

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
January 30, 2013**

Fisheries under consideration:

- Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan and regulations
- Select Area commercial and recreational fisheries
- Non-Indian commercial winter sturgeon
- Recreational salmon and sturgeon fisheries

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent report is the 2013 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 24, 2013). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

SALMONID STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between January 1 and June 15 are considered upriver spring Chinook. Snake River wild spring/summer Chinook and upper Columbia wild spring Chinook are components of this run and are federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Spring Chinook returning to other tributaries above Bonneville Dam are part of this run but are not ESA-listed. Based on the recent ten-year average, Bonneville Dam passage is usually 50% complete by May 7. Over the past ten years, adult runs have averaged around 188,000 (range 86,000 to 315,000).

Willamette Spring Chinook

Willamette River spring Chinook exhibit broader migration timing than upriver spring Chinook. Wild spring Chinook destined for portions of the Willamette River and its tributaries are ESA-listed. Over the past ten years, runs (adults and jacks) have averaged around 75,000 fish (range 27,000 to 143,000).

Lower Columbia Spring Chinook

Spring Chinook returning to the tributaries of the lower Columbia River are destined for the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Sandy rivers and Select Areas. Wild components of this group are ESA-listed, with the exception of the Select Area fish. Over the past ten years, the combined adult return has averaged around 22,000 fish (range 10,000 to 41,000) in the tributaries and 9,400 fish (range 2,600 to 26,000) in Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Wild populations from the Cowlitz River upstream to the uppermost range, and specific areas above Willamette Falls are ESA-listed. Steelhead handled downstream of Bonneville Dam during November through April are considered to be winter steelhead. Over the past ten years, wild winter steelhead returns have averaged around 18,000 fish (range 12,000 to 30,000).

<i>Columbia River Mouth Fish Returns Actual and Forecasts**</i>					
			2012 Forecast	2012 Return	2013 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Total Spring Chinook		423,200	295,300	225,000
	Willamette		83,400	65,100	59,800
	Sandy		4,800	5,000	6,100
	Cowlitz*		8,700	9,200	5,500
	Kalama*		700	600	700
	Lewis*		2,700	1,800	1,600
	Select Areas		8,700	10,500	9,900
	Lower River total		109,000	92,200	83,600
	Wind*		8,400	5,400	3,000
	Drano Lake*		9,500	9,900	4,900
	Klickitat*		2,100	2,100	2,200
	Yakima*		12,000	11,100	7,300
	Upper Columbia	Total	32,600	24,400	14,300
	<i>Upper Columbia</i>	<i>Wild</i>	2,800	4,800	1,600
	Snake River	Total			
	Spring/Summer		168,000	109,700	58,200
	<i>Snake River</i>	<i>Wild</i>	39,000	33,400	18,900
	Upriver Total		314,200	203,100	141,400
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	Total	91,200	58,300	73,500
Sockeye	Wenatchee		28,800		44,600
	Okanogan		431,300		134,500
	Snake River	<i>Wild</i>	1,900		1,250
	Total Sockeye		462,000		180,500
Steelhead					
Winter	Wild winter steelhead	Wild	15,300	17,300	15,700

*Return to tributary mouth

**Totals may not sum due to rounding; forecasts not available for all upriver spring Chinook tributaries.

White Sturgeon

Abundance estimates for white sturgeon in the lower Columbia River are derived from annual mark/recapture studies. Angler success (CPUE) is also used as an index of population size. Over the past ten years, abundance of legal-size fish (38-54 inches fork length (FL)) has averaged around 108,000 fish (range 73,000 to 131,000). Abundance has generally been declining since 2008. The legal-size abundance estimate for 2013 is 74,300 white sturgeon.

Eulachon (Columbia River Smelt)

Eulachon (also known as Pacific or Columbia River smelt) return annually to the Columbia River to spawn in the mainstem and several tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam. The fish typically enter the Columbia River in early to mid-January, though a small 'pilot' run often occurs in December. Eulachon return to fresh water at age 3-5. Peak tributary abundance is usually in February, with variable abundance through March, and an occasional late showing during April. Columbia River eulachon are ESA-listed.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon and Steelhead

2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides the treaty Indian and non-Indian fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The MA includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest schedule for upriver spring Chinook. Based on the MA and the preseason forecast, ESA impacts for 2013 fisheries are limited to 11%, with 1.9% for non-Indian fisheries and 9.1% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Fisheries will *also* be managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook which requires upriver mortalities in non-Indian fisheries not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries. The following table is derived from the harvest schedule within the MA and reflects the allowable catch and associated ESA impacts for treaty Indian and non-Indian fisheries.

Spring Management Period Harvest Rate Schedule						
Total Upriver Run Size	Snake River Natural Run Size	Treaty Indian Harvest Rate	Treaty Indian Catch Guideline	Non-Indian Harvest Rate	Non-Indian Mortality Guideline	Total Harvest Rate
82,000	8,200	7.4%	6,068	1.6%	6,068	9.0%
109,000	10,900	8.3%	9,047	1.7%	9,047	10.0%
141,000	14,100	9.1%	12,831	1.9%	12,831	11.0%
217,000	21,700	10.0%	21,700	2.0%	21,700	12.0%
271,000	27,100	10.8%	29,268	2.2%	29,268	13.0%
326,000	32,600	11.7%	38,142	2.3%	38,142	14.0%
380,000	38,000	12.5%	47,500	2.5%	47,500	15.0%
434,000	43,400	13.4%	58,156	2.6%	58,156	16.0%
488,000	48,800	14.3%	69,784	2.7%	69,784	17.0%

- The MA also specifies non-Indian fisheries occurring prior to a run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the predicted upriver spring Chinook run size.
- A 30% reduction to the preseason forecast equates to a run size of roughly 99,000 fish, which allows for an ESA limit of 1.6% and an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 7,325 upriver spring Chinook for non-Indian fisheries prior to a run size update.

Endangered Species Act

- A Biological Opinion (BO) based upon the management actions outlined in the MA was issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in 2008.
- Impacts to wild winter steelhead are limited to 2% for all mainstem Columbia River non-Indian fisheries.
- Impacts to eulachon and green sturgeon are expected to be minimal for all mainstem Columbia River non-Indian fisheries.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to <15%.
- The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish which determines the allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls. The escapement goals are also intended to allow for full recreational fisheries in the upper Willamette River.
- Based on FMEP guidance, an expected return of 47,300 hatchery spring Chinook and the FMEP escapement goal of 25,300 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 22,000 hatchery fish. This surplus is allocated 80% (17,600) for recreational fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls (including the mainstem Columbia River) and 20% (4,400) to commercial fisheries (including Select Areas).

2013 Spring Chinook Management

- The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions (Commissions) have provided guidance on spring Chinook management. For 2013, allowed ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook will be allocated 65% to recreational fisheries and 35% to commercial fisheries. This direction combined with catch balance provisions in the MA, result in the following guidelines for 2013:

Prior to the run update, allocation of upriver fish (including release mortalities) for non-Indian fisheries will be:

- 5,010 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
- 670 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line.
- 360 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River/Upper Columbia
- 1,135 fish for the mainstem commercial fishery
- 150 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

Sturgeon

- The Commissions previously provided policy guidance for white sturgeon fisheries through the 2011-2013 Joint State Sturgeon Accord. This Accord allowed for a harvest of no more than 22.5% of the legal-size population or 17,000 fish, whichever is less. The maximum harvest rate was reduced to 16% for 2012 fisheries as specified in the 2012 Amendment to the Joint State Sturgeon Accord.
- Based on Commission guidance, a harvest rate of 13.6% has been established for 2013. This harvest rate is a result of the application of a new 15% conservation buffer to the 16% harvest rate adopted in 2012. Based on the 2013 abundance forecast of 74,300 legal-size fish, a total of 10,105 (9,816 with estuary length adjustment) white sturgeon will be available for harvest downstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission reduced the annual five-fish bag limit to a one-fish annual bag limit for white sturgeon effective January 1 2013. The annual five-fish bag limit remains in effect in Washington.

- The below Bonneville Dam and Willamette sturgeon fishing sanctuaries are unchanged in both time and area since 2010. The area known as the Oregon City Wall on the Willamette River is permanently closed to all bank angling.

2013 Sturgeon Fishery Management	
✓	Sturgeon fisheries will be managed for a harvestable number of 10,105 white sturgeon, which is based on a 13.6% harvest rate and the legal-size abundance estimate of 74,300 fish.
✓	The harvestable number is allocated 80% (8,084 fish) to recreational fisheries and 20% (2,021 fish) to commercial fisheries.
✓	The recreational fisheries share (used to plan retention seasons downstream from Bonneville Dam) will be managed to provide 60% of the harvest to the area downstream of the Wauna powerlines and 40% of the harvest to the area upstream. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The harvestable number for recreational fisheries is then adjusted to account for the Estuary size limit and the Willamette baseline. ✓ The harvest share between recreational fisheries upstream and downstream from the Wauna power line will be flexible and may be adjusted in-season to meet pre-season expectations for retention seasons and ensure the harvest rate does not exceed the maximum defined above. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The harvest guideline for the estuary will be up to 4,042 fish. ○ The harvest guideline for above Wauna will be up to 2,021 fish. ○ The Willamette guideline will be up to 1,733 fish (includes 520 fish baseline).
✓	Recreational size limit is 38–54 inches FL and 41-54 inches FL during spring/summer portion of the below Wauna fishery. Commercial size limit is 43–54 inches FL.

Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Management Guidelines by Fishery, 2011-2013			
	2011	2012	2013
Estimated Legal Abundance	77,000 ^a	65,000	74,300
Annual Harvest Guideline	17,000	10,400	10,105
Commercial (20%)	3,400	2,080	2,021
Recreational (80%)	13,600	8,320	8,084
Estuary ^b	6,800 (8,160)	4,160 (4,992)	4,042 (4,850)
Above Wauna	3,410	2,080	2,021
L. Willamette ^c	2,550	1,768	1,733
^a From 2011 preliminary population estimate, actual abundance estimate was 80,500			
^b Estuary guidelines (parenthesis) are converted to 41-54 inch equivalents due to different slot limit			
^c Willamette guideline includes 520 fish baseline			

- The Joint Staff met with the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group (CRCAG) to solicit input for 2013 sturgeon season sub-allocations.

<i>Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2013.</i>		
✓	Manage for a commercial harvest of 2,021 white sturgeon with some level of sturgeon harvest allowed in all seasons/fisheries.	
✓	Fishery/Season	# Allocated
	Winter/Spring	280
	Summer	300
	Early Fall	600
	Late Fall	440
	Select Areas	400
	Total	2,020
✓	Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries as necessary to optimize economic benefit.	
✓	Adopt landing limits as necessary to remain within season-specific catch expectations	
✓	Fish not harvested in a season may be added to the guideline for subsequent seasons.	

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- Under permanent regulations, a winter set line fishery is open in Zone 6 during January 1-31.
- Under permanent regulations, a winter gillnet fishery is open in Zone 6 from noon February 1 to 6:00 p.m. March 21. Allowable sales include fish caught on platform/hook & line gear within the Zone 6 area.
- Sales of fish caught in the tribal fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam are allowed consistent with state/tribal MOU's during periods when the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery is open for commercial sales. Retention of sturgeon is prohibited. No sales are allowed on COE property at Bonneville Dam.

2013 NON-INDIAN FISHERIES

Mainstem Columbia River White Sturgeon Recreational Fisheries

- Staff recommendations for retention seasons are based on guidance provided by the Commissions, input from the CRRAG, and public comments. Sturgeon catch and release will be open on non-retention days.
- Fishery modeling for both above and below Wauna powerlines was based on a one fish annual bag limit and an assumed effort increase.

Above Wauna Powerlines

- In recent years, the mainstem sturgeon season above Wauna has generally been open to retention three-days-per-week (Thu-Sat) beginning in January with no retention during August and September. During May-August, the spawning sanctuary reduces the area open for sturgeon angling.
- The 2013 guideline for this area is about 160 fish more than the 2012 actual harvest. In 2012, the retention period initially set to begin October 20 was rescinded mainly due to higher than normal catch during the spring/summer months.

<i>2013 Sturgeon Recreational Fishery for Above Wauna – Staff Recommendation</i>		
Season:	January 1 – June 15, 2013 October 19- December 31, 2013 Retention allowed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only	3 days/ week (103 retention days)
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam, and all adjacent Washington tributaries. The Sand Island Slough closure (effective January 1 – April 30) remains in effect.	
Sanctuary:	Closed to angling for sturgeon from May 1 to August 31 from Bonneville Dam downstream 9 miles to a line crossing the Columbia River from navigation marker 82 on the Oregon shore, westerly to the boundary marker on the Washington shore upstream of Fir Point.	
Allowable Catch:	Up to 2,021 white sturgeon. Legal size: 38-inch minimum and 54-inch maximum FL	

- Of the CRRAG members that commented on potential seasons, there was interest in managing the fishery so that a fall retention season could begin in mid-October and continue through December. Setting an earlier October start-date requires reduced opportunity in June and/or July and may jeopardize the opportunity in November/December
- The proposed season is expected to distribute the allowable harvest fairly even between the January-June and October-December retention fisheries. Fishery modeling included assumptions of a spring catch-rates being higher than observed in 2012, and an increase in effort in 2013.
- Because of the uncertainty in actual catch rates for 2013, the proposed season may need to be modified if catch/effort is different than projected.
- Sturgeon retention for most Oregon tributaries (upstream to mainline railroad bridges) is managed per regulations for the adjoining Columbia River area. The lower Willamette/Multnomah Channel/Gilbert River are managed under separate regulations. The Sandy River is closed to sturgeon retention.

Below Wauna Powerlines (Estuary)

- In recent years, the retention season has generally been open seven days/week during January through April, followed by a short closure in early May, with a second retention season occurring from the second Saturday in May into or through July.
- When the fishery re-opens in May, the minimum FL increases from 38 inches to 41 inches. This harvest management tool was first implemented in 2004 at industry request to extend the duration of the fishery by reducing the daily catch rate. This narrower slot limit requires a reduction of the allowable guideline to maintain appropriate harvest rates.
- The vast majority of the catch and effort in this fishery occurs during May through June/July. No catch has been observed during the January through April timeframe since 2009.
- Variable catch rates and reduced effort in the past two years have allowed for season extensions beyond the retention period initially adopted pre-season.
- The 2013 guideline of 4,042 is roughly 400 fish less than the actual harvest in 2012.

<i>2013 Sturgeon Recreational Fishery for Below Wauna – Staff Recommendation</i>		
Season:	January 1 – April 30 and May 11 – June 30, 2013	(7 days/week) 120 retention days Jan. – Apr. 51 retention days May – Jun.
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay, and all adjacent Washington tributaries	
Allowable Catch	Up to 4,042 white sturgeon Legal size: 38-54 inches FL through April 30; 41- 54 inches FL thereafter	

- Predicting the 2013 catch is confounded by the substantial drop in angler effort and variable catch rates since 2009. Seasons may need to be adjusted if catch rates are much different than projected.
- Staff recognizes that the season does not continue through the July 4th holiday, which happens to fall on a Wednesday this year. Developing a season to include July 4 would require closing the retention season earlier (June 23), only to re-open July 4-7 then close again on July 8.

Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam (Zone 6)

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met January 22 to discuss and develop management recommendations for 2013 Zone 6 white sturgeon fisheries. The SMTF also reviewed the 2012 stock assessment of the Bonneville Pool white sturgeon population.
- Based on the recent decline of legal-sized sturgeon in Bonneville Pool from 29,600 in 2009 to 14,200 in 2012, the SMTF reduced the recreational harvest guideline from the 2,000 fish down to 1,100 fish. The guidelines remain unchanged for the other two pools (300 fish from The Dalles Pool and 500 fish from the John Day Pool).
- Recreational fisheries in Zone 6 opened January 1 and will continue until the pool-specific guidelines are met, except for the Bonneville Pool.

- The winter sturgeon retention season for Bonneville Pool was adopted December 18, 2012. Bonneville Pool is scheduled to be open seven days a week through February 10, with the intent to set a summer retention period for sometime in late June. The harvest allocation for this winter retention season was no more than 1,150 fish.
- Through January 28, the Bonneville Pool catch was only 8% (90 fish) of the revised 1,100 fish guideline. Catch to date in The Dalles Pool and in John Day Pool is minimal and well within the guideline.
- Given the low harvest to date, staff anticipates the ongoing fishery can continue through February 10 as scheduled, and still provide a sufficient balance (~950 fish) to allow for a summer retention season as previously planned even with the reduced harvest quota. In 2012, the 4-day summer fishery harvested an estimated 900 sturgeon.

Lower Willamette River White Sturgeon Recreational Fishery

- ODFW is considering the 2013 lower Willamette River (including Multnomah Channel and Gilbert River) sturgeon retention fishery will open in July. The initial season *proposal* is for sturgeon retention to be allowed Thursday-Saturday July 11-13 and July 18-20 (6 days). The harvest guideline is 1,733 fish. A review of the fishery is planned to follow each retention period to ensure harvest is tracking as expected and allow for season modifications as needed.

Winter Sturgeon Commercial Fishery

- Winter season commercial sturgeon fisheries have been conducted annually since 1997 under guidance from the Joint State Sturgeon Accords.
- The Winter season sturgeon fishery allows access to the commercial harvest guideline with minimal impacts on ESA-listed species while providing market stability and economic benefit.
- Winter seasons have consisted of an average of four fishing periods annually over the past three years (2010-2012) compared to an average of nine periods annually during 2005-2009.

<i>2013 Winter Commercial White Sturgeon Fishery – Staff Recommendation</i>		
Season	6 PM Thursday January 31 – 6 PM Friday February 1, 2013	(24 hours)
	6 PM Monday February 4 – 6 PM Tuesday February 5, 2013	(24 hours)
	6 PM Wednesday February 6 – 6 PM Thursday February 7, 2013	(24 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5	
Gear:	Drift gillnet. 9" minimum and 9 ¾" maximum mesh size restrictions. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required	
Allowable Sales:	White sturgeon (43-54 inch fork length) and adipose fin-clipped salmon. A maximum of 10 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.	
Miscellaneous:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.	

- Based on input from the CRCAG, season structure is based on a guideline of 250 sturgeon for the winter sturgeon fishery and 30 for winter/spring season salmon fisheries.

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- The Columbia River downstream of the I-5 Bridge is currently open under permanent regulations for hatchery salmon and steelhead through March 31.
- The Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge is currently open under permanent regulations for hatchery steelhead through March 31.
- Staff modeled several lower river spring Chinook season scenarios for 2013 based on past input from the public and the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG). Modeled seasons were discussed with the CRRAG last week to identify preferred options. None of the modeled seasons extended into the run size update timeframe of early May.

<i>2013 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries - Recommendations</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Season	Friday March 1 through Friday April 5, 2013, <u>except closed</u> March 26 and April 2 (Tuesdays)	34 retention days
Area:	Buoy 10 upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. Legal upstream boundary defined as: “A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse 1) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock.”	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Kept Catch:	6,100 adult Chinook (all stocks) from 63,500 angler trips.	
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border		
Season:	Saturday March 16 through Sunday May 5, 2013	51 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult Chinook or steelhead per day or one of each. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Kept Catch:	600 adult Chinook.	
Additional regulations for both fisheries above:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to OR/WA border, effective February 15 through June 15, it is unlawful when fishing from vessels which are less than 30 feet in length (substantiated by Coast Guard documentation or Marine Board registration) to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released. • In Washington, on the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, anglers may not possess in the field fish mutilated so that size, species or fin clip cannot be determined until the angler has reached their automobile or principle means of land transportation and has completed their daily angling. 		

- Fishery recommendations were developed to remain within and comply with:
 - ✓ Impact limits for species listed under the ESA.
 - ✓ Buffers and catch balance provisions outlined in the MA.
 - ✓ Policy guidance and management objectives provided by the Commissions.
- Of the various season scenarios reviewed by the CRRAG, the proposed season received the strongest support, including some support for the concept of closed days to accommodate the commercial fishery.
- The season for the Zone 6 fishery is based on the available pre-update allocation and estimated catch rates assuming slightly delayed run timing.
- Although a key management goal is to minimize the need for in-season emergency action, due to the dynamic nature of fisheries and fish runs, none of the seasons recommended *guarantee* that in-season action will not be necessary in order to remain within ESA limits and/or catch balancing requirements.
- Similar to last year, staff will schedule a Joint State hearing in early April to review the ongoing lower Columbia recreational spring Chinook fishery and consider an extension if enough fish remain available.

Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Recreational Fishery

- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco closes to steelhead retention April 1. The area downstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens May 16 and the area upstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens June 16.
- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River is open for shad angling all year, except closed downstream of Bonneville Dam from April 1 through May 15.

<i>Retention of Hatchery Steelhead and Shad During Spring Chinook Seasons – Staff Recommendation</i>

Effective March 1-May 15, 2013, the mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad ONLY during days and in areas open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

- Beginning May 16 permanent rules resume; hatchery steelhead retention is allowed from the Tongue-Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge and shad retention is allowed river-wide.

Tributary Spring Chinook Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- No changes to permanent regulations are recommended for spring Chinook recreational fisheries in the Sandy, Clackamas, and Willamette rivers.
- Washington tributary seasons are in the Fishing in Washington pamphlet and are currently the same as in 2012. Daily bag limits remain reduced in the Kalama and Lewis rivers.

Mainstem Columbia River Winter/Spring Salmon Commercial Fishery

- Since 2004, a commercial fishing plan has been developed in cooperation with the CRCAG to maximize the catch of hatchery spring Chinook and minimize handle of ESA-listed upriver spring/summer Chinook and wild winter steelhead.

- The Joint Staff will use the fishing plan as a guideline for managing the upcoming winter/spring season.
- The Joint Staff met with the CRCAG to solicit input for potential 2013 spring salmon seasons. Based on the preseason forecasts, 4,400 Willamette hatchery spring Chinook and around 1,100 upriver spring Chinook are available for commercial harvest prior to a run size update. The upriver allocation will limit potential commercial harvest of Willamette spring Chinook. Prior to a runsize update, staff expects only one or two fishing periods will occur.

<i>2013 Winter/Spring Pre-Season Commercial Chinook Fishing Plan</i>	
✓	Manage mainstem commercial fisheries to remain within commission allocation and catch balancing guidelines.
✓	Test fishing is expected to occur on Sundays or Tuesdays beginning in March.
✓	Compact hearings to occur on Mondays (and/or Wednesdays), if test fishing results are positive.
✓	Full fleet fisheries are expected to occur on Tuesdays (and/or Thursdays) of each week, but may be scheduled on other days in order to maintain flexibility in developing fishing seasons. Results from Tuesday fisheries will determine whether fishing occurs on Thursdays.
✓	Fisheries may be conducted during daylight and nighttime hours, dependent upon water conditions and minimizing conflicts between user groups.
✓	Fisheries may occur in Zones 1-5.
✓	Based on test fishing results, fishing periods could begin by mid-late March, depending primarily on steelhead abundance.
✓	Only tanglenet gear will be used (4¼" mesh).
✓	Additional fishing periods may occur after run size updates are available.
✓	Test fishing may continue throughout the winter/spring season to collect biological data and maintain historic test fishing databases.

- In addition to the fishing plan, a set of general regulations are announced prior to the onset of the spring season. The regulations reflect management intent and allow commercial fishers to prepare for the upcoming season. These regulations are nearly identical to those used in recent years and will be in place for the 2013 winter/spring season.

<i>2013 Commercial Spring Chinook Fishery Regulations</i>	
Season:	Individual fishing periods will not exceed 24 hours in length.
Area:	Zones 1-5. Actual upper boundary to be determined in season.
Sanctuaries:	As applicable. Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal sanctuaries.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, and shad.
Participants:	Licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

Gear:

Single-wall multi-filament net only. Monofilament tangle nets are not allowed.

4¼” maximum mesh size (tangle net). Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one vertical knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact

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.

There are no restrictions on the use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net and is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.

Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals, and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms, except under the following conditions:

Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers, may extend to a maximum length of **175 fathoms**.

An optional use of a steelhead excluder panel of mesh may be hung between the corkline and the 4¼” maximum mesh size tangle net. The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12” stretched measure when taut under hand tension. Monofilament mesh is allowed for the excluder panel only. The excluder panel must be a minimum of five feet in depth and must not exceed ten feet in depth as measured from the corkline to the upper margin of the tangle net mesh as the net hangs naturally from a taut corkline. Weedlines or droppers (bobber type) may be used in place of the steelhead excluder panel. A weedline-type excluder means the net is suspended below the corkline by lines of no less than five feet in length between the corkline and the upper margin of the tangle net. A dropper-type excluder means the entire net is suspended below the surface of the water by lines of no less than five feet in length extending from individual surface floats to a submersed corkline. The corkline cannot be capable of floating the net in its entirety (including the leadline) independent of the attached floats. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of five feet above the 4¼” maximum mesh size tangle net. Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers must have **two red corks** at each end of the net, as well as the red corks required under miscellaneous regulations.

Miscellaneous Regulations:

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 45 minutes.

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers, on board. Each chamber of the recovery box(es) must include an operating water pumping system capable of delivering a minimum flow of 16 gallons per minute, not to exceed 20 gallons per minute of freshwater per chamber. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Each chamber of the recovery box must meet the following dimensions as measured from within the box; the inside length measurement must be at or within 39 ½ inches to 48 inches, the inside width measurements must be at or within 8 to 10 inches, and the inside height measurement must be at or within 14 to 16 inches.

Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water inlet hole between ¾ inch and 1 inch in diameter, centered horizontally across the door or end wall of the chamber and 1¾ inches from the floor of the chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water outlet hole that is a least 1½ inches in diameter located on either the same or opposite end as the inlet. The center of the outlet hole must be located a minimum of 12 inches above the floor of the box or chamber.

The fisher must demonstrate to WDFW and ODFW employees, fish and wildlife enforcement officers, or other peace officers, upon request, that the pumping system is delivering the proper volume of fresh river water into each chamber.

All non-legal sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, 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.

At least 24-hour **Quick Reporting** will be required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

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.

Select Area Fisheries

- Select Area fisheries target spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons (mid-February through mid-June) and both spring Chinook and Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook during the summer season (mid-June through July).
- Over the past five years (2008-2012), catch in winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial fisheries has averaged nearly 11,000 Chinook annually, with 87% of the catch originating from Select Area sites. Excluding the exceptionally high catch in 2010, the average harvest is about 7,500 fish.
- From the commercial allocation of ESA-impacts to upriver spring Chinook, a fixed allocation of 0.15% has been allotted to Select Area commercial fisheries (unchanged since 2008).
- Recreational harvest of spring Chinook in Select Areas averaged 530 fish (range 100 - 1,250) during 2002–2011. Catch estimates are based on catch record cards, which are typically delayed 1-2 years.
- Recommendations for 2013 winter, spring, and summer Select Area fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held January 7, 2013 in Astoria and subsequent discussions with commercial fishers.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.

2013 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area - Recommendation	
Winter Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from February 11 through March 15 (10 nights) <u>and</u> Monday nights from March 18 through April 2 (3 nights). Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours)
Spring Season:	Thursday night April 18, Tuesday night April 23 <u>and</u> Monday and Thursday nights from April 25 through June 14 (17 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Winter season: Blind Slough <u>and Knappa Slough</u> are open through March 12, and only Blind Slough area open March 14 through April 2. Spring season: Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are open. From May 2 through June 14, the lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is extended downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. Sturgeon landing limits in effect. <u>Winter season:</u> A maximum of 4 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). <u>Spring season:</u> : A maximum of 2 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers

- ✓ The new addition of Knappa Slough during the traditional winter season timeframe is intended to provide information about catch composition and abundance. This enhanced opportunity should pose minimal risk of accruing significant impacts to upriver stocks.
- ✓ Similar to prior years, the additional winter fishing periods in Blind Slough between March 14 and April 2 provides access to locally returning spring Chinook with minimal risk of increasing impacts to upriver stocks.

Tongue Point/South Channel Full-Fleet Commercial Test Fishery

- All waters in the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area are under concurrent Oregon and Washington jurisdiction and require Compact action.

2013 Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area – Staff Recommendation	
Winter Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from February 11 through March 12 (9 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from April 25 through June 14 (15 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	The winter and spring season Tongue Point fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line extended from the upstream (southernmost) pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility through navigation marker #6 to Mott Island (new spring lower deadline), a line from a marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a marker on the northwest tip of Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island westerly to a marker on the Oregon shore. The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green USCG buoy #7 to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to the flashing red USCG marker #10, northwesterly to a marker on Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 100 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. Sturgeon landing limits in effect. <u>Winter season:</u> A maximum of 4 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). <u>Spring season:</u> : A maximum of 2 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	For both the winter and spring seasons, fishers are required to call 971-230-8247 and leave a message including name, catch, and where and when the fish will be sold. Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers

- ✓ The recommended new winter season for Tongue Point/South Channel is intended to provide information about catch composition and abundance during this timeframe. This enhanced opportunity should pose minimal risk of accruing significant impacts to upriver stocks.
- ✓ Test fishing will be conducted during the week prior to the recommended spring season opener in order to gauge whether the proposed start date should be postponed.
- ✓ The proposed fisheries will provide additional information on the potential to re-establish this site as a spring Chinook fishery. It is anticipated that this will be the final year of the “experimental” designation for the spring season.

Deep River Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action.

<i>2013 Deep River Select Area- Staff Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from February 11 through March 15 (10 nights) <u>and</u> Monday nights from March 18 through April 2 (3 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours)
Spring Season:	Thursday night April 18, Tuesday night April 2 <u>and</u> Monday and Thursday nights from April 25 through June 14 (17 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	From the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream or channel any gill net longer than three-fourths the width of the stream (WAC 220-20-015 (1)). It shall be unlawful in any area to use, operate, or carry aboard a commercial fishing vessel a licensed net or combination of such nets, whether fished singly or separately, in excess of the maximum lawful size or length prescribed for a single net in that area, except as otherwise provided for in the rules and regulations of the department WAC 220-20-010 (17). Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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 required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. Sturgeon landing limits in effect. <u>Winter season:</u> A maximum of 4 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). <u>Spring season:</u> : A maximum of 2 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by WDFW staff. <u>Winter season:</u> fishers are required to call 360-795-0319 to confirm the place and time of sampling. <u>Spring season:</u> a sampling station will be established at WDFW's Oneida Road boat ramp, about 0.5 miles upstream of the Deep River area downstream boundary (USCG navigation marker #16). 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers

- ✓ Additional fishing periods during the late portion of the winter season provide access to locally returning spring Chinook with minimal risk of impacts to upriver stocks.

Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery

- All waters in Youngs Bay are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- The entire Youngs Bay Select Area is open to either Oregon or Washington fishers who possess valid licenses (fishing and boat) issued by either state. Per permanent rule, all landings from Youngs Bay must be delivered to an Oregon licensed buyer.

<i>2013 Youngs Bay Select Area – Staff Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	<p>Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from February 11 – March 7 (12 days) Open hours are from 6 AM to Midnight (18 hours) on Mondays and Thursdays, and 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) on Wednesdays.</p> <p><u>and</u></p> <p>Monday March 11 from 3:30 PM to 9:30 PM (6 hours), Wednesday March 13 from 4:30 PM to 10:30 PM (6 hours) Thursday March 14 from 5 PM to 11 PM (6 hours) Monday March 18 from 10 AM to 2 PM (4 hours) Thursday March 21 from 1:30 PM to 5:30 PM (4 hours) Monday March 25 from 4 PM to 8 PM (4 hours)</p>
Spring Season:	<p>Thursday April 18 from 10:30 AM to 4:30 PM (6 hours) Tuesday April 23 from 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Thursday night April 25 from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours)</p> <p><u>and</u></p> <p>Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from April 29 – May 9 (6 days) Open hours are from 6 AM to Midnight (18 hours) on Mondays and Thursdays, and 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) on Wednesdays</p> <p><u>and</u></p> <p>Mondays through Fridays from May 13 – June 14 (20 days) Open hours are from noon Monday to noon Friday (4 days/week)</p>
Summer Season:	<p>Wednesdays through Fridays from June 19 – July 26 (12 days) Open hours are from 6 AM Wednesday to 6 AM Friday (48 hours)</p>
Area:	<p>Entire Youngs Bay fishing area: The waters of Youngs Bay from the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the upper boundary markers at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers; except for those waters which are closed southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River).</p>
Gear:	<p><u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring/Summer season:</u> 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed upstream of markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River.</p>

<i>2013 Youngs Bay Select Area – Staff Recommendation - continued</i>	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon and shad. Sturgeon landing limits in effect. <u>Winter season:</u> A maximum of 4 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). <u>Spring/Summer season:</u> A maximum of 2 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect.

- ✓ Staff worked with industry to provide increased opportunity in the winter while minimizing the risk of encountering upriver stocks during the late winter and early spring timeframes.
 - Additional winter fishing periods with reduced hours in the latter half of March provide harvest opportunity, while minimizing impacts to upriver stocks.
 - The 29-day spring fishery consisting of progressively increasing fishing time should maximize harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts to non-local stocks.
- ✓ Unlike previous years when concurrent fishing periods among all sites was the goal, the majority of the fishing periods in Youngs Bay are scheduled primarily during daylight hours per industry request.
- ✓ The 12-day summer fishery provides harvest opportunity on late spring Chinook and early returning SAB stock fall Chinook while allowing for SAB broodstock escapement.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries

- Permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2013 Oregon Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January 1-July 31), adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho except for some seasonal tributary closures.
- Permanent Washington recreational fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge are open to Chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January 1-July 31), fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.
- In order to ease enforcement of co-occurring recreational fisheries in Select Areas and the mainstem Columbia River, staff recommends that bag limits in Select Area recreational fisheries be modified to match those of the mainstem when the fisheries are open concurrently.

<i>2013 Select Area Recreational Fisheries - Recommendation</i>
<p>Effective March 1 – June 15, 2013:</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is <u>closed</u> to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply.</p>

Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration

Compact

- Non-Indian commercial winter sturgeon fishery – Compact Action (page 9)
- Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan & gear regulations – Compact Endorsement (pages 12-13)
- Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area commercial fisheries – Compact and Oregon State Action (page 15)
- Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area commercial fisheries – Compact Action (page 16)
- Deep River Select Area commercial fisheries – Compact Action (page 17)

Joint States

- Recreational white sturgeon fisheries above Wauna powerlines – Joint State Action (page 7)
- Recreational white sturgeon fisheries below Wauna powerlines – Joint State Action (page 8)
- Spring Chinook recreational fishing seasons – Joint State Action (pages 10)
- Shad and hatchery steelhead retention – Joint State Action (page 11)
- Select Area recreational fisheries – Joint State Action (page 19)

Oregon Only

- Youngs Bay Select Area fisheries – Announce Oregon State Action (pages 18-19)

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is not recommending any additional Compact hearings at this time.