

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 11a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
October 8, 2014

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, 2014.

Stock Status

- Passage of adult fall Chinook at Bonneville Dam through October 7 totals 832,300 fish. The 2014 Columbia River return is currently projected to reach 1,153,000 adult fall Chinook, including 658,100 Upriver Bright stock Chinook.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam through October 7 totals 300,700 fish. Upriver summer steelhead passage (July-October) is currently projected to reach 305,000 fish at Bonneville Dam, including 45,000 Group B stock (9,900 wild).
- Passage of adult upriver coho at Bonneville Dam through October 7 totals 203,300 fish. The early stock component was 177% of the preseason expectation of 102,200 fish. The late stock component is tracking within expectations (91,300 fish).
- The 2014 Columbia River coho return is currently projected to reach 803,700 adult coho, compared to the preseason expectation of 638,300 fish. The inseason forecast includes 489,000 early and 314,700 late stock coho. Greater ocean abundance combined with less than expected ocean harvest account for the run size upgrade.
- Chum salmon are typically later-timed and return to the Columbia River during early October through December. The chum population is relatively small compared to the abundant coho and Chinook stocks.

Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- Preseason, an estimated 70,000 coho were available for mainstem commercial harvest, with a 6.2% LCN coho impact. Preseason fishery modeling included coho-directed fisheries in Zones 1-3 using tangle net gear and 6-inch gear, and also coho catch in commercial Zones 4-5 during Chinook periods.
- Based on the in-season run size adjustment and ocean rollover, additional LCN impacts are available for in-river fisheries. However, the total allowable harvest is dependent on the gear types used.
- Five coho-directed periods were scheduled to occur during October 1-8 with tangle net gear (3.75-inch maximum mesh). Each (12-hour) period is open in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours and is mark-selective for coho. Estimated catch for the first two periods includes 6,700 hatchery coho (1,500 released) and 1,200 Chinook from 39 and 33 deliveries, respectively.
- Coho harvest in mainstem fisheries totals 13,300 coho through October 3.
- Based on current runsize projections, allowable ESA impacts, and catch estimates, Chinook and coho remain available for commercial harvest.

Recommendation – 2014 Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

Season #1: <i>(Coho-directed)</i>	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday October 9, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 10, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 13, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday October 14, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 15, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 22, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday October 23, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 24, 2014	(12 hours each)
Area:	Zones 1-3. Upper 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 and Lewis-A	
Gear:	Drift nets only. 6-inch maximum mesh. Unslackened floater drift net.	
Season #2: <i>(Chinook directed)</i>	Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights. October 16 through October 24, 2014 Open hours: 7 PM-7 AM	(4 periods, 12 hours each)
Area:	Zones 4-5. 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:	Washougal and Sandy Rivers	
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction.	
The following applies to both seasons:		
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, coho, pink, and sockeye salmon, and shad. Sturgeon and chum salmon may not be possessed or sold.	
Additional Rules:	<p><u>Multiple net rule in effect:</u> 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><u>Lighted Buoys required:</u> Nets that are 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 one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required</p> <p><u>24-hour quick reporting required</u> for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.</p>	

- Estimated catch is 31,000 coho and 1,300 Chinook for Season #1 and 1,000 coho and 3,000 Chinook for Season #2.

Recommendation - Non-Indian Coho Tangle Net Commercial Fishery

Season:	6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Thursday October 16, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 17 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 20, 2014 6:00 AM to 6:00 PM Tuesday October 21 2014	(12 hours each)
Area:	Zones 1-3. Upper 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 and Lewis-A	
Gear:	Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed. A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net. Red corks at 25-fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline. The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is <u>prohibited</u> . Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net Measuring mesh size: Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped coho salmon; Chinook (fin-clipped or not), pink and sockeye salmon, and shad. White sturgeon and chum salmon may not be possessed or sold.	
Regulations:	Regulations typically in place for mark-selective commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, tangle-net certification, etc. Soak times , defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed <u>30 minutes</u> . Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump <u>shall be operating</u> during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking. Observer program: As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with department observers or observers collecting data for the department, when notified by the observer of his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery. Live Capture workshop: Licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.	

Additional Rules:

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.

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.

24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers per WAC 220-69-240)

- Catch estimates include 2,400 hatchery coho and 500 Chinook. The overall coho mark rate is expected to be 82%.
- Staff considered an alternative, and equally viable, fishing plan that included a reduced and condensed tangle net fishery (7 total days during Oct. 1-14), and a longer but slightly later 6-inch gillnet fishery (10 days during Oct. 9-24). Both options yielded similar catch estimates with each having slight advantages over the other.

Non-Indian Fisheries ESA Impact Estimates

- Estimates include complete, on-going, and proposed fisheries:
 - Impacts to lower Columbia natural (LCN) Chinook are estimated at 41.0% (41.0% allowed).
 - Impacts to wild Group B steelhead are estimated at 1.8% (2.0% allowed).
 - URB impacts are estimated at 11.9% (15.0% allowed).
 - Impacts to Lower Columbia River (LCR) coho are estimated at 19.4% (22.5% allowed).

Future Meetings

- The Joint staff will recommend additional hearings if needed. A Compact hearing may be needed around October 22 if additional fishing is warranted. A hearing may also be scheduled if any adopted seasons needed to be modified.