

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact
March 19, 2007**

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial

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 CWTs, upriver Chinook comprised 49% of the total Chinook handle.
- To date, the non-Indian commercial fishery has landed 609 Chinook with 44% of the (0.48%) upriver spring Chinook impacts allocated to the mainstem commercial fishery being used based on complete CWT corrections.
- Wild winter steelhead impacts are about 5% of the (2.0%) ESA limit.

2007 Winter Season Commercial Fishery Data					
Date	Chinook		Upriver		Sthd
	Landings	% Upriver	Impact	Wild Sthd	Impact
Jan-Feb (Sturgeon)	194	58%	0.065%	0	0.000%
March 12 (8", 12h)	415	49%	0.144%	18	0.109%
Totals	609	51%	0.209%	18	0.109%

- Test fishing took place on Sunday March 18.

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	0%	4	0.8	5	1	3	1
Test	04-Mar	4¼"	16	6	2	0	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	0%	1	0.1	7	5	2	0
Test	18-Mar	4¼"	18	10	1	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	42%	19	1.7	11	6	5	0

- Test fishing results indicate Chinook catch rates have increased and the Chinook to steelhead ratio has improved.

Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

Season:	8 PM Tuesday March 20 through 6 AM Wednesday March 21, 2007 (10 hours)
Area:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1-4)
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomín –B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.
Gear:	Drift nets only. 4¼” maximum mesh size restriction. Use of monofilament tangle nets <u>not</u> allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers. Optional use of a steelhead excluding panel hung between the cork line and the tangle net mesh is allowed. Excluder panel must be a minimum of 5’ in depth and not exceed 10’ in depth with a 12” minimum mesh size restriction in effect. Use of weedlines or droppers, used in smelt bobber nets, are allowed in place of a steelhead excluder panel. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of 5’ above the tangle net mesh.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon.
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear and have attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques.
New Regulation	Multiple Net Rule: It will be legal to have onboard a commercial vessel more than one net provided the nets are of mesh size legal 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. Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

- The estimated Chinook catch for the proposed fishery is ~700 fish.
- The proposed fishery is based on a handle rate of 55% upriver Chinook and an overall mark rate of 74%.

2007 Summary of Upriver Spring Chinook ESA Impacts from Non- Indian Fisheries					
Non-Indian Fisheries	Preseason	To Date	Proposed	Total	Remaining
Mainstem	0.480	0.209	0.124	0.333	0.147
SAFE	0.100	0.004	--	0.004	0.096
Commercial Total	0.580	0.213	0.124	0.337	0.243

- Cumulative mainstem commercial upriver spring Chinook impacts would be 69% of the 0.480% guideline. Cumulative impacts to wild winter steelhead are estimated to be ~17% of the 2% non-Indian limit.

2007 Winter Select Area Fisheries

- Select Area commercial fisheries have landed an estimated 262 spring Chinook and 11 white sturgeon through March 19. The majority of the landings are from Youngs Bay with 42 spring Chinook landed in Blind Slough to date. The Deep River fishery concluded on March 12 with no reported landings.

Winter-season Select Area fisheries continue in Youngs Bay with three Walluski-area fishing periods each week through April 10 and one additional fishing period (March 25-26) scheduled for Blind Slough.

Future Hearings

- A Compact hearing is recommended for 2:00 PM Wednesday March 21 via telephone.