

FALL FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact
September 24, 2004

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Non-Indian mainstem commercial
	Treaty Indian mainstem commercial

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon and Steelhead

- 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 2004.
- The 2004 Fall Management Agreement provides that the 31.29% URB impact rate is allocated 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% non-Indian fisheries.
- A Biological Assessment of 2004 fall season fisheries was submitted to NOAA Fisheries on July 9 and the subsequent Biological Opinion was received on August 6, 2004.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild Group B index steelhead to no greater than 15%. 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.
- 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 Incidental Take Permit issued by the OFWC and NOAA Fisheries' Biological Opinion, the freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 15% of the run entering the Columbia River.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed in accordance with the "2004 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed during the North of Falcon negotiation process.

Excerpts From the 2004 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 in-season management objective is for allocation of URB impacts to approach 50% sport and 50% commercial, if possible. 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.
- ✓ **Expectations for the commercial fishery include:**
 - Late fall fisheries are expected to begin the week of September 19th, with in-season flexibility to start as early as September 16th. Fishery will target coho during daylight hours. The fishing boundaries will be the Longview Bridge during the week of September 16th, the Kalama River during the week of September 19th, and the upper end of Bachelor Island during the week of September 26th. During the week of September 19, the fishery will occur up to two days per week and during the week of September 26, the fishery may occur up to three days per week.
 - Chinook target fisheries will take place in areas that are not open for coho fishing and will likely begin the week of September 19 (with the possibility of beginning as early as the evening of September 16th). The fishery will occur during night hours with large mesh (8-9 inch minimum). URB allocation for this fishery is 0.78% and total chinook expectation is 6,100. The late September chinook harvest will be determined by the mid-September URB run size update and the actual URB impacts remaining.
 - Coho fisheries are modeled at 28,000 for September and 40,000 for October. October fisheries will be used to update the late coho run size.
 - Sturgeon management will be consistent with sturgeon protocol adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.
 - The dates, areas, mesh restrictions and catch expectations are based on preseason planning and input from the commercial fishing industry. In season events will likely change many of these expectations.

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.

Water Conditions

Flow Updates

- Flow, as measured at Bonneville Dam, was stable in August, ranging between 124 kcfs and 190 kcfs during the month. On average flows during August have generally ranged between 125-168 kcfs.
- As typically occurs during September, flow has dropped significantly and has ranged between 93-154 kcfs. Flows during early September typically range between 102-120 kcfs.

Temperature Updates

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, typically increase rapidly through the month of July to a peak during the first half of August. Temperatures typically decline slowly during the last half of August and early September.
- Water temperatures have been fluctuating between 66-71°F during the first 14 days of September. Water temperatures during early September typically range between 62-69°F.

STOCK STATUS

Summer Steelhead

- The 2004 Skamania index return of 19,130 exceeded the preseason forecast of 18,300.

		<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>				
		September 21	Cumulative Total Through September 21			
		Daily	2004	2003	2002	2001
Bonneville	Group A Index	NA	NA	298,067	310,444	489,840
	Group B Index	NA	NA	32,272	90,658	67,341
	Total	2,892	256,400	330,339	401,102	557,181
	The Dalles	4,378	183,796	201,351	279,351	370,908
	John Day	5,079	164,008	187,120	213,488	270,744
	McNary	4,843	125,667	129,723	149,338	225,418
	Ice Harbor	4,455	91,580	81,745	92,607	124,713
	Lower Granite	3,701	54,275	40,439	66,391	56,240
	Priest Rapids	219	15,773	14,173	13,208	24,102

- As of September 21, 68% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have passed The Dalles Dam.
- Sampling at Priest Rapids Dam began July 30, and through September 2, wild fish have comprised 11% of the passage over Priest Rapids Dam.
- Preseason forecasts were for 306,600 Group A index steelhead (82,400 wild fish and 224,200 hatchery fish) and 63,200 Group B index steelhead (50,500 hatchery fish and 12,700 wild fish).
- Passage to date indicates that steelhead returns are tracking less than preseason forecasts.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>										
Year (s)	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total	Number Wild	%	Number Hatchery	%	Total
1984-1989 Ave	64,900	29.5	163,300	70.5	228,200	13,500	21.8	54,400	78.2	67,900
1990-1994 Ave	36,300	21.2	133,500	78.8	169,800	7,500	18.8	31,800	81.2	39,300
1995-1999 Ave	34,800	20.4	140,000	79.6	174,800	3,400	14.4	22,800	85.6	26,200
2000	63,600	29	153,100	71	216,700	8,400	21	32,500	79	40,900
2001	137,200	27	377,900	73	515,100	12,000	14	74,300	86	86,400
2002	87,300	27	235,800	73	323,100	32,300	25	97,600	75	129,900
2003	66,400	22	238,100	78	304,500	6,500	17	32,000	83	38,500
2004	56,100	25	167,000	75	223,100	7,700	17	36,700	83	44,400

- Based on counts through September 14 the TAC downgraded Group A and Group B steelhead run sizes, for a combined run size of 268,200. On September 22, the TAC downgraded the wild Group B return to 7,700.

Fall Chinook

- The 2004 preseason forecast for fall chinook salmon was near 634,900 adults and was comprised of 406,000 brights (64%) and 229,000 tules (36%).
- The McNary Dam escapement goal of 43,500 adults has been achieved for the 21st consecutive year with a total count of 113,000 adult fall chinook through September 21.
- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 13 to determine tule/bright stock separation and adult passage through September 22 has included 333,300 brights (58%) and 167,600 tules (42%). Typically about 90% of the bright passage and 98% of the tule passage occurs prior to September 22.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</i>					
		Sept. 21 Daily	Cumulative through September 21		
			2004	2003	Ten Year Average
Bonneville	Bright	7,900	326,600	375,700	196,100
	Tules	1,400	166,500	164,700	62,300
	Total Counts	9,300	493,100	540,400	258,400
The Dalles		5,069	226,138	247,730	125,730
John Day		2,370	154,045	159,130	86,852
McNary		5,677	113,008	117,137	63,810
Priest Rapids		508	26,271	28,956	16,728
Ice Harbor		484	15,472	13,243	5,079
Lower Granite		415	8,897	5,774	2,436

Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River mouth				
Stock	2003 Return	2004 Preseason Forecast	9/20/04 Update	9/23/04 Update
URB	373,200	287,000	333,000	345,000
MCB	150,200	88,800	99,100	103,100
BPH	180,600	150,000	182,000	182,000
LRH	155,000	79,000	79,100	79,100
LRW	26,000	24,200	24,100	24,100
SAB	8,100	6,000	6,000	6,000
Total	893,100	634,900	723,300	739,300

- A total of 24,000 males, 19,100 females, and 2,400 jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 21, which exceeds the escapement goals of 7,000 adults and 4,000 females.
- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery through September 23 have exceeded the escapement goals of 3,600 fish to Big Creek and 2,000 adults (1,500 females and 500 males) to the hatchery. Returns have been comprised of 3,877 males, 3,544 females, and 73 jacks.
- Returns of jack fall chinook are 28,000 brights and 1,800 tules (including adult-size jacks) counted at Bonneville Dam through September 22. Typically 71% of the bright jacks and 97% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam by September 22.

Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery Returns						
Hatchery/Stock			Escapement			Comments
	Returns	As of:	Preseason Projected	In-season Projection	Goal	
Elochoman LRH	1,500	22-Sep	2,800	1,600	1,400	Likely short
Cowlitz LRH	1,700	22-Sep	2,100	5,000	2,700	Too early to predict
Toutle LRH	500	22-Sep	2,600	1,400	1,900	Too early to predict
Kalama LRH	2,600	22-Sep	3,900	3,200	1,800	Likely short
Washougal LRH	4,100	22-Sep	3,000	7,000	2,800	Goal achieved
<i>Total WA LRH</i>	10,400		14,400	18,200	10,600	
Big Creek LRH	7,400	23-Sep	13,200		3,600	Goal achieved
Willamette LRH	358	14-Sep	NA		--	
<i>Total OR LRH</i>	7,800		13,200		3,600	
Youngs Bay SAB	3,300	19-Sep	4,200		--	
Klaskanine SAB	600	23-Sep	1,200		1,500	
Big Creek SAB	6	22-Sep	10		--	
<i>Total SAB</i>	3,900		5,400		1,500	
Bonneville BUB	8,000	22-Sep			5,750	Goal achieved

Coho

- The preseason run size forecast totaled 257,500 adults, including 169,300 early stock and 88,200 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 22 total 71,800 of adult coho, compared to the preseason expectation of 72,900 adults. Passage at Bonneville Dam is typically 80% complete through September 21.
- Based on hatchery returns and fisheries to date, early coho are tracking above the preseason forecast.
- Sandy River wild coho passage over Marmot Dam typically peaks in October. A total of 83 adults have passed Marmot Dam through September 22.
- Through September 22 a total of 842 adult and 46 jack early stock coho have passed North Fork Dam on the Clackamas River. Early stock adult coho passage is typically 40% complete by September 22.

<i>Early Stock Coho Returns</i>					
	Escapement				Comments
	Returns	As of:	Proj. Total	Goal	
Grays H.	300	15-Sep	2,000	1,300	Goal will be achieved
Elochoman H.	1,000	15-Sep	6,000	800	Goal achieved
Kalama H.	230	22-Sep	14,000	500	Goal will be achieved
Toutle H.	11,000	22-Sep	20,000	1,200	Goal achieved
Lewis H.	7,300	23-Sep	20,000	1,600	Goal achieved
<i>Total Washington</i>	<i>19,830</i>		<i>62,000</i>	<i>5,400</i>	
Klask. (NF & SF)	1,500	23-Sep	2,000	--	
Big Creek H.	800	22-Sep	1,200	700	Goal achieved
Eagle Creek NFH	1,500	23-Sep	3,500	3,300	Should meet goal
Sandy H.	NA	--	NA	1,200	Should meet goal
Bonneville H.	16,100	22-Sep	23,000	5,100	Goal achieved
<i>Total Oregon</i>	<i>19,900</i>		<i>29,700</i>	<i>10,300</i>	
Bonneville Dam	71,787	22-Sep	90,000	--	Preseason expectation of 72,900
Willamette Falls	69	14-Sep	NA	--	

FISHERY UPDATES

Buoy 10 Sport Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery (from the mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened August 1 for chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. Daily salmon bag limit was two fish, of which one could be a chinook. In Joint State Action the retention of chinook was prohibited effective September 7, 2004.
- Through September 6, angler trips have totaled 62,200 and resulted in 16,100 chinook and 14,400 coho being kept.
- Sampling data for last week indicates that both catch and effort have declined to minimal levels.

Mainstem Sport Fishery

- Under permanent regulations the Columbia River opened to summer steelhead angling May 16 below the I-5 Bridge and June 16 from the I-5 Bridge to the Hwy. 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington.
- 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. Non-adipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from Bonneville Dam. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day and downstream from Bonneville Dam only one of the two fish adult bag limit may be a chinook. In joint state action the fishery below Bonneville Dam was closed to chinook retention effective October 1 to remain within preseason allocation and ESA impact limits.
- An estimated 1,976 adult chinook were landed during the month of August from 21,100 angler trips.
- Effort during September was high with up to 1,500 boats counted on weekend days and up to 800 boats on weekdays. Recent weekly effort has declined to less than 200 boats per day.
- Chinook fishing was excellent with catch rates exceeding one chinook kept per boat river wide on several days during the first two weeks of September.
- The estimated adult chinook catch for September 1-30 is 14,000 (16,000 season total) from 64,800 angler trips (86,000 season total).
- An estimated 1,900 marked steelhead were retained and 700 unmarked steelhead were released during the month of August with 250 steelhead kept and 80 released during September 1-30.
- Bonneville Pool catch and effort are building, with most activity near the tributary mouths.

August Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Preseason modeling projected landings of 12,000 chinook, including 1,400 URB's (12%) during the early August commercial fishery and 4,700 chinook, including 1,700 URB's (37%) during the late August fishery. The commercial white sturgeon protocol allocated 2000 white sturgeon to August fisheries
- A total of eight fishing periods occurred between August 3 and August 26.

<i>August Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings</i>					
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Aug 3-11	550	5,346	24	1,550	6
Aug 16-26	303	5,909	19	917	0
Total	853	11,255	43	2,467	6

- Based on CWT data, chinook landings during August fisheries were comprised of 71% brights and 29% tules as compared to preseason expectations of 43% brights and 57% tules.
- An estimated 4,840 URB adult fall chinook were landed during August fisheries, which is near the preseason expectation of 4,950.
- A total of three fishing periods occurred during September 19-22.
- Chinook landings were higher than expected and coho landings were similar to expected.

<i>September Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings</i>					
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Sept 19-20 (Z 1-5)	171	8,962	1,562	410	4
Sept 21 (Z 1-3)	146	3,913	7,593	63	2
Sept 21-22 (Z 3-5)	37	1,674	176	39	0
Total	354	14,549	9,331	512	6

- Preliminary stock composition estimates from the September 19 fishery shows that URBs are less than expected, although there are more CWTs to be read.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The first four 30-hour fishing periods of the fall season occurred in Youngs Bay during August from 6 AM Wednesday through noon Thursday each week. An additional 3-day fishing period occurred from 6 AM Tuesday August 31 through 6 AM Friday September 3. The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week (effective noon Tuesday September 7) through the end of October. Preseason catch expectations for the Youngs Bay fishery included 4,200 chinook and 50,000 coho.
- Other Select Area fisheries are currently open four nights per week through the end of October with a preseason catch expectation of 34,200 coho; including 14,500 in Tongue Point, 6,800 in Blind Slough, 7,800 in Deep River, and 5,100 in Steamboat Slough.

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries Update (through 9/22/04)</i>								
Stock	Early	Mid-Late	Late Fall	Select Areas				
	August	August	September	Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
URB	1,604	3,236						
BUB/LRB	0	481						
PUB	212	425						
BPH	590	1,192						
LRH	1,076	90						
LRW	0	0						
SAB	1,715	8						
Others	109	28						
<i>Total Chinook</i>	<i>5,306</i>	<i>4,605</i>	<i>14,549</i>	<i>3,111</i>	<i>2,080</i>	<i>5,996</i>	<i>334</i>	
Coho	24	19	9,331	18,882	9,065	1,031	4,067	
W. Sturgeon	1,550	917	512	17	18	54	1	
G. Sturgeon	6	0	6	0	0	0	0	

- Landings to date in Youngs Bay are less than preseason catch expectations for coho and are similar to preseason expectations for chinook. Based on LV clips, an estimated 92% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay to date have been SAB's.

2004 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary		
<u>Fishery</u>	<u>Commercial Allocation =</u> <u>Guideline</u>	<u>Catch</u>
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,000	1,870
Select Area Gillnet (thru 9/18)	400	269
August Gillnet	2,000	2,478
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,600	512
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	5,129
	Quota Remaining =	2,871

Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- At the August 20 hearing the Compact adopted four fishing periods in all of Zone 6 during August 25 through September 17. The fishery was initiated with a 2½-day season (6 AM Wednesday-6 PM Friday) followed by two 3½-day seasons (6 AM Tuesday-6 PM Friday), and one 4½-day season (6 AM Monday-6 PM Friday).
- At the September 16 hearing the Compact adopted one additional 4½-day season from 6 AM Monday September 20 through 6 PM Friday September 24.

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:	7 AM to 7 PM Monday September 27 7 AM to 7 PM Wednesday September 29
Area:	Zones 1-3 and Zone 4 downstream of the upper end of Bachelor Island
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, and Lewis-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 five 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 27 to 1 AM Tuesday September 28 8 PM Wednesday September 29 to 1 AM Thursday September 30
Area:	Zones 4 Upstream of the Upper end of Bachelor Island through Zone 5
Sanctuaries:	Sandy and Washougal rivers
Gear:	8 inch minimum and 9 ¾ inch maximum mesh size
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of five 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 3,000-5,000 chinook, 10,000-20,000 coho, and 500-700 sturgeon.
- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ The proposed season provides an opportunity to harvest surplus hatchery produced coho and chinook salmon.
- ✓ Restriction of fishery to large mesh gear upstream of the Bachelor Island will minimize impacts on state-listed coho salmon.

Treaty Indian Commercial Fisheries

- The tribes are expected to propose an additional commercial fishing period at this hearing.

Impacts Summary

<i>Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2004</i>			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S	260	240	
Commercial through Sep 17	85,700	27,200	
Treaty Indian Total			23.04
Non-Indian Fisheries			
Early August Commercial	5,300	1,600	
Mid-Late August Commercial	5,800	3,200	
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	8,300	500	
Buoy 10 Sport (Total)	16,100	3,600	
LCR Sport through Sep 30 (Proj. Total)	16,000	9,100	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	2,100	1,500	
September Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	19,500	7,400	
October Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	5,500	1,300	
Non-Indian Total	73,100	28,200	
URB run Size		345,000	8.25

- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead by treaty Indian fisheries will be provided by the tribes.
- Freshwater fishery impacts to Oregon state listed wild coho destined for Lower Columbia River tributaries are projected to total 6.4% as compared to the ESA-related impact limit of 15%.

Proposed Compact Hearing

- The Joint Staff is recommending that a Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled for 10 AM, October 1, 2004 at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (17330 SE Evelyn Street, Clackamas, Oregon) for the purposes of updating salmon and steelhead stock status and considering additional treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
September 24, 2004