

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
March 6, 2006**

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial fisheries

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2006 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 26, 2006)

- The winter commercial sturgeon fishery landings totaled 288 white sturgeon and 39 spring Chinook (zero upriver).
- Two large mesh ($\geq 8''$) winter salmon fishing periods have occurred in Zones 1-4, upstream to Kelley point with one 18-hour period on Feb 23-24 and a second period on March 2-3 (24 hours).
- Landings from the March 2-3 period included 214 Chinook and 17 sturgeon for a combined winter salmon/sturgeon season total of 281 spring Chinook and 325 sturgeon. A total of 1,275 white sturgeon remain on the winter/spring allocation of 1,600 fish.
- Based on visual observations, lower river Chinook comprised 91% of the landings for both winter salmon fishing periods combined (38% sample rate). Average weight of Chinook landed is 16.7 lbs.
- Preliminary landings for Select Area winter fisheries during the first five fishing periods (February 15-March 2) total 19 spring Chinook, including one upriver fish, and three white sturgeon landed in Youngs Bay. No fish have been landed in Blind Slough or Deep River.
- Non-Indian commercial fishery upriver spring Chinook impacts to date are estimated to be 0.012%, or 1.9% of the 0.645% commercial impact guideline.

Spring Chinook Fishery 2006 - Preliminary Observation Data																					
Columbia River	2006	Mesh Size (Inches)	# Drifts	Lower R.			Upriver			Chinook no VSI			Total Chinook	Ratio Chinook /Steelhead	Steelhead				% UpRiver Chinook	% Marked Chinook	
				Clipped	No Clip	Unk	Clipped	No Clip	Unk	Clipped	No Clip	Unk			Clipped	No Clip	Unk	DNA count			
Fishery	Date																				
Full Fleet	Feb 23-24	$\geq 8''$	25	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1.0	2	1	1	0	1	0%	100%
Test	Feb 28-29	4 1/4''	13	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0.5	12	6	6	0	6	33%	100%
Full Fleet	Mar 2-3	$\geq 8''$	43	13	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	17	17.0	1	1	0	0	0	6%	94%
Test	Mar 5	4 1/4''	14	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	1.4	5	3	2	0	1	14%	86%

Recommendation

Season:	6AM Tuesday March 7 through 6 AM Wednesday March 8, 2006 (24 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-4, upstream to Kelley Point.
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.
Gear:	8” minimum and 9¾” maximum mesh size restriction. Use of monofilament nets is allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and shad
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Regulations were adopted at January 26, 2006 Compact, which include: Use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red cork, net length restrictions and lighted buoy requirements. Cooperation of vessel operators to allow state monitors onboard to observe and collect data is also required.

Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

- Chinook landings for the proposed fishing period are estimated at 500-600 Chinook, and the catch is expected to be primarily lower river stock.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled for 2:00 PM Wednesday March 8 via telephone to consider a commercial fishing period for March 9.
- The Joint Staff is also recommending a Compact hearing be scheduled for **7:30 AM** Monday March 13 at the WDFW office at 2108 Grand Blvd, Vancouver WA, 98661.