

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact
May 17, 2011**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	<i>Non-Indian commercial fisheries</i>
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Stock status and management guidelines for 2011 winter/spring fisheries were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #2 (February 8, 2011).

- Bonneville Dam counts through May 16 total 152,291 adult upriver spring Chinook.
- TAC met on May 12 and upgraded the upriver run size to 210,000 fish at the river mouth. TAC met again on May 16 to review the status of the run. TAC members did not reach an agreement on the run size update but provided a range of 217,000-237,000 fish at the river mouth.
- Based on the *U.S. v Oregon* agreement the number of harvestable fish and the ESA limit increases incrementally with run size. Adult upriver spring Chinook returns of at least 217,000 fish allow non-Indian fisheries a total of 21,700 upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) and an ESA impact rate of 2.0% (versus 1.9% at the preseason forecast).
- With the run size upgrade and the increased allowable impacts, as well as the lower than expected catch in the May 12-13 opener, 900 upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) remain available for non-Indian commercial harvest.
- Through June 10, Oregon Select Area fisheries are open on Monday and Thursday nights (7 PM-7 AM) except Youngs Bay which is open noon Monday through noon Friday each week. Deep River is open Sunday and Wednesday nights (7 PM-7 AM) through June 9.

<i>Recommendation- Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery</i>	
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Season:	9:00 PM Wednesday May 18 to 5:00 AM Thursday May 19, 2011	(8 hours)
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Area:	Zones 1-4, upstream to Kelley Point
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Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B and Lewis-B.
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Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sockeye, shad, and white sturgeon. A maximum of 5 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 open under a two white sturgeon weekly retention limit.
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Gear:	Drift nets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. 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.
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Standard regulations typically in place for spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, tangle-net certification, etc.

Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.

Soak times must not exceed 45 minutes.

Red corks required at 25 fathom intervals, in contrast to other corks in the net.

Lighted Buoys: must be used between official sunset and official sunrise.

Recovery Box: either two operable recovery boxes or one operable box with two chambers.

All non-legal sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care or placed into an operating recovery box. Any fish that is bleeding or lethargic 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.

Additional
Rules:

Observer program: commercial fishing vessels must cooperate.

Live Capture workshop: At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

24-hour **quick reporting** required for Washington wholesale dealers

- Based on the stock composition (~50% upriver) and total catch observed in the previous period, the proposed fishery is expected to remain within the 900 upriver spring Chinook (kept plus release mortalities) available for mainstem commercial harvest. Expected catch is 800-1,000 kept fish (all stocks) based on an expected 100 deliveries per period.
- Large mesh gear will minimize steelhead and shad handle.
- Expanding the fishery upstream of Kelly Point would effect the stock composition, and could increase participation and landed catch, but may be possible if the fishery was short and/or catch limits were utilized.
- Some fishermen have requested the fishery be delayed until Sunday night to provide more notice and avoid conflicts with SAFE fisheries.
- The proposed mainstem commercial fishery conflicts (gear, time, and allowable sales) with fisheries previously adopted for some Select Areas (Deep River and Youngs Bay).
- The Joint Staff is proposing to modify the Deep River fishery for the remainder of season and adjust allowable sales in Youngs Bay.

Recommendation- Non-Indian Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Youngs Bay

- Prohibit retention of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook in Youngs Bay from 8 PM Wednesday May 18, 2011 through midnight Sunday May 22, 2011.

Deep River

- Effective Wednesday May 18 through June 10, 2011, modify open periods to Monday and Thursday nights, consistent with Tongue Point and Blind Slough seasons. The fishing period previously adopted for 7 PM May 18 through 7 AM May 19, 2011 is rescinded.

Future Meetings

- The Joint Staff may request a hearing later this week to review Columbia River recreational fisheries.