

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**September 8, 2008**

Fisheries under consideration:	Select Area commercial
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*Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2008 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 22, 2008)*

**Stock Status**

- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met Friday September 5 and upgraded the preseason forecasts for both the Spring Creek Hatchery tule (BPH) and Upriver Bright (URB) runs by 25,000 each. The TAC met again today (9/8) and maintained their previous run update.

**Select Area Commercial Fisheries**

- Fall Select Area commercial fisheries opened in August in Youngs Bay with one 36-hour fishing period each week. The Youngs Bay fishery is currently open 7-days/week through October 31. Select Area commercial fisheries in Tongue Point/South Channel, Knappa/Blind sloughs, and Deep River opened after Labor Day with 3-4 nighttime fishing periods each week with fishing scheduled to continue through late October.
- The predicted return of 17,200 Big Creek tule fall Chinook to the Columbia River mouth is substantially higher than actual returns in 2006-2007. The use of large mesh gear was allowed during September 2-5 in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough to provide Chinook harvest opportunity.
- During the current week (week 37) commercial fishing is scheduled for Tuesday through Thursday nights in Knappa/Blind sloughs and Tongue Point/South Channel and Monday through Thursday nights in Deep River. Several fisherman have expressed interest in adding Monday night (tonight) to this week's fishing schedule for the Knappa/Blind sloughs and Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas.
- According to management protocol for 2008 commercial fisheries, white sturgeon landings in Select Area fisheries are not to exceed 400 fish per year, with no more than 300 during winter-summer fisheries. SAFE landings through September 5 total 450 white sturgeon for the year. SAFE fisheries currently have a three white sturgeon per vessel weekly limit in effect.
- Through September 5, Big Creek Hatchery has collected about 600 female Chinook, or about 40% of the minimum female broodstock goal. Hatchery staff estimate production needs can be met with the collections to date and the significant number of fish staging immediately below the hatchery.

## Staff Recommendations

### *Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries*

Effective 12 noon Wednesday September 10, 2008, prohibit the retention and sale of white sturgeon in Select Area commercial fisheries.

- The proposed end date for sturgeon retention and sales in Select Area commercial fisheries should provide for adequate notification time.

### *Knappa/Blind Slough Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries*

Effective 7 PM Monday September 8, 2008 through October 31, 2008, a 9 ¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction is in effect for Knappa Slough and Blind Slough Select Area commercial fisheries.

- Allowing the use of large-mesh gear through the remainder of the season will allow additional opportunity to harvest surplus fall Chinook destined for Big Creek Hatchery.
- There have been requests to add 7 PM Monday September 8 through 7 AM Tuesday September 9 to the Knappa Slough/Blind Slough and Tongue Point/South Channel fisheries to provide additional access to surplus Chinook. Staff feels that there is no biological reason to deny such a modification, but did not include a recommendation due to the short notice.

## Future Hearings

No additional Columbia River Compact hearings are currently scheduled. The Joint Staff may recommend a Compact hearing be scheduled for the week of September 15 to consider late September non-Indian commercial fishing opportunity.