Fisheries under consideration: Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The 2007 winter Select Area commercial season consisted of twenty fishing periods in Youngs Bay (Feb. 14-Apr. 10), eight periods in Blind Slough (Feb. 21-Mar. 26) and four periods in Deep River (Feb 18-Mar. 12).

- Combined landings total 961 spring Chinook and 14 white sturgeon compared to 811 spring Chinook and 8 white sturgeon landed during the 2006 winter season.

- Upriver spring Chinook impacts remaining for future Select Areas total 0.053% of the upriver preseason forecast, or 53% of the impacts allocated to SAFE fisheries. Mainstem commercial fisheries used 0.029% of the impacts allocated to SAFE fisheries.

- The Select Area spring season is scheduled to begin April 19 in Youngs Bay, Deep River, and Blind/Knappa Slough Select Areas.

- Typically, 40-50% of upriver spring Chinook impacts resulting from SAFE fisheries accrue during April fishing periods, and decline to near zero by early to mid-May.

- Considering limited upriver spring Chinook impacts available for remaining Select Area fisheries, an apparent late upriver run, and large tides (10’+) this week, caution is warranted for the scheduled April 19-20 fishing periods to reduce the potential need for more aggressive closures later.

### Joint Staff Recommendation - Select Area commercial fisheries

The Joint Staff is recommending the following modification to previously adopted Select Area spring fisheries:


- Delaying the spring opener should help ensure upriver spring Chinook impacts allocated to SAFE fisheries are not exceeded.

- Impact estimates for the remainder of the season are estimated at 0.050%, for a total of 0.097%, or 97% of the 0.100% allocated to SAFE fisheries.

- Industry support of the staff recommendation has been positive.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff will continue to monitor spring Chinook runs and will schedule additional Compact/Joint State hearings as necessary.