

**JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2  
Columbia River Compact  
January 24, 2008**

<b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b>	Non-Indian winter commercial sturgeon fishery Select Area winter (February only) commercial fisheries Winter treaty Indian fishery
--	--

*The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions will provide guidance for 2008 non-Indian spring Chinook fisheries in early February, 2008. Therefore, run forecasts, management guidelines, and fishery recommendations for recreational and commercial spring Chinook, mainstem commercial shad, and Select Area winter (except February), spring, and summer commercial seasons will be presented in Winter Fact Sheet #3 (February 15, 2008)*

**NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

***2007-2008 Commercial Smelt Fisheries***

- The commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River consists of two 9-hour fishing periods per week (7 AM-4 PM Mondays and Thursdays) and is scheduled to continue through March 31.
- Commercial catch in the mainstem Columbia River was very low and sporadic during December and early January. Landings improved in mid-January but have since decreased, likely due to decreasing water temperatures. The first smelt landings of the 2007-2008 season occurred on December 11 with total December landings of 111 pounds. Landings during January 1-21 total 1,892 pounds for a season total of 2,003 pounds.
- The Cowlitz River is the only Washington tributary open to commercial smelt fishing. The season consists of two, 6-hour fishing periods per week (6 PM-Midnight Sundays and Wednesdays) and is scheduled to occur January 1-March 31. Other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing. No Washington tributary landings have been reported to date.
- Water temperatures at Woody Island (Cathlamet area) during January have declined from a high of 43°F in mid-January to 39°F (January 22), which is below levels conducive to smelt migration.

***2008 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery***

- The winter commercial sturgeon season currently consists of six, 24-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Tuesday to 6 PM Wednesday each week during January 8-February 13 with a 1,600 white sturgeon catch guideline in effect.
- Landings through the first two fishing periods (Jan. 8-9 and Jan. 15-16) are similar to the low catches observed in 2005-2006 and total 123 white sturgeon and zero spring Chinook.

<i>White Sturgeon Landings During Winter Commercial Seasons, 2000-2008</i>									
Week	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Jan. 5-11	--	994	773	389	--	--	25	413	55
Jan. 12-18	534	555	502	365	407	80	61	185	68
Jan. 19-25	205	360	338	408	428	40	23	254	
Jan. 26-Feb. 1	139	341	409	328	375	106	27	253	
Feb. 2-8	75	384	134	--	234	144	43	125	
Feb. 9-15	247	--	469	--	252	23	51	84	
Feb 16-23	--	--	--	--	--	80	58	110	--
Total	1,200	2,634	2,625	1,490	1,696	473	288	1,424	123

- Landings for the winter commercial sturgeon season are well below expectations and harvest guidelines. To provide additional harvest opportunity, staff recommends additional fishing periods should be provided each week within the time period of the current season (rather than extending the season beyond February 13) to minimize handle of spring Chinook.

<i>2008 Non-Indian Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery - Recommendation</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	6 PM Thursday January 31 through 12:00 noon Friday February 1, 2008 (18 hours) 6 PM Thursday February 7 through 12:00 noon Friday February 8, 2008 (18 hours)
<b>Area:</b>	Zones 1 – 5.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Sandy River sanctuary.
<b>Gear:</b>	9” minimum and 9¾” maximum mesh size restrictions.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	White sturgeon, adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, and shad.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

## NON-INDIAN RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

### *2008 Smelt Recreational Fishery*

- Recreational smelt fisheries on the mainstem Columbia River are open under permanent regulations seven days a week, 24 hours a day through March 31. The daily limit is 25 pounds per person, concurrent with Oregon rules.
- The Cowlitz River is the only Washington tributary open for recreational smelt fishing. The season consists of one 16-hour fishing period per week (6 AM-10 PM Saturday) during January 1-March 31 with a daily bag limit of 10 pounds per person. Oregon tributaries are open year round for recreational dipping under permanent rules.
- Very light effort and catch has been observed or reported in the Cowlitz River recreational fishery to date.

## TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

### *2008 Sturgeon Setline Season*

- Under permanent Compact rules the commercial sturgeon setline fishery is open January 1-31.

- No landings have been reported as of January 23.

**2008 Winter Gillnet Season**

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met January 23 to discuss the status of Zone 6 sturgeon populations, harvest guidelines, and potential changes to the commercial slot limit in Bonneville Pool.
- The SMTF decided to maintain the current pool-specific harvest guidelines for 2008 fisheries in the Zone 6 management area as follow:

<i>2008 Zone 6 White Sturgeon Harvest Guidelines</i>			
	<b>Treaty Commercial</b>	<b>Non-Indian Recreational</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Bonneville</b>	400	700	1,100
<b>The Dalles</b>	550	100	650
<b>John Day</b>	335	165	500
<b>Total</b>	1,285	965	2,250

- The SMTF also agreed to modify the current slot limit of 45-60 inches for tribal subsistence and/or commercial fisheries in Bonneville Reservoir to 42-60 inches. The size limits for sturgeon caught in The Dalles and John Day pools would remain at 48-60 inches.

<i>Treaty Indian Winter Season Recommendation</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	Noon February 1 through 6 PM March 21, 2008.
<b>Area:</b>	All of Zone 6.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries in effect except no Spring Creek sanctuary.
<b>Gear:</b>	No mesh size restrictions.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Chinook, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be sold or retained for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon between 42-60 inches in the Bonneville Pool may also be sold or retained for subsistence purposes.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	Sale of platform caught fish is allowed during open commercial gillnet seasons. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- Since pool-specific guidelines are in effect, fisheries in each pool may close prior to March 21 if harvest is projected to met or exceed the guideline.
- If significant numbers of spring Chinook are harvested in the winter gillnet fishery, the tribes may make changes to the fishery at their discretion.
- The Joint staff further recommends this fishery be adopted as a permanent rule in both Washington and Oregon.

**SELECT AREA FISHERIES**

- Select Area (SAFE) commercial fisheries target spring Chinook during winter, spring, and summer seasons occurring from mid-February through July.

- Recreational fisheries in Select Areas are open year-round under permanent regulations.
- Recommendations for 2008 winter-summer SAFE commercial fisheries were developed based on input received from the Commercial Advisory Group (November 29, 2007) and during a public meeting held January 17, 2008 in Astoria, OR.
- No upriver spring Chinook harvest is anticipated during February Select Area fisheries.

***Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery***

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following fishing periods for February 2008 in the Blind Slough Select Area:	
Winter Season:	Wednesday and Sunday nights from February 20 through February 28 (3 nights).
(February only)	Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Blind Slough area only
Gear:	7-inch minimum mesh size restriction
	Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect.

- ✓ Fishing periods are concurrent with Youngs Bay periods to minimize congestion in Oregon fishing areas.

***Deep River Commercial Fishery***

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action.
- Either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following fishing periods for February 2008 in the Deep River Select Area:	
Winter Season:	Monday nights from February 18 through February 26 (2 nights)
(February only)	Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours)
Area:	Deep River fishing area from the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.

Gear:	7-inch minimum mesh size restriction  Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by agency staff. <b>During the winter season arrangements must be made with Marc Miller at 360-244-9125 for the place and time of sampling.</b> In, the spring season a sampling station will be established upstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at the upper pen site at Kato's dock.

- ✓ For the third year, a full-fleet winter season is proposed. Per industry request, the proposed fishing periods are not concurrent with Youngs Bay and Blind Slough to increase participation at this site.

### *Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery*

- All waters in Youngs Bay are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The ODFW staff is recommending the following fishing periods for February 2008 in the Youngs Bay Select Area:	
Winter Season: (February only)	Wednesday and Sunday nights from February 13 through February 28 (5 nights).  Open hours are from noon to 6 AM (18 hours).
Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.
Gear:	7-inch minimum mesh size restriction  Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.  Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed upstream of markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation rules will be in effect.

- ✓ Fishing hours are modified at the request of industry to provide more daylight opportunity at the start of each fishing period.

### *Select Area Recreational Fisheries*

- Permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2008 Oregon Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January

1-July 31), adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho except for some tributary closures.

- Permanent Washington recreational fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge open to Chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January 1-July 31), fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.

### MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

#### *Oregon State Action - Select Area Commercial Fisheries*

- Effective February 13, 2008, non-resident commercial fishing and boat licenses will not be required of Washington fishers participating in Youngs Bay commercial fisheries. A valid fishing and boat license issued by the state of Washington will be considered adequate for participation in this fishery. The open area for non-resident anglers includes all areas open for commercial fishing.

### FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Friday, February 15, 2008 at the Water Resources Education Center, 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver WA. The Joint Staff is not recommending any additional Compact hearings at this time.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State/State Consideration</i>
➤ Non-Indian winter commercial gillnet fishery – Compact action (page 2).
➤ Treaty Indian winter gillnet fishery <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Adopt 2008 fishery – Compact action (page 3)</li><li>➤ Adopt fishery as permanent regulation in Oregon and Washington</li></ul>
➤ Blind Slough Select Area winter (February only) commercial fishery - Compact and Oregon state action (page 4).
➤ Deep River Select Area winter (February only) commercial fishery - Compact action (page 4-5).
➤ Youngs Bay Select Area winter (February only) commercial fishery - Oregon state action (page 5).
➤ Non-resident commercial fishing and boat license requirements for Youngs Bay - Oregon state action (page 6).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
January 24, 2008