

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #8a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 18, 2014

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial Select Area Research pilot seine commercial fishery
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 29, 2014.

Stock Status

- Passage of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam since August 1 totals 630,800 fish. Daily counts reached over 67,000 fish (September 7 and 8) and have slowly declined to 21,000 fish per day (September 17). Based on the 10-year average, passage is 76% complete by September 17. The most recent in-season runsize estimates from TAC (9/15) include a Columbia River return of 723,500 Upriver Bright (URB) and 110,000 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) adult Chinook. The 2014 Columbia River return is projected to reach nearly 1,258,000 adult fall Chinook (83% of preseason forecast of 1,510,600 adult fall Chinook).
- The Columbia River return for Lower River Hatchery (LRH) fall Chinook is challenging to update inseason. Ocean fisheries are nearly complete and have likely harvested all of the LRH Chinook allocated for those fisheries. The majority of LRH fish have typically moved out of the mainstem and into the lower river tributaries by the end of September.
- Data on LRH escapement to hatcheries and weirs is beginning to become available as the fish to move into the tributaries.
 - Escapement to Washington tributaries is currently tracking ahead of expectations, although it is too early in the season to make any conclusion regarding run size.
 - In Oregon, LRH escapement to Big Creek and Bonneville hatcheries are both tracking ahead of expectations.
 - CWT data shows that the LRH stock component is representing a higher proportion of the overall catch compared to pre-season modeling.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 262,500 fish. Counts are tracking within expectations. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 89% complete by September 17. Sampling at the Bonneville Dam research facility has been limited due to high water temperatures. TAC relies on the sampling to help determine stock composition of the upriver steelhead. TAC met today to review PIT tag data collected at Bonneville Dam on Group A and Group B passage and is currently estimating both stock components will exceed the preseason forecasts.
- Passage of upriver coho at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 136,800 fish. Counts to date have exceeded expectations. Based on the 10-year average, passage is 51% complete by September 17. Preseason expectations included a total of 102,200 coho at Bonneville Dam by September 30.

- The *U.S. v. Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on Monday September 15 and again today to review salmonid stock status. TAC is will meet again on Monday September 22.

Recreational Fisheries

- Catch estimates for the Buoy 10 (B10) recreational fishery include 26,800 Chinook kept (15,800 released) from 95,200 angler trips. Although total catch was less than expected, CWT data indicates the LRH stock component was higher than expected preseason (25% v 13%). The coho fishery at B10 is on-going; estimated harvest through September 14 totals 50,600 coho (including release mortalities) compared to the 56,500 fish estimated preseason. LRH take from this fishery is estimated at 7,400 fish compared to 6,600 fish expected preseason (112% of allocated).
- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery include 19,900 Chinook kept (6,900 released) and 4,600 coho kept (2,400 released) from 108,400 angler trips through September 14. Chinook catch to date for this fishery is tracking behind expectations. The area from Tongue Point upstream to Warrior Rock is closed to Chinook retention until October 1 as scheduled. The area from Warrior Rock upstream to Bonneville Dam is scheduled to remain open for Chinook through December.
- Based on in-season modeling, the LCR recreational fishery is expected to continue as scheduled. LRH mortalities in this fishery are tracking within preseason expectations. Run size, catch rates and stock composition are all variables effecting Chinook allocation and season structure.
- The recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Highway 395 opened August 1 and is scheduled to remain open through December 31. The season total catch expectation for this fishery is 11,100 Chinook.

Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fisheries

- The Early Fall season consisted of 13 fishing periods in Zones 4-5 from August 3–September 2. All periods were nine hours in duration and restricted to a 9-inch minimum mesh size. Catch estimates for the early-fall fishery total 47,730 fall Chinook (55% of expected).
- CWT data from the Early Fall season indicates the LRH stock component was higher than expected preseason (6% v 3%). However, the LRH mortalities remained within the preseason allocation (2,900 LRH).
- The late-fall commercial season began the week of September 14. Two fishing periods were adopted: a 9-hour period for the night of September 14 and a 10-hour period for the night of September 16. Chinook catch for the first two periods was higher than expected with about 34,600 Chinook and 3,600 coho landed. CWT data has not been fully analyzed at this time but will determine if and/or where additional fishing opportunity can occur in September. Data should be complete early next week.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The fall season commercial fisheries in the Select Areas began in August with multiple weekly periods schedule in all sites.
- Catches have been very good with approximately 10,300 Chinook and 40,100 coho landed in Youngs Bay, 4,300 Chinook and 20,500 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, 3,300 Chinook and 3,800 in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and 1,100 Chinook and 4,700 coho in Deep River through September 13.
- Coho catches increased dramatically in all sites last week.
- Chinook and coho broodstock escapement goals have been met for hatcheries in the areas.

Recommendation: 2014 Select Area Fall Season
<i>Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel</i>
Add Sunday nights to the previously adopted weekly fishing periods for these two sites beginning September 21 through the remainder of the season (6 additional nights of fishing).

- This recommendation would provide additional opportunity to access surplus hatchery fish by increasing the number of days open each week.

Recommendation: 2014 Select Area Fall Season	
<i>Deep River and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough</i>	
Extend open hours as follows:	
Deep River:	Open hours are 6 PM to 9 AM each night the fishery is open effective Friday September 19 through Thursday October 23, 2014.
Blind Slough/Knappa Slough	Open hours are 6 PM to 10 AM each night the fishery is open effective Sunday September 21 through Friday October 31, 2014.

- This recommendation would extend the open hours for these two sites for the remainder of the season to allow additional opportunity to access surplus hatchery stocks.

Mainstem Commercial Fisheries – Alternative Gear

- The research seine fishery began in August in Zones 1 and 2 and opened in early September for the rest of the river. Results so far have been mixed; some seiners are approaching their individual catch quotas (IFQs), while others have met only a portion of the IFQs. Preliminary results are presented in the table below.

Preliminary 2014 Fall Seine Fishery Observation Summary													
Gear Type	Date	Zone	# Drifts	Marked Chinook		Marked Coho		Unmarked Chinook	Unmarked Coho	Chinook Mark Rate	Coho Mark Rate	Steelhead	
				Adults	Jacks	Adults	Jacks						
Beach	8/19/2014	1	4	63	8	5	0	58	4	55%	56%	26	
	8/21/2014	1	5	29	8	9	1	32	11	54%	48%	15	
	8/26/2014	1	2	38	8	40	1	20	25	70%	62%	10	
	8/28/2014	1	5	40	8	93	1	45	58	52%	62%	22	
	9/3/2014	1	5	44	13	84	5	62	47	48%	65%	18	
	9/3/2014	2	6	2	0	1	0	1	0	67%	100%	0	
	9/3/2014	4	11	33	4	1	0	30	9	55%	10%	14	
	9/3/2014	5	5	29	4	1	0	39	2	46%	33%	6	
	9/4/2014	5	2	8	0	1	0	11	3	42%	25%	3	
	9/8/2014	2	7	7	2	2	0	11	4	45%	33%	0	
	9/8/2014	3	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	100%	50%	0	
	9/8/2014	4	11	133	16	24	1	169	81	47%	24%	62	
	9/8/2014	5	5	81	9	6	1	116	22	44%	24%	15	
	9/9/2014	4	8	145	32	50	8	338	160	34%	27%	81	
	9/9/2014	5	4	61	4	9	1	64	23	50%	30%	8	
	9/10/2014	4	9	239	40	126	0	329	398	46%	24%	113	
	9/10/2014	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	7	100%	0%	1	
	9/12/2014	5	6	147	39	27	0	229	57	45%	32%	33	
	Cumulative			98	1,100	196	479	20	1,554	912	45%	35%	427
	Purse	8/21/2014	2	4	12	0	0	0	19	0	39%	0%	3
8/26/2014		1	6	20	3	0	0	34	2	40%	0%	7	
8/28/2014		1	5	12	6	1	0	17	1	51%	50%	4	
9/2/2014		3	6	40	8	3	1	47	3	51%	57%	1	
9/3/2014		2	3	15	2	11	3	39	5	30%	74%	11	
9/3/2014		3	4	17	5	1	0	19	6	54%	14%	0	
9/3/2014		4	7	26	1	2	0	42	7	39%	22%	4	
9/4/2014		3	4	157	9	66	3	270	107	38%	39%	9	
9/4/2014		4	5	182	14	15	0	232	56	46%	21%	13	
9/8/2014		3	5	10	0	25	2	56	35	15%	44%	1	
9/8/2014		4	5	85	24	26	0	155	73	41%	26%	27	
9/9/2014		3	5	90	0	30	0	271	82	25%	27%	11	
9/9/2014		4	5	133	13	50	1	232	207	39%	20%	40	
9/10/2014		3	6	69	2	26	0	234	113	23%	19%	4	
9/11/2014		3	2	34	0	11	0	103	54	25%	17%	6	
9/12/2014		3	5	50	2	12	1	120	44	30%	23%	4	
9/12/2014		4	7	115	31	106	6	295	245	33%	31%	36	
Cumulative			84	1,067	120	385	17	2,185	1,040	35%	28%	181	

Recommendation: 2014 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Research Fishery	
Participants:	Those individuals possessing a 2014 seine permit issued by Washington or Oregon (Emerging Fishery license and Experimental Fishery Permit in WA; Experimental Gear Permit in OR). Permit holder/designated fisher must be present during fishing operations and have applicable permits/licenses in possession.
Season:	Open hours are 6:00 AM to 7:30 PM (13.5 hours)
Week 39	Tuesday September 23 and Thursday September 25 2 periods
Week 40	Tuesday September 30 1 period
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River in Zones 1-5.

Sanctuaries:	Elochoman-A, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis A, Sandy, Washougal and Select Area commercial fishing sites.
Gear:	<p>Beach or purse seine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one net is allowed per vessel. - Mesh size restricted to a 3.5-inch maximum (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure). - Net material to consist of 3-strand nylon; twine size \geq#12. - Seines may include a bunt of 1.0-2.0 inch knotless mesh. - Net length not to exceed 200 fathoms (including associated lead nets). Net depth not to exceed 200 meshes (approximately 50 feet) - Seine and lead lines may not be connected. Lead nets must be retrieved daily. - No restrictions on corkline, leadline or use of stringers and slackers. - A chafing strip panel consisting of non-monofilament webbing (such as nylon seine web or polyethylene trawl web) is allowed on bottom of net; maximum panel depth is 5-feet. Chafing mesh not to exceed 3.5-inch stretched measure for beach and 5-inch stretched measure for purse. There are no restrictions associated with hangings used to connect the net to the chafing panel or the net or chafing panel to the leadline or corkline. - Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.
Allowable Sales:	Subject to IFQs as defined on individual permits. Adipose or left ventral fin-clipped Chinook, adipose-clipped coho, pink and sockeye salmon. All legal salmon caught must be kept and sold.
Handling/Sorting	Hand sorting or use of a knotless dip net is required for sorting. All fish must be sorted and/or released prior to removing entire seine from water. Dry sorting not permitted.
Sort time	<p><u>Not to exceed 75 minutes.</u></p> <p>Beach seine - defined as the elapsed time from when the outer towed end of the net first contacts the shore or block until the net is emptied of fish.</p> <p>Purse Seine - defined as the elapsed time from when all rings are pursed and out of the water until the net is emptied of fish.</p>
Observer Program	Mandatory
Quick-Report:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.

- This action adds three additional periods to the previously adopted fishery.

Non-Indian ESA impacts

- Based on the preseason upriver Chinook run size forecast and actual, on-going, and planned non-Indian fisheries, ESA impacts are expected to total 9.1% for URB Chinook (15% allowed), 41.0% for LRH Chinook (41% allowed) and 1.4% for wild Group B steelhead (2% allowed).
- Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the salmon and steelhead run sizes, especially LRH Chinook and wild Group B steelhead. Additional information will be available early next week that will help determine the structure of upcoming non-Indian fisheries while remaining within the ESA constraints.

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff may request a Compact hearing next week to review salmonid stock status and consider non-Indian fisheries.