

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 14
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 22, 2013

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon
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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 October 21 totals nearly 946,000 fish. Passage is nearly complete, but daily counts continue to be much better than average. The 2013 Columbia River return is currently projected to reach nearly 1,200,000 adult fall Chinook, including 832,500 Upriver Bright Chinook.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam through October 21 totals 225,000 fish. The run is nearly complete but counts continue through October 31. TAC estimates the total return will include 10,700 Group B stock.
- Passage of coho at Bonneville Dam through October 21 totals 53,600 adults. Passage is nearly 95% complete. The early stock component was 34% of the preseason expectation of 96,000 fish. The late stock component is tracking within expectations (28,400 fish).
- The preseason expectation for coho to the Columbia River totaled 433,600 fish (145,100 late-stock). Updated models which include in-season ocean harvest and Bonneville Dam counts estimate a Columbia River return of 386,100 fish (157,700 late-stock).
- Coho escapement to tributary hatcheries and dams are generally tracking similar to expectations.
- Chum salmon are typically later-timed and return to the Columbia during early October through December. The chum population is relatively small compared to the abundant coho and Chinook stocks.

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- Coho-directed periods have included a full-fleet pilot mark-selective fishery consisting of eight (12-hour) periods during October 2-15. The fishery was conducted in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours using ≤ 3.75 -inch tangle nets. Effort and catch was less than expected. Estimated catch includes 4,600 hatchery coho (1,250 un-clipped coho released) and 1,800 Chinook. Deliveries ranged from 15-27 per period.
- Coho-directed periods with unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh have included three (12-hour) periods during October 16-21. These periods were also conducted during daylight hours in Zones 1-3. Landings from these periods are expected to include about 1,500 coho and 400 Chinook.
- Based on current runsize projections, allowable ESA impacts, and catch estimates, Chinook and coho remain available for commercial harvest.

Joint Staff Recommendation – 2013 Non-Indian Commercial Fishery	
Season #1:	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 23 (12 hours) 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 25 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-3 Upper deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore
Sanctuaries:	Grays Bay, Elokommin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A and Lewis-A
Gear:	Drift nets only. 6-inch maximum mesh. Unslackened floater drift net.
Season #2:	7 PM Sunday October 27 – 7 AM Monday October 28 (12 hours) 7 PM Tuesday October 29 – 7 AM Wednesday October 30 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. Lower deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction.
The following applies to both seasons:	
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, and pink salmon and shad. White sturgeon and chum salmon may not be possessed or sold.
Additional Rules:	Multiple net rule in effect: 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. Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required 24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

- Estimated catch is <1,500 coho and 200 Chinook for Season #1 and 100 coho and 500 Chinook for Season #2.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Estimates include complete, on-going, and proposed fishery impacts.
 - Lower Columbia natural (LCN) Chinook = 36.0% compared to the 38.97% limit.
 - Wild Group B steelhead = 1.9% compared to the 2.00% limit.
 - Upriver Bright (URB) Chinook = 12.0% compared to the 15.0% limit.
 - Lower Columbia River (LCR) coho = 12.1% compared to the 15.0% limit
 - Columbia River chum = <1% compared to the 5% limit.

Future Meetings

- No additional Compact hearings are scheduled at this time. Staff expects the proposed fisheries will complete 2013 late fall mainstem Columbia River non-Indian commercial fisheries.