

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 13**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 29, 2009**

|   |
|---|
| <i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i> <b>Non-Indian Commercial Salmon</b> |
|---|

*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2009 fall season were presented in Fall Fact Sheets #1(July 29, 2009) and # 11 (September 22, 2009)*

***Stock Status***

- TAC met Monday September 28 to review salmon and steelhead stock status. Current in season run size estimates include 203,000 Upriver bright Chinook (URBs), 41,000 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tules and 40,000 Group B summer steelhead.
- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam totals 266,437 adult fish (August 1- September 27). The run has been tracking about 4 days earlier than average, and is estimated to be 95% complete.
- The Lower River Hatchery (LRH) Fall Chinook return also appears to be early-timed this year, and may be less than the preseason forecast. By the end of September, most of the fish have typically moved in to the tributaries and are not subject to mainstem fisheries.
- LRH Chinook returns to Oregon tributaries total about 7,300 adults to date, and the broodstock goal at Big Creek Hatchery of 3,000 fish has been met, with 4,300 Chinook to date.
- LRH Chinook returns to Washington hatcheries total nearly 10,000 fish, with most facilities appearing to be on track for broodstock collection.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam totals 565,700 fish (July 1 through September 27). Record daily counts were observed in August, but counts tapered down to average in September. Overall, the upriver steelhead run is estimated to be 95% complete, with the wild Group B component 92% complete.
- Coho passage at Bonneville through September 27 totals 130,400 Type S (early stock) adults. The counting period for Type N (late stock) coho begins Oct 1. Passage to date has exceeded expectations.
- Coho returns to lower river facilities have been meeting or exceeding expectations. It is too early to project total hatchery returns. Of note is the passage of coho over Willamette Falls (8,000 coho through Sept. 22) and Bonneville Hatchery returns of over 40,000 coho through Sept. 25.

***Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries***

- A total of six fishing periods were conducted during August. Landings from August fisheries totaled 28,222 Chinook, 1,331 coho, and 2,969 white sturgeon.

- On September 22, the Compact adopted five fishing periods to start the late fall season. The combined catch expectation was 3,000-4,000 Chinook, 15,000 coho, and 1,600 white sturgeon.
- Landings for Sept. 24 have been summarized and are preliminary pending final review of fish tickets. Landings for Sept. 28 have been estimated by staff given early reports from buying stations. Landings for Sept. 29 and 30 are projections by staff based on expected catches, including adjustments for recent fishery performances.

| <i>Non-Indian Commercial Fishery Landings, Fall 2009</i> |                   |                |               |                       |
|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Dates</b>   | <b>Deliveries</b> | <b>Chinook</b> | <b>Coho</b>   | <b>White Sturgeon</b> |
| August Totals  | Ave 130           | 28,222         | 1,331         | 2,969                 |
| Sep 24, Z 4-5 (8") preliminary                           | 66                | 1,634          | 580           | 132                   |
| Sep 28, Z 4-5 (8") <i>estimated</i>                      |                   | 1,400          | 500           | 100                   |
| Sep 28, Z 1-3 (6") <i>estimated</i>                      |                   | 400            | 15,000        | 100                   |
| Sep 29, Z 1-5 (9") projected                             |                   | 200            | 100           | 1,200                 |
| Sep 30, Z 1-3 (6") projected                             |                   | 400            | 12,000        | 100                   |
| <b>Fall Total</b>  |                   | <b>32,256</b>  | <b>29,511</b> | <b>4,601</b>          |

- URB impacts for non-Indian fisheries are estimated at 8.55% for completed fisheries.
- An additional 0.89% impacts are expected to occur in the proposed additional fisheries, bringing the total to 9.44% of the 11% allowable.
- An additional 0.5% was set aside for the Snake River recreational fishery, bringing the total expected non-Indian URB impact to 9.94% if that fishery used the entire 0.5%.
- Wild B steelhead impacts for non-Indian fisheries are estimated at 1.93%, including ongoing and proposed fisheries, compared to the 2% ESA limit.
- Following August commercial fisheries, 2,166 white sturgeon remained available for commercial harvest in 2009. An additional catch of 1,632 white sturgeon is projected for currently scheduled fisheries through Sept. 30. This leaves a balance of 534 white sturgeon for the remainder of 2009 commercial fishing seasons.

## FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

| <i>Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i>               |  |            |
|---|--|------------|
| <b>Season #1:</b>   | 7 PM Wednesday, September 30 to 7 AM Thursday, October 1, 2009<br>7 PM Thursday, October 1 to 7 AM Friday, October 2, 2009<br>7 PM Sunday, October 4 to 7 AM Monday, October 5, 2009   | (12 hours) |
| Area:   | Zones 4-5  |            |
| Gear:   | 8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size   |            |
| <b>Season #2:</b>   |  |            |
|   | 7 AM – 7 PM Monday, October 5, 2009  | (12 hours) |
| Area:   | Zones 1-3  |            |
| Gear:   | 6-inch maximum mesh size; un-slackened floater gillnet   |            |
| <b>The following applies to all proposed fisheries stated above</b> |  |            |
| Allowable Sales:  | Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. Limit applies to mainstem only. Select Areas remain closed to white sturgeon retention.                                 |            |
| Miscellaneous Rules:  | 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. |            |
| Sanctuaries:  | As applicable: Elokomin-B, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers.   |            |
| Additional Rules  | <b>24-hour</b> Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.  |            |
| Expected Catch:   | 2,000 Chinook, 12,000 coho, and 250 white sturgeon.  |            |

- ✓ Depending on actual landings of coho in the Sept. 28 and 30 target coho fisheries, there may be sufficient coho impacts to allow a second target coho fishery during the week of October 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff considered a second coho target fishery for Oct. 7 but given an apparently large coho catch on Sept. 28, staff chose to wait until landings and impacts for the current fisheries were available.
- ✓ If catches for the ongoing and proposed fisheries are less than anticipated, or if impacts are below expectations, additional coho target fisheries may be available for Oct. 8 or later.
- ✓ URB impacts remain available and additional zone 4-5 fisheries are likely. The proposed schedule will allow staff time to calculate landings and impacts prior to additional seasons being proposed.

### Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff is recommending a hearing be scheduled via teleconference at 3 PM Tuesday, October 6 to review salmon stock status and ongoing fisheries.