

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
August 21, 2009

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2009 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 29, 2009)

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage through August 20 totals 25,300 adults and 6,400 jacks. Based on preseason forecasts and (10-yr) average migration timing a total of 16,300 adults are expected to have passed Bonneville by the same date.
- Bonneville Dam Observations (BDO) began on August 16 and will continue through October 1 four to seven days per week. Chinook passing Bonneville between August 1-15 are considered all bright stock. BDO supplies fishery managers with visual stock identification (VSI) for tule and bright Chinook. Information collected from BDO during August 16 - 18 indicates bright and tule proportions are within expectations. Of the adult fish that have passed Bonneville to date, 84% are bright stock and 16% are tule stock.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam has seen record daily counts, with passage totaling 376,192 fish between July 1 and August 20.
- TAC met today and updated the Group A steelhead run size to 425,000 fish. The preseason forecast for Group A steelhead was 278,900 fish. TAC did not update the hatchery/wild components, but it appears that the wild proportion is tracking close to preseason expectation (27% of total Group A).
- TAC is scheduled to meet again on Sept 2 to review steelhead and fall Chinook runs.

Buoy 10

- Preseason catch expectations were 10,700 Chinook and 119,100 coho.
- Preliminary CWT analysis shows the stock composition is similar to preseason expectations, but does include a higher proportion of jacks in the catch.
- Through August 19, 18,000 angler trips produced catches of 3,200 Chinook and 9,200 coho.
- The fishery is expected to continue as planned.

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early August was 5,230 adult Chinook for the first 3 fishing periods. An additional 14,100 adult Chinook catch was expected for the late August (August 18-31) fishing periods. A total of 2,000 white sturgeon were allocated to the August portion of the fall fishing season (out of the 8,000 fish annual commercial limit).

- Three 12-hour fishing periods were conducted on the evenings of August 4, 6, and 9. Open areas included Zones 1-5 on August 4 and 6, and Zones 2- 5. All fisheries were conducted with a 9-inch minimum mesh restriction and a 9 white sturgeon weekly landing/possession limit.
- Landings from the first two periods were higher than expected, which management responded to by decreasing the fishing area for the August 9 fishery (moving the lower boundary upstream of Tongue Point, rather than the previously adopted boundary at the Columbia River mouth).
- Two 10- hour fishing periods were conducted on the evenings of August 18 and August 20 in Zones 3-5 above the Kalama River, catch in these two periods were greater than projected.

<i>Preliminary August Commercial Fishery Landings, 2009</i>				
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
Aug. 4-5 (Z 1-5)	158	3,295	26	730
Aug. 6-7 (Z 1-5)	151	4,719	96	386
Aug 9-10 (Z2-5)	152	1,395	36	1,090
Early August Total		9,409	158	2,206
Aug 18-19 (Z 3-5, above Kalama R.)	119	7,492	360	459
Aug 23-24 (Z 3-5, above Kalama R.)	(estimate)	6,500		
Mid-August Total		13,992		
Total		23,401	518	2,665

- 10-hr fishing periods are scheduled for the night of August 23 (above Kalama R.) and for the nights of August 25 and 27 (Zones 4-5).
- Lower River Hatchery (LRH) stock Chinook are the most constraining stock for fall season fisheries. Harvesting more LRH than planned in August puts more risk on the September fisheries. The LRH run typically cannot be updated until October.
- There is expected to be some unused Chinook from ocean fisheries which translates into LRH impacts that can be used in inriver fisheries.
- Harvesting more URBs in August could reduce late September Zone 4-5 harvests of these fish.
- Based on the preseason run forecasts, all of the URB impacts available are not allocated – the preseason plan includes an impact rate of 9.61% on URBs for non-Indian fisheries, compared to the guideline of 11%.
- WDFW is planning for a sport fishery in the Snake River which is expected to use 0.5% URB impacts.

Recommendation 2009 Early Fall Mainstem Commercial Salmon Fishery

Rescind the fishery scheduled for 8 pm August 23 through 6 am August 24.

- ✓ Rescinding the season would preserve LRH impacts for use in future fisheries.
- ✓ CWT information for at least the August 18 fishery will be available by Monday, August 24.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact Hearing be scheduled for Monday August 24, 2009 at 11 am to review stock status and non-Indian commercial fisheries, by teleconference.