

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

**JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 8  
Columbia River Compact  
March 9, 2005**

**Fisheries under Consideration: Non-Indian Winter Commercial Salmon  
Select Area Commercial Salmon**

*Mainstem Commercial Salmon Fishery*

- Test fishing operations have been conducted on each Sunday beginning February 27, 2005.
- Fishing periods have occurred on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning March 1<sup>st</sup>. All fishing periods to date have occurred in Zones 1-4 up to Kelley Point and consisted of 12-hour nighttime periods with a 9-9¾" mesh size restriction.
- Landings during these three fishing periods have included 583 Chinook and 22 white sturgeon. An estimated 24% of the landed salmon were upriver stock.
- Long-term release mortality rates used to determine impact rates are the same as those recommended by the TAC: 40% for Chinook and 30% for steelhead in large mesh (9"), and 18.5% for chinook and steelhead in small mesh (4¼").
- Impacts to listed species during the first three fishing periods are estimated to be 0.042% for upriver spring Chinook and 0.064% for wild winter steelhead. Total impacts to date represent 7.0% of the upriver spring Chinook mainstem commercial impact guideline (0.6%) and 3.2% of the non-indian wild winter steelhead impact limit (2.0%).

<b>Spring Chinook Fishery 2005</b>																				
<b>Preliminary Test / Observation Data*</b>																				
<b>Date</b>	<b>Lower R.</b>			<b>UpRiver</b>			<b>Chinook no VSI</b>			<b>Total Chinook</b>	<b>Ratio Chinook / Steelhead</b>	<b>Total Steelhead</b>	<b>Steelhead</b>				<b>% Steelhead</b>	<b>% UpRiver Chinook</b>	<b>% Chinook Marked</b>	<b># Drifts</b>
	<b>Clipped</b>	<b>No Mark</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>Clipped</b>	<b>No Mark</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>Clipped</b>	<b>No Mark</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>				<b>Hatchery</b>	<b>Wild</b>	<b>Undetermined</b>	<b>DNA count</b>				
<b>Feb 27 Test</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>15</b>	
Mar 1 Obsv	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7	3.50	2	1	1	0	22%	29%	57%	56	
Mar 3 Obsv	9	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	13	6.50	2	0	2	0	13%	8%	85%	57	
<b>Mar 6 Test</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>16</b>	
Mar 8 Obsv	29	11	0	3	2	0	1	0	0	46	na	0	0	0	0	0	11%	72%	53	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>6.91</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>197</b>	

**Select Area Fisheries**

- Preliminary landings for Select Area winter fisheries during the first six fishing periods (February 16-March 6) include 11 spring chinook and one white sturgeon landed in Youngs Bay and 10 spring chinook landed in Blind Slough. No upriver fish have been observed.
- The final Select Area winter season fishing period is scheduled to occur tonight (6 PM Wednesday March 9 through 6 AM Thursday March 10).

**Smelt Fishery**

- The smelt fishery was downgraded from a Level Two to Level One on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.
- Commercial fishing in the mainstem Columbia River is scheduled for Thursdays (3 AM to 9 PM) and on Wednesday evenings (6 PM to 6 AM) in the Cowlitz River.
- Recreational fishing is allowed on Saturdays (6 AM-10 PM) in the Cowlitz River. A daily limit of 10 pounds per person is in place for the Cowlitz sport fishery. Dipping for smelt in the mainstem Columbia River is allowed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with a daily limit of 25 pounds per person. Both catch and effort are minimal and this season conforms to that of Oregon.
- Smelt have been observed in the mainstem Columbia River and in the Cowlitz River as far as Kelso.
- Management is continuing to monitor the fishery as reports of smelt continue.

**FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Demonstration Fishery**

The Joint Staff is recommending the following fishing period to allow the commercial fishery access to their Willamette River hatchery spring chinook allocation:

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	6 PM Thursday March 9 through noon Friday March 10, 2005 (18 hours)
<b>Area:</b>	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4)
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Grays River, Elokommin-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries
<b>Gear:</b>	Drift nets only. 9” minimum and 9¾” maximum mesh sizes. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and sturgeon
<b>Participants:</b>	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.
<b>New Regulations</b>	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 their intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	All regulations in place in previous fisheries, including soak times, use of recovery boxes, red corks, and lighted buoys between sunset and sunrise. <b>Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.</b>

### *Select Area Fisheries*

- Based on continued low (0.0%) impacts on upriver spring chinook, the fishing industry has requested consideration of additional fishing time in these sites to maximize harvest of local stocks while ex-vessel prices are high.
- In Blind Slough, concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and require Compact Action.
- In Youngs Bay, all waters are considered Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Joint Staff is recommending one additional fishing period in Youngs Bay to occur from 6 PM Saturday March 12 to noon Sunday March 13 (18 hours)</li><li>• The Joint Staff is recommending one additional fishing period in Blind Slough to occur from 7 PM Saturday March 12 to 7 AM Sunday March 13 (12 hours)</li></ul>

- ✓ Weekend fishing periods during the winter season eliminates overlapping open fishing periods for mainstem and Select Areas.
- Next Compact hearing will occur at 2 PM Monday March 14<sup>th</sup> via telephone.