

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact
June 13, 2007**

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial fisheries

*Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2007 spring season
were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 25, 2007)*

- Bonneville dam counts total 77,800 Chinook through June 12. The run size exceeded 82,000 fish on June 12. Run size projections range from 83,000 to 85,500 at the river mouth.
- To date, 2,726 Chinook and 1,458 white sturgeon have been harvested in 2007 mainstem winter commercial fisheries. A total of 342 sturgeon remain available for harvest from the combined winter/spring guideline of 1,800 fish.
- Based on a run on 85,500 upriver Chinook, projected upriver impacts for non-Indian fisheries (1.45%) represent 72.5% of the total (2.0%) ESA impact limit. This includes 0.567% from commercial fisheries and 0.882% from recreational fisheries.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Season:	9 PM Thursday June 14 through 5 AM Friday June 15, 2007 (8 hours)
Area:	Zones 4-5, specifically in the area from: True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the Marker 85 (lower boundary of sturgeon spawning sanctuary) defined by a line from Marker 85 to a boundary sign on the Oregon shore.
Sanctuaries:	Not applicable
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, white sturgeon and shad. A maximum of 5 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The sturgeon limit of 5 fish applies only to the mainstem Columbia River
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear AND who have completed a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques.
New Regulations	Multiple Net Rule: It will be legal to have onboard a commercial vessel more than one net as long as the nets are of legal size for the fishery, or the net has a minimum mesh size of 9 inches, and the length of any one net does not exceed 1,500 feet in length Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.
Additional Regulations:	Use of recovery boxes is required on all lethargic or bleeding salmon or steelhead. Each vessel participating in this fishery is required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one

box with two chambers. Operable recovery boxes require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to each chamber of the box(es). Each box must be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.

Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

Lighted buoys are required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise.

Cooperation of vessel operators to allow state monitors onboard to observe and collect data is also required.

- Considering a run size of 85,500 fish, 0.193% impacts remain on the mainstem commercial allocation. A total of 0.760% are allocated to mainstem commercial fisheries and only 0.567% have been used.
- Estimated kept catch from the proposed fishery includes 300 Chinook and 100 white sturgeon. The estimated Chinook catch translates to a 0.233% impact rate on upriver spring Chinook. The total impact rate would be 0.80%, or 93.0% of the total commercial allocation.
- Concerns with the shortfall in the Willamette returns have prompted management to recommend a fishery above the mouth of the Willamette. Hatchery escapement concerns for the Sandy River, although early, prompted staff to recommend the fishery take place in 2S area.
- The joint staff believes there is little risk in exceeding the impacts allocated to the commercial fishery with this recommendation, and even less risk in exceeding the overall 2.0% impact limit.