

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
August 16, 2016**

Fisheries Under Consideration: Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem
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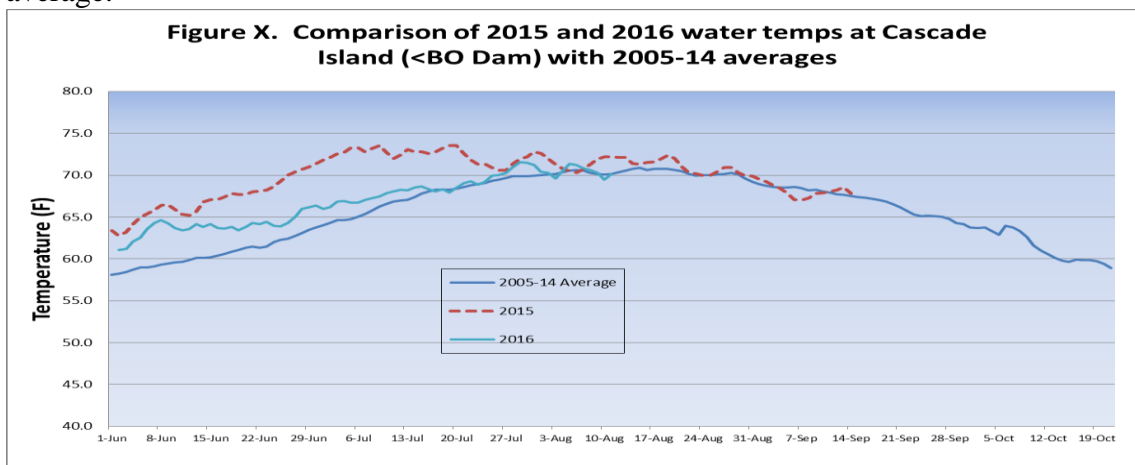
Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for the 2015 fall season were presented in Fall Factsheet #1 (July 27, 2016)

STOCK STATUS AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Preseason forecasts for adult fish to the Columbia River include 960,200 fall Chinook and 322,600 Coho, which are 136% and 73% of the 2006-15 average returns, respectively.
- Counts of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam total nearly 16,000 fish through August 14, which is slightly ahead of expected passage for this date.
- The preseason forecast for the steelhead return to Bonneville Dam (July-October) is 256,200 fish, which is about average. Counts of steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 total nearly 72,000 fish. The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met August 15 and updated the Group A steelhead forecast to 123,400 fish. Combined with the pre-season forecast for Group B, a total of 149,200 upriver summer steelhead are projected to return to Bonneville Dam, which is 50% of forecast.
- The 2016 fall season for Columbia River non-Indian fisheries was 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% of the impacts for ESA-listed wild Group B steelhead available to the commercial fisheries have been allocated to 2016 Columbia River commercial seine fisheries.

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The Columbia River flows at Bonneville Dam are currently 130.7 kcfs, which is lower than the ten-year average of 164.3 kcfs for this date.
- Water temperature at Bonneville Dam is 71° F, which is similar to the recent ten-year average.



2016 NON-INDIAN FALL FISHERIES

Mainstem Commercial Fall Drift Net Fisheries

- The Early Fall fishery is underway and expected to continue through August/early September. 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 26, with additional Early Fall fishing periods expected.
- The Late Fall fishery is expected to begin the week of September 18 in Zones 4-5 with 8-inch or 9-inch minimum mesh. A Zone 1-5 fishing period is modeled to occur on September 25.
- Coho-directed fishing periods are expected to occur in Zones 1-3 during October using 3.75-inch mesh tangle nets. Fishing periods using nets with conventional un-slackened 6-inch maximum-mesh will be considered if Chinook and/or steelhead impacts allow.

Mainstem Commercial Seine Fisheries

- The 2016 seine fishery is expected to have a similar season structure as 2015 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 1-3.
- Considering the preseason forecasts, limited impacts, and current release mortality rates, the 2016 seine fishery was modeled with an allowed harvest of around 2,700 adult hatchery Chinook and 2,000 adult hatchery Coho. Given the allowable harvest, a total of two beach seine and two purse seine permits are available for 2016.
- Applications for 2016 seine permits were made available June 1 with a June 17 submission deadline. A total of 11 applications were received and four were awarded a permit.

- The *U.S. v Oregon* Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has previously provided release mortality rates for use in seine fisheries.

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

- Gear-specific Individual Fisher Quotas (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.

2016 Fall - IFQ Limits		
	Beach (2)	Purse (2)
Adult Chinook kept	600	750
Adult Coho kept	400	600
Steelhead handle	320	230

- The main focus for this fishery is to collect data from commercial fishing zones where data is limited. Objectives include collecting coded-wire tags to estimate the stock composition of fall Chinook by gear and zone and determining steelhead-to-Chinook handle ratios by gear and zone.
- In addition, staff intends to propose one non-mark-selective day/period (TBD) per gear type to evaluate visual stock identification as a tool to potentially increase the harvest of unmarked bright Chinook. Conceptually, fishers would use external characteristics to determine Chinook stock (bright/tule) and be able to retain more fish than under mark-selective regulations. DNA samples could be collected from retained unmarked (and presumed bright) Chinook to determine accuracy of unmarked Chinook stock calls; implicit in this plan is that unmarked and presumed tule stock Chinook would be released alive.

Recommendation: 2016 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fishery	
Participants:	Those individuals possessing a 2016 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 4:00 p.m. through September 11 and 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. thereafter. (10 hours)
Week 35	Monday August 22 and Wednesday August 24 2 periods
Week 36	Monday August 29 and Wednesday August 31 2 periods
Week 37	Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday September 6-9 4 periods
Week 38	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday September 12-16 5 periods
Week 39	Monday September 19 and Wednesday September 21 2 periods
Week 40	Monday September 26 and Wednesday September 28 2 periods
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River in Zones 1-3. Beach seining restricted to Zones 2 and 3. Purse seining restricted to Zones 1 and 3. The deadline at the upper end of Zone 3 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:	Elokomin-B, Cowlitz, Kalama-B 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) OR 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. Except as noted below, allowable sales limited to 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. Retained Chinook and Coho must have a healed scar at the location of the clipped fin.

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. Cooperation required, includes transportation to/from fishing site.
Catch Reporting:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting longer than 24 hours.

- The season structure and gear regulations were developed based on past input from the commercial industry. The season may be modified as the season progresses.
- Daily fishing hours for all 2016 seine fishery dates are reduced from previous years to facilitate sampling of the landed catch.
- Season total landings are subject to the IFQs outlined on each permit. Combined landings are expected to not exceed 2,700 adult Chinook and 2,000 adult Coho.
- Mark rates expected for seine season include 40% for adult Chinook and 56% for adult Coho.
- Ex-vessel prices (per pound) during the 2015 seine fishery averaged \$1.63 for Chinook, and \$1.52 for Coho.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Wednesday August 24 via teleconference to consider non-Indian commercial fisheries and review ongoing recreational fisheries
- The tribes have requested a hearing be scheduled for September 14 or 15 via teleconference to consider treaty commercial fisheries.