

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
Fall FACT SHEET No. 9
Columbia River Compact**

October 9, 2003

<p>Purpose: To review salmon stock status and consider non-Indian commercial fishing options for the mainstem Columbia River.</p>
--

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon and Steelhead

- The Biological Opinion concerning treaty Indian and non-Indian fall season fisheries was signed by NOAA Fisheries on July 30, 2003.
- 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 2003.
- The 2003 Fall Management Agreement allocates the 31.29% URB impact rate 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries; however, sharing impacts could change based on inseason updates.
- 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.
- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a total impact rate (including ocean and Columbia River fisheries) of 49% on LRH (Coweeman) fall chinook.
- 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 2003 Incidental Take Permit issued by the OFWC, combined ocean and freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 29.2% and the freshwater fishery impacts shall not exceed 11.5% of the run entering the Columbia River.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during August will be managed in accordance with the "2003 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

Excerpts From the 2003 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 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.
- ✓ Expected total catch of fall chinook in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of the Snake River, in lower Columbia River tributaries, and Select Areas is 84,300 of which 41,400 (49%) are expected to be harvested by the sport fishery and 42,500 (51%) by the commercial fishery. These catch estimates are based on pre-season abundance forecasts and fishery estimates. Actual harvest sharing will be influenced by stock specific fall chinook abundances and relative harvest rates by each respective fishery.

Sturgeon

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2003-2005 are guided by a Joint State Sturgeon Fishery Management Agreement adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- The Joint State Sturgeon Fishery Management Agreement sets forth an annual harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon and allocates the harvestable number 80% sport (32,000 fish) and 20% commercial (8,000 fish).
- Commercial fisheries will be further managed based on a protocol adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.

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.

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- On October 7 the TAC updated the total and LRH fall chinook returns to 914,800 and 190,000 adults entering the Columbia River, respectively. The total return is the largest since at least 1942 and the LRH return is the fourth largest on record (since 1964).

- Other stocks are also returning at record high levels with the URB's being the second largest on record (since 1964), MCB's being the largest on record (since 1980), BPH's being the largest on record (since 1964), and SAB's being the largest on record (since 1985).

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>								
Stock	1997-2001 Average	2002 Return	2003 Preseason Forecast	9/11/03 Update	9/17/03 Update	9/24/03 Update	10/01/03 Update	10/07/03 Update
URB	171,600	276,900	258,400	263,600	372,000	386,000	380,000	380,000
SRW	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MCB	52,000	106,000	86,600	88,700	112,000	113,000	118,000	118,000
BPH	48,700	160,800	101,900	101,900	181,000	188,000	194,000	194,000
LRH	52,800	156,400	116,900	116,900	116,900	116,900	140,000	190,000
LRW	9,900	24,900	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400
LRB	NA	2,400	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800
SAB	4,100	5,700	6,200	6,200	6,200	6,200	7,600	7,600
Total	339,100	733,100	595,200	602,500	813,300	835,300	864,800	914,800

- Fall chinook passage over mainstem Columbia and Snake River dams have been at record high levels with 594,400 passing Bonneville, 167,500 passing McNary, and 19,500 passing Ice Harbor. The Lower Granite fall chinook count of 10,000 is the second largest on record, exceeded only by the record return of 12,400 in 2002.
- Through October 5 counts of jack fall chinook at Bonneville Dam totaled 38,400 brights and 5,600 tules (including adult-size jacks). Typically 93% of the bright jacks and 100% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam by October 5. The bright jack count is a 20% increase over the recent 10-year average of 32,000 and the tule jack count doubles the recent 10-year average of 2,800.
- For the year 24,682 male, 33,540 female, and 6,319 jack tule fall chinook returned to Spring Creek Hatchery.
- A total of 2,613 adult and 86 jack tule fall chinook have returned to Bonneville Hatchery through October 3.

<i>Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery Returns</i>							
Hatchery/Stock	Returns	As of:	Escapement			Comments	
			Preseason Projected	Inseason Update	Goal		
Elochoman LRH	2,963	10/2	4,600	3,100	1,400	Goal achieved	
Cowlitz LRH	4,231	10/2	7,300	9,600	3,400	"	
Toutle LRH	6,044	10/2	4,000	12,900	1,900	"	
Kalama LRH	4,102	10/2	7,100	5,500	2,200	"	
Washougal LRH	5,559	10/2	11,600	10,700	2,800	"	
<i>Total WA LRH</i>	<i>22,899</i>		<i>34,600</i>	<i>41,800</i>	<i>11,700</i>		
Big Creek LRH	16,355	10/3	15,350	16,900	3,000	Goal achieved	
Willamette LRH	204	9/15	1,000	--	--		
<i>Total OR LRH</i>	<i>16,559</i>		<i>16,350</i>	<i>16,900</i>	<i>3,000</i>		
Youngs Bay SAB	138	9/26	--	--	--	Trapped in Youngs Bay	
Klaskanine SAB	0	10/6	--	--	1,500	Water too low	
Big Creek SAB	13	10/2	--	--	--	Releases discontinued	
<i>Total SAB</i>	<i>151</i>						
Bonneville BUB	12,532	10/3	16,000	19,900	5,750	Goal achieved	

Early Stock Coho

- Early stock coho passage through the lower Columbia River typically peaks in mid-September and the preseason run size forecast included 271,500 early stock adults to the river mouth.
- To date, commercial landings and counts past Bonneville Dam have exceeded preseason expectations. Based on fishery catches and escapement estimates through October 6 the TAC updated the early stock coho run size to 450,000 adults entering the Columbia River.

<i>Early Stock Coho Returns</i>					
	Escapement				Comments
	Returns	As of:	Proj. Total	Goal	
Grays H.	0	10/2	--	1,300	
Elochoman H.	265	10/2	900	800	Goal will be achieved
Kalama H.	234	10/2	1,000	500	Goal will be achieved
Toutle H.	8,485	10/2	>30,000	1,200	Goal achieved
Lewis H.	21,681	10/2	40,000	1,600	Goal achieved
<i>Total Washington</i>	<i>30,665</i>		<i>71,900</i>	<i>5,400</i>	
Klaskanine H.	0	10/6	--	--	Water too low
Big Creek H.	345	10/2	--	700	Expect to achieve goal
Eagle Creek NFH	~100	10/6	--	3,300	Water too low
Sandy H.	281	10/3	--	1,200	Expect to achieve goal
Bonneville H.	29,249	10/3	37,150	5,100	Goal achieved
<i>Total Oregon</i>	<i>29,975</i>		<i>--</i>	<i>--</i>	
Bonneville Dam	93,975	9/30	--	--	Complete as of 9/30
Willamette Falls	378	9/15	--	--	Hatchery releases discontinued

- Through September 29 a total of 1,050 adult and 70 jack early stock coho have passed North Fork Dam on the Clackamas River. Early stock adult coho passage is typically 63% complete by September 29.
- Sandy River wild coho passage over Marmot Dam typically peaks in October. A total of 337 adults have passed Marmot Dam through October 3.

Late Stock Coho

- Late stock returns typically begin to enter the lower Columbia River in late September and peak in October and the preseason run size forecast included 157,500 adults to the river mouth.
- CPUE data from Zones 1 and 2 has historically been used to update the late coho run size; however, the structure of the commercial fishery has changed in recent years which has reduced the accuracy of abundance estimates based on historical data.
- The CPUE for last week was 61 coho per delivery as compared to a CPUE of 82 coho per delivery in 2002 and 103 coho per delivery in 2001. The late coho run size totaled 232,600 in 2002 and 417,200 in 2001.
- Late stock coho generally do not start entering Washington hatcheries until mid to late October. Through October 2 a total of 273 late stock coho have returned to Cowlitz Hatchery. On average less than 10% of the return enters Cowlitz Hatchery by October 2.
- Based on early stock returns, commercial landings to date, and the Bonneville Dam count to date, the TAC expects the late coho run size to exceed the preseason forecast of 157,500.

FISHERY UPDATES

Buoy 10 Sport Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery (from the mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) will remain open for chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead through December 31 as per permanent regulations. The daily salmon bag limit is three fish, of which one can be a chinook.
- Catch and effort is projected to total 16,800 chinook and 65,000 coho from 85,000-90,000 angler trips. The 65,000 coho landed is the second largest total since 1991 and the 16,800 chinook catch is second largest total since 1988.

Lower Columbia River Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Hwy. 395 Bridge will remain open to fall chinook, coho, and steelhead angling through December 31 as per permanent regulations. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day and coho retained downstream of Bonneville Dam must be adipose fin-clipped.
- The estimated adult chinook catch through September 30 is 22,000 from 68,000 angler trips. The chinook catch is projected to total 28,000 for the season which is the largest catch on record, exceeding the 2002 record catch of 21,000.

Sport Fisheries Above Bonneville Dam

- Deschutes mouth boat anglers averaged 0.22 chinook and 0.04 steelhead caught per rod during September 1-15 and 0.13 chinook and 0.02 steelhead caught per rod during September 16-30.
- Fall chinook angling in the Hanford Reach has improved with a catch rate of 1 chinook per every 4.6 anglers.

<i>Mainstem Sport Fisheries Update</i>			
Stock	Buoy 10	Below Bonn. Dam	Above Bonn. Dam
URB	699	16,707	1,720
MCB	397	1,587	880
BPH	4,988	1,005	--
LRH	6,328	4,287	--
LRW	277	3,503	--
SAB	1,080	0	--
Jacks/Strays	3,031	911	--
<i>Total Chinook (Projected)</i>	<i>16,800</i>	<i>28,000</i>	<i>2,600</i>
<i>Coho (Projected)</i>	<i>65,000</i>	<i>3,000</i>	<i>1,300</i>

Late Fall Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- A total of four fishing periods (six days) occurred during September 15-25 in all of Zones 1-5 and resulted in total landings of 30,000 chinook, 65,000 coho, 800 white sturgeon, 11 green sturgeon, and one chum. Impacts to listed upriver fall chinook were less than expected with URBs comprising 26% of the chinook catch as compared to the preseason expectation of 45%.
- An additional four fishing periods (six days) are scheduled to occur in all of Zones 1-5 during September 28-October 9. Weekly seasons consist of one 24-hour fishing period (6 PM Sunday-6 PM Monday) followed by one 48-hour fishing period (6 PM Tuesday-6 PM Thursday).

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries Update</i>					
Stock	Early Aug	Late Aug.	Sept. 15-19	Sept. 21-25	Sept. 29-Oct. 2
URB	357	1,155	3,916	3,883	
MCB	377	1,368	3,867	264	
BPH	2,624	3,218	6,339	1,013	
LRH	3,004	1,203	2,030	6,052	
LRW	0	0	1,372	876	
SAB	1,130	4	16	307	
Jacks/Strays	623	260	0	143	
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>8,115</i>	<i>7,208</i>	<i>17,541</i>	<i>12,538</i>	<i>5,719</i>
Coho	159	152	26,981	37,937	25,533
W. Sturgeon	2,161	385	372	414	246
G. Sturgeon	10	1	1	10	11

- Landings during early fall seasons included 15,300 chinook which is the second largest chinook catch during the early fall timeframe since 1989 and the fourth largest since 1982.
- Landings to date during the late fall season have totaled 35,800 chinook and 90,500 coho. The chinook catch is the largest since 1989 and the coho catch to date is similar to the 2000 and 2002 season totals.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week through the end of October. Preseason catch expectations for the Youngs Bay fishery included 4,300 chinook and 26,400 coho.
- Other Select Area fisheries are currently open four nights per week through the end of October with a preseason catch expectation of 17,900 coho; including 7,800 in Tongue Point, 4,000 in Blind Slough, 4,200 in Deep River, and 1,900 in Steamboat Slough.

<i>Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fisheries Update</i>						
	Youngs Bay	Tongue Point	Blind Slough	Deep River	Steamboat Slough	Total
Chinook	5,072	2,451	1,901	158	44	9,626
Coho	90,667	15,522	3,241	2,167	107	111,704
W. Sturgeon	45	97	28	3	0	173
G. Sturgeon	0	1	0	0	0	1

- Coho landings to date in Youngs Bay and Tongue Point and chinook landings to date in Youngs Bay have exceeded preseason catch expectations. Based on LV clips an estimated 64% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay to date have been SAB's.
- For Select Area fisheries the total chinook landings are the largest since 1988 and the coho landings are the largest on record.
- Sturgeon possession and sales were prohibited in all Select Area fisheries effective Tuesday September 9 because the 400 fish catch allocation set forth in the commercial white sturgeon protocol was reached.

<i>2003 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</i>		
	Commercial Allocation =	8,000
<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Guideline</u>	<u>Catch</u>
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,000	1,517
Select Area Gillnet	400	423
August Gillnet	2,000	2,546
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet (thru 10/6)	3,600	1,100
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	5,586
	Quota Remaining =	2,414

FISHERY PROPOSALS

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 Option 1:	6 PM Sunday October 12 to 6 PM Monday October 13	(1 day)
	6 AM Wednesday October 15 to 6 AM Friday October 17	(2 days)
	6 PM Sunday October 19 to 6 PM Monday October 20	(1 day)
	6 AM Wednesday October 22 to 6 AM Friday October 24	(2 days)
	6 PM Sunday October 26 to 6 PM Monday October 27	(1 day)
	6 AM Wednesday October 29 to 6 AM Friday October 31	(2 days)
Season Option 2:	6 PM Sunday October 12 to 6 PM Monday October 13	(1 day)
	6 PM Tuesday October 14 to 6 PM Wednesday October 15	(1 day)
	6 PM Thursday October 16 to 6 PM Friday October 17	(1 day)
	6 PM Sunday October 19 to 6 PM Monday October 20	(1 day)
	6 PM Tuesday October 21 to 6 PM Wednesday October 22	(1 day)
	6 PM Thursday October 23 to 6 PM Friday October 24	(1 day)
	6 PM Sunday October 26 to 6 PM Monday October 27	(1 day)
	6 PM Tuesday October 28 to 6 PM Wednesday October 29	(1 day)
	6 PM Thursday October 30 to 6 PM Friday October 31	(1 day)
Area:	During October 12-24: The mouth upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1-5). During October 26-31: From a line between Harrington Point on the Washington shore to Settler Point on the Oregon shore upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 2-5).	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal River, and Sandy River.	
Gear:	No minimum and 9¼-inch maximum mesh size restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of nine 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 proposed season options are consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ The proposed season options provide an opportunity to harvest surplus hatchery produced coho and chinook salmon.
- ✓ The proposed season options allow chinook fishing to occur in all five commercial fishing zones in the lower Columbia River.

- ✓ Eliminating the fishing area between the mouth and the Harrington Point/Settler Point line during the final week of October will provide protection for chum and state-listed late stock coho salmon entering the Columbia River.
- ✓ Both season options are supported by portions of the commercial fishing industry.
- ✓ Option 1 is similar to the season structure that has been in effect since September 21, except the closure between the first and second fishing periods of each week is extended by 12 hours to increase opportunity for fish to move into upstream areas.
- ✓ Option 1 provides opportunity to market fish on Friday and both weekend days.
- ✓ Option 2 provides a 24-hour break between fishing periods to increase opportunity to market fish between fishing periods.
- ✓ Option 2 requires processing of fish on Saturday.

Impacts Summary

<i>Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2003</i>			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S	700	650	0.17
Commercial through Oct. 11 (Proj. Total)	131,700	52,550	13.83
Treaty Indian Total	132,400	53,200	14.00
Non-Indian Fisheries			
Early August Commercial	8,100	360	0.10
Late August Commercial	7,200	1,160	0.31
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	9,600	510	0.13
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj. Total)	16,800	700	0.18
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	28,000	16,710	4.40
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	2,600	1,720	0.45
September Commercial Fisheries (9/15-9/25)	30,100	7,800	2.05
October Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	13,000	1,750	0.46
Non-Indian Total	115,400	30,710	8.08
Grand Total	190,800	83,910	22.08

- Freshwater fishery impacts to Oregon state listed wild coho destined for Lower Columbia River tributaries are projected to total 8.1% as compared to the ESA-related impact limit of 11.5%.
- Impacts to LRH (Coweeman) fall chinook are projected to total 46.5% for freshwater and ocean fisheries, as compared to the ESA impact limit of 49%.

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff is not proposing any Compact hearings at this time; however, fisheries will be closely monitored and emergency hearings will occur as needed to modify ongoing non-Indian commercial fisheries.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
October 9, 2003