

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 10
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 24, 2013

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Columbia River Recreational Salmon Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial
--------------------------------	--

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 25, 2013

STOCK STATUS

- Passage of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 818,600 fish. Typically, passage is nearly 90% complete by September 23. The most recent in-season runsize estimates from TAC include a Columbia River return of 832,500 Upriver Bright (URB) and 69,000 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) adult Chinook. The 2013 Columbia River return is projected to reach nearly 1,200,000 adult fall Chinook.
- The Columbia River return for Lower River Hatchery (LRH) fall Chinook cannot be updated inseason. Ocean fisheries are nearly complete and did not harvest all of the Chinook allocated for those fisheries. The majority of these fish have typically moved out of the mainstem and into the lower river tributaries by the end of September.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals nearly 211,000 fish. Counts have been less than expected since the beginning of the counting period on July 1. TAC estimates a total of 220,000 steelhead will pass Bonneville by October 31. TAC downgraded the Group B component to 15,000 fish (25% wild).
- Passage of adult upriver coho at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 25,700 fish. The counting period for this early stock component continues through September 30. TAC downgraded this upriver early component to 30,000 fish at Bonneville. Preseason passage expectation for adult coho at Bonneville Dam was 96,000 'early' fish.
- TAC will continue to review the status of salmon and steelhead on a weekly basis and is scheduled to meet again on Monday September 30.

NON-INDIAN FALL SALMON FISHERY REVIEW

Recreational Fisheries

Recreational Fall Salmon Fisheries

- The Buoy 10 fishery was open for Chinook retention August 1 through September 1 with a daily bag limit of two fish/one Chinook. Chinook retention during August 23-September 1 was limited to hatchery Chinook (mark-selective). Beginning September 13, the fishery re-opened to hatchery Chinook retention with an increased bag limit of 2 Chinook. Mark selective regulations are scheduled to continue through September 30. Beginning October 1, mark selective regulations for Chinook are scheduled to be lifted. Catch projections (including release

mortalities) for the season described includes 28,000 Chinook and 10,400 coho. Chinook catch was the highest on record since 1988.

- The lower Columbia River (LCR) fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to Bonneville Dam opened August 1 with a two fish/one Chinook adult daily limit.
 - Chinook retention was allowed through September 12 downstream of the Lewis River (Warrior Rock boundary line); however, from September 6-12 mark-selective regulations were in effect.
 - Chinook retention is currently scheduled to remain open (through December 31) upstream of the Warrior Rock line with a two fish/two Chinook adult daily bag limit.
 - The mark-selective fishery is scheduled to be open downstream of Warrior Rock through September 30 with a two fish/two adipose fin-clipped Chinook adult bag limit. Beginning October 1, mark-selective regulations for this area will be lifted per permanent rule.
 - Catch (plus release mortalities) projections for the season described includes 38,000 Chinook and 1,000 coho
- The mainstem fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge (in Pasco, Washington) began on August 1 with a two fish/two Chinook adult daily limit and an in-season catch expectation of 14,000 Chinook.
- “Boat limits” are also in effect from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington which allows each legally-licensed angler aboard a vessel to continue to deploy angling gear until the daily limit of salmon/steelhead for all anglers aboard has been achieved.

Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

Select Area Fisheries

- Expected returns to the Select Area fishing sites include 35,600 coho and 5,300 Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook. Fisheries began in August and are scheduled to continue through October with specific time, area and gear restrictions for each area.
- Through September 23, landings in Select Area fall commercial fisheries include 22,700 fall Chinook, 33,000 coho, and 69 white sturgeon.

Mainstem Commercial Fall Salmon Fisheries

- The August commercial season consisted of eight fishing periods during August 11-29 in Zones 4-5. Gear was restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh. Weekly sturgeon landing limits were in place throughout the season. Catch included 45,600 Chinook, 700 sturgeon and 380 coho.
- The late fall commercial season has included four commercial periods during September 15-23, and an additional period is scheduled for this evening. All fishing periods are in Zones 4-5 with 8-inch gear and a 2-sturgeon weekly landing limit in place. Landings for all five periods are estimated at 29,000 Chinook, 1,300 coho and 220 sturgeon
- Based on pre-season planning, coho fishing in 2013 is expected to include a full-fleet pilot coho fishery during early October using 3.75-inch tangle nets. After two weekly fishing periods additional target coho periods may occur with unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh if coho remain available for harvest. Coho fisheries will likely occur in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours.

- The 2013 annual commercial allocation of white sturgeon is 2,021 fish. A total of 181 fish remain on the commercial allocation.

SALMON FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Mainstem Commercial

<i>Recommendation: 2013 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i>		
Season:	8 PM Thursday September 26 to 6 AM Friday September 27	(10 hours)
	8 PM Sunday September 29 to 6 AM Monday September 30	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5.	
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Washougal River and Sandy River.	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8" minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule in effect, which means 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. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 2 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) in the remaining openers. This white sturgeon possession and sales limit applies to mainstem fisheries only.	
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240	

- Extending the area will continue to provide opportunity to harvest healthy stocks of fall Chinook. Handle of LCR Chinook is expected to be minimal since the majority of the LCR Chinook are expected to have moved into the tributaries.
- The catch estimate for the proposed fishing periods is 4,000-6,000 Chinook, 1,000-1,500 coho, and 75-100 white sturgeon.
- Additional commercial fishing opportunity is expected, but the extent will be dependent upon future in-season run updates and Chinook/coho harvest to date.

Mainstem Recreational Salmon

Recommendation: 2013 Columbia River Fall Chinook Recreational Fishery	
<i>Buoy 10 upstream to Warrior Rock line</i>	
Season :	Effective September 26, 2013
Daily bag limit:	Two adult salmon or steelhead. All other permanent rules apply.
Area	Buoy 10 upstream to the Warrior Rock line (a line from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore through red buoy #4 to the orange marker atop the dolphin on the Washington shore).

- The proposed fishery modification removes the mark-selective restriction for Chinook prior to the scheduled date of October 1.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Considering all the data in hand, non-Indian fisheries (including completed, on-going, proposed, and potential future fisheries) are expected to remain within the ESA constraints for both salmon and steelhead.
- Based on the updated run size and actual and planned (pre-season) fishery structure, additional Chinook (especially URBs) are available for both commercial and recreational fisheries with the following considerations:
 - Including completed and currently planned fisheries, impacts to lower Columbia natural (LCN) Chinook are currently projected at 35.75% compared to the 38.97% limitation.
 - Impacts to wild Group B steelhead are currently projected at 1.92% compared to the 2.00% allowable take limitation. Impacts to wild Group B steelhead are currently based on a reduced run size (3,750 wild fish).
 - URB impacts are projected to be 12.3% compared to the 15.0% available.

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled for 4:00 PM Thursday September 26 to review stock status and consider additional non-Indian and treaty commercial fisheries.