

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 7
Columbia River Compact
March 12, 2007**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	<i>Non-Indian commercial Select Area commercial</i>
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Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2007 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 25, 2007)

Non-Indian Commercial Fisheries

2007 Winter Salmon Commercial Fishery

- A 12-hour fishing period occurred on Tuesday March 6 with preliminary landings of 415 Spring Chinook and 18 white sturgeon. Based on visual observations, upriver Chinook comprised 51% of the total Chinook handle.
- To date, the non-Indian commercial fishery has landed 600 Chinook with 43% of the (0.48%) upriver spring Chinook impacts allocated to the mainstem commercial fishery being used.
- Wild winter steelhead impacts are about 5% of the (2.0%) ESA limit.

2007 Winter Season Commercial Fishery Data					
Chinook					
Date	Landings	% Upriver	Impact	Wild Sthd	Impact
Jan-Feb (Sturgeon)	194	48%	0.054%	0	0.000%
March 12 (8", 12h)	415	51%	0.152%	18	0.109%
Totals	609	50%	0.206%	18	0.109%

- Test fishing took place on Sunday March 11.

2007 Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery -- Preliminary Observation Data																			
Fishery	Date	Mesh Size	# Drifts	Lower R.			UpRiver			No VSI			% Upriver	Total Chinook	Chk /Sthd	Total Steelhead	Steelhead		
				Clipped	No Clip	Unknown	Clipped	No Clip	Unknown	Clipped	No Clip	Unknown					Clipped	No Clip	Unknown
Test	25-Feb	4¼"	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	4	0.8	5	1	3	1	
Test	04-Mar	4¼"	16	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	8	0.7	11	3	8	0	
Full Fleet	06-Mar	≥8	59	13	9	0	7	3	0	15	2	0	31%	49	8.2	6	1	5	0
Test	11-Mar	4¼"	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	1	0.1	7	5	2	0	

- Test fishing results indicate Chinook catch rates have declined and the Chinook to steelhead ratio is poor.
- Based on these results the joint staff is not recommending a commercial fishing period at this time. Test will occur on Sunday March 18th.

2007 Winter Select Area Fisheries

- Select Area commercial fisheries have landed an estimated 134 spring Chinook and nine white sturgeon through March 8. The majority of the landings are from Youngs Bay with only seven spring Chinook landed in Blind Slough to date. No effort has been reported in Deep River.
- As of March 8, the estimated upriver spring Chinook impacts for Select Area winter fisheries is 0.004%, or 4% of the 0.10% allocated to Select Areas.
- The winter season is scheduled to continue with 12 additional fishing periods in Youngs Bay (Walluski area) and two in Blind Slough. The winter season in Deep River concluded March 12.
- Oregon State action is required for Youngs Bay waters.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following area modification for the fishing period previously adopted for Youngs Bay:	
Winter Season:	3 PM to 7 PM Wednesday March 14 (4 hours)
Modified Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.

- The proposed modification will provide additional fishing area with minimal risk to upriver Chinook.

Future Hearings

- A Compact hearing is recommended for 2:00 PM Monday March 19 via telephone.