

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 9 June 3, 2008

Purpose: Consider modifications (sturgeon retention) to non-Indian SAFE fisheries

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2008 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #3 (February 15, 2008)

Fishery Updates

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- According to the adopted protocol for management of white sturgeon retention in commercial fisheries during 2008, annual landings in SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon with no more than 300 fish to be landed during winter, spring, and summer fisheries. This guideline was supported by the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group at a November 29, 2007 meeting.
- Select Area winter commercial fisheries landed 291 Chinook and 37 white sturgeon. Combined landings for spring SAFE fisheries through week 22 (May 30) total 2,803 Chinook and 236 white sturgeon. Combined annual landings through May 30 for SAFE fisheries include 3,094 spring Chinook and 273 white sturgeon.
- Previously adopted Select Area commercial fisheries for this week (week 23; June 2-6) include fishing periods on Monday (June 2-3) and Thursday nights (June 5-6) in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind/Knappa sloughs, and Deep River. Youngs Bay opened yesterday (June 2) at noon with continuous fishing through noon Friday (June 6).
- Landings for last night (June 2-3) are not yet available but are expected to include at least 40 additional white sturgeon bringing the season total for SAFE commercial fisheries to 315 white sturgeon or higher.

Staff Recommendation – Select Area Spring and Summer Commercial Fisheries

- The Joint Staff recommends that retention of white sturgeon in Select Area spring and summer commercial fisheries be prohibited effective 12 noon, June 4, 2008 through July 31, 2008.

Future Hearings

- No hearings are scheduled at this time. Staff anticipates a hearing will be needed within the next couple weeks to discuss non-Indian and treaty Indian summer Chinook commercial fisheries.