

**JOINT STAFF/TAC REPORT
FALL FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact
September 27, 2002**

PURPOSE:	Review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider non-Indian fishing options.
TAC:	The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has not reviewed this fact sheet.

Management Guidelines

Endangered Species Act

<i>Listed Salmon and Steelhead of the Columbia Basin Present During August 1-December 31</i>		
Species - ESU	Designation	Effective Date
<u><i>Federally Listed Species</i></u>		
<u>Chinook</u>		
<i>Snake River Fall</i>	Threatened	May 22, 1992
<i>Lower Columbia R. Spring/Fall</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Chum</u>		
<i>Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<u>Steelhead</u>		
<i>Snake River</i>	Threatened	October 17, 1997
<i>Upper Columbia River</i>	Endangered	October 17, 1997
<i>Middle Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 24, 1999
<i>Lower Columbia River</i>	Threatened	May 18, 1998
<u><i>Oregon State Listed Species</i></u>		
<u>Coho</u>		
<i>Lower Columbia</i>	Endangered	July 16, 1999

- Coho salmon in the lower Columbia ESU are currently under review for listing under the Federal ESA.
- A combined treaty Indian and non-Indian Biological Assessment concerning fall fisheries was submitted to the NMFS.
- A Biological Opinion concerning fall fisheries in the Columbia River has been completed and was signed on August 15, 2002.

2002 Management Agreement

- The states and tribes reached an agreement for management of 2002 fall fisheries. The 2002 Management Agreement allocates the 31.29% URB harvest rate 8.25% to non-Indian fisheries and 23.04% to treaty Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed in accordance with the "2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement" which was completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

Excerpts From the 2002 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Chinook Allocation Agreement

- ✓ URB fall chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated pre-season at 4.36% to the sport fishery and 3.89% to the commercial fishery. The Columbia River Compact will use this URB impact allocation as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning the Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries. Actual URB impacts in the fisheries may differ from pre-season estimates based on actual fishery catches, stock composition, and run-size updates. The *U. S. v. Oregon* TAC will update the URB run-size beginning in mid-September.
- ✓ The Buoy 10 sport fishery is modeled at 90% of the chinook catch estimated for a full fishery to the end of the year (with a two fish daily limit) which is expected to deliver enough chinook to continue the fishery through Labor Day. URB impacts with this fishery are projected to be 1.70%; or 39% of the total sport impacts of 4.36%.
- ✓ The mainstem sport fishery below McNary Dam is modeled at 95% of the chinook catch estimated for a full fishery to the end of the year (with a two fish daily limit), which is expected to provide enough chinook to continue the fishery through September, unless the mid-September URB run size and fishery updates indicate this fishery cannot continue past mid-September. URB impacts associated with this fishery are 2.66%; or 61% of the total sport impacts of 4.36%. For 2003 fall fishery discussions, the mainstem sport fishery will begin at 100%.
- ✓ Expectations for the commercial fishery include:
 - Late fall fishery to begin the week of September 15. Fishery to occur in as much of Zones 1-5 as possible and will target coho or chinook as determined by remaining impacts and inseason run strength. The late September chinook harvest will be determined by the mid-September URB run size update and the actual URB impacts remaining that can be used by the commercial fishery.
- ✓ Expected total catch of fall chinook in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of the Snake River and in lower Columbia River tributaries is 85,400 of which 45,300 (53%) are expected to be harvested by the sport fishery and 40,100 (47%) by the commercial fishery. These catch estimates are based on pre-season abundance forecasts and fishery impacts. Actual harvest sharing will be influenced by stock specific fall chinook abundances and relative harvest rates by each respective fishery.

- Non-Indian fall fisheries will be managed not to exceed a total impact rate (including ocean and Columbia River fisheries) of 49% on LRH (Coweeman) fall chinook.
- 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.
- Combined ocean and freshwater fisheries will be managed to limit impacts on wild coho destined for Oregon tributaries to no more than 14% based on the 2002 Incidental Take Permit issued by the OFWC. Freshwater fisheries will be managed not to exceed a 5% impact rate on Oregon state-listed coho and the impact rate is expected to be 3% based on pre-season fishery expectations.
- Non-Indian fisheries will be managed for an impact rate not to exceed 5% for Columbia River chum salmon.

Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Allocation

- 2002 represents the final year of the current 3-year Joint State Agreement on sturgeon fishery management.
- Recent Columbia River white sturgeon population estimates have not increased as expected which will likely result in a reduced harvestable number for the next agreement.
- Based on the most recent catch updates the sport catch guideline remains at 36,500 not to exceed 38,500 and the commercial catch guideline is 9,300 not to exceed 9,800.

Stock Status

Summer Steelhead

<i>Upriver Summer Steelhead Returns to Bonneville Dam</i>										
Year	Group A Index (<78 cm)					Group B Index (>=78 cm)				
	Number		Number		Total	Number		Number		Total
Wild	%	Hatchery	%	Wild		%	Hatchery	%		
1984	52,500	27	143,200	73	195,700	13,800	14	84,200	86	98,000
1985	51,900	18	229,600	82	281,500	13,000	32	27,900	68	40,900
1986	56,600	20	230,900	80	287,500	10,000	16	54,000	84	64,000
1987	106,700	45	131,600	55	238,300	14,000	31	31,000	69	45,000
1988	64,300	37	108,800	63	173,100	17,700	22	63,900	78	81,600
1989	57,500	30	135,600	70	193,100	12,400	16	65,200	84	77,600
1990	27,100	23	88,500	77	115,600	8,800	19	38,400	81	47,200
1991	60,300	26	173,800	74	234,100	6,200	22	22,100	78	28,300
1992	44,300	18	197,200	82	241,500	12,700	22	44,800	78	57,500
1993	28,700	21	108,000	79	136,700	4,400	12	31,800	88	36,200
1994	21,200	18	99,800	82	121,000	5,200	19	22,300	81	27,500
1995	26,000	14	154,000	86	180,000	1,900	14	11,300	86	13,200
1996	25,700	15	148,700	85	174,400	3,900	21	14,900	79	18,800
1997	30,900	15	177,300	85	208,200	3,900	11	32,800	89	36,700
1998	34,800	26	99,900	74	134,700	3,400	9	36,900	91	40,300
1999	56,600	32	119,900	68	176,500	3,700	17	18,400	83	22,100
2000	63,600	29	153,100	71	216,700	8,400	21	32,500	79	40,900
2001	137,200	27	377,900	73	515,100	12,000	14	74,300	86	86,400
2002 Proj.	88,300	26	248,500	74	336,800	33,900	30	77,600	70	111,500

- Preseason forecasts were for 369,700 Group A index steelhead (105,000 wild fish and 264,700 hatchery fish) and 60,600 Group B index steelhead (21,600 wild fish and 39,000 hatchery fish).
- Passage to date indicates that Group A index returns are tracking less than preseason forecasts while Group B index returns are tracking better than preseason forecasts.
- The TAC updated Group A index and Group B index run sizes on September 23. A return of 473,280 upriver summer steelhead to the Columbia River would represent the second largest return on record (since 1938) and exceeds the preseason forecast of 447,800.
- Sampling at Priest Rapids Dam began on July 18. Through September 19 a total of 13,700 summer steelhead have passed Priest Rapids Dam of which 20% were wild.

Fall Chinook

- Observation of fall chinook passing Bonneville Dam began on August 15 to determine tule/bright stock proportions.

<i>Adult Fall Chinook Dam Counts</i>					
		Sept. 25 Daily	Cumulative through September 25		
			2002	2001	1996-2000 Average
Bonneville	Bright	2,114	302,400	247,000	168,100
	Tules	27	144,700	128,100	28,800
	Total Counts	2,141	447,100	375,100	196,900
The Dalles		2,400	220,600	158,800	104,300
John Day		3,000	143,600	105,000	78,600
McNary		2,700	115,600	87,400	53,800
Priest Rapids		300	20,100	18,000	17,300
Ice Harbor		300	12,800	10,200	3,500
Lower Granite		300	9,200	5,400	1,400

- The McNary Dam count of 115,600 adults has nearly tripled the escapement goal of 43,500.

- Total passage to date of 9,200 chinook over lower Granite Dam represents the largest return on record.
- Typically 93% of the bright adult return and 99% of the tule adult run passes Bonneville Dam through September 25.

<i>Fall Chinook Adult Returns to the Columbia River Mouth</i>						
Stock	1996-2000 Average	2001 Return	2002 Preseason Forecast	9/10/02 Update	9/17/02 Update	9/23/02 Update
URB	153,800	232,600	273,800	273,800	273,800	286,800
SRW	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
MCB	45,600	75,300	91,800	91,800	91,800	98,700
BPH	30,300	125,000	136,000	185,000	185,000	164,000
LRH	49,000	94,300	133,000	133,000	133,000	133,000
LRW	9,500	15,700	18,300	18,300	18,300	18,300
LRB	NA	1,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900
SAB	4,000	4,900	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total	292,200	548,800	659,800	708,800	708,800	707,700

- The TAC updated upriver fall chinook run sizes on September 23 but has not reviewed run size updates since.
- Based on counts through September 23 the river mouth run size includes 410,700 brights and 297,000 tules.
- Returns of jack fall chinook have been above average to date with 2,900 brights and 3,800 tules counted at Bonneville Dam through September 24. Typically 75% of the bright jacks and 99% of the tule jacks pass Bonneville Dam through September 24.
- A total of 1,653 adult and 46 jack tule fall chinook have returned to Bonneville Hatchery through September 25.
- A total of 33,600 males, 31,800 females, and 4,000 jacks have returned to Spring Creek Hatchery through September 24, as compared to the escapement goal of 7,000 adults, including 4,000 females.

<i>Lower River Adult Fall Chinook Hatchery Returns</i>						
Hatchery/Stock	Escapement		Preseason Projected	Inseason Update	Goal	Comments
	Returns	As of:				
Elokomin LRH	1,567	9/25	--	--	1,000	Low flow limiting movement
Cowlitz LRH	2,366	9/18	--	--	3,830	"
Toutle LRH	4,748	9/25	--	--	1,450	"
Kalama LRH	3,453	9/25	--	--	1,750	"
Washougal LRH	3,287	9/25	--	--	2,000	
<i>Total WA LRH</i>	<i>15,421</i>				<i>10,030</i>	
Big Creek LRH	19,833	9/25	25,100	22,200	3,600	Typically 90% complete
Willamette LRH	423	9/23	--	--	--	Releases discontinued
<i>Total OR LRH</i>	<i>20,256</i>				<i>3,600</i>	
Klaskanine SAB	0	9/25	--	--	1,500	Low flow limiting passage
Big Creek SAB	52	9/25	--	--	--	Releases discontinued
<i>Total SAB</i>	<i>52</i>				<i>1,500</i>	
Bonneville BUB	9,016	9/24	--	16,300	5,750	Typically 55% complete

Coho

- The preseason run size forecast totaled 171,600 adults, including 112,700 early stock and 58,900 late stock.
- Accounting of coho returns to fisheries and escapement areas to date indicate that the early stock coho run size will exceed 174,000 adults.
- To date commercial landings and counts past Bonneville Dam have exceeded preseason expectations. Based on fishery catches and escapement through September 22 the TAC updated the early stock coho run size to 226,000 adults entering the Columbia River.

Early Stock Coho Returns					
	Escapement				Comments
	Returns	As of:	Proj. Total	Goal	
Grays	0	9/25	--	1,341	Low flow slowing movement
Elokomin	9	9/25	--	823	"
Kalama	39	9/25	--	460	"
Toutle	4,700	9/25	--	1,168	"
Lewis	2,400	9/25	--	1,583	"
<i>Total Washington</i>	<i>7,148</i>			<i>5,375</i>	
Klaskanine	0	9/25	--	--	Low flow limiting passage
Big Creek	440	9/25	--	700	"
Eagle Creek	6	9/25	--	3,300	"
Sandy	0	9/24	--	1,300	"
Bonneville	12,056	9/24	19,400	6,000	Typically 62% complete
<i>Total Oregon</i>	<i>12,502</i>		-	<i>11,300</i>	
Bonneville Dam	44,228	9/25	48,000	--	More than twice preseason forecast
Willamette Falls	203	9/23	--	--	Hatchery releases discontinued

- Through September 26 a total of 248 adult and 33 jack early stock coho have passed North Fork Dam on the Clackamas River. Early stock adult coho passage is typically 56% complete by September 26.
- Sandy River wild coho returns passage over Marmot Dam typically peaks in October. A total of 5 adults have passed Marmot Dam through September 25.
- Late stock returns typically begin to enter the lower Columbia River in late September and peak in October.

Sport Fishery Updates

Buoy 10 Fishery

- The Buoy 10 fishery (from the mouth upstream to the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line) opened August 1 for chinook, adipose fin-clipped coho, and adipose fin-clipped steelhead. The daily salmon bag limit was two fish prior to August 24 and two fish, of which only one could be a chinook, thereafter.
- An estimated 80,100 angler trips through September 22 resulted in an estimated 18,900 chinook and 5,900 coho being retained.

Lower Columbia River Salmon Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River (from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco) opened for chinook and coho on August 1. Non-adipose fin-clipped coho must be released downstream from Bonneville Dam. The daily salmon bag limit is two adults per day.
- Effort is tapering off with nearly 700 boats counted on Saturday September 21 and 250 boats on Thursday September 26.

- Currently catch rates are averaging 1 adult chinook for every 3 to 4 boats.
- The estimated adult chinook catch for August 1-September 26 is 20,200 from 93,000 angler trips. The season total catch is projected to be 23,000-25,000 chinook adults.
- During August 1 - September 26 an estimated 3,500 marked steelhead were retained and 1,900 unmarked steelhead were released.

Fisheries Above Bonneville Dam

- Chinook catches are occurring in Bonneville Pool near the river mouths of the Washington tributaries.
- During the first half of September the sport fishery at the mouth of the Deschutes River has been slow for chinook and steelhead.
- The Hanford Reach fall chinook sport fishery opened on August 16. Effort and catch increased last week with boat anglers averaging 1 chinook per every 3.7 rods.

Commercial Fishery Updates

Lower River Fisheries

- Fishing seasons adopted for the week of September 23-27 included a 36-hour salmon fishing period below Longview Bridge, a 36-hour chinook fishing period in Zones 4 and 5, and a 12-hour chinook fishing period in Zones 4 and 5.

<i>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Fisheries Update</i>				
Stock	Early August	Late August	Late September (thru 9/20)	Total
URB	790	1,930	2,200	4,920
BPH	2,120	6,600	300	9,020
MCB	960	2,810	1,260	5,030
LRH	3,290	160	560	4,010
LRW	0	0	290	290
LRB	40	0	40	80
SAB	860	0	50	910
Others	100	0	0	100
<i>Total Chinook</i>	8,160	11,500	4,700	24,360
Coho	6	55	24,015	24,076
W. Sturgeon	1,384	356	306	2,046
G. Sturgeon	0	0	0	0

- Combined Oregon and Washington landings during the first night (September 24-25) totaled 2,251 chinook, 8,915 coho, 251 white sturgeon, and 3 green sturgeon.
- Oregon landings during the remainder of the first 36-hour fishing period totaled 1,084 chinook, 2,478 coho, 75 white sturgeon, and 4 green sturgeon.
- During the week of September 16-20th Oregon buyers comprised 58% of the total chinook landings, 62% of the total coho landings, and 67% of the total sturgeon landings which would result in total combined Oregon and Washington landings of 4,120 chinook, 12,912 coho, 363 white sturgeon, and 10 green sturgeon during the 36-hour fishing period (September 24-26th).
- Total chinook landings during mainstem fisheries through September 27th have totaled 28,400 adult chinook as compared to the preseason expectation of 33,500 through September 30.

- Through September 26th an estimated 6,042 white sturgeon have been landed in lower river commercial fisheries which leaves an estimated 3,758 white sturgeon remaining on the 9,800 fish commercial catch guideline.

<i>Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fishery Update</i>						
	Youngs Bay	Tongue Point	Blind Slough	Deep River	Steamboat Slough	Total
Chinook	3,856	1,646	2,783	146	178	8,609
Coho	47,201	12,934	1,341	258	108	61,842
W. Sturgeon	87	68	37	3	0	195
G. Sturgeon	0	0	0	0	0	0

- The Youngs Bay Select Area fishery is currently open seven days per week through the end of October and landings have exceeded preseason expectations of 1,500-2,000 chinook and 13,000 coho. Based on LV clips an estimated 86% of the fall chinook landed in Youngs Bay to date have been SAB's.
- Other Select Area fisheries are currently open four nights per week through the end of October with a total coho catch expectation of 11,400; including 2,700 in Tongue Point, 2,300 in Blind Slough, 4,400 in Deep River, and 2,000 in Steamboat Slough.
- Based on Youngs Bay fall sampling about 3% of the coho catch is jacks.

Fishery Proposals

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Preseason catch expectations for October fisheries include 3,300 chinook (1,560 URB's) and 10,000 coho.
- Based on chinook run size updates and commercial fisheries through September 27, an estimated 3,420 UBR's (7,240 total chinook) are available for harvest during commercial fisheries in late September and October.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends modifying the currently adopted commercial salmon fishing periods as follows:	
Season:	7 PM Sunday September 29 - 7 PM Monday September 30 (24 hours). 7 PM Wednesday October 2 - 7 PM Thursday October 3 (24 hours).
Area:	Mouth upstream to Beacon Rock (Zones 1-5).
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokoman-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Sandy River, and Washougal River.
Gear:	9 ¾" maximum mesh size restriction downstream of the lower Zone 4 boundary from Warrior Point on the Oregon shore to the mouth of the Lewis River on the Washington shore and 8"-9 ¾" mesh size restriction upstream of the lower Zone 4 boundary.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon during each fishing period. A maximum of five white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open fishing period.
Expected Catch:	4,000-8,000 chinook 15,000-30,000 coho 1,500-2,000 white sturgeon <25 green sturgeon
Miscellaneous:	Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the Fall Management Agreement and results of the North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ Proposed fishery provides commercial fishing opportunity to the entire lower Columbia River.

- ✓ The 9¾ maximum mesh size restriction in Zones 1-3 allows fishers to target either coho or chinook salmon while the 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction in Zones 4-5 targets the fishery on chinook salmon and minimizes impacts to steelhead and state-listed coho salmon.
- ✓ The night time fishing period will allow for increased chinook landings.
- ✓ The five white sturgeon per vessel limit allows continued steady progress towards the 9,800 white sturgeon catch guideline and provides sturgeon retention opportunities until the end of October.

Impacts Summary

<i>Summary of Fishery Impacts During Fall of 2002</i>			
Fishery	Chinook Catch	URB Impacts	
		No.	%
Treaty Indian Fisheries			
August C&S	80		
Commercial through Sep 14 (Preliminary)	97,200	37,627	13.74%
Commercial through Sep 20 (Projected)	113,319	48,365	17.66%
Treaty Indian Total	113,399	48,365	17.66%
Non-Indian Fisheries			
Early August Commercial	8,160	790	0.28%
Late August Commercial	11,500	1,930	0.67%
September Commercial (thru 9/27)	9,700	4,540	1.58%
Select Area Commercial (Proj. Total)	6,800	380	0.13%
Buoy 10 Sport	19,000	1,320	0.46%
LCR Sport (Proj. Total)	25,000	10,030	3.50%
Zone 6 Sport (Proj. Total)	1,350	1,260	0.44%
Remaining Commercial Fisheries	7,240	3,420	1.19%
Non-Indian Total	88,650	23,670	8.25%
Grand Total	202,049	72,035	25.91%

- Ocean fishery impacts to Oregon state listed wild coho destined for lower Columbia River tributaries are projected to total 11.1% as compared to the preseason expectation of 11.1%. Freshwater fishery impacts are projected to total 2.2% as compared to the preseason expectation of 2.9%.
- Impacts to LRH fall chinook are projected to total 44.4% as compared to the 49% impact limit.
- Impacts on wild Group B index steelhead are expected to total 1.6% for all non-Indian fisheries.

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact hearing be scheduled for Wednesday October 9, 2002 at 1:00 PM at the Commission room in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Headquarters office located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon for the purpose of reviewing salmon and steelhead stock status, reviewing fisheries, and considering commercial fishing options.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
September 27, 2002