

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 14
Columbia River Compact
October 4, 2011

Fisheries Under Consideration: Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial
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Management guidelines, allocations, and preseason run forecasts for the 2011 fall season were presented in Fall Fact Sheet #1, dated July 28, 2011.

Stock Status and Inseason Forecasts

- TAC reviewed salmonid stock status and fishery data on October 3 and updated the inseason estimates for upriver Chinook and steelhead. The current forecasts include:
 - 329,500 Upriver bright (URB) and 74,900 Bonneville Pool Hatchery (BPH) tule Chinook to the Columbia River mouth. These estimates are slightly improved over last week’s projection (URB +1%; BPH +9%); however, both projections are less than the preseason forecasts. Chinook passage is around 95% complete, and passage for the remainder of the season is expected to be nearly all bright stock.
 - 358,200 upriver summer steelhead, including 48,200 Group B steelhead to Bonneville Dam. This estimate is less than last week’s projection, and slightly less than the preseason forecast of 366,800 upriver steelhead at Bonneville Dam. Upriver summer steelhead passage is 97% complete at Bonneville Dam.
 - TAC reviewed coho return status on September 28, and upgraded the Columbia River mouth return of early stock to 260,000 adult fish. TAC will review coho stock status again on October 11.
- It is too early to make any projections regarding the late stock coho return. The preseason forecast for late coho is 102,300 fish. Counts of late stock coho began on October 1 at Bonneville Dam.

Non-Indian Commercial fisheries

2011 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fall Season Landings (rounded)						
Date	Zone	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon	Deliveries	
04-Aug	1-5	1,000	0	896	159	
Aug 16-30 (7 periods)	4-5	24,300	1,750	355	67-126	
<i>Early Fall season</i>		<i>25,300</i>	<i>1,750</i>	<i>1,251</i>		
18-Sep	1-5	10,300	3,400	339	172	
19-Sep	4-5	6,000	1,800	91	106	
20-Sep	4-5	5,300	2,200	80	94	
28-Sep	1-5	2,300	800	400	109	
<i>Late Fall (to date)</i>		<i>23,900</i>	<i>8,200</i>	<i>910</i>		
Total		49,200	9,950	2,161		

- CWT data is complete for mainstem commercial fisheries through September 26 and for LCR sport fisheries through September 21.
- Catch expectations for the September 28 fishery were 2,200 Chinook, 2,500 coho, and 400 white sturgeon. Actual catches were 2,300 Chinook, 800 coho, and 400 white sturgeon. Catches of coho were below expectations, likely due to reduced abundance of coho in the river during the time-frame in which the run typically switches from mostly early stock to mostly late stock fish.
- Based on the current run size projection of 329,500 URBs and CWT data in hand, an estimated 1,400 URBs remain available for non-Indian mainstem commercial harvest. The harvestable balance takes into account projected harvest in the on-going sport fisheries (including Snake River), and any October commercial coho fisheries.
- Based on the information currently in hand, staff estimates around 3,000 coho are available for commercial mainstem harvest. Staff will be able to develop more precise estimates as the run progresses and additional fishery, hatchery, and dam escapement data becomes available.
- A balance of 380 white sturgeon, or 11% of the 2011 commercial white sturgeon guideline, remain available for harvest.

Fishery Recommendation

<i>2011 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Late Fall Fishery</i>	
Season	8 PM Wednesday October 5 to 6 AM Thursday October 6, 2011 (10 hours)
Area/ Sanctuaries:	Zones 1-5. Grays River, Elokomin-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Washougal, and Sandy rivers.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8" minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule NOT in effect, which means nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may not be onboard the fishing vessel .
Allowable Sales:	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. Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 4 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) in the remaining openers. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only. Sales of white sturgeon from fall Select Area fisheries is prohibited.
Additional Rules:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ Catch estimates include 2,000 Chinook, up to 2,500 coho, and 250 white sturgeon.
- ✓ Total harvest in all non-Indian fisheries is projected at 14.6%, compared to the 15% harvest rate limit for URB fall Chinook based on current run size forecast and expected future fisheries.

- ✓ LRH impacts are projected to total 36.3% compared to the 37% harvest rate allowed based on preseason run size and expected future fisheries.
- ✓ LCN coho impacts are projected to be well within the 15% allowable exploitation rate limit based on the current run size forecast.
- ✓ Staff may consider the potential for a coho-directed fishery as early as next week, depending on status of run sizes, fishery harvests, and escapement estimates.

Future Hearings

No hearings are planned at this time. Staff will continue to monitor fisheries and returns and will recommend future hearings as needed.