

FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
September 16, 2004

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Non-Indian mainstem commercial Select Area Commercial Treaty Indian mainstem commercial
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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.
 - 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.

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 have 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 were elevated during the month of August, ranging between 71-74°F. On average, water temperatures during August have typically fluctuated between 61-71°F.
- 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 14	Cumulative Total Through September 14			
		Daily	2004	2003	2002	2001
Bonneville	Group A Index	NA	NA	274,659	302,934	474,219
	Group B Index	NA	NA	21,291	64,344	47,321
	Total	4,933	228,806	295,950	367,278	521,540
The Dalles		3,183	148,388	145,918	227,805	308,241
John Day		2,966	129,194	126,324	167,077	199,428
McNary		5,292	96,032	82,343	114,497	160,509
Ice Harbor		2,572	64,077	48,138	69,487	77,551
Lower Granite		3,120	25,255	19,545	41,199	36,482
Priest Rapids		528	13,255	12,060	12,257	20,130

- As of September 12, 58% 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	8,400	17	36,700	83	45,100

- 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. Group A was reduced to 167,000 hatchery fish and 56,100 wild fish and Group B was reduced to 45,100 including 36,100 hatchery and 8,400 wild fish.
- A return of 268,200 summer steelhead to the Columbia River would be similar to the ten year average.

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 78,200 adult fall chinook through September 14.
- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 13 to determine tule/bright stock separation and adult passage through September 14 has included 264,000 brights (65%) and 141,900 tules (35%). Typically about 76% of the bright passage and 86% of the tule passage occurs prior to September 14.
- Based on counts through September 14, the TAC updated the river mouth run size to 702,200 adults, including 448,200 (64%) brights and 254,000 (36%) tules.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</i>					
		Sept. 14 Daily	Cumulative through September 14		
			2004	2003	Ten Year Average
Bonneville	Bright	18,628	263,961	302,518	167,498
	Tules	15,536	141,887	135,530	55,237
	Total Counts	34,164	405,848	438,048	
The Dalles		10,189	177,213	171,145	99,909
John Day		4,608	116,342	94,201	64,063
McNary		8,371	78,236	64,971	43,816
Priest Rapids		1,097	19,316	19,789	13,556
Ice Harbor		678	10,829	7,614	3,732
Lower Granite		460	5,058	2,634	1,330

- Based on dam counts to date, the URB and MCB forecasts were upgraded to 323,800 and 94,200 adults at the river mouth and the BPH forecast was upgraded to 175,000 adults at the

river mouth. Based on recent high CPUE in the lower Columbia River sport fishery, counts are expected to remain strong.

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>			
Stock	2003 Return	2004 Preseason Forecast	9/15/04 Update
URB	373,200	287,000	323,800
SRW	6,900	6,100	6,100
MCB	150,200	88,800	94,200
BPH	180,600	150,000	175,000
LRH	155,000	79,000	79,100
LRW	26,000	24,200	24,100
LRB	2,100	2,100	2,100
SAB	8,100	6,000	6,000
Total	893,100	634,900	702,200

- A total of 14,400 males, 10,100 females, and 1,600 jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 14, which exceeds the escapement goals of 7,000 adults and 4,000 females.
- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery through September 14 have exceeded the escapement goal of 2,000 adults, (1,500 females and 500 males) and have been comprised of 3,602 males, 3,089 females, and 64 jacks.
- Returns of jack fall chinook to date have been similar to the recent 10-year average with 22,300 brights and 1,700 tules (including adult-size jacks) counted at Bonneville Dam through September 14. Typically 48% of the bright jacks and 89% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam by September 14.

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 coho fishing has dropped off with catch rates declining from 0.4 to 0.09 coho per rod.

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.

- An estimated 1,946 adult chinook were landed during the month of August from 21,100 angler trips.
- Effort has been high during September with 1,500 boats counted on Saturday September 11 and 800 boats on Wednesday September 8.
- Chinook fishing has been 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 1-12 is 10,000 (13,400 projected through September 23) from 43,600 angler trips (64,800 season total).
- An estimated 1,900 marked steelhead were retained and 700 unmarked steelhead were released during the month of August with 172 steelhead kept and 55 released during September 1-17.
- 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 3-26.

<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.

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 9/3/04)</i>							
Stock	Early August	Mid-Late August	Select Areas				
			Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.	S.S.
URB	1604	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>2,214</i>	<i>1,079</i>	<i>3,323</i>	<i>236</i>	
Coho	24	19	3,354	674	152	1,299	
W. Sturgeon	1,550	917	16	6	48	1	
G. Sturgeon	6	0	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.

<i>2004 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</i>		
Fishery	Commercial Allocation =	8,000
	Guideline	Catch
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,000	1,870
Select Area Gillnet (thru 9/03)	400	254
August Gillnet	2,000	2,478
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,600	0
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	4,600
	Quota Remaining =	3,400

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).

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:	8 PM Sunday September 19 to 6 AM Monday September 20
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy, and Washougal rivers
Gear:	9 ¾ inch maximum mesh size No minimum mesh size restriction downstream of the Longview Bridge 8" minimum mesh size upstream from the Longview Bridge
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:	6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday September 21 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday September 23
Area:	Zones 1-3 (downstream of the Longview Bridge)
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A and Abernathy
Gear:	6 inch maximum mesh size unslackened floater gillnet
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:	7 PM to midnight Tuesday September 21 7 PM to midnight Thursday September 23
Area:	Zones 3-5 (upstream of the Longview Bridge)
Sanctuaries:	Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, 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.

Expected Catch: 8,000-10,000 chinook
10,000-15,000 coho
700-1,000 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 Longview Bridge will minimize impacts on state-listed coho salmon.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following modifications to the salmon fishing periods for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough fishery:	
Season:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 20 through October 29 Open 7 PM – 7 AM (12 hours) from September 20 through September 24 and 6 PM – 8 AM (14 hours) thereafter.
Area:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough
Sanctuaries:	Standard closure within 100 feet of the mouth of Big Creek
Gear:	In both areas restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline (see below).
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.

- ✓ Some fishermen have requested this modification to minimize gear conflicts and interaction with recreational activity.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following modifications to the gear regulations for Blind Slough/Knappa Slough fishery, Tongue Point/South Channel, Deep River, and Steamboat Slough:	
Gear:	Allow the attachment of additional weights and anchors directly to the leadline.

- ✓ Fishermen and enforcement have requested this modification to clarify the existing regulation and minimize gear loss in the Select Areas. This recommendation is consistent with current fishing practices.

2005 Winter Season Salmon Gear Requirements

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends that when large mesh gear is used during the 2005 Columbia River winter season non-Indian commercial salmon fisheries, the mesh size will be 9 inch minimum.	
Gear:	9 inch minimum and 9 ¾ inch maximum mesh size

- ✓ Adoption of this regulation will allow fisherman to plan and purchase the appropriate gear well in advance of any 2005 winter season.

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 Commercial through Sep 17 (Proj. Total)	260	240	
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)	16,000	3,600	
LCR Sport through Sep 23 (Proj. Total)	15,400	8,800	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	2,100	1,500	
September Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	14,700	6,200	
October Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	5,500	1,200	
Non-Indian Total	73,100	26,600	
URB run Size		323,800	8.25

- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead by treaty Indian fisheries will be provide 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 Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending that a Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled for 10 AM, September 24, 2004 at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (2108 Grand Blvd, Vancouver WA) 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 16, 2004