

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 8  
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
September 18, 2007**

***Fisheries Under Consideration:*      Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem**

**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***Salmon and Steelhead***

- The "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon" provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall season fisheries.
- The 2005-2007 Management Agreement provides that the 31.29% URB impact rate is allocated 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries.
- Treaty Indian fall fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild Group B index steelhead to no greater than 15%. All non-Indian fall fisheries outside the Snake River Basin will be managed to not exceed a 2% impact rate on wild steelhead.
- Ocean and Columbia River fisheries will be managed for a combined exploitation rate of 20% on Lower Columbia River wild coho salmon and 42% on ESA-listed Lower Columbia River tule Chinook.
- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed in accordance with the "2007 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

ESA Constraints and Management Guidelines					
		URB	LRH	LCR Coho	Steelhead
<b>Impacts</b>	Treaty Indian	23.04%	--	--	15%
<b>Limits</b>	Non-Indian	8.25%	42%	20%	2%
		31.29%	42%	20%	17%
<b>Non Indian Allocation</b>	Sport	4.17%	2.56%		
	Comm.	4.08%	2.34%		
		8.25%	4.90%	20%	2%
<b>% Allocation</b>	Sport	51%	52%		
	Comm.	49%	48%		

- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed for an impact rate of less than 5% for Columbia River chum salmon.
- Upriver adult fall Chinook escapement goals include 7,000 adults (4,000 females) to Spring Creek Hatchery and 43,500 adults above McNary Dam.
- Ocean and lower river fisheries will be managed to provide for a Bonneville Dam escapement of at least 50% of the upriver coho salmon return.

**Excerpts From the 2007 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement**

- ✓ The preseason LRH impact allocations are 52% sport and 48% commercial and the URB impacts are allocated 51% sport and 49% commercial. The total Chinook mainstem catch expectation is 44% sport and 56% commercial.
- ✓ **Expectations for the commercial fishery include:**

The late fall fishery is expected to begin the week of September 16. Catch expectation for all late fall fisheries is 15,600 Chinook, including 5,400 Chinook for September Chinook-directed fisheries (Zones 4-5), 6,600 Chinook for September coho fisheries and 3,600 Chinook for October coho fisheries. The LRH impacts associated with these fisheries are 1.2% or 52% of the commercial allocation. Coho harvest is expected to include 12,100 coho harvested during September and 11,700 coho for October fisheries.

Directed coho fisheries should occur at least one day per week during mid-September and October. The coho fishery will generally occur in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours with an unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh size net.

**Sturgeon**

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2006-2008 are guided by a Joint State management plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is to be allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial with specific size limits in place for both user groups. The 2007 and 2008 commercial guidelines will be reduced to 7,850 fish each year to account for 2006 fisheries, which were about 300 fish over the 8,000 guideline.

**Excerpts from 2007 Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon in Commercial Fisheries**

- ✓ Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 1,800 for the winter-spring timeframe (January-June 15) with 1,600 for winter sturgeon and 200 for winter salmon, 500 for the summer timeframe (June 16-July 31), **2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August) plus all rollover of any remaining allocation from winter-summer seasons, and 3,150 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).**
- ✓ Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
- ✓ The allocation reflects a total of 7,850 fish, in response to a 312 fish overage from the 2006 season.
- ✓ Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
- ✓ Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
- ✓ Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season-specific catch expectation or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.

**Water Conditions**

**Flow Updates**

- Flow, as measured at Bonneville Dam, was relatively stable in August, averaging 145 kcfs. Average flows during August in the last ten years have been 156 kcfs.
- As typically occurs during September, flows have dropped significantly, averaging 96 kcfs. Flows during early September typically average 118 kcfs.

**Temperature Updates**

- Water temperatures, as measured at Bonneville Dam, tend to peak during the first half of August, and then decline slowly through early September.

- The average water temperature during August (70°F) was consistent with the 10-year monthly average.
- As of September 10, the water temperature is about 69 °F, which is above the 10-year average 67°F.

## STOCK STATUS

### *Summer Steelhead*

- Preseason forecasts for upriver steelhead at Bonneville Dam include 16,700 Skamania stock, 241,500 Group A fish and 56,400 Group B fish for a total of 314,600 fish. The 2007 forecast was similar to the recent 10 year average passage over Bonneville Dam.
- At Bonneville Dam, steelhead passing from April through June are considered Skamania stock, and those fish passing July through October are considered Group A and B steelhead.

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>									
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)			Group B Index (>=78 cm)			Total Steelhead		
	Wild	Hatchery	Total	Wild	Hatchery	Total	Wild	Hatchery	Total
1987-1991 Ave	63,180	127,660	190,840	11,820	44,120	55,940	75,000	171,780	246,780
1992-1996 Ave	29,160	141,540	170,700	5,600	25,020	30,620	34,760	166,560	201,320
1997-2001 Ave	64,620	185,620	250,240	6,300	38,940	45,240	70,920	224,560	295,480
2002-2006 Ave	67,767	208,667	276,434	12,853	52,072	64,926	80,620	260,739	341,359
2007 Preseason	41,600	199,900	241,500	10,800	45,600	56,400	52,400	245,500	297,900

- Based on Bonneville Dam counts from July 1 to September 16, the TAC updated Group A and Group B steelhead run sizes to 290,000 Group A (including 63,800 wild) and 22,000 Group B (including 6,600 wild) for a total 312,000 fish.
- The 2007 Skamania index return of 9,475 was 57% of the preseason forecast of 16,700 fish.

<i>Summer Steelhead Dam Counts</i>				
	Cumulative Total July 1-September 14			
	2007	2006	2005	10 yr ave.
Bonneville	274,560	266,980	234,670	264,640
The Dalles	140,100	132,710	116,500	143,910
John Day	96,060	89,050	95,410	108,830
McNary	74,020	58,100	66,520	71,150
Priest Rapids (Sep 11)	9,350	6,350	6,690	8,640
Ice Harbor	34,840	33,200	33,440	44,000
Lower Granite	11,850	12,650	15,920	20,350

- As of September 14, 51% of the steelhead passing over Bonneville Dam have also passed The Dalles Dam.

### *Fall Chinook*

- The 2007 preseason forecast for fall Chinook salmon returns included 347,400 adults, comprised of 261,700 brights (75%) and 85,700 tules (25%). Passage is typically 50% complete around September 7.

<b>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</b>					
Facility/ (Begin fall counting period)	Cumulative Total August 1 September 14				
		2007	2006	2005	Ten Year Average
	Bright	83,916	156,760	214,760	196,260
	Tules	14,828	25,930	75,230	72,570
Bonneville (Aug 1)	Total	98,744	182,690	289,990	268,830
The Dalles (Aug 4)		49,930	90,370	132,110	118,650
John Day (Aug 6)		30,550	58,640	93,440	75,930
McNary (Aug 9)		21,973	32,280	52,360	46,160
Priest Rapids (Aug 14)	11-Sep	6,810	6,670	7,070	12,190
Ice Harbor (Aug 12)		5,350	5,210	6,160	5,270
Lower Granite (Aug 18)		2,920	2,970	3,460	2,400

- Observation of fall Chinook passing Bonneville Dam is conducted to determine tule/bright stock separation. Adult passage through September 16 includes 87,527 brights and 14,949 tules (with adjustment for large jacks). Generally 77% of the bright passage and 89% of the tule passage is complete by September 16.
- TAC met on September 17 and updated the in-season run estimates to 17,500 adult BPH and 105,000 adult URB stock to the river mouth. TAC will meet again on Friday September 21.

<b>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</b>				
	2006	2007	12-Sep	17-Sep
Stock	Return	Preseason	Update	Update
LRH	58,300	54,400	54,400	54,400
LRW	18,100	10,000	10,000	10,000
BPH	27,900	21,300	21,300	17,500
URB	230,400	185,200	121K-151K	105,000
PUB	35,200	30,000	30,000	17,000
BUB	41,600	36,600	36,600	31,000
LRB	3,600	2,500	2,500	2,500
SAB	7,200	7,500	7,500	7,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>422,300</b>	<b>347,500</b>		<b>244,900</b>

- The McNary Dam counts through September 16 total 28,890 adult fall Chinook. Passage is typically 50% complete around September 15. The escapement goal has been achieved for about the last 20 years. The current escapement goal is 43,500 adults.
- Returns to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 12 total 6,200 Chinook, including 2,100 males, 2,300 females, and 1,800 jacks (goal: 4,000 females).
- Adult collections at Big Creek Hatchery through September 12 include 640 females and 211 males (goal: 1,300 females and 1,500 males).

- In Washington's lower river hatcheries, broodstock/natural spawn collection in the lower river hatcheries occurs throughout the return time. Based on individual hatchery returns and broodstock needs, a weekly broodstock collection goal is developed. Timing in each of these hatcheries varies; the Elochoman and Kalama stocks begin to return earlier than the Cowlitz and Washougal.
- Through September 17, broodstock collection goals were behind for Elochoman, Cowlitz and Washougal hatcheries. Returns need to improve by next week to alleviate concern. Kalama hatchery has met broodstock needs to date, but counts have been dropping.

### ***Columbia River Coho***

- The 2007 preseason forecast for coho returns to the Columbia River included 366,900 adults, comprised of 293,700 early stock (80%) and 73,200 late stock (20%). About 104,000 of these coho are destined for areas above Bonneville Dam.
- Bonneville Dam counts through September 16 total 45,230 adult coho. An estimated 94,700 upriver coho are expected to pass Bonneville Dam this year. Passage is typically 50% by September 16.
- Hatchery returns of early coho are just starting, with 700 fish collected at Merwin Dam through September 12.

## **FISHERY UPDATES**

### ***Buoy 10 Recreational Fishery***

- The Buoy 10 fishery is closed for Chinook retention until further notice. The fishery remains open for retention of hatchery coho and steelhead.
- Through September 12, an estimated 34,000 anglers kept 4,000 Chinook and 7,900 coho, compared to the preseason catch expectation of 4,300 Chinook and 12,200 coho.
- Partial CWT data indicates that the LRH stock component was higher than expected (38% compared to 24%) and the URB component was less than expected (17% compared to 22%).
- Impacts associated with this fishery are 0.53% for URB and 1.07% for LRH.

### ***Mainstem Recreational Fishery***

- On Monday September 17 the Joint States met and decided to prohibit the retention of Chinook downstream of Bonneville Dam effective September 19, and from Bonneville Dam upstream to Highway 395 Bridge in Pasco, Washington effective September 20.
- Catch projections for the area from Tongue Point/ Rocky Point upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge through September 19 total 12,100 adult Chinook, including 4,460 URBs and 3,550 LRH.
- Total impacts associated with this area are estimated at 3.62% on URBs and 3.10% on LRH.

### ***August Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries***

- Preseason catch expectations for Early Fall (August) fisheries were 4,150 Chinook, including 1,050 URBs (25%). URB impacts were expected to be about 14% of the commercial

allocation of 4.07%. A total of 2,000 white sturgeon were allocated to Early Fall fisheries, which was adjusted to 2,415 based on rollover from winter-summer fisheries.

- Landings from the Early Fall fishery totaled nearly 4,000 Chinook. Stock composition consisted of 46% URBs and 19% LRH compared to the preseason expectations of 25% URBs and 23% LRH.
- Impacts associated with this fishery include 1.6% URB and 0.81% LRH, compared to the preseason expectation of 0.57% URB and 1.10% LRH.

<i>2007 Early Fall Commercial Fishery Landings</i>				
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
Aug. 2-3 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	108	390	0	938
Aug. 6-7 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	139	732	3	1,104
Aug. 9-10 (Z 1-5) 9" mesh	133	1,163	11	604
Early August Total		<b>2,285</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,646</b>
August 23-24, 2007	89	1,696	43	91
Total August fisheries		3,981	57	2,737

#### *Select Area Commercial Fisheries*

- The fall commercial season in Select Areas began in Youngs Bay in August with weekly fishing periods. The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery opened September 4 with continuous fishing scheduled through the end of October. Preseason catch expectations for the Youngs Bay fishery included  $\leq 3,300$  Select Area Bright (SAB) fall chinook and 23,300 coho.
- Fishing periods in the other Select Areas also began September 4 with 12-hour fishing periods through September 14. Beginning September 17 through October 26, these areas will increase fishing opportunity. The combined preseason catch expectation is 11,300 coho. Site-specific coho catch expectations are for 5,000 in Tongue Point, 3,000 in Blind Slough, and 3,300 in Deep River.

<i>2007 Fall Select Area Commercial Fishery Landings</i>				
Site	Landings			White Sturgeon
	Period	Chinook	Coho	
Youngs Bay	8/1-9/16	3,500	1,640	45
Tongue Pnt/S. Channel	9/4-9/14	110	620	6
Blind/Knappa Sloughs	9/4-9/14	40	375	1
Deep River	9/4-9/9	74	211	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,724</b>	<b>2,846</b>	<b>56</b>

- Chinook landings in Youngs Bay met expectations; however, coho landings to date in all areas are well below expectations.

**Sturgeon Harvest**

- Through September 14, a total of 4,934 white sturgeon (63% of the commercial guideline) have been landed in commercial fisheries (including Select Areas), leaving 2,915 available for harvest, with 2,828 available in mainstem fisheries.

<b>2007 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</b>			
Fishery	Guideline	Catch	Remaining
Mainstem Winter/ Spring Gillnet	1,800	1,471	329
Mainstem Summer Gillnet	500	414	86
Select Area Gillnet (thru 9/14)	400	313	87
August Gillnet	2,000 (2,415 adj.)	2,737	(322)
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,150 (2,828 adj)	--	2,828
<b>Sum</b>	<b>7,850</b>	<b>4,934</b>	<b>2,915</b>

**Treaty Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery**

- Preseason catch expectations for treaty Indian fisheries totaled 60,480 Chinook including 42,700 URBs.
- Four weekly fishing periods have taken place during August 21 through September 14. These periods occurred 3.5 to 4.5 days per week, with no mesh restriction in place during August and an 8-inch minimum in place during September fisheries.
- A fifth fishing period is currently underway, consisting of a 4.5 days from September 17-21.

<b>2007 Treaty - Indian Fisheries</b>					
<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Nets</b>	<b>Chinook Catch</b>		<b>Steelhead Catch</b>	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>URB</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Wild B</b>
Platform (thru 8/21)	--	298	92	2,510	73
August 22-24	337	1,930	597	1,306	16
August 28-31	469	5,122	1,838	1,688	55
Sept 4-8	451	9,557	4,652	2,181	65
Sept 11-14 (Proj.)	528	8,344	5,191	3,159	182
Sept 17- 21 (Proj.)	450	4,531	2,765	2,966	207
Late Fall Platform		100	100	30	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>29,882</b>	<b>15,243</b>	<b>13,840</b>	<b>608</b>

## Impacts Summary

2007 Fall Fishery Adult Harvest and LRH/URB Impacts										
Fishery	Preseason Catch			Actual/Projected Catch			LRH ER		URB HR	
	Total	LRH	URB	Total	LRH	URB	Preseason	Inseason	Preseason	Inseason
<b>Treaty Indian</b>										
<b>C&amp;S/ Platform Comm. (Proj. Sep 21)</b>		--		400	--	200	--	--		
		--		29,480	--	15,040	--	--		
<b>Treaty Indian Total</b>	<b>60,480</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>42,680</b>	<b>29,880</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>15,240</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>23.04%</b>	<b>14.51%</b>
Fishery	Preseason Catch			Actual/Projected Catch			LRH ER		URB HR	
	Total	LRH	URB	Total	LRH	URB	Preseason	Inseason	Preseason	Inseason
<b>Non-Indian</b>										
<b>Buoy 10</b>	4,300	890	830	4,000	900	560	1.03%	1.07%	0.45%	0.53%
<b>LCR (thru Sept 19)</b>	10,840	1,320	6,310	7,950	2,650	3,800	1.53%	3.10%	3.41%	3.62%
<b>Zone 6 (thru Sept 20)</b>	710	--	580	130	--	100	--	--	0.31%	0.10%
<b>Sport Total</b>	<b>15,850</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>7,720</b>	<b>12,080</b>	<b>3,550</b>	<b>4,460</b>	<b>2.56%</b>	<b>4.17%</b>	<b>4.17%</b>	<b>4.25%</b>
<b>August Comm.</b>	4,150	950	1,050	4,000	701	1,698	1.10%	0.81%	0.57%	1.62%
<b>Sept/Oct Fisheries</b>	15,610	1,070	6,110	TBD			1.24%	0.00%	3.30%	0.00%
<b>SAFE (thru Oct)</b>	6,270	940	390	4,800	--	200	0.00%	--	0.21%	0.19%
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>26,030</b>	<b>2,960</b>	<b>7,550</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>1,898</b>	<b>2.34%</b>	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>4.08%</b>	<b>1.81%</b>
<b>Non-Indian Total</b>	<b>41,880</b>	<b>5,170</b>	<b>15,270</b>	<b>20,880</b>	<b>4,251</b>	<b>6,358</b>	<b>4.90%</b>	<b>4.98%</b>	<b>8.25%</b>	<b>6.06%</b>
	Preseason Catch			Actual/Projected Catch			LRH ER		URB HR	
	Total	LRH	URB	Total	LRH	URB	Preseason	Inseason	Preseason	Inseason
<b>Grand Total</b>	102,360	5,170	57,950	50,760	4,251	21,598	<b>4.90%</b>	<b>4.98%</b>	<b>31.29%</b>	<b>20.57%</b>

- Ocean roll over of LRH stock is estimated to be an additional 0.40% for in- river fisheries.

Estimated Non-Indian steelhead Kept and Release Mortalities			
Actual/Projected Aug-Oct	Total		Wild B
	Steelhead	Wild B	Impact rate
LCR sport	5,281	71	1.07%
LCR Comm.	529	21	0.32%
BON-PRD	18,695	31	0.47%
<b>Non-Indian Total</b>	<b>24,504</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>1.86%</b>

## FISHERY PROPOSALS

### *Late Fall Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery*

<i>Recommendation</i>		
Season #1:	8 AM through 6 PM Wednesday, September 19	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	9-inch minimum and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	
Season #2:	8 PM Thursday September 20 to 6 AM Friday September 21	(10 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5	
Gear:	8-inch minimum mesh size and 9¾-inch maximum mesh size	
<b>The following regulations apply to all fisheries listed above:</b>		
Sanctuaries:	As applicable: Elokomin-B, Abernathy, Cowlitz, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy, and Washougal rivers	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 12 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. The weekly white sturgeon limit in Select Areas remains at 5 white sturgeon for each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).	
Miscellaneous Rules:	<p>Multiple Net Rule: It will be legal to have onboard a commercial vessel more than one net as long as the nets are of legal size for the fishery, or the net has a minimum mesh size of 9 inches, and the length of any one net does not exceed 1,500 feet in length.</p> <p>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>24 hour Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.</p>	
Expected Catch:	2,000 Chinook 1,200 white sturgeon	

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ This proposal is reflective of the reduced run sizes and corresponding reduction in allowable Chinook harvest. At an URB run size of 105,000, considering fisheries to date, approximately 2,300 URB Chinook remain available for non-Indian fisheries.
- ✓ The Joint Staff is not recommending target coho fisheries for this week, due to limited remaining LRH Chinook (500 fish) and the potential for LRH catch in September Zone 1-3 fisheries.

### **Future Compact Hearings**

- The Joint Staff is recommending that a Columbia River Compact/Joint State hearing be scheduled for 10:00 AM Tuesday September 25 to update salmon and steelhead stock status and consider additional treaty Indian and non-Indian commercial fishing seasons.