

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10
Columbia River Compact
September 22, 2006**

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Non-Indian mainstem commercial
---------------------------------------	---------------------------------------

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

Summer Steelhead

- The 2006 Skamania index return of 9,883 was 65% of the preseason forecast of 15,100.
- The 2006 Preseason forecasts for Group A and Group B index steelhead include 246,600 Group A steelhead (62,600 wild) and 50,900 Group B steelhead (10,300 wild).
- Based on counts through September 20, the TAC upgraded Group A and Group B steelhead run sizes to 254,900 Group A (including 64,700 wild) and 52,600 Group B (including 10,600 wild) for a total of 307,500 summer steelhead passing Bonneville Dam.

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%).
- Based on Bonneville Dam observations (BDO), adult passage through September 20 includes 198,350 brights and 28,750 tules. Typically about 86% of the bright passage and 96% of the tule passage occurs prior to September 20.
- Based on counts through September 20, the TAC updated the river mouth run size to 407,300 adults, including 313,000 brights and 94,300 tules.

Bonneville Dam passage of jack fall chinook through September 20 includes 15,750 bright and 500 tule fall chinook (16,250 total). Ten-year average counts for this date total 22,600 bright jacks and 3,300 tule jacks (23,100 total). Typically 66% of the bright jacks and 96% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam by September 20.

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>				
Stock	2005 Return	2006		
		Preseason Forecast	09/15/2005 Update	09/20/2005 Update
LRH	78,300	57,500	57,500	57,500
LRW	16,800	16,600	16,600	16,600
BPH	93,200	51,800	36,800	36,800
URB	268,700	249,100	198,700	206,600
MCB	98,000	86,600	73,400	75,600
SAB	6,600	12,400	12,400	12,400
Total	561,400	473,900	395,400	407,300

- McNary Dam counts have totaled 45,800 Chinook through Sept 20. The escapement goal of 43,500 adults has been met. Passage is about 65% complete.
- Spring Creek Hatchery has met the escapement goals of 7,000 adults and 4,000 females. Returns total 8,200 Chinook, including 4,400 females through September 20.
- As of September 20, Big Creek Hatchery has been receiving lower than expected returns of tules. The hatchery will most likely fall short of its broodstock needs and is planning to obtain additional broodstock from other sources.
- Lower Columbia hatchery returns to date have been less than expected, base on preseason projections. Timing varies among the hatcheries; some are typically 50% complete, others are less than 5% complete:

2006 Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery Returns						
Hatchery/Stock	Returns	As of:	Preseason Projected	In-season Projection	Broodstock Goal	Comments
*Elochoman LRH	800	20-Sep	900	1,400	1,400	Behind on BS collection
Cowlitz LRH	950	20-Sep	2,800	2,800	2,700	Too early
*Toutle LRH	300	20-Sep	2,500	2,500	1,600	Too early
Kalama LRH	1,800	20-Sep	2,800	3,000	2,700	Behind on BS collection
Washougal LRH	150	20-Sep	5,700	1,500	2,500	Too early
Total WA LRH	4,000		14,700	11,200	10,900	
<i>*Hatchery goals may be higher due to mortality/fecundity rates</i>						
Willamette Falls LRH	500	16-Sep				
Big Creek LRH	1,700	20-Sep	4,000	1,500	3,000	Poor returns to date
Total OR LRH	2,200		4,000	1,500	3,000	
Youngs Bay SAB	3000	19-Sep	4,800		--	Returns less than expected
Klaskanine SAB	0	20-Sep	1,300		1,500	Trap opens 22-Sep
Total SAB	3,000		6,100		1,500	
Bonneville BUB	2,900	20-Sep			5,750	

Coho

- The preseason run size forecast totaled 256,600 adults, including 189,900 early stock and 66,700 late stock.
- Early stock coho passage through the lower Columbia River typically peaks in mid-September.
- Late stock returns typically begin to enter the lower Columbia River in late September and peak in October.

Early Stock Coho

- Bonneville Dam counts through September 20 total 54,000 adult coho. Passage at Bonneville Dam is typically 80% complete through September 20.
- Sandy River wild coho passage over Marmot Dam typically peaks in October. About 50 adults have passed Marmot Dam through September 19.

- Through September 18 a total of 471 adult early stock coho have passed Faraday Dam on the Clackamas River.
- Based on limited fisheries and hatchery returns to date, early coho appear to be tracking within the preseason forecast expectations.

2006 Early Stock Coho Returns						
	Returns	As of:	Pre-season projection	In-season projection	Broodstock Goal	Comments
Grays H.	0	20-Sep	2,050		600	Too early
Elochoman H.	10	20-Sep	1,800		400	Too early
Kalama H.	30	20-Sep	3,250		700	Too early
Toutle H.	20	20-Sep	12,700		400	Too early
Lewis H.	5,400	20-Sep	13,400		900	Looks positive
Total Washington	5,460		33,200		3,000	
Big Creek H.	300	20-Sep			1,400	Appear on target
Willamette Falls Eagle Creek NFH	200	16-Sep				Appear on target
Sandy H.	<50	20-Sep			3,500	Fish in system
Bonneville H.	<50	20-Sep			1,200	Fish in system
Bonneville H.	3,400	20-Sep			5,100	Approaching goal
Total Oregon	3,900				10,500	
Bonneville Dam	54,000	20-Sep	65,600	67,500	--	Early stock counts end Oct. 1
Marmot Dam (Sandy)	50-60	20-Sep				2000-2005 average ~900 adults
Faraday Dam (Clackamas)	417	9/18				2000-2005 average is 2,000 adults

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.
- Through September 17 an estimated 39,000 anglers have kept 1,700 Chinook and 3,700 coho.

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.

- Due to the recreational allocation of URB impacts being met, the fishery from Bonneville Dam downstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line was closed to Chinook retention effective 12:01 a.m. Friday September 15. The area remains open for hatchery coho and hatchery steelhead retention under permanent regulations.
- The fishery from Bonneville Dam to Highway 395 bridge in Pasco, Washington was closed to Chinook retention effective 12:01 a.m. Saturday September 16. The area remains open to coho and hatchery steelhead retention under permanent regulations.

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 from August 2-25. An 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction was in place and a weekly landing limit of seven white sturgeon 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	--
Total	750	10,741	830	1,911	--

- Based on CWT data, Chinook landings during August fisheries were comprised of 49% brights and 51% tules, which matches preseason expectations.
- An estimated 2,471 URB adult fall Chinook were landed during August fisheries, which is slightly less than the preseason expectation of 2,540 URBs.

September Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

- One fishing period has occurred during the evening of Tuesday September 19 (8PM-8AM) in Zones 1-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. Chinook catch expectations ranged from 4,000 to 5,000 fish.
- Actual landings included 6,556 Chinook, 2,313 coho and 662 sturgeon from 146 deliveries.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week and the other Select Areas are open four nights per week through the end of October.
- Preseason catch expectations for the Youngs Bay fishery include: ≤4,800 Chinook and 28,000 coho. Site-specific coho catch expectations are for 5,000 in Tongue Point, 2,500 in Blind Slough, and 2,500 in Deep River.
- Select Area landings to date are tracking below preseason expectations.

2006 Fall Select Area Commercial Fishery Landings					
Site	Landings Period	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon	Green Sturgeon
Youngs Bay	8/3-9/17	3,444	17,413	69	0
Tongue Pnt/S. Channel	8/30-9/17	242	8,324	7	0
Blind/Knappa Sloughs	8/30-9/17	40	346	0	0
Deep River	8/30-9/17	134	678	1	0
Total		3,860	26,761	77	0

- Based on LV clips, an estimated 87% of the fall Chinook landed in Youngs Bay through September 15 have been SABs.

Sturgeon Harvest

- Through September 20, a total of 5,456 white sturgeon (68% of the commercial guideline) have been landed in commercial fisheries (including Select Areas), leaving 2,544 available for harvest.
- White sturgeon harvest in Select Areas during Winter-Summer fisheries totaled 317 fish, and an additional 83 were caught in fall fisheries through September 20, bringing the total to 400 fish (100% of allocation).
- Projected sturgeon landings for the remainder of the Select Area commercial fishing season is an additional 40-50 white sturgeon.

Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Preseason catch expectations for treaty Indian fisheries totaled 88,300 Chinook including 57,400 URBs.
- Four weekly fishing periods have taken place during August 21 through September 15. 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.
- Two additional weeks of fishing are in place for September 18-22 and September 25-29.
- Projected treaty-Indian impacts to wild Group B steelhead are estimated at 9.6% (15% limit) and impacts to URB Chinook are estimated at 19% (23.04% limit).

Combined URB Impacts

2006 Non-Treaty Fall Fishery Impacts Summary			
	Total Chinook	URB Chinook	Percent of run
Non-Treaty Fisheries			
Buoy 10 Sport (Proj. Season Total)	1,725	870	
LCR Sport (through Sep 14)	13,800	8,490	
Zone 6 Sport (through Sep 15)	190	110	
Sport Total	15,715	9,470	4.58%
Early Fall Commercial	10,700	2,480	
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	4,100	50	
September Commercial Fisheries (Sep 19)	6,560	2,800	
September Commercial Fisheries (Sep 25, 27)	3,500	1,510	
October Commercial Fisheries (Proj. Total)	2,100	6,80	
Commercial Total	26,960	7,590	3.67%
Non-Treaty Total	42,675	17,060	8.25%
Non-Treaty Total Impact Limit			8.25%
URB run Size (in-season)		206,600	

- The exploitation rate to the ESA-listed LRH component is projected to be 47.8% compared to the guideline of 49%.

FISHERY PROPOSALS

September Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

Recommendation-Target White Sturgeon Fishery	
Season:	7 AM to 7 PM Monday September 25, 2006 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Large sanctuaries: Elokomin-B, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis B, Sandy and Washougal rivers
Gear:	9 inch 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.
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.
Expected Catch:	Coho: <500 Chinook: <500 Sturgeon: 600- 1,000

- ✓ Daylight fishing will reduce Chinook catch.

Recommendation-Target Coho Fishery		
Season:	7 AM to 7 PM Wednesday September 27, 2006	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-3	
Sanctuaries:	Large Sanctuaries: Elokomin-B, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis B	
Gear:	6 inch maximum mesh size unslackened floater gillnet	
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.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	
Expected Catch:	Coho: 3,000- 6,000 Chinook: 1,000- 2,000	

- ✓ The recommendation poses some risk of exceeding the September catch guideline of 3,500 coho (remainder for September fisheries).
- ✓ Exceeding the limit could result it no coho fishing during the first week of October, contingent on: if the early coho return is not upgraded and/or no impacts are available for transfer from ocean fisheries.

Recommendation		
Season:	9 PM Wednesday September 27 to 2 AM Thursday September 28	(5 hours)
Area:	Zones 4 –5	
Sanctuaries:	Large Sanctuaries Lewis B, Sandy and Washougal rivers	
Gear:	8 inch minimum and 9 ¾ inch maximum mesh size	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of eight 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.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	
Expected Catch:	Coho: <100 Chinook: 800-1,500	

September Select Area Fisheries

Recommendation
The joint staff recommends closing all Select Areas for retention of white sturgeon,

- ✓ The Select Area allocation of 400 fish has been met as of September 20.
- ✓ If retention of white sturgeon continued in Select Areas through October 31 the projected total harvest would be about 450 fish.

- ✓ Green sturgeon retention has been prohibited since July 2006.

Future Compact Hearings

- The joint staff is recommending that Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled for 10:00 AM, Wednesday September 27, 2006 via teleconference to discuss additional treaty Indian commercial fishing seasons.
- The joint staff is recommending that Columbia River Compact hearing be scheduled for 11:00 AM, Friday September 29, 2006 via teleconference to discuss additional non-treaty commercial fishing seasons.