

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
 August 11, 2015**

Fisheries Under Consideration: Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem

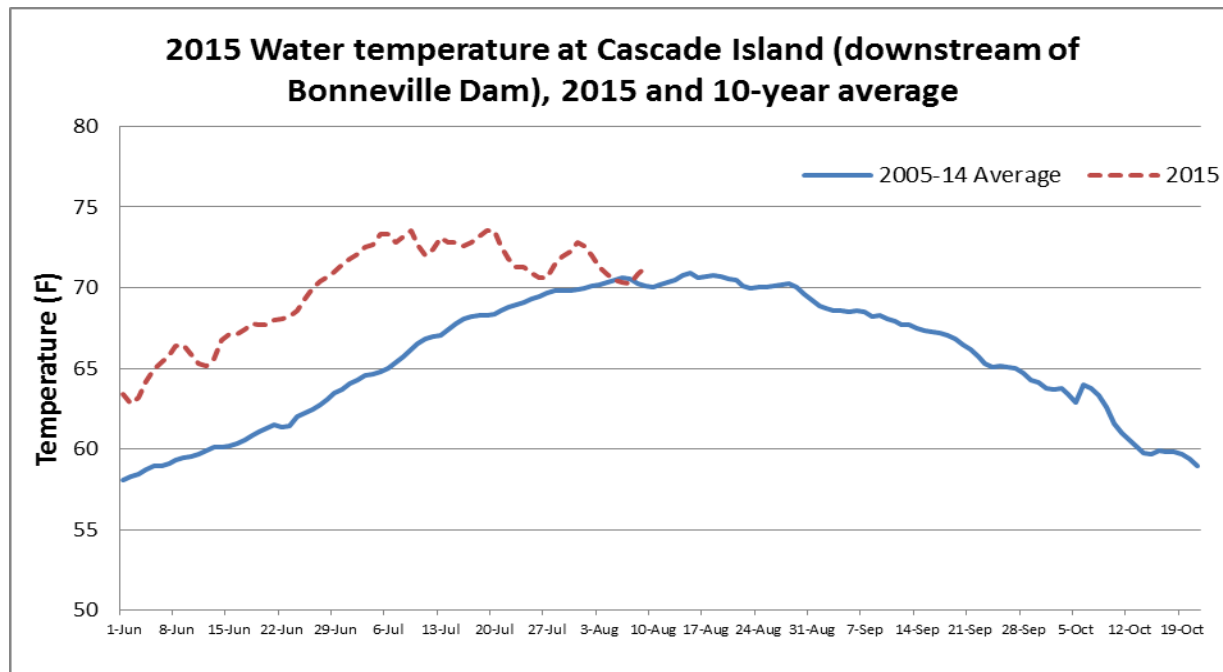
Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2015 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #1 (July 29, 2015)

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Preseason forecasts for adult fish to the Columbia River include 925,300 fall Chinook and 539,600 Coho. Both forecasts are greater than average.
- The preseason forecast for the steelhead return to Bonneville Dam (July-October) is 298,800 fish, which is about average. Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 total nearly 107,600 fish, which is less than expected assuming average timing and the current forecast.
- The 2015 fall seasons for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries were developed through the North of Falcon process and will be conducted consistent with the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement and Commission guidelines.
- As part of the North of Falcon negotiations, a total of 10% (0.26%) of the impacts for ESA-listed wild tule fall Chinook available to the commercial fisheries (2.6%) have been allocated to 2015 Columbia River commercial seine fisheries.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 138.6 kcfs, which is lower than the ten-year average of 169.7 kcfs for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 71° F, which is similar to the recent ten-year average (70.6° F).



2014 NON-INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Fisheries

- The Early Fall fishery is underway and expected to continue through August. Season structure consists of three (9-hour) fishing periods per week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday) in Zones 4-5 using large mesh (9-inch minimum) gear. Commercial periods are in place through August 28.
- The Late Fall fishery is expected to begin the week of September 14 in Zones 4-5.
- Coho-directed fishing periods are expected to occur throughout October and will likely occur in Zones 1-3.

Mainstem Commercial Fisheries – Alternative Gear

- In 2014, a 22-day pilot research seine fishery was prosecuted during August 19 – September 30. The fishery was limited entry; four purse seine permits and six beach seine permits were issued (from a pool of 45 applicants). Each permit was assigned an individual fish quota (IFQ) and salmon harvest was limited to hatchery Chinook and hatchery Coho. Landings from the 2014 season included 2,400 adult Chinook and 1,000 adult Coho compared to the 6,000 Chinook and 3,300 Coho assigned to the combined permits.
- Considering the preseason forecasts, limited impacts, and current release mortality rates, the 2015 seine fishery was modeled with an allowed harvest of around 5,000 adult hatchery Chinook and 1,700 adult hatchery Coho. Given the allowable harvest, a total of six beach seine and four purse seine permits are available for 2015.
- Applications for 2015 seine permits were made available May 20 with a June 8 submission deadline. A total of eight applications were received and all were awarded a permit. Only six of the eight permits were purchased (4 beach and 2 purse). The states are currently accepting applications in order to fill the remaining permits (2 beach and 2 purse; Zones 2-3 only).
- The 2015 seine fishery is expected to have a similar season structure as 2014 with only a few exceptions. In an effort to collect information in areas where there are data gaps, the permits were issued to include only Zones 2, 3, and the upper portion of Zone 4.
- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has provided release mortality rates to use for a seine fishery in 2015.

TAC Release Mortality Rates		
2015	Beach	Purse
Chinook	33%	21%
Coho	38%	29%
Steelhead	5%	2%

- Gear-specific IFQs have been calculated based on available impacts and assigned to each permit. Recognizing the difference in operating costs associated with beach and purse seining, staff has assigned the IFQs differentially between gear types. IFQ limits pertain to adult fish only.

2015 Fall - IFQ Limits		
	Beach (6)	Purse (4)
Adult Chinook kept	400	650
Adult coho kept	150	200
Steelhead handle	180	150

- Objectives for this fishery are to determine steelhead-to-Chinook handle ratios by gear and zone, collect salmon catch rates by gear type, compare immediate release mortalities observed to those observed in prior research, and collect information to estimate the stock composition of fall Chinook.

<i>Recommendation: 2015 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fishery</i>	
Participants:	Those individuals possessing a 2015 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:	Daily open hours are 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. through September 11 and 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. thereafter. (13-14 hours)
Week 35	Monday August 24 and Wednesday August 26 2 periods
Week 36	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from August 31 – September 3 4 periods
Week 37	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from September 8-10 3 periods
Week 38	Monday September 14 and Wednesday September 16 2 periods
Week 39	Monday September 21 and Wednesday September 23 2 periods
Week 40	Monday September 28 and Wednesday September 30 2 periods
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River in Zones 2-3 through August 26 and Zones 2-3 plus upper Zone 4 thereafter. Lower boundary for seine fishing in Zone 4 is described as a line from USCG light #10 “Red” on the Oregon shore at Henrici Landing across to a wing jetty on the Washington shore at river mile 90.25).
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-B, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal Rivers, and Select Area commercial fishing sites.
Gear:	<p>Beach seine or purse seine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one seine net is allowed per (primary) 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 (NOT including associated lead nets). Net depth not to exceed 200 meshes (approximately 50 feet). - 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 seines and 5-inch stretched measure for purse seines. 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. <p>Lead net (optional):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only one lead net is allowed per fishing operation. - Lead nets may not exceed 100 fathoms in length. Lead nets may be constructed of 3-strand nylon webbing, twine size \geq#12, \leq3.5-inch mesh size (inside of knot to outside of knot using hand tension stretched measure) <u>OR</u> nylon or cotton webbing with mesh size \geq14-inches. Lead nets may not be vertically slackened. - Seine net and lead net may not be connected. - Lead nets must be retrieved daily.

Allowable Sales:	Subject to IFQs as defined on individual permits. Adipose or left ventral fin-clipped Chinook, adipose-clipped coho, pink, and sockeye salmon and shad. All legal salmon caught must be kept and sold.
Handling/Sorting:	Hand sorting or use of a knotless dip net is required when sorting fish. All fish must be sorted and/or released prior to removing entire seine from water. Dry sorting not permitted.
Sort time:	Not to exceed 75 minutes. 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. 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.
Observer Program:	Mandatory.
Catch Reporting:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. Electronic fish ticket submission required for Oregon buyers pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The season structure and gear regulations were developed based on input from the commercial industry. The season may be modified as the season progresses.
- Season total landings are subject to the IFQs outlined on each permit. Combined landings are expected to not exceed 5,000 adult Chinook and up to 1,700 adult Coho.
- Modeled mark rates were estimated at 54% for adult Chinook and 61% for adult coho.
- Ex-vessel prices (per pound) during the 2014 seine fishery averaged \$1.49 for Chinook, and \$1.15 for Coho.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes have requested a hearing at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday August 12 via teleconference to consider treaty commercial fisheries.
- Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 3:00 p.m. Tuesday August 18 via teleconference to consider non-Indian commercial fisheries and review ongoing recreational fisheries.