

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
August 25, 2011

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon Select Area commercial
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2011 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1(July 28, 2011)

Stock Status

- Fall Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam during August 1-24 totals 29,190 adults, including 26,151 bright stock and 3,039 tulle stock. Adult Chinook passage is typically 50% complete by September 7.
- Steelhead passage at Bonneville Dam between July 1 and August 24 totals 248,139 fish. The majority of fish are Group A stock, as the Group B component is later-timed, with passage beginning in mid-late August. Total passage is typically 50% complete by August 15.
- TAC will begin weekly reviews of Chinook and steelhead stock status in early September.

Early Fall Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The preseason catch expectation for early fall (August) fisheries was 42,600 adult Chinook, including 3,500 LRH (8%) and 18,600 URB (44%) stock. A total of 1,800 white sturgeon were allocated to the August portion of the fall fishing season.
- | 2011 Preseason Catch Expectation of Adult Fall Chinook in Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries during the Early Fall (August) Season | | | | |
|---|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Date | Total | LRH | URB | BPH |
| Aug 4-5 | 3,000 | 1,300 | 700 | 800 |
| Aug 16-26 | 21,400 | 1,500 | 8,800 | 9,400 |
| Aug 28-31 | 18,200 | 700 | 9,100 | 4,800 |
| Early Fall | 42,600 | 3,500 | 18,600 | 15,000 |
- Preseason modeling for August fishing periods included a total of eight fishing periods, one in early August and seven in late August. At the July 28 hearing, the Compact adopted six of these periods and set a hearing for August 25 to consider the remaining two periods.
 - Time restrictions limited each adopted fishing period to nine hours (9 PM-6 AM). Gear restrictions included a 9-inch minimum mesh requirement. Area restrictions included pertinent sanctuaries and a Zone 1-3 closure after the first fishing period. All periods imposed a weekly landing/possession limit for white sturgeon.

2011 Non-Indian Commercial Early Fall Harvest Data

Date	Hours	Zones	Del.	Chinook	Coho	Sturgeon
August 4-5	9	1-5	159	1,025	0	896
August 16-17	9	4-5	67	1,227	35	26
August 18-19	9	4-5	80	1,763	58	20
August 21-22	9	4-5	126	3,190	176	89
August 23-24 (prelim)	9	4-5	125	2,700	100	70
Sum				9,905	369	1,101

- Catch for the August 4-5 opener was less than the 3,000 fish expected. CWT data indicated that the majority of the catch (90%) was SAB stock. Catch for the Late August fishing periods to date has increased incrementally as expected.
- Coded-wire-tag (CWT) tag data is 90% complete through August 22. LRH and URB stocks represent 5% and 52% of the adult catch, respectively.
- Catch projections for the fishery scheduled for this evening (Aug 25-26) range from 4,000-6,000 adult fall Chinook. Catch estimates, including actual and projected, total 15,500 Chinook, compared to the 24,400 fish set aside for harvest through August 26.
- Based on these catch projections, an estimated 27,100 Chinook remain available for harvest from the Chinook set aside for all August commercial fisheries. (8,900 remaining from Aug 4-26 plus 18,200 for Aug 28-30).
- Considering that catch and stock components are well within the preseason expectation, staff is recommending that the remaining two fishing periods for the late August season be adopted consistent with preseason planning.

Date	Total	LRH	URB	BPH
Aug 4-5	1,025	0	33	0
Aug 16-22	6,180	400	3,700	1,200
	7,205	400	3,733	1,200

<i>2011 Non-Indian Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season	9 PM Sunday August 28 to 6 AM Monday August 29 9 PM Tuesday August 30 to 6 AM Wednesday August 31	(9 hours) (9 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	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 9" minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple Net Rule NOT in place. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery are prohibited to be onboard the vessel. 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.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of three white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. 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. Vessel operators are required to cooperate with agency on-board monitoring efforts.	

- Catch estimates include 10,000 to 20,000 Chinook and 100-200 sturgeon.
- Consistent with preseason planning, staff does not intend to propose additional commercial mainstem fisheries until around September 18.

Select Area Fall Fisheries

- At the July 28 Compact hearing fishing periods for the fall season Select Area sites were adopted. Fall seasons were adopted as recommended with the exception of the Youngs Bay fishery. The Youngs Bay season was adopted only through September 2, while the remaining season (September 5 – October 31) was deferred until the August 25 hearing.
- Some fishers had requested the Compact consider additional September week-end closures in Youngs Bay to reduce congestion. Staff has since solicited input from fishers. Among the responses received, about 2/3 of fishers did not favor this change. Staff is recommending that the remainder of the fall Youngs Bay fishery be adopted as originally proposed at the July 28 hearing. The following proposal will be in addition to the season already in place.

2011 Select Area Fall Season - Youngs Bay Fishery	
Season:	7 PM Monday September 5 through noon Sunday October 31 (57 days)
Area:	All waters from the new Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the upper boundary markers at Battle Creek Slough; except for closed waters southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River).
Gear:	<p>6-inch maximum mesh size restriction.</p> <p>Maximum net length 250 fathoms. Weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline <u>is allowed</u> only in the marked areas located immediately upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River and the upper deadline at Battle Creek Slough.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored.</p> <p>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.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Salmon only. Sales of white sturgeon from fall Select Area fisheries are prohibited.

- At the July 28 Compact, some fishers asked for consideration of additional fishing hours in the Tongue Point select area site. Staff has considered the potential for expanded opportunity and is proposing to modify the fishing hours for this area.

<i>2011 Select Area Fall Season - Tongue Point Fishery</i>	
Modify the previously adopted portion of the Tongue Point season as follows: <i>(modification in bold)</i>	
Open 4 PM to 10 AM (16 hours) nightly during the following weeks:	
Monday September 19 - Friday September 23	(4 nights)
Monday September 26 - Friday September 30	(4 nights)
Monday October 3 - Friday October 7	(4 nights)
Monday October 10 - Friday October 14	(4 nights)
Monday October 17 - Friday October 21	(4 nights)
Monday October 24 - Friday October 28	(4 nights)

- All other regulations adopted at the July 28 Compact remain in effect.

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff request a Compact hearing be scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday September 8 via teleconference. The agenda would include stock status review for Chinook and steelhead, and potentially consider additional commercial periods for treaty and non-Indian fisheries.