

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
July 13, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:	Recreational Sturgeon Non-Treaty commercial salmon
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STOCK STATUS

- Salmonid passage at Bonneville Dam through July 11th totals 42,300 adult and 2,547 jack summer Chinook, and 68,306 sockeye.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reports the summer Chinook run is tracking slightly less than forecast and is estimated to be 60,000 fish. The sockeye run is expected to be near the preseason forecast of 70,800 fish. TAC is scheduled to meet again Thursday July 14th.

SUMMER SEASON FISHERY UPDATES

Non-Treaty Commercial Fishery

- The commercial fishery has landed 2,343 summer Chinook, 1,130 white sturgeon, and 36 green sturgeon during four fishing periods (June 23-July 12). Landings during the 4th period included an estimated 358 summer Chinook and 255 white sturgeon from 57 deliveries.

Sport Salmon/Steelhead Fisheries

- The recreational salmon fishery below Bonneville Dam has landed an estimated 2,054 summer Chinook (1,550 kept and 504 released) through July 12th. An estimated 400-600 additional fish will be harvested during the remainder of July (13th-31st) for a season harvest expectation of 1,950-2,150 summer Chinook.

Sport Sturgeon Fisheries

- The recreational sturgeon fishery downstream of the Wauna powerlines has included retention periods during January 1st-Apr 30th and May 14th-July 10th, with an additional period scheduled for July 15th-17th.

- The projected catch for this area through July 17th is anticipated to be 13,730 fish leaving approximately 4,070 additional fish available for harvest (see table insert).

<i>2005 Estimated Estuary Sturgeon Harvest</i>	
Inseason Guideline	17,800
Harvest	
January 1-May 14	2,480
June 1-30 ^a	8,400
July 1-10 ^a	2,150
July 15-17 ^a	700
Total	13,730
Remaining	~4,070
^a Preliminary estimate	

- Catch rates to date have been less than those observed in recent years. Effort in July was also lower than anticipated.

- Based on recent catch rates, an estimated 2,000 fish would be harvested during the remainder of July (18th-31st) if 7-day/week retention was re-established, leaving 2,070 fish for post-July fisheries.

- The area from Wauna powerlines upstream to Beacon Rock is open for sturgeon retention 3-days per week through July 30th, and upstream to Bonneville Dam from October 1st-December 31st.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Estuary Sport Sturgeon Fishery

Joint Staff Recommendation

The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to mainstem Columbia River recreational sturgeon fisheries:

- Effective 12:01 AM Monday July 18th, allow retention of sturgeon in the ongoing recreational sturgeon fishery downstream of the Wauna powerlines until further notice.
- Re-opening the fishery to 7 day/week retention from July 18th on would likely extend the fishery to August 15 or later.

Non-Treaty Commercial Fishery

Joint Staff Recommendation

Adopt the following fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:

Season: 7 PM Monday July 18th – 5 AM Tuesday July 19th, 2005 (10 hours)

Area: Zones 1-5.

Sanctuaries: Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.

Gear: 8-inch minimum mesh size.

Allowable Sales: Chinook, coho, shad, and sturgeon. All sockeye and steelhead must be released immediately. A maximum of three sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The three sturgeon possession/sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.

Expected Catch: 300-400 Chinook.

Steelhead Handle: Total season handle-86, including 20 wild mortalities, based on a 3,200 Chinook harvest.

Miscellaneous

Regulations: Quick reporting rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- Anticipated cumulative season landings with this additional fishing period would be approximately 2,700 summer Chinook and 1,400 white sturgeon.
- Increased effort is expected this week due to fishermen returning from Alaska; therefore, a reduced weekly sturgeon possession/sales limit may be needed to stay within the 2,000 fish January-July preseason catch guideline.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact Hearing July 22nd at 1 PM to consider additional summer season treaty-Indian commercial fisheries.
- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 28th, 2005 in the 6th floor Hearing Room of the Clark County Board of Commissioners located at the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA.