

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 15
Columbia River Compact/Joint State hearing
October 5, 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

Coho

- Preseason forecasts include 293,700 early stock and 73,200 late stock coho returning to the Columbia River mouth.
- TAC is scheduled to review the coho run size on Tuesday October 9.

Early Coho

- At Bonneville Dam, all coho passing through September are considered early stock coho. Bonneville Dam passage through September 30 totals 62,200 adults. Preseason expectations totaled 79,200 early stock coho at Bonneville Dam.
- Early coho abundance appears to be less than expected, however it is still too early to account for all the fish.
- Indications that lead to the possibility of a smaller early coho run are:
 1. SAFE fisheries are projected to catch only 12,000 coho compared to the preseason expectation of almost 35,000 fish. This projection is 23,000 fish less than forecast.
 2. Bonneville Dam passage of early coho was 17,000 fish less than expectation.
- Washington hatchery returns of early coho range from 10%-40% complete by the end of week 40 (Oct 7). Returns to date are somewhat less than expected, based on preseason expectations.
- An estimated 16,500 early coho have returned to Washington hatcheries. 2007 expectations total 57,800 early coho.
- In Oregon hatcheries, the majority of the return does not occur until well into October when seasonal rains begin. Although returns appear to be somewhat behind, it is still too early to determine if returns are on track to meet preseason expectations.
- An estimated 32,500 early coho have returned to Oregon hatcheries. 2007 expectations total about 90,000 early coho.

Late Coho

- Very little information is available on late coho at this time. Counts at Bonneville Dam begin October 1 and the coho destined for lower river hatcheries are just beginning to appear.
- Passage at Bonneville Dam is generally 10% complete by this date and about 1,600 fish have passed. Preseason expectations total 15,500 fish at Bonneville Dam.

- Washington hatcheries account for all the hatchery returns of late coho in the lower river. The Cowlitz hatchery typically represents 50-60% of the total late hatchery return.
- The Cowlitz hatchery has about 2,000 coho to date and is typically about 10% complete by week 41 (Oct 8-14). No other hatcheries have reported late coho returns.

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

Late Fall Commercial

- Five fishing periods have taken place during October, including two coho fisheries, two Chinook fisheries and one sturgeon fishery. Landings are not complete, but are estimated 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
Oct 1, 3 Z 1-3 (6")	242	1,316	7,379	171
Oct 3-4, Z 4-5 (8")	15	281	18	82
Oct 4, Z1-5 (9") proj.		100	300	650
Oct 4-5, Z 4-5 (8") proj.		100	300	100
Season Total		10,146	16,385	5,724

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Based on preseason run size, coho impacts are estimated at 16.7 % (20% limit), of which 12.3% are from ocean fisheries, and 4.4% are from ongoing recreational fisheries, ongoing SAFE fisheries and mainstem fisheries through October 5.
- If the early coho return is less than the preseason allocation, impacts to ESA-listed coho from ocean and inriver harvest would be greater than anticipated, resulting in fewer coho available for future harvest.
- Staff recognizes the importance of at least once weekly coho fisheries during the remainder of October for the purposes of assessing the late coho return, but needs to be very cautious until some certainty regarding coho run sizes can be determined.
- The Joint Staff would like to delay any recommendations for additional commercial fishing until TAC has had the opportunity to update coho run size.
- This delay will give staff the benefit of TAC's review of the coho run size, will allow time for additional fish to return to the hatcheries and allow staff to model future October fisheries.
- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled via teleconference for 11:00 AM Wednesday October 17, 2007 to review coho stock status