%	74%	11
	9/3/2014	3	4	17	5	1	0	19	6	54%	14%	0
	9/3/2014	4	7	26	1	2	0	41	7	40%	22%	4
	9/4/2014	3	4	157	9	66	3	269	107	38%	39%	9
	9/4/2014	4	5	182	14	15	0	232	56	46%	21%	13
	Cumulative			44	481	48	99	7	717	187	42%	36%

<i>Recommendation: 2014 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Research Fishery</i>	
Participants:	Those individuals possessing a 2014 seine permit issued by Washington or Oregon (Emerging Fishery license and Experimental Fishery Permit in WA; Experimental Gear Permit in OR). Permit holder/designated fisher must be present during fishing operations and have applicable permits/licenses in possession.
Season:	Open hours are 6:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (13.5 hours)
<i>Week 37</i>	Friday September 12 1 period
<i>Week 38</i>	Friday September 19 1 period
<i>Week 39</i>	Friday September 26 1 period
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River in Zones 1-5.
Sanctuaries:	Elochoman-A, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis A, Sandy, Washougal and Select Area commercial fishing sites.

Gear:	<p>Beach or purse seine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one net is allowed per vessel. - Mesh size restricted to a 3.5-inch maximum (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure). - Net material to consist of 3-strand nylon; twine size \geq#12. - Seines may include a bunt of 1.0-2.0 inch knotless mesh. - Net length not to exceed 200 fathoms (including associated lead nets). Net depth not to exceed 200 meshes (approximately 50 feet) - Seine and lead lines may not be connected. Lead nets must be retrieved daily. - No restrictions on corkline, leadline or use of stringers and slackers. - A chafing strip panel consisting of non-monofilament webbing (such as nylon seine web or polyethylene trawl web) is allowed on bottom of net; maximum panel depth is 5-feet. Chafing mesh not to exceed 3.5-inch stretched measure for beach and 5-inch stretched measure for purse. There are no restrictions associated with hangings used to connect the net to the chafing panel or the net or chafing panel to the leadline or corkline. - Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.
Allowable Sales:	Subject to IFQs as defined on individual permits. Adipose or left ventral fin-clipped Chinook, adipose-clipped coho, pink and sockeye salmon. All legal salmon caught must be kept and sold.
Handling/Sorting	Hand sorting or use of a knotless dip net is required for sorting. All fish must be sorted and/or released prior to removing entire seine from water. Dry sorting not permitted.
Sort time	<p><u>Not to exceed 75 minutes.</u></p> <p>Beach seine - defined as the elapsed time from when the outer towed end of the net first contacts the shore or block until the net is emptied of fish.</p> <p>Purse Seine - defined as the elapsed time from when all rings are pursed and out of the water until the net is emptied of fish.</p>
Observer Program	Mandatory
Quick-Report:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- This action adds one additional period to each of the next three weeks of the previously adopted fishery.

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff anticipates a Compact hearing will be needed late in the week of September 15 to review salmonid stock status and consider treaty and non-Indian fisheries.