

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 16
Columbia River Compact/Joint State hearing
October 10, 2007

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2007 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 26, 2007)

STOCK STATUS

Fall Chinook

- TAC met on October 9 and updated the Chinook run size to 243,700 Chinook, including 122,000 URBs (upgraded from 118,500). This compares to the preseason expectation of 347,500 Chinook, including 185,400 URBs.

Upriver Summer Steelhead

- TAC updated the steelhead run at Bonneville Dam to 308,200 fish (8,100 wild Group B). This compares to the preseason forecast of 297,900 steelhead (10,800 wild Group B) at Bonneville Dam.

Coho

- Preseason forecasts included 293,700 early stock and 73,200 late stock coho returning to the Columbia River mouth.
- TAC updated the coho run size to 308,000 fish, consisting of 220,000 early stock and 88,000 late stock.
- Early coho returns at Bonneville Dam and in the Select Areas are below expectations. In Washington tributaries, hatchery returns are slightly less than expected, but it appears broodstock needs will be met. Oregon tributaries will most likely be below expectations for hatchery returns and dam passage.
- Information on late coho is just becoming available; however, Bonneville Dam passage and Washington hatchery returns appear to be slightly greater than expectations.

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Late Fall Commercial

- Five fishing periods have taken place during October, including two coho-directed fisheries, two Chinook-directed fisheries and one target sturgeon fishery. Combined fall season landings are as follows:

<i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings, Fall 2007</i>				
Dates	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
August Totals	Ave 117	3,981	57	2,737
September Totals	Ave 105	4,368	8,331	1,984
October Totals	Ave 70	1,860	7,499	750
Season Total		10,209	15,887	5,471

- The 2007 sturgeon guideline is 7,850 white sturgeon for the year, of which 400 are allocated to SAFE fisheries. Through October 8, an estimated 94 sturgeon remain available for mainstem fisheries and SAFE fisheries have met the guideline of 400 fish.
- Based on in season run sizes, coho impacts through October 5 are estimated at 17.8 % (20% limit), of which 13.5% are from ocean fisheries, and 4.3% are from recreational fisheries, SAFE fisheries, and mainstem fisheries. An estimated 6,600 coho remain available for commercial harvest.

<i>2007 Coho Impact Summary-Actual and Projected</i>				
Fishery	To Date		Projected	
	Total Catch	Unmarked Impact	Total Catch	Unmarked Impact
Mainstem Commercial	15,900	4.09%	22,500	5.60%
SAFE Commercial	9,910	0.10%	10,750	0.10%
B10 Sport (complete)	8,300	0.70%	8,300	0.70%
LCR Sport	650	0.05%	1,250	0.06%
Ocean (all; complete)	168,290	13.54%	168,290	13.54%
	203,050	17.76%	211,090	20.00%

RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Late Fall Commercial Fishery</i>		
Chinook Directed Season:	7 PM Wednesday October 10 through- 7 AM Thursday October 11	(12 hours)
	7 PM Thursday October 11 through- 7 AM Friday October 12	(12 hours)
	7 PM Sunday October 14 through- 7 AM Monday October 15	(12 hours)
	7 PM Tuesday October 16 through- 7 AM Wednesday October 17	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	8-inch minimum and 9 ¾ - inch maximum mesh size	
Coho Directed Season:	7 AM –7PM Thursday October 11	(12 hours)
Area	Zones 1-3	
Gear:	6-inch minimum, unslackened floater net	
Applies to all fisheries listed above		
Sanctuaries:	Elokommin-A, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy and Washougal rivers	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon only. White sturgeon may not be sold	
Other Rules:	Nets not specifically authorized for use in the fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. 24 hour Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers	

- Catch is estimated at 2,500 Chinook and 4000 coho.
- CPUE data from Zones 1 and 2 has historically been used to update the late coho run size; however, the structure of the commercial fishery has changed in recent years, which has reduced the accuracy of abundance estimates based on historical data.

- Ideally, coho directed fisheries would occur at least once a week for the next two weeks, if ESA limits and abundance allows. This strategy would provide information on the strength of the late run and possibly allow for future run updates.

Select Areas Commercial Fishery

The Joint Staff is recommending prohibiting sales of white sturgeon in Select Areas effective 12:01 AM Sunday October 14, 2007.

- URB impacts, including the proposed fisheries, are estimated at 7.81%, compared to the 8.25% limit for non-Indian fisheries. Impacts to LRH Chinook are estimated at 41% of the 42% limit. The impact estimates include ongoing recreational and Select Areas fisheries.
- Non-Indian impacts on wild Group B steelhead for the fall season are estimated at 1.54% of the 2% allowed.

FUTURE HEARINGS

- The Joint staff recommends a Compact hearing be scheduled via teleconference for Tuesday October 16 at 11 AM.