

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
February 22, 2006**

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial fisheries

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2006 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 26, 2006)

- 2006 non-treaty spring Chinook fisheries will operate under the Commission’s direction for allocation of upriver Chinook impacts: 57% (1.14% impact rate) to recreational fisheries and 43% (0.86% impact rate) to commercial fisheries.
- The Compact directed management staff to initially conduct all fisheries with a 25% buffer for upriver spring Chinook.
- The Compact adopted the following allocations:

2006 Non-treaty Spring Chinook Allocation by Fishery		
<i>Commercial Fisheries</i>	<i>With 25% buffer</i>	<i>Without 25% buffer</i>
Mainstem salmon	0.545	0.76
SAFE Commercial Winter/Spring	0.100	0.10
Total	0.645¹	0.86
<i>Recreational Fisheries</i>	<i>With 25% buffer</i>	<i>Without 25% buffer</i>
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville)	0.641	0.84
Bonneville to McNary Dam	0.071	0.10
Snake River Sport/Wanapum Tribal	0.143	0.20
Total	0.855²	1.14

1. Impacts associated with the commercial shad fishery ($\leq 0.01\%$) will occur after a runsize update is available and will be incorporated into the commercial allocation.
2. Impacts associated with the lower Columbia steelhead fishery ($\leq 0.01\%$ if no Chinook retention May 15-Jun 15) will occur after a runsize update is available and will be incorporated into the recreational allocation.

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

2006 Smelt Fisheries

- Through February 16, smelt landings include 13,200 pounds from the Columbia River and zero pounds from the Cowlitz River.
- The fishery is progressing within expectations and no modifications to current fisheries are proposed at this time.

2006 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- Catch has been below expectations due in part to poor river conditions early in the season and low effort.
- Landings through February 17 (week 8) include 216 white sturgeon and 21 spring Chinook.
- Based on sampling of 11 spring Chinook landed (52% sample rate) during weeks 7 and 8, 100% were of lower river origin.

2006 Winter Select Area Fisheries

- Preliminary landings for Select Area winter fisheries during the first two fishing periods in Youngs Bay (February 15-20) include one spring Chinook and one white sturgeon.
- No fishers participated in the Deep River opener (Feb 20-21).

FISHERY PROPOSALS

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Season:	12:00 Noon Thursday February 23 through 6 AM Friday February 24, 2006 (18 hours)
Area:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4)
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomin-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries.
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, sturgeon, and shad
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department observers or observers collecting data for the Department, when notified by the observer of their intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery. 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. Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

- Results of the on-going sturgeon fishery were used as a test fishery for this proposal.
- Chinook catch should be primarily lower river stock. Steelhead handle is expected to be minimal.
- Test fishing may occur on Tuesday February 28.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing (via telephone) be scheduled for 2:00 PM Wednesday March 1 to consider a commercial fishing period for Thursday, March 2.