

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 9a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
September 24, 2014

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 29, 2014

Stock Status

- Passage of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 741,500 fish. Typically, passage is about 90% complete by this date. The 2014 Columbia River return is currently projected to reach 1,183,300 adult fall Chinook, including 677,600 Upriver Bright stock Chinook.
- The Columbia River return for Lower River Hatchery (LRH) fall Chinook is challenging to update inseason. Ocean fisheries are nearly complete and harvestable surpluses are not expected. The majority of LRH fish have typically moved out of the mainstem and into the lower river tributaries by the end of September. LRH is the most constraining Chinook stock due to limited ESA impacts.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 282,100 fish. Passage has been slightly greater than expectations. Upriver summer steelhead passage (July-October) is currently projected to reach 296,600 fish at Bonneville Dam, including 37,500 Group B stock (9,350 wild).
- Passage of adult upriver coho at Bonneville Dam through September 23 totals 156,000 fish. The counting period for this early stock component continues through September 30. Upriver early-stock coho passage at Bonneville is projected to reach 167,000 adult fish, compared to a preseason expectation of 102,200 fish.
- Coho are beginning to enter the lower river tributaries and return to the hatcheries, so information on run strength is currently limited.
 - Washington tributaries are generally tracking at or above expectations, although it is very early in the season to measure hatchery returns.
 - Oregon data suggests the coho returns are generally at or above expectations. Coho returns to date include about 4,500 at Big Creek Hatchery, 13,300 at Bonneville Hatchery, and 700 over Willamette Falls. Coho catch in the Select Areas will be about 200% of preseason expectations.
- Chum salmon are typically later-timed and return to the Columbia during early October through December. Chum salmon are primarily from natural production, although there are hatchery enhancement programs in place. Columbia River chum are ESA-listed. The chum population is relatively small compared to the abundant coho and Chinook stocks.

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The Early Fall season consisted of 13 fishing periods during August 3 – September 2 in Zones 4-5. Catch included 47,700 Chinook, and 1,000 coho.
- The Late Fall commercial season to date has included two commercial periods (September 14 and 16) in Zones 4-5. Catch included 34,600 Chinook and 3,600 coho. Analysis of

coded wire tags (CWTs) collected from the fishery is now complete. Based on actual CWT data, the LRH composition of the catch was less than expected.

- The pilot research seine fishery is ongoing and scheduled to continue through September 30. The number of participants has been decreasing as the individual fish quotas are reached or fishers have opted to cease seine operations. Landed catch includes about 2,400 hatchery adult Chinook and 1,000 hatchery adult coho.
- The Select Area commercial fisheries are ongoing and generally are scheduled to continue through October. Catch of both Chinook and coho have exceeded expectations to date. Chinook and coho broodstock escapement goals have been met for some hatcheries in the areas. Combined catch includes 21,600 Chinook and 96,000 coho through September 20.
- Based on pre-season planning, coho fishing in 2014 is expected to include a coho fishery during early October using alternative gear (≤ 3.75 -inch tangle nets). Additional target coho periods are expected to occur with unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh. Coho fisheries will likely occur in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours. The pre-season catch expectation for all mainstem commercial fisheries included 70,000 hatchery coho.

<i>Recommendation - Non-Indian Coho Tangle Net Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 1, 2014 (12 hours each) 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday October 2, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday October 7, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 8, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday October 9, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 13, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday October 14, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 15, 2014
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:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A and Lewis-A
Gear:	Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net. Red corks at 25-fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline. The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is <u>prohibited</u> . Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped coho salmon; pink salmon and Chinook salmon. White sturgeon and chum salmon may not be possessed or sold.

<p>Regulations:</p>	<p>Regulations typically in place for mark-selective commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, tangle-net certification, etc.</p> <p>Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed <u>30 minutes</u>.</p> <p>Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.</p> <p>Measuring mesh size: Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact</p> <p>Observer program: As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.</p> <p>Live Capture workshop: Licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.</p>
<p>Additional Rules:</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: Nets 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 a lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net is required</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.</p>

- Effort is expected to be limited. Staff estimates about 40 vessels may participate.
- Pre-season modeling assigned up to 20,000 hatchery coho for this fishery. Estimating actual catch is difficult, since there is limited historical data to draw on.
- Staff will monitor catch as the season progresses and make adjustments if needed.
- The overall coho mark rate is expected to be 73%. If the actual mark rate is significantly different from expectations, then the number of hatchery fish available changes accordingly.
- Steelhead handle is estimated at less than 300 fish.
- The interim mortality rate used for this fishery is 13.6% for salmon and steelhead.

Recommendation: Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Salmon Fishery

Season:	Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday nights
Dates:	Thursday September 25 through Wednesday October 15, 2014 (9 nights)
Open Hours:	8 PM to 6 AM (10 hours) through October 1 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours) from October 2 through October 15
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. 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:	Chinook, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, and shad. White sturgeon and chum salmon may not be possessed or sold.
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240

- Catch estimates include 14,000 Chinook and 4-5,000 coho.
- The proposed fishery provides opportunity to harvest surplus Chinook and coho.
- The season is based on current salmonid runsize estimates and modeled Chinook stock composition. Any changes to these estimates could affect the proposed season structure or future opportunity.
- Staff will monitor catch as the season progresses and make adjustments if needed.

Recreational Fisheries

- Catch estimates for the Buoy 10 fishery include 29,800 Chinook and 56,600 coho (including release mortalities) from 99,200 angler trips through September 21. Chinook retention is scheduled to re-open on October 1.
- Catch estimates for the lower Columbia River (LCR) recreational fishery include 23,900 Chinook and 5,400 coho (including release mortalities) from 120,000 angler trips through September 21. Chinook retention is scheduled to re-open on October 1 in the area from Tongue Point upstream to Warrior Rock.
- 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 9,700 Chinook.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Considering all the data in hand, non-Indian fisheries (including completed, on-going, proposed, and planned fisheries) are expected to remain within the ESA constraints for both salmon and steelhead.
 - Impacts to lower Columbia natural (LCN) Chinook are currently projected at 41.0% compared to the 41.0% limitation.
 - Impacts to wild Group B steelhead are currently projected at 1.52% compared to the 2.00% ESA impact limit.
 - URB impacts are projected to be 10.8% compared to the 15.0% ESA impact limit.
 - Impacts to Lower Columbia River (LCR) coho are limited to a 22.5% exploitation rate for ocean and in-river fisheries.

Future Meetings

- The Joint staff will recommend additional hearings as needed.