

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 14, 2006**

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	<b>Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem Select Areas Commercial Treaty-Indian Commercial</b>
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**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***Salmon and Steelhead***

- The "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon" provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall season fisheries.
- The TAC submitted a Biological Assessment to NMFS regarding fisheries covered in the "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon". NMFS issued a Biological Opinion on May 9, 2005.
- The 2005-2007 Management Agreement provides that the 31.29% URB impact rate is allocated 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries.
- 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 to not exceed a 2% impact rate on wild Group B index steelhead.
- Ocean and Columbia River fisheries will be managed for a combined exploitation rate of 15% on Lower Columbia River wild coho salmon, and 49% on Lower Columbia ESA listed Chinook.
- 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 a Bonneville Dam escapement of at least 50% of the upriver coho salmon return.
- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed in accordance with the "2006 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed for an impact rate of less than 5% for Columbia River chum salmon.

***Excerpts From the 2006 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook  
Allocation Agreement***

- ✓ URB fall Chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated preseason at 50% (4.125%) to the sport fishery and 50% (4.125%) to the commercial fishery. 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 preseason 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:**
  - The late fall fishery is to begin the week of September 17. Catch expectation for all late fall fisheries is 14,900 Chinook, including 12,700 Chinook for September harvest and 2,200 Chinook for October harvest. The URB allocation is 2.80% (68% of the total commercial impact of 4.125%). Coho harvest is expected to include 5,800 coho harvested during September and 12,900 coho for October fisheries.
  - **A Chinook target fishery in all five zones is desired and is expected to occur for one period sometime during the week of September 17. The Chinook harvest will be determined by the mid-September URB run size and the actual URB impacts remaining.**
  - Directed coho fisheries will occur during October 1-14 (weeks 41 and 42). The coho fishery will generally occur in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours with a 6-inch maximum mesh size.
  - The dates, areas, gear restrictions and catch expectations are a result of preseason planning, which includes input from the commercial fishing industry. In-season events could change many of these expectations.

***Sturgeon***

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2006-2008 are guided by a Joint State management plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is to be allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial with specific size limits in place for both user groups.
- At the December 15, 2005 hearing the Compact adopted protocol regarding white sturgeon retention in Columbia River commercial fisheries during 2006.
- At the July 5, 2006 hearing the Compact adopted regulations to prohibit the retention of green sturgeon in all commercial fisheries in response to the ESA listing.

***Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2006***

- ✓ Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 1,800 for the winter-spring timeframe (January-June 15) with 1,600 for winter sturgeon and 200 for winter salmon, 500 for the summer timeframe (June 16-July 31) with an additional 300 maximum rollover from any remaining winter-spring allocation, 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August) with an additional rollover of any remaining allocation from winter-summer, and **3,300 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 timeframe 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.

## **Water Conditions**

### ***Flow Updates***

- Flow, as measured at Bonneville Dam, was relatively stable in August, ranging between 119-185 kcfs. Average flows during August generally range between 132-153 kcfs.
- As typically occurs during September, flows have dropped significantly, ranging from 87-110 kcfs. Flows during early September typically range between 91-120 kcfs

### ***Temperature Updates***

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, typically peak during the first half of August, and then decline slowly through early September.
- Water temperatures this year were a few degrees higher than average during August, ranging between 70-72°F.
- Water temperatures have been between 69-70°F during the first 11 days of September. Water temperatures during early September typically range between 67-69°F.

## STOCK STATUS

### *Summer Steelhead*

<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>					
	12-Sep	Cumulative Total Through September 12			
	Daily	2006	2005	2004	2003
Bonneville	4,000	273,100	242,200	247,200	299,700
The Dalles	3,400	131,200	111,500	144,000	131,600
John Day	1,800	87,400	92,300	126,800	123,600
McNary	3,400	59,300	65,600	91,200	85,200
Priest Rapids (Sep 6)	NA	5,200	7,100	12,200	11,800
Ice Harbor	3,600	31,500	34,300	61,200	49,300
Lower Granite	900	16,500	19,000	27,000	31,200

- As of September 13, 48% of the steelhead passing Bonneville Dam have passed The Dalles Dam.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>									
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)			Group B Index (>=78 cm)			Total Steelhead		
	Wild	Hatchery	Total	Wild	Hatchery	Total	Wild	Hatchery	Total
1984-1989 Ave	64,900	163,300	228,200	13,500	54,400	67,900	78,400	217,700	296,100
1990-1994 Ave	36,300	133,500	169,800	7,500	31,800	39,300	43,800	165,300	209,100
1995-1999 Ave	34,800	140,000	174,800	3,400	22,800	26,200	38,200	162,800	201,000
2000-2005 Ave	50,600	148,400	199,000	10,500	43,100	53,600	61,100	191,500	252,600
2006 Forecast	62,600	184,000	246,600	10,300	40,600	50,900	72,900	224,600	297,500

- Based on counts through September 12, the TAC upgraded Group A and Group B steelhead run sizes to 252,100 Group A (including 64,000 wild) and 52,000 Group B (including 10,300 wild) for a total 304,100 fish.
- The 2006 Skamania index return of 9,883 was 65% of the preseason forecast of 15,100.

### *Fall Chinook*

- The 2006 preseason forecast for fall Chinook salmon returns included 473,900 adults, comprised of 364,700 brights (77%) and 109,200 tules (23%).
- Observation of fall Chinook passing Bonneville Dam is conducted to determine tule/bright stock separation. Adult passage through September 12 includes 146,500 brights (86%) and 23,430 tules (14%). Typically about 68% of the bright passage and 77% of the tule passage occurs prior to September 12.
- The McNary Dam counts through September 12 total 30,000 adult fall Chinook. The escapement goal of 43,500 adults has been achieved consecutively for over two decades. Passage is typically 50% complete around September 15.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</i>						
		<b>Cumulative through September 12</b>				
		<b>Sept. 12</b>				<b>Ten Year</b>
		<b>Daily</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>Average</b>
<b>Bonneville</b>	Bright	4,800	146,500	195,700	232,200	176,300
	Tules	800	23,400	69,100	117,900	64,100
Total Counts		<i>5,600</i>	<i>169,900</i>	<i>264,800</i>	<i>350,100</i>	<i>240,400</i>
<b>The Dalles</b>		3,500	84,400	118,100	157,700	105,800
<b>John Day</b>		2,000	52,200	78,000	103,900	66,800
<b>McNary</b>		3,000	30,000	45,600	62,500	43,500
<b>Priest Rapid (Sep 6)</b>		NA	4,400	8,100	17,600	13,400
<b>Ice Harbor</b>		500	4,300	4,800	9,100	4,200

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>			
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006 Preseason</b>	<b>09/13/2006</b>
<b>Stock</b>	<b>Return</b>	<b>Forecast</b>	<b>Update</b>
LRH	78,300	57,500	57,500
LRW	16,800	16,600	16,600
BPH	93,200	51,800	<b>36,800</b>
URB	268,700	249,100	<b>198,700</b>
MCB	98,000	86,600	<b>73,400</b>
SAB	6,600	12,400	12,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>561,400</b>	<b>473,900</b>	<b>395,400</b>

- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 13 total of 5,700 Chinook, including 2,700 males, 2,800 females, and 200 jacks. The escapement goal is 7,000 adults, including 4,000 females.
- Returns to Big Creek Hatchery through September 13 include about 700 females (goal 1,500 females and 1,500 males).
- Returns to Bonneville Hatchery through September 12 include 2,852 bright and 162 tule fall Chinook, and 9,139 coho.

## **FISHERY UPDATES**

### ***Buoy 10 Sport Fishery***

- The Buoy 10 fishery (Columbia mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened August 1 for Chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. The daily salmon bag limit is two fish, of which one can be a Chinook.
- The 2006 Buoy 10 fishery has not met expectations. Through September 10 an estimated 38,000 anglers have kept 1,700 Chinook and 3,600 coho. Typically the Buoy 10 fishery is nearly complete by the end of Labor Day weekend.

**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 from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Hood River Bridge. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day with only one Chinook per day allowed downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- An estimated 5,000 Chinook were landed during the month of August from 34,600 angler trips. This catch is second to the August 2002 record high of 5,100 Chinook.
- Effort has continued to be high during September with 1,100 boats/day counted on Saturday September 3 and Wednesday September 7, and over 1,700 boats counted on Saturday September 9.
- Average Chinook catch rates reached 0.7 Chinook kept per boat on several days during the first two weeks of September. Catch rates have been declining since September 9.
- The estimated adult Chinook catch projected through September 14 is 14,100 from 72,600 angler trips.
- During the month of August, steelhead catch estimates include 2,800 kept and 1,100 released. Catch from September 1-10 is estimated at 174 steelhead kept and 34 released.
- The fishery between Bonneville Dam and Tongue Point/Rocky Point is scheduled to close to Chinook retention effective 12:01 a.m. Friday September 15. The fishery from Bonneville Dam to Highway 395 bridge in Pasco, Washington will close to Chinook retention effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday September 16.

**August Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries**

- Preseason catch expectations for Early Fall fisheries were 11,700 Chinook, including 2,540 URBs (22%). URB impacts were expected to be about 25% of the commercial allocation of (4.13%). A total of 2,000 white sturgeon were allocated to Early Fall fisheries.
- Eight fishing periods occurred between August 2-25. An 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction was in place and a 7 sturgeon weekly landing limit was maintained throughout the season. Area restrictions (rolling zones) were imposed beginning August 15.

<i>2006 Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings</i>					
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Aug 2,7,9	274	2,122	40	591	--
Aug 13,15,17	365	5,319	505	957	--
Aug 21,24	111	3,300	285	363	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>10,741</b>	<b>830</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>--</b>

**Select Area Commercial Fisheries**

- The fall commercial season in Select Areas began in Youngs Bay with one 30-36 hour period weekly during the first four weeks of August. An additional 3-day fishing period occurred from August 29 through September 1. The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open

seven days per week through the end of October. Preseason catch expectations for the Youngs Bay fishery included  $\leq 4,800$  Select Area Bright (SAB) fall chinook and 28,000 coho.

- Fishing periods in the other Select Areas began September 4 or 5 with 3-4, 12-hour nightly fishing periods each week through September 15. Beginning September 18, these areas will all open four nights (hours vary by site) per week through October 27 with a combined preseason catch expectation of 10,000 coho. Site-specific coho catch expectations are for 5,000 in Tongue Point, 2,500 in Blind Slough, and 2,500 in Deep River.

<b>2006 Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries Update (through 9/12/06)</b>							
Stock	Early	Mid-	Late	Select Areas <sup>a</sup>			
	August	August	August	Y.B.	T.P.	B.S.	D.R.
URB	80	1680	690				
BUB/LRB	0	520	1380				
PUB	100	770	30				
BPH	670	1930	840				
LRH	1,050	0	140				
LRW	0	240	0				
SAB	100	0	0				
<i>Total Chinook</i>	2,100	5,300	3,300	3,100	200	29	69
Coho	40	500	280	15,400	7,400	250	106
W. Sturgeon	590	960	360	59	4	0	0

<sup>a</sup> Site-specific landings may not be accurate due to mixing of the catch during some fishing periods. Data will be verified with fish tickets at a later date.

- Except for Tongue Point, Select Area landings to date are tracking below preseason expectations.

### **Sturgeon Harvest**

- Through September 11, a total of 4,713 white sturgeon (59% of the commercial guideline) have been landed in commercial fisheries (including Select Areas), leaving 3,287 available for harvest.

<b>2006 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</b>		
Fishery	Annual Commercial Allocation = Guideline	Catch
Mainstem Winter Gillnet	2,000	1,939
Select Area Gillnet (thru 9/11)	400	319
Summer season	500	544
August Gillnet	2,000	1,911
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,300	0
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	4,713
	Quota Remaining =	3,287

***Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery***

- Preseason catch expectations for treaty Indian fisheries totaled 88,300 Chinook including 57,400 URBs.
- Three weekly fishing periods have taken place during August 21 through September 9. These periods occurred 3.5 to 4.5 days per week, with no mesh restriction in place until the week of Sept 5, when an 8-inch minimum was implemented.
- A fourth fishing period is currently underway, consisting of a 4.5 day period from September 11-15 with an 8-inch minimum mesh requirement.

<b>2006 Treaty - Indian Fisheries</b>					
<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Nets</b>	<b>Chinook Catch</b>		<b>Steelhead Catch</b>	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>URB</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Wild B</b>
Platform (thru 9/1)	--	360	319	1,389	10
August 21-24	205	1,688	1,494	1,322	25
August 28-Sept 1	266	7,097	4,206	1,457	37
Sept 5-9	461	17,295	8,366	2,803	133
Sept 11-15 (Proj.)	500				
<b>Total</b>					

**FISHERY PROPOSALS**

***September Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery***

<b>Recommendation</b>		
Season:	8 PM Tuesday September 19 to 8 AM Wednesday September 20 (12 hours)	
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy, and Washougal rivers	
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of seven white 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:	4,000 – 6,000 Chinook 1,000 coho 600 - 700 white sturgeon	

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ The Tuesday night opener considers schedules for other fisheries (Willapa and Select Areas).
- ✓ This proposal is reflective of the reduced run sizes and corresponding reduction in allowable Chinook harvest.
- ✓ Goals of the late fall fishery from North of Falcon discussions include:
  - Chinook target fishery in all five Zones.
  - Opportunity to harvest white sturgeon.



**Select Area Commercial**

<i>Recommendation</i>
Adjust the white sturgeon retention limit in Select Area commercial fisheries to coincide with the mainstem limit.

**Treaty Indian Commercial**

- Future treaty fishing seasons will be proposed by the tribes.

**Impacts Summary**

<i>Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2006</i>			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
<b>Treaty Indian Fisheries</b>			
August C&S	360	320	
Commercial through Sep 15 (Proj.)			
Future Commercial (Proj.)			
Treaty Indian Total			
<b>Non-Indian Fisheries</b>			
August Commercial	10,700	2,450	
Select Area Commercial (Proj.)	12,700	620	
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj.)	1,800	440	
LCR Sport through Sep 14 (Proj.)	14,100	8,670	
Zone 6 Sport (Proj.)	200	100	
September Commercial Fisheries (Proj.)	7,800	3,470	
October Commercial Fisheries (Proj.)	2,100	650	
Non-Indian Total	49,400	16,400	8.25%
URB Run Size		198,700	

- The exploitation rate to the ESA-listed LRH component is projected to be 47.7% compared to the guideline of 49%.

**Future Compact Hearings**

- The Joint Staff is recommending that a Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled 10:00 AM Friday September 22 to update salmon and steelhead stock status and considering additional treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River.