

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 16
Columbia River Compact
October 12, 2009

Fisheries Under Consideration:* **Non-Treaty Commercial Salmon*

Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2009 fall season were presented in Fall Fact Sheets #1(July 29, 2009) and # 11 (September 22, 2009)

Stock Status

- Coho passage at Bonneville through September 30 totaled 135,562 early stock adults, compared to the preseason expectation of 101,000 adults. The counting period for late stock coho began Oct 1. The preseason expectation for late stock coho passing Bonneville Dam is 59,800 adults. During Oct 1-10, 38,997 adult coho have passed Bonneville Dam, compared to the 23,000 coho expected to date (through October 10, based on 2009 forecast and average timing).
- Returns of early stock coho to lower river facilities have generally been meeting expectations but it is too early to project total hatchery returns. As of Oct 2, over 14,000 coho had passed Willamette Falls, and Bonneville Hatchery reports over 45,000 coho in hand. Lack of rain has likely delayed coho migration through the tributaries and into hatcheries. Washington facilities report around 15,300 early coho adults. The Cowlitz Hatchery rears late stock coho and is expecting a return of over 70,000 adults this year. Through October 7, nearly 22,000 late coho adults have returned to the Cowlitz complex.
- TAC reviewed early and late coho stock status on October 5 and reported that the early stock coho appear to be tracking in line with preseason expectations, and that it was too early to update the late stock component. TAC also reported that inseason data from ocean fisheries would be used to update the coho model, which should be available October 12.

Non-Treaty Commercial Late Fall Fisheries

<i>Non-Treaty Mainstem Commercial Landings –Late Fall 2009</i>					
Week	Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
Wk 39	Sep 24, Z 4-5 (8") 5 stgn	66	1,634	580	132
Wk 40	Sep 28, Z 1-3 (6")	178	491	13,975	100
	Sep 28-29, Z 4-5 (8")	31	845	492	111
	Sep 29, Z 1-5 (9")	22	27	362	107
	Sep 30, Z 1-3 (6")	173	451	23,321	77
	Sep 30 –Oct 1, Z 4-5 (8")	16	649	343	32
Wk 41	Oct 1-2, Z 4-5 (8")	13	433	232	14
	Oct 4-5, Z 4-5 (8")	28	505	580	132
	Oct 6-7, Z 4-5 (8")	19	444	253	87
	Oct 8, Z1-5 (9")*	75	14	47	422
Late Fall Total			5,493	40,185	1,214

* May not be complete for WA

- Based on inseason run estimates, updated ocean FRAM models, and landings to date, staff currently estimates about 950 white sturgeon and up to 7,000 coho.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i>		
Season #1 :	7 PM Tuesday, October 13 to 7 AM Wednesday, October 14, 2009 7 PM Thursday October 15 to 7 AM Friday, October 16, 2009 7 PM Sunday, October 18 to 7 AM Monday, October 19, 2009	(12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5	
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	
Season # 2:	7 AM – 7 PM Wednesday October 14, 2009	
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	9-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	
Applies to all fisheries		
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 7 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. Select Areas remain closed to white sturgeon retention.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.	
Sanctuaries:	As applicable: Elokomín-B, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers.	
Additional Rules	24-hour Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.	

- ✓ Given the high catch in the two previous coho fishing periods, staff feels there is moderate risk in exceeding available impacts if full a (12h) coho fishery is conducted this week. Delaying a coho fishery until next week would provide staff with additional hatchery escapement information resulting from the predicted rains this week.
- ✓ Estimated catch for three proposed fishing periods includes less than 1,000 Chinook, 1,200 coho and 700 white sturgeon.
- ✓ Combined impacts (including the proposed fisheries) total 19.3% for lower Columbia River coho (compared to the 20% limit). Impacts to ESA listed Chinook and steelhead are expected to remain well within the allowed limits.

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled via teleconference at 3 PM Monday, October 19 to review salmon stock status and ongoing fisheries.