

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 15
Columbia River Compact
October 6, 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 totals 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 1-5, nearly 17,535 coho have passed Bonneville Dam.
- Coho returns to lower river facilities have been meeting or exceeding expectations. It is too early to project total hatchery returns. As of Sept. 27, 10,700 coho had passed Willamette Falls, and Bonneville Hatchery returns through Sept. 25 were over 40,000 coho.
- TAC met Tuesday October 6 to review salmon and steelhead stock status. TAC maintained the current in season run size estimates for Chinook (203,000 URBs), and updated the Group B summer steelhead run to 43,000 fish at Bonneville Dam.
- TAC also reviewed coho stock status. For early stock coho, inseason estimates appear to be tracking within preseason expectations, although some hatcheries have reported few fish due to low water conditions. It is too early to evaluate the late stock run size. TAC will review coho stock status again on Oct. 12.

Non-Treaty Commercial Late Fall Fisheries

- Since September 24, eight fishing periods have been conducted, including two coho directed fisheries and one sturgeon directed fishery.
- On October 2, the Compact met in response to the very high coho catch rates observed during the two coho fishing periods. The Compact rescinded the third coho fishing period scheduled for Monday, October 5 due to the likelihood of the catch exceeding the available harvest.

<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")	173	488	13,800	90
	Sep 28-29, Z 4-5 (8")	31	845	492	111
	Sep 29, Z 1-5 (9")	25	42	400	104
	Sep 30, Z 1-3 (6")	173	451	23,943	77

	Sep 30 –Oct 1, Z 4-5 (8")	16	649	343	32
	Oct 1-2, Z 4-5 (8")	13	433	232	14
Wk 41	Oct 4-5, Z 4-5 (8") *	28	482	488	132
Late Fall Total			5,024	40,178	692

- Based on inseason run estimates and landings to date, staff currently estimates 1,400 white sturgeon and 2,700 coho are available for harvest

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

<i>Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i>		
Season #1:	7 PM Wednesday, October 7 to 7 AM Thursday, October 8, 2009	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5	
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	
Season #2:	7 AM – 7 PM Thursday, October 8, 2009	(12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	9-inch minimum mesh size	
The following applies to all proposed fisheries stated above		
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white 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. 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: Elokomin-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.	

- ✓ Estimated catch for season #1 includes 500 Chinook, 500 coho and 100 white sturgeon.
- ✓ Estimated catch for season #2 includes 100 Chinook, 1,000 coho and 1,000 white sturgeon.
- ✓ Season total impacts are projected at 9.0% for URB Chinook (11% limit) and 1.2% on wild Group B steelhead (2.0% limit). Impacts to ESA listed coho (complete, ongoing and proposed fisheries) are projected at 19.8% (20% limit)

Future Compact Hearings

- The joint staff may recommend a hearing next week, dependant on coho catch and runsize updates.