

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
August 17, 2006

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2006 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 27, 2006)

WATER CONDITIONS AND STOCK STATUS

- To date, Columbia River water temperatures during August are averaging 70.8°F, which exceeds both the recent 5-year (69.4°F) and 10-year (70.2°F) averages but is lower than 2005 (71.7°F).
- Passage of fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through August 16 totals 7,420 adults, which is less than the 10-year average of nearly 9,000 adults.

2006 FALL FISHERIES REVIEW

Lower Columbia River Recreational Fisheries

- Chinook catch rates at Buoy 10 through Week 33 averaged 0.01 Chinook/angler, which is less than the average of 0.06 Chinook/angler seen in recent years. Catch rates have increased to an average of 0.18 Chinook/angler, with angler success improving daily since Aug 14. Coho catch rates have also increased since the beginning of the week.

Early August Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The early August season consisted of three fishing periods (7 PM-7 AM) the nights of August 2, 7, and 9 in all of Zones 1-5 with an 8-9¾ inch mesh restriction and a five white sturgeon landing/possession limit.
- Preseason expectations for non-Indian commercial fisheries in early August were for a total Chinook catch of 4,100 fish, including 470 URBs (5% of the 4.13% commercial allocation).
- Preliminary landings were below expectations and included 2,032 Chinook, 40 coho, and 560 white sturgeon.
- Based on CWTs, the fall Chinook catch included about 7% URBs, with the majority of the catch (54%) being LRH stock.
- Impacts to URBs for the early August fishery is estimated to be 0.05% or 1.3% of the 4.13% allocation.

Mid-August Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- At the August 10 hearing, the Compact adopted three fishing periods (7 PM-7 AM) for the nights of August 13, 15, and 17. Open areas included Zone 1-5 (upstream of the Astoria-Megler Bridge) on August 13 and Zones 2-5 on August 15 and 17. Other regulations included an 8-9¾ inch restriction and a seven white sturgeon landing/possession limit.
- Preseason catch expectations consisted of 4,100 Chinook, including 670 URB's (6.5% of the 4.13% allocation).
- Combined landings through August 15 are slightly below preseason expectations:

<i>Early/Mid August Commercial Fishery Landings, 2006</i>				
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
Aug. 2-3 (Z 1-5)	67	286	0	166
Aug. 7-8 (Z 1-5)	97	410	5	208
Aug. 9-10 (Z 1-5)	103	1,336	35	186
Early August Total		2,032	40	560
Aug. 13 (Z 1-5 ^a)	147	2,949	359	511
Aug. 15 (Z 2-5)	104	829	26	225
Aug. 17 (Z 2-5) (proj.)		1,200		
Mid-August Total		4,978		
August Total		7,010	425	1,296

^a Upstream of Astoria-Megler Bridge

- Through August 15, 1,296 white sturgeon (65% of the 2,000 fish August guideline) have been landed in August fisheries. Total landings for the season will likely be 80-90% of the guideline.
- Assuming a catch of 1,200 Chinook from tonight's fishery (August 17), URB impacts are estimated at 0.38% of the run, compared to preseason expectations of 0.46%.

FISHERY RECCOMENDATIONS

Late August Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	7 PM Monday August 21 to 7 AM Tuesday August 22 7 PM Thursday August 24 to 7 AM Friday August 25
Area:	Zones 4- 5
Sanctuaries:	Lewis-A, Washougal, and Sandy River.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 7 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The 7 white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Expected Catch:	Green sturgeon retention is prohibited. 3,600 Chinook 300-350 white sturgeon
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2006 Fall Management Agreement and results of North of Falcon (NOF) negotiation process.
- ✓ Preseason expectations during the late August fishery are for a catch of 3,600 Chinook, including 1,400 URBs (13.6% of the commercial URB allocation)
- ✓ Closed days between fishing periods provide an opportunity to update landings and impacts and modify the second fishing period if needed.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled for Tuesday September 12 to discuss commercial fishing periods for the late fall season expected to begin the week of September 17.
- Additional Compact or Joint State hearings will be scheduled as needed.