

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 16a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 14, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon
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Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Fall Factsheet #1, dated July 29, 2015

Stock Status

- Passage of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through October 13 totals 925,215 fish. The 2015 Columbia River return is currently projected to reach 1,224,300 adult fall Chinook (132% of preseason).
- The majority of LRH fish have typically moved out of the mainstem and into the lower river tributaries by the end of September.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam through October 13 totals 249,199 fish. Upriver summer steelhead passage (July-October) is currently projected to reach 251,000 fish at Bonneville Dam, including 18,000 Group B stock (5,400 wild; 46% of preseason).
- Passage of adult upriver Coho at Bonneville Dam through October 14 totals 29,728 fish. Passage of early stock Coho (counts through September 30) totaled 27,917 adult fish, which is the lowest count since 1997 for this timeframe. The late-stock passage expectation for 2015 was around 45,000 adult fish (October–December). Late passage is generally 50% complete by October 12. Counts since Oct 1 have totaled 2,811 adult Coho.
- Lower river Coho (including lower Columbia naturally-produced fish (LCN)) are just beginning to enter the tributaries and return to the hatcheries, so information on run strength is currently limited.

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- The late fall season has consisted of nine fishing periods to date (five Chinook-directed and four Coho-directed). Harvest through October 12 includes about 45,900 Chinook and 2,900 Coho.
- Because of the uncertainty in the Columbia River Coho return, additional information is needed on LCN impacts in ocean fisheries to determine the amount available to inriver fisheries. Staff has determined that LCN impacts remain available to inriver fisheries at a reduced run size of 180,000 early and 80,000 late Coho which is about half of the preseason expectation; however, actual returns may be less.
- Group B wild upriver summer steelhead continue to be a constraining factor; however, minimal impacts do remain for an additional non-Indian salmon period which could be either Chinook or Coho-directed.

Recommendation – 2015 Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

Season:	9 PM Thursday October 15 to 5 AM Friday October 16 (8 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5. Lower deadline 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-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A , Washougal and Sandy Rivers
Gear:	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh.
Allowable Sales:	Coho, Chinook, Pink, and Sockeye salmon and shad.
Additional Rules:	<p>Multiple net rule in effect: 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.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: Nets fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then a lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net is required</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers per WAC 220-69-240.</p> <p>Electronic submission of fish receiving tickets required for Oregon buyers pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210</p>

- Estimated catch is 1,200 Chinook and 100 Coho.
- Given the high abundance of Chinook currently in the lower river plus the higher average weight and value of Chinook landed in large-mesh fisheries, it seems most efficient to use the remaining Group B steelhead impacts on a Chinook-directed fishery.
- Staff will evaluate the potential for additional Coho-directed fisheries next week when landings are finalized and additional information is available on run strength and impacts in ocean fisheries.
- TAC will also review salmon and steelhead stock status again on Monday October 19.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Considering all the data in hand, non-Indian fisheries (including completed, on-going, proposed, and planned fisheries) are expected to remain within the ESA constraints for both salmon and steelhead.
 - Impacts to lower Columbia River (LCR) Chinook are not expected to exceed 40.6%.
 - Impacts to wild Group B steelhead are currently projected at 2.0% compared to the 2% ESA impact limit.
 - URB impacts are projected to be 9.5% compared to the 15% ESA impact limit.
 - Impacts to Lower Columbia Natural (LCN) Coho estimated at 20.3% at the reduced runsize referenced above compared to the 23% exploitation rate for ocean and in-river fisheries.

Future Meetings

- The Joint staff will recommend additional hearings as needed, which could be early next week.