OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET #8a

Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing September 10, 2015

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon

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 at Bonneville Dam through September 9 totals 384,161 adult fall Chinook. Passage of bright Chinook is tracking within expectations however passage of tule Chinook is lagging. Typically passage is 50% complete by September 8.
- Passage of upriver summer steelhead at Bonneville Dam since July 1 totals 202,422 fish.
 Passage has been less than expected. Upriver summer steelhead passage (July-October) is currently projected to reach 296,600 fish at Bonneville Dam.

Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

- Columbia River seine fisheries are underway and scheduled for various dates and times through September 30. A total of ten seine permits (6 beach and 4 purse) were allowed for 2015, and currently eight permits have been awarded. Season total harvest expectations for adult hatchery fish include 5,000 Chinook and 1,700 Coho. Landings to date total 388 Chinook and 38 Coho for the beach seiners and 431 Chinook and 32 Coho for the purse seiners.
- Given that peak Chinook abundance is expected to occur during the first two weeks of September, this timeframe should provide the best opportunity for fishers to access their IFQs. Staff is recommending the addition of fishing periods to the schedule currently in place.

Recommendation: 2015 Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Seine Fishery

Add six additional periods to the season currently in place to include:

Tuesday September 15, Thursday September 17, and Friday September 18

Tuesday September 22, Thursday September 24, and Friday September 25

Daily open hours are 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

- The recommendation will provide additional opportunity for the permit holders to access the allowed catch.
- The fishery is expected to remain within the ESA impact allocation for seine fisheries.

Future Meetings

- A hearing is scheduled via teleconference at 2:00 PM Monday September 14 to consider non-Indian commercial fisheries.
- The Joint Staff recommends a Compact hearing be scheduled via teleconference for 2:00 PM Monday September 21 to review salmonid stock status and consider treaty and non-Indian fisheries.