

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND  
WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #11  
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
September 17, 2015**

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, 2015.*

***Stock Status***

- Passage at Bonneville Dam through September 16 totals 610,658 adult fall Chinook. TAC has provided a Chinook run update of 1,095,900 fish to the Columbia River, which is greater than the preseason forecast of 925,300 Chinook. The inseason forecast includes 685,000 upriver bright (URB) Chinook and 139,500 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook (518,300 and 163,900 preseason, respectively).
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 219,331 fish. TAC currently estimates a steelhead run of about 250,000 fish to Bonneville Dam, which is less than the preseason forecast of 298,800 fish. TAC has not updated the Group B run size, but noted the run is tracking less than expected. Additionally, TAC expects the Group A run to come in higher than the prior inseason update of 206,100 fish.
- The Lower River Hatchery (LRH) stock is the indicator stock for the lower Columbia River wild tule stock (LCR). The pre-season forecast for LRH adults to the Columbia River is 96,800 fish, which allows for a total exploitation rate (ER) of 41%. Updating the run in-season is challenging since escapement is based on hatchery returns, which are typically not complete until after the fall fishing season concludes. So far, the run appears to be tracking at or above preseason projections.
- Data on LRH escapement to hatcheries and weirs is beginning to become available as the fish move into the tributaries.
  - Escapement to Washington tributaries continues to track ahead of expectations, especially in the Kalama and Washougal rivers which account for over half of the Washington abundance.
  - In Oregon, Big Creek escapement is tracking similar to expectations with the majority of the female broodstock collection goal in hand.
  - Bonneville Hatchery has collected 13,350 tule fall Chinook as of September 16. Typically about 70% of the total return has been collected by mid-September. The projected 2015 total return could reach 18,500 adults, similar to the large 2014 return.
- Escapement of BPH fall Chinook to Spring Creek hatchery is expected to meet the goal of 7,000 fish. The hatchery has started to surplus fish as it collects its broodstock.

***Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries***

- The early fall season consisted of 10 fishing periods in Zones 4-5 during August 9-31. Catch estimates total 33,400 fall Chinook.

- The late fall season began September 15 with a 9-hour fishing period in Zones 4-5. Preliminary landings are estimated at 11,200 Chinook.
- Based on current Chinook forecasts and CWT data, Chinook remain for commercial harvest.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2015 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i></b>	
Season:	8 PM Sunday September 20 to 6 AM Monday September 21 (10 hours) 8 PM Tuesday September 22 to 6 AM Wednesday September 23 (10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is 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. The lower end of the Washougal sanctuary is extended and defined as: a line originating at USCG green marker #1 near the Washington shore due south to the downstream Fisher Quarry Channel range light on the western end of Ackerman Island (Sand Island) then from the upstream tip of Ackerman Island across to the downstream (western) tip of Lady Island.
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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, and shad.
Additional Rules:	Washington buyers: 24-hour quick reporting required pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. Oregon buyers: Electronic submission of fish receiving tickets required pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210

- The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2015 Fall Allocation Agreement.
- Catch estimates for the proposed periods include about 10,000 – 13,000 Chinook ( $\leq 0.37\%$  LCR impacts).

***Non-Indian ESA impacts***

- Based on the inseason upriver Chinook run size forecast and actual, on-going, and planned non-Indian fisheries, ESA impacts are expected to total  $<40.6\%$  for LCR tule Chinook, 10% for URB Chinook (15% allowed), and 1.9% for wild Group B steelhead at an assumed reduced run size of 30,000 fish (2% allowed).
- Staff will continue to monitor the progress of the salmon and steelhead run sizes, especially LRH Chinook and wild Group B steelhead.

**Future Meetings**

- The Joint Staff recommends a Compact hearing via teleconference be scheduled for 9 AM Wednesday September 23 to consider treaty and non-Indian commercial fisheries.