

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 13
Columbia River Compact
October 4, 2006**

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| <i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i> | Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries |
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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management guidelines, allocations, and run size forecasts for the 2006 fall season were presented in the 2006 Fall Fact Sheets #1 and #9

STOCK STATUS

Salmon

- The in season river mouth Chinook run size is projected at 412,100 adults, including 221,800 URBs.

| Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth | | | | | | |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2005 | 2006 | 2006 TAC Update | | | |
| Stock | Return | Preseason Forecast | 15-Sep | 20-Sep | 26-Sep | 02-Oct |
| LRH | 78,200 | 57,500 | 57,500 | 57,500 | 57,500 | 57,500 |
| LRW | 16,800 | 16,600 | 16,600 | 16,600 | 16,600 | 16,600 |
| BPH | 93,100 | 51,800 | 36,800 | 38,600 | 34,700 | 34,600 |
| URB | 268,700 | 249,050 | 198,700 | 206,600 | 208,300 | 221,800 |
| MCB | 98,000 | 86,600 | 73,400 | 75,600 | 61,600 | 69,500 |
| SAB | 6,600 | 12,400 | 12,400 | 12,400 | 12,400 | 12,400 |
| Total | 561,400 | 473,950 | 395,400 | 407,300 | 391,100 | 412,400 |

- Preseason forecast for the 2006 coho return to the Columbia River total 256,600 fish, including nearly 190,000 early stock and about 67,000 late stock
- In-season estimates for coho at the Columbia River mouth total 292,000 including 208,500 early and 83,500 late (based on post-season ocean fishery estimates).

FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Six fishing periods have occurred between September 19 and October 3. A weekly landing limit of 8 white sturgeon has been in place for all periods, while area and mesh size restrictions have varied.
- Landings for the Late Fall season through September 28 total 9,700 Chinook, 10,900 coho and 1,375 white sturgeon.
- The most recent 24-hr period occurred on October 2-3 and resulted in landings of 2,500 Chinook, 6,500 coho and 659 sturgeon
- Through October 3, a total of 6,851 white sturgeon have been landed in commercial fisheries (including Select Areas), leaving 1,149 available for harvest.

ESA Impact Summary

- Projected non-Indian impacts on URBs total 7.70% compared to the 8.25% limit
- The non-Indian exploitation rate to the ESA-listed LRH component is projected to be 48.2% compared to the guideline of 49%.

- Treaty Indian impacts to URBs are projected to total 22.03% compared to the 23.04% limit.
- Treaty Indian impacts to Wild B steelhead are estimated at 12.3% compared to the 15% limit.
- The projected exploitation rates on Columbia River coho are estimated at 13.6% for early coho and 13.5% for late coho.
- The harvest rate on Oregon State-listed wild coho is projected at 7.4%

Coho Management

- Coho harvest in ocean fisheries was less than expected, resulting in a larger return of coho to the Columbia River mouth, assuming the preseason forecast was accurate.
- Columbia River fisheries will be managed for this increased run size and the same basic fishing plan developed preseason. This results in an additional harvest of about 7,000 coho.

| Columbia River Coho -- Expected vs. Actual/Projected | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | Expected | Actual | Diff. |
| Columbia River | Coho Run size | 256,600 | 292,000 | 35,400 |
| Wk 39 | Sep 18-24 | 1,400 | 2,500 | 1,100 |
| Wk 40 | Sep 25-Oct 1 | 4,500 | 8,400 | 3,900 |
| Wk 41 | Oct 2- Oct 8 | 4,400 | 6,500 | 2,100 |
| Wk 42 | Oct 9- Oct 15 | 8,400 | 8,500 | 100 |
| | | 18,700 | 25,900 | 7,200 |

FISHERY PROPOSALS

Management considerations

- The states intend to manage for a harvest of 8,500 coho for next week (Oct 9-15) and the following week (Oct 16-22) will most likely consist of one target sturgeon fishery.
- Recent updates to the URB Chinook run size allows for an estimated harvest of 2,400 Chinook before the 8.25% limit is reached (based on preseason stock composition).

October Non-Treaty Commercial Salmon Fishery

| Recommendation | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Season: | 7 PM Sunday October 8- 7 PM Monday October 9 (24 hours) |
| Area: | Zones 1-5 |
| Sanctuaries: | Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy and Washougal rivers |
| Gear: | No minimum and 9 ¾ - inch maximum mesh size |
| Allowable Sales: | Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 8 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Green sturgeon retention prohibited. |
| Other Rules: | Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers. |
| Expected Catch: | Chinook: 1,000-1,500 Coho: 5,000 |

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending that Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled for 11:00 a.m. Wednesday October 11, 2006 via teleconference.