

FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
August 13, 2004

***Fisheries Under Consideration:* Non-Indian commercial mainstem**

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon

- 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.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during August 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:**
 - An August salmon fishery up to 3 nights per week during the first two weeks of August (modeled dates were August 3, 5, 8, 10, 12). Mesh size is 8-inch minimum and area is Zones 1-5. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.49% (12% of the total commercial impacts of 3.96%) and total chinook catch expectation is 12,000 fish. Chinook/URB impacts not used in this fishery will transfer to future commercial fisheries.
 - During the third week of August the fishery is expected to occur up to 2 nights per week in Zones 2-5 and Zones 3-5. Modeled dates were August 15 (Zone 2-5) and August 17 (Zone 3-5). Mesh size is 8-inch minimum. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.60% plus any impacts remaining from the first two weeks of August.
 - Late August Zone 4-5 fishery during the last week of August. Fishing is expected to occur up to 2 nights per week with breaks between fishing days. Modeled dates were August 23rd and 25th. Mesh size is 9-inch minimum. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.63% (16% of the total commercial impact of 3.96%). Chinook/URB impacts not used in this fishery will transfer to September fisheries.
 - Fishing areas and days in August fisheries may change based on in-season updates.
 - Sturgeon management will be consistent with sturgeon protocol adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.

- Based on pre-season run size forecasts and North of Falcon negotiations, the catch allocation for commercial fisheries occurring during August is 22,100 chinook, including 4,950 URB's.

Sturgeon

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2003-2005 are guided by a Joint State management plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- The annual allocation for commercial fisheries, including Select Area fisheries, is 8,000 white sturgeon, which represents 20% of the annual harvestable number of 40,000.
- Commercial fisheries will be further managed based on protocol adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.

<i>Protocol for Management of White Sturgeon in 2003-2005 Commercial Fisheries</i>	
✓	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.

- The white sturgeon protocol provides for possession and sales limits but does not specify whether possession and sales limits should be in the form of daily or weekly limits.

STOCK STATUS

- Fall chinook salmon returns are expected to be 634,900 adults, with brights comprising the majority.
- The 2004 fall chinook return is forecasted to be comprised of 406,000 brights (64%) and 229,000 tules (36%).
- Passage over Bonneville Dam during August 1-12 has been relatively stable and similar to expectations with daily counts ranging between 515 and 965 adults.
- Through August 12, a total of 7,900 adult fall chinook have passed Bonneville Dam. Typically about 2% of the adult fall chinook passage occurs prior to August 13.

<i>Summary of 2003 Actual and Current 2004 Forecasts of Adult Salmon and Steelhead Returns to the Columbia River.¹</i>			
Species, stock	2003 Return	2004 Forecast	Comments
Fall chinook	893,200	634,900	Fifth largest since 1948
Upriver bright (URB)	373,200	287,000	Third largest since 1988
Snake River wild (SRW)	6,900	6,100	Similar to recent 5-year average
Mid-Columbia bright (MCB)	150,200	88,800	Forth largest on record (since 1980)
Bonneville upriver bright (BUB)	80,600	37,200	
Pool upriver bright (PUB)	67,500	49,500	
Lower river bright (LRB)	2,100	2,100	Formally a component of BUB stock
Bonneville pool hatchery (BPH)	180,600	150,000	Third largest on record (since 1980)
Lower river hatchery (LRH)	155,000	79,000	Fifth largest since 1989
Lower river wild (LRW)	26,000	24,200	Third largest since 1989
Select area bright (SAB)	8,100	6,000	Based on a five year average
Upriver summer steelhead	344,200	388,100	Third largest since 1984
Skamania index (May 1 - June 30)	14,200	18,300	12,800 hatchery and 5,500 wild
A-run index (length <78cm)	306,500	306,600	224,200 hatchery and 82,400 wild
B-run index (length ≥78cm)	37,700	63,200	50,500 hatchery and 12,700 wild
Coho	694,800	257,500	40% of recent 5-year average
Early stock	502,000	169,300	
Late stock	192,800	88,200	

¹ Columbia River mouth return, except summer steelhead is Bonneville Dam return.

COMMERCIAL FISHERY UPDATES

Early August

- At the July 29 hearing, the Compact adopted five (7 PM-7 AM) fishing periods on the nights of August 3, 5, 8, 10, and 12. Open area was all of Zones 1-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh size and a 5 sturgeon per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday) landing and possession limit per vessel.
- The preseason catch expectation for the first two weeks (five fishing days) of August was 12,010 chinook, including 1,410 URBs (12%).
- Landings during the first four fishing periods are estimated to be 5,296 chinook, including 2,175 URBs (41%) and 1,480 white sturgeon.
- Chinook landings were less than preseason projections however URBs made up a larger than expected proportion of the catch.
- Due to the higher than expected URB impacts, the Compact met on August 11 and rescinded the August 12 fishing period.

<i>Early August Commercial Fishery Landings, 2004</i>						
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	% URB	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Aug 3-4	131	1,457	61%	3	474	1
Aug 5-6	133	1,714	34%	4	285	1
Aug 8-9	153	963	32%	6	484	2
Aug 10-11	123	1,162	34%	11	176	2
Total		5,296	41%	24	1,480	6

<i>Early August Commercial Fishery Catch Percent by Zone</i>						
Date	Zone 1 Chinook	Zone 2 Chinook	Zones 3-5 Chinook	Zone 1 Sturgeon	Zone 2 Sturgeon	Zones 3-5 Sturgeon
Aug 3-4	81%	12%	7%	77%	17%	6%
Aug 5-6	77%	18%	5%	60%	33%	7%
Aug 8-9	66%	23%	11%	58%	33%	15%
Aug 10-11	83%	9%	8%	42%	40%	18%

- White sturgeon landings during the first two weeks of August were also similar to preseason expectations.

<i>2004 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</i>		
Fishery	Commercial Allocation = Guideline	Catch
Mainstem Winter/ Summer Gillnet	2,000	1,879
Select Area Gillnet (thru 8/5)	400	173
August Gillnet (thru 8/11)	2,000	1,480
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,600	0
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	3,532
	Quota Remaining =	4,468

FISHERY PROPOSALS

Mainstem Commercial Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	7 PM Monday August 16 to 7 AM Tuesday August 17 (12 hours) 7 PM Wednesday August 18 to 7 AM Thursday August 19 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 3-5
Sanctuaries:	Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restrictions.
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. The five sturgeon possession and sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Expected Catch:	2,000-4,000 chinook 200-300 white sturgeon 0 green sturgeon
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2004 Fall Management Agreement and results of North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ The proposed fishery allows additional opportunity to catch chinook with minimal impacts to URB stock fall chinook.

- ✓ Chinook catch during these two fishing periods is expected to be up to 4,000 chinook (1,300 URBs) and a 0.45% URB impact rate.
- ✓ The URB catch for the first three weeks of August (observed and projected) will be 3,400 URBs (1.18% impact rate) compared to 3,100 URBs (1.09% impact rate) in the preseason fishing plan.
- ✓ The proposed weekly sturgeon retention regulation is consistent with the white sturgeon protocol and will maintain total sturgeon landings within the 2,000 fish allocation for August fisheries.
- ✓ Closed days between fishing periods provide the ability to update and modify the ongoing fishery as needed.
- ✓ General response to past possession and sales limits suggest that weekly limits are preferred over daily limits and reduces complexity of regulations required when adopting new fishing periods or modifying previously adopted fishing periods.
- ✓ Weekly sturgeon limits are not expected to exceed market capacity.

Scheduled Compact Hearings

- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Friday, August 20, 2004 in Hood River, Oregon at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Enforcement Office to consider non-Indian and treaty Indian commercial fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
August 13, 2004