

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 22
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 7, 2008**

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Non-Indian Commercial
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008) and Fact Sheet #16 (Sept. 16, 2008)

2008 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Inseason Run Updates				
Species	Stock	Forecasts*		Last Update
		Preseason	Current	
Chinook	URB	164.4	212.5	06-Oct
	BPH	86.2	96.0	06-Oct
Coho	Early Coho	96.0	250.0	06-Oct
	Late Coho	86.5	--	
Steelhead**	Group B	49.7	99.7	06-Oct
	<i>Wild B</i>	8.5	13.4	06-Oct
	Group A	266.3	247.2	06-Oct
	<i>Wild A</i>	41.2	63.4	06-Oct

* In thousands of fish, ** Bonneville Dam runsize

- The majority of the commercial fishing periods have occurred in Zones 4-5 in order to avoid ESA listed lower river Chinook and coho. Commercial landings have been within expectations. An estimated 349 sturgeon remain available for commercial harvest in 2008.

- The numbers of deliveries dropped significantly by the end of last week. Only 16 deliveries took place from the Thursday night fishery (Oct 2), compared to the 48 deliveries on the previous Monday night (Sep 28). Commercial fishers are also indicating that the quality of the fish is declining as the salmon mature.

2008 Late Fall Commercial Landings				
Week	Landings Period	Chinook	Coho	White
				Sturgeon
Week 38	18-Sep	118	241	1,021
Week 39	Sep 21-26	7,867	5,144	1,330
Week 40	Sep 28-Oct 3	4,061	2,410	541
Total		12,046	7,795	2,892

- Staff is managing non-Indian fisheries to remain below 10.75% URB ESA impacts (11% allowed). Impacts to date include ongoing recreational fisheries in the Columbia and Snake rivers, ongoing commercial fisheries in Select Areas, and catch to date in mainstem commercial and recreational fisheries.

- Additional commercial fisheries can occur in October as impacts allow. URB Chinook are available for harvest under the US v Oregon Management Agreement and the 2008 fall Chinook non-Indian allocation agreement, and sturgeon remain available under the 2006-2008 Joint State Sturgeon Accord.

Non-Indian Impacts to Date		
	Impact allowed	To date
URB	11.0%	9.5%
LRW	10.0%	6.5%
LRH	41.0%	35.0%
Coho	8.0%	7.3%
Steelhead	2.0%	1.2%

- At this time, commercial fisheries are constrained mainly by ESA limits on coho and LRW Chinook. Based on current runsize projections, landings and stock composition to date, an estimated 2,500 coho remain available for harvest, and about 125 LRW Chinook.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Only 2,500 coho remain available for harvest at this time. In past years, TAC has updated the late-stock coho run size as early as week 42 (October 13).
- Staff estimates that 3,000-5,000 coho would be needed to conduct a 6-12 hour target coho fishery in Zones 1-3 (up to the Longview Bridge) during the week Oct 13 (week 42).
- In the 2008 Fall Allocation agreement, staff recognized the utility of using some coho impacts to conduct a full fleet coho fishery in the lower river if possible. This fishery would supply catch per unit effort (CPUE) data from Zones 1 and 2, which has historically been used to provide information regarding the strength of the late coho run size.
- If fisheries are put on hold for a late coho runsize update, Chinook and coho abundance will continue to decline in the area near Bonneville Dam. The market quality of these salmon will also decline. The risk of waiting for a meaningful coho run size upgrade is that: 1) an upgrade may not occur and 2) the harvestable abundance and quality of Chinook diminishing with time.
- Based on the all the information in hand, staff developed the following scenarios:
 1. Delay additional commercial fishing until TAC has had time to review the late coho runsize, which could be early in the week of October 13, or provide another run upgrade for early stock coho.
 - Indicators look positive for an upgrade, but it is very early in the late-stock coho run. If the early runsize remains at 250,000, then the late run size may need to be at least 150,000 fish (compared to 86,000 preseason) in order to provide ESA impacts sufficient to cover a harvest of ~5,000 coho needed for a 12-hour target coho fishery in the lower river.
 2. Continue target Chinook fisheries in a reduced area (Area 2S) and/or with a larger mesh to reduce coho harvest.
 - This should create some savings on coho impacts, but it may not be a fishery of interest to a majority of fishers since catch would be low and travel costs to the fishing area are substantial. Effort would likely be limited to less than 20 fishers. This scenario would allow for continued Chinook harvest and minimal coho harvest.
 3. Continue target Chinook fishing in Zone 4-5 as in week 40.
 - This scenario would allow for a higher number of Chinook to be harvested and marketed before quality declines further. Impacts to coho would incur at a higher rate compared to Scenario #2, therefore this option reduces the likelihood of lower river target coho fisheries later in the season. Effort would still be expected to be low (20-30 fishers).

<i>Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i>	
Scenario #1	Delay commercial fishing until possible TAC late coho run update during the week of October 13. A 6-hour fishery below the Longview Bridge could be possible. Using the Longview Bridge for the upper deadline would provide additional protection to LRW Chinook.

Scenario #2	7 PM Wednesday Oct 8 through 7 AM Thursday Oct 9 (12 hours each) 7 PM Thursday Oct 9 through 7 AM Friday Oct 10 7 PM Sunday October 12 through 7 PM Monday October 13
Area	Area 2S – True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock
Gear	9-inch minimum mesh size Catch expectation: 500 Chinook, 600 coho, 60 sturgeon
Scenario #3	7 PM Wednesday Oct 8 through 7 AM Thursday Oct 9 (12 hours each) 7 PM Thursday Oct 9 through 7 AM Friday Oct 10 7 PM Sunday October 12 through 7 PM Monday October 13
Area	Zones 4-5
Gear	8-inch minimum mesh size Catch expectation: 900 Chinook, 1,000 coho, 100 sturgeon
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 3 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.
Sanctuaries:	As applicable: Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers.
Additional Rules	24-hour Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers. 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

Non-Indian UpRiver Bright (URB) Adult Catch and Expected Impacts				
URB Impact Allowed	11.0%	Run Size	<u>212,500</u>	
URB management	10.75%			
Sport (53%)	5.7%			
Comm. (47%)	5.1%	Adult		
Fishery	Status	URBs	Impact	
Buoy 10	Complete	2,550	1.20%	
LCR Sport	Ongoing	6,700	3.15%	
Zone 6 Sport	Ongoing	1,420	0.67%	
Snake River Sport	Ongoing	500	0.50%	
		11,170	5.52%	57%
August Comm.	Complete	4,430	2.08%	
Sep/Oct Comm.	Complete	3,770	1.77%	
Oct Z 4-5	Projected	460	0.22%	
SAFE	Ongoing	280	0.13%	
		8,940	4.21%	43%
Total Non Indian		20,110	9.73%	

- Impacts to URBs are estimated by using the higher of the two catch estimates (Scenario # 3).
- Impacts to LRW and LRH Chinook are not expected to increase due to area restrictions. Impacts to upriver steelhead are low, and there is minimal risk at exceeding the 2% limit.
- Coho impacts are based on expected mark rate and current runsizes estimates. Total coho impacts are projected to range from 7.5% to 7.7% considering an additional catch of 600-1,000 coho.