



FACT SHEET

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

February 11, 2000

Joint Staff Report Winter Fact Sheet No. 3

Columbia River Compact

Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife / Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Purpose:	To review salmon, sturgeon, and smelt stock status and consider commercial fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River.
TAC:	This Fact Sheet was sent to TAC for review on February 10, 2000.

2000 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- The CRFMP expired on December 31, 1998, and the parties to United States versus Oregon are continuing re-negotiation discussions initiated in 1998.
- The spring (January 1-July 31) Management Agreement for 1996-1998 was extended to 1999 but has not been extended into 2000.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Because no CRFMP or corresponding Management Agreement is in place, non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries proposed for January 1-July 31, 2000 are described in separate biological assessments.
- The Columbia River tribes submitted a biological assessment outlining proposed treaty Indian fisheries to the NMFS on December 17, 1999. The assessment addresses impacts to all listed salmonids.
- The states of Washington and Oregon submitted a Section 7/10 Assessment /Application to the NMFS on December 20, 1999 outlining proposed non-Indian fisheries. The Assessment/Application addressed impacts to all listed salmonids.
- At the request of the NMFS, the states prepared a revised Assessment/Application (submitted on January 14, 2000) which included additional information on fishery alternatives and a change in the proposed harvest rate on Willamette ESU.
- The states' intent is to manage non-Indian winter/spring season fisheries in accordance with the Applications/Assessments that were submitted to the NMFS.
- In a letter provided at the January 27, 2000 Compact hearing the NMFS approved fisheries through

February 29, 2000 under Section 7(D).

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED IMPACTS	
<u>Chinook</u>	
Spring Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 4.5%
Summer Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Sockeye</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Steelhead</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Hatchery	≤ 6%
Middle Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 2%
<u>Trout</u>	
Coastal Cutthroat Wild	≤ 0.3%

Willamette Fish Management Plan

- On February 27, 1998 and February 19, 1999 the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) adopted revisions to spring chinook chapters of the Willamette Basin Fish Management plan.
- Revised chapters will allow for Willamette spring chinook to be managed in compliance with ODFW's Wild Fish Management Policy and includes harvest limitations to help rebuild wild spring chinook populations.
- ODFW is in consultation with the NMFS concerning impacts on listed Willamette spring chinook.
- At their January 21, 2000 meeting the OFWC adopted catch guidelines that are more conservative than those included in the revised plan. Catch guidelines of 7,800 Willamette spring chinook for sport fisheries below Willamette Falls, including 1,200 in the mainstem Columbia River, and 1,200 Willamette spring chinook for Columbia River mainstem commercial fisheries were adopted.

Sturgeon Management

- Total annual harvestable number of 50,000 white sturgeon for lower Columbia River fisheries is allocated 10,000 (20%) commercial and 40,000 (80%) sport.
- Commercial sturgeon seasons are allowed outside traditional salmon fishing periods to optimize the economic benefits of the

Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines For 2000			
Pool	Sport	Treaty	Total
Bonneville Pool	1,520	1,300	2,820
The Dalles Pool	600-800	1,000-1,200	1,800
John Day Pool	560	1,160	1,720

commercial sturgeon allocation.

Total	2,680-2,880	3,460-3,660	6,340
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- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on January 18 to discuss recommendations for 2000 Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines. The Task Force agreed to use the 1998-1999 guidelines for 2000 management.
- The SMTF recognizes an annual treaty Indian subsistence catch expectation of 300 sturgeon.

NON-INDIAN FISHERIES

Commercial Smelt Test Fishery

- The following standard smelt test fishery was adopted at the December 21, 1999 Compact hearing.



Mainstem Zones 1-5 open, Washington tributaries closed to commercial fishing

- This year's catch per unit effort appears to be higher than recent poor return years but well below historic levels.
- Effort remained similar to last year with 30-40 boats participating during the most recent fishing period.
- Landings to date have totaled 22,165 lbs. and average weight has ranged between 7-9 smelt per pound.
- Monitoring data from week seven indicates that 41% of the catch were females and 5% of the females were spent.

Mainstem Columbia River Smelt Landings and CPUE's				
			Average CPUE's	
Time Period	Pounds Landed	2000 CPUE	94-99	88-93
December	1,778	56.3	19	0
Week 2	338	35.7	41	409
Week 3	1,827	144.7	38	219
Week 4	1,139	60.1	128	642
Week 5	8,732	360.7	216	48
Week 6	1,682	88.8	147	184
Week 7	6,669	352.0	339	400

- Migration conditions have generally been good with water temperatures exceeding 40°F during December 1, 1999 - February 1, 2000.
- Lower than expected CPUE during week six may have been negatively influenced by cooling river temperatures (39-40°F) and increasing water clarity (44-59").
- During week seven water temperatures increased to 42°F and visibility dropped to 35-41".
- The Cowlitz River is open to sport smelt fishing on Fridays and Saturdays through February 19, 2000.
- Dipping improved significantly on Friday, February 4, 2000 with most bank fishers dipping their limit in a few hours. Sampling results indicate catch was comprised of mostly ripe males with only 4% of the catch being females.

Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- The following fishery was adopted at the December 21, 1999 Compact hearing.



*Zones 1-5, sales of salmon and sturgeon allowed, 9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Sanctuaries: Grays, Elokomina (A), Cowlitz, Kalama (A), Lewis (A), Washougal, Sandy, Abernathy, and Gnat Creek*

- Fishery structure based on 1998-1999 successful fisheries.
- Preseason catch expectations for this fishery were 1,500-3,000 white sturgeon and 50 spring chinook.
- White sturgeon catch to date is similar to that observed during 1998 and less than 1999.
- Effort in Zones 1-3 has generally been less than that observed in 1998 and 1999.
- Strong east winds in the gorge have reduced effort in Zones 4 and 5 during the last 3-4 weeks.

Commercial White Sturgeon Landings, 1998-2000			
Date	2000	1999	1998
January 10-11	421	433	363
January 13-14	138	177	195
January 17-18	128	122	188
January 20-21	68	126	150
January 24-25	95	108	321
January 27-28	26	81	279
January 31-February 1	49	87	167
February 3-4	29	138	266
February 7-8	162	134	344
Total to Date	1,122	1,406	2,273

- To date 1,122 white sturgeon, zero green sturgeon, and eight spring chinook have been landed in this fishery.
- Season total catch expectation is for about 1,300 white sturgeon and less than 20 spring chinook.

Non-Indian Commercial Salmon Fishery

- The following fishery was adopted at the January 27, 2000 Compact hearing.



*Mouth to Kelley Point, sales of salmon and sturgeon allowed, 8" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Sanctuaries: Grays, Elokommin-A, Cowlitz, Kalama-A, Lewis-A and Gnat Creek*

- Fishery is designed to access the 1,200 Willamette spring chinook allocated to mainstem commercial fisheries by the OFWC and catches are expected to total 1,000-1,200 spring chinook and 400-800 white sturgeon.
- Fishery is estimated to catch less than 50 upriver spring chinook and have an impact rate of <0.04% of the SRW run.
- 8" minimum mesh size restriction will effectively target spring chinook and limit impacts on listed winter steelhead.
- Closure above Kelley Point will reduce impacts on listed upriver spring chinook.
- Fishery checkpoints should be scheduled for February 15, 17, and 18 to evaluate landings and modify season if necessary.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

Treaty Indian Sturgeon Setline Fishery

- Fishery was open during January 1-31, 2000 and produced landings of 57 white sturgeon.
- 1996-1999 landings ranged between 41 and 163 white sturgeon.

Treaty Indian Winter Gillnet Fishery

- The following fishery was adopted at the January 27, 2000 Compact hearing.



*Zones 61-63, sales of salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, shad, walleye, and carp allowed, no mesh size restriction.
Standard sanctuaries in place except Spring Creek sanctuary not in effect.*

- Fishing has been slow to date with 28 white sturgeon landed during the first week (through February 6, 2000).
- Landings by pool have totaled 6 in Bonneville Pool, 8 in the The Dalles Pool, and 14 in John Day Pool.
- Landings during the first week of 1997-1999 ranged between 80 and 171 white sturgeon.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Joint Staff recommends no changes to currently adopted seasons

NEXT COMPACT HEARING

- The Joint Staff recommends that a Compact hearing be scheduled for February 18, 2000 to consider modifications to ongoing commercial fisheries.
- Emergency Compact hearings will be scheduled as needed to modify ongoing fisheries.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
February 11, 2000