

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 18**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**October 24, 2011**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Fisheries Under Consideration: | Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial<br>Treaty Indian commercial sturgeon setline |
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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.*

- The Columbia River return of early stock coho is estimated at 250,200 fish, compared to preseason projection of 168,500 fish. Over 217,000 of these fish are accounted for (87%).
- The preseason expectation for late coho is 102,300 fish to the Columbia River. Around 58,500 of these fish are accounted for (57%). Run size indicators for late coho include Bonneville Dam passage, Cowlitz Hatchery returns, and catch/effort (CPUE) data in the commercial fisheries.
  - Bonneville Dam counts for late coho total 25,900 fish. The run is typically 83% complete, which gives a projection of 31,000 fish, compared to the preseason expectation of 34,100 fish.
  - Preseason expectation for the Cowlitz Hatchery return is 34,100 fish this year. Through October 12 nearly 20,000 fish have returned; 10,000 of those fish returned during Oct 6-12. Hatchery staff has indicated that returns over the past week have declined. The total return to the Cowlitz Hatchery is projected to range from 35,000-50,000 fish.
  - Catch in the commercial fisheries has been less than projected considering a run size expectation of 102,300 late-stock fish. CPUE data has been collected over a number of years, which can provide information on relative run strength. Based on the CPUE data for the weeks of October 10 and 17, the late coho run is tracking less than preseason expectations.
- Based on the data available, staff is estimating the late coho return to the Columbia River could range from 84,000-105,000 fish.
- Harvest from the mainstem fall commercial fisheries through October 20 totals 52,100 Chinook, 13,500 coho and 2,431 white sturgeon.

| <b>Preliminary catch summary of Columbia River coho in 2011 fisheries</b> |                |               |                       |               |
|---|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Fishery   | Preseason      |               | In-season (projected) |               |
|   | Kept Catch     | Impact        | Kept Catch            | Impact        |
| Mainstem commercial   | 8,391          | 3.33%         | 13,505                | 5.97%         |
| SAFE  | 51,616         | 0.33%         | 44,736                | 0.27%         |
| B10 Sport   | 6,956          | 0.59%         | 7,250                 | 1.40%         |
| LCR Sport   | 1,019          | 0.04%         | 2,000                 | 0.15%         |
| Ocean (all fisheries)   | 83,252         | 10.71%        | 65,272                | 7.07%         |
| <b>Sum</b>  | <b>151,234</b> | <b>15.00%</b> | <b>132,763</b>        | <b>14.86%</b> |

- Based on the latest fishery and run size information (in-season early stock and preseason late stock run sizes), impacts to Columbia River coho are estimated at 14.86% compared to the 15% total allowable. At this impact rate, approximately 400 coho remain available for commercial harvest. Therefore, the Joint Staff is not recommending any further non-Indian mainstem commercial fisheries.

***Treaty Sturgeon Set Line Fishery***

- The tribes opened a sturgeon setline fishery on October 10 in all three pools of Zone 6. The fishery was planned to go through October 31. The harvest through October 20 is shown in the table below.

| Pool         | Winter Setline | Winter Gillnet | Summer Gillnet | August Setline | October Setline | Total        | Commercial Harvest Guideline | Remaining  |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|------------|
| Bonneville   | 61             | 1,602          | 136            | 113            | 55              | <b>1,967</b> | 2,000                        | 33         |
| The Dalles   | 2              | 307            | 32             | 41             | 13              | <b>395</b>   | 1,000                        | 605        |
| John Day     | 0              | 732            | 31             | 5              | 0               | <b>768</b>   | 1,000                        | 232        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>63</b>      | <b>2,641</b>   | <b>199</b>     | <b>159</b>     | <b>68</b>       | <b>3,130</b> | <b>4,000</b>                 | <b>870</b> |

- The tribes expect that the Bonneville Pool commercial harvest guideline will be met sometime this week. Therefore the tribes will close the setline fishery in the Bonneville Pool at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, October, 26.
- Because catch and effort remain low in The Dalles and John Day pools, the tribes will allow the fishery in those two pools to continue through the previously scheduled October 31 end date.

***Recommendation***

| <b><i>2011 Treaty Indian Fall Season Sturgeon Setline Fishery</i></b>   |
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| Effective 6:00 PM Wednesday, October 26: Close the sturgeon setline fishery in the <u>Bonneville Pool</u> . Legal-sized sturgeon harvested prior to the closure may be sold after the end of the fishing period. Platform and hook and line caught legal-sized sturgeon handled <i>after</i> the closure may only be retained for subsistence purposes. |
| The Dalles and John Day pools remain open as scheduled (6 PM Monday October 31).  |

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- No future Compact hearings are proposed at this time.