

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
July 28, 2005**

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem Non-Indian Select Areas
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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon

- The "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon" provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall season fisheries.
- The TAC submitted a Biological Assessment to NMFS regarding fisheries covered in the "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon". NMFS issued a Biological Opinion on May 9, 2005.
- The 2005-2007 Management Agreement provides that the 31.29% URB impact rate is allocated 23.04% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% non-Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during August will be managed in accordance with the "2005 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the North of Falcon negotiation process.

Excerpts From the 2005 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement

- ✓ URB fall Chinook impacts in fisheries downstream of the Snake River are allocated preseason at 50% (4.125%) to the sport fishery and 50% (4.125%) to the commercial fishery. The Columbia River Compact/Joint States will use this URB impact allocation as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning the Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries. Actual URB impacts in the fisheries may differ from preseason estimates based on actual fishery catches, stock composition, and run size updates. The *U. S. v. Oregon* TAC will update the URB run size beginning in mid-September.
- ✓ Expectations for the commercial fishery include:
 - An early-mid August salmon fishery up to 4 nights during the first two weeks of August (modeled dates were August 4, 7, 9, 11). Mesh size is 8-inch minimum and area is Zones 1-5. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.23% (6% of the total commercial impacts of 4.125%) and total Chinook catch expectation is 5,800 fish.
 - A mid-August fishery up to 2 nights during the week of August 15. Mesh size is 8-inch minimum. Area is Zones 2 or Zone 3 through Zone 5. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.10% (2% of the total commercial impacts of 4.125%) and total Chinook catch expectation is 2,100 fish.
 - Late August fishery is expected to occur 1 night beginning the week of August 22. Mesh size is 9-inch minimum. Area is Zones 4-5. URB allocation for this fishery is 0.65% (16% of the total commercial impact of 4.125%) and total Chinook catch expectation is 5,300.
 - Sturgeon management will be consistent with sturgeon protocol adopted at the December 16, 2004 Compact hearing.

- Based on preseason run size forecasts and North of Falcon negotiations, the catch allocation for commercial fisheries occurring during August is 13,200 Chinook, including 3,500 URBs.

Sturgeon

- Sturgeon fisheries between the Columbia River mouth and Bonneville Dam during 2003-2005 are guided by a Joint State management plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions and the Columbia River Compact.
- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is to be allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial with specific size limits in place for both user groups.
- At the December 16, 2004 hearing the Compact adopted protocol regarding white sturgeon retention in Columbia River commercial fisheries during 2005.

<i>Protocol for Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2005</i>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 2,000 for the winter-summer timeframe (January-July), 2,600 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,000 for the late fall timeframe (September-October). • Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300. • Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons. • Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during winter and early fall timeframes if feasible. • Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation. • Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season-specific catch guidelines or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons. • Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers, landings and possession limits will be in the form of vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries. |
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STOCK STATUS

- Fall Chinook salmon returns are expected to be 671,400 adults, comprised of 477,200 brights (71%) and 194,200 tules (29%).

<i>Summary of 2004 Actual and Current 2005 Forecasts of Adult Salmon and Steelhead Returns to the Columbia River.</i>			
Species, stock	2004 Return ¹	2005 Forecast ¹	Comments
Fall Chinook	799,000	671,400	Overall good return, although most components are down from recent years.
Lower river hatchery (LRH)	108,900	78,400	Good return, similar to 10-year average
Lower river wild (LRW)	22,300	21,400	Good return, stronger than 10-year average.
Bonneville pool hatchery (BPH)	175,300	115,800	Strong return, similar to 10-year average
Upriver bright (URB)	363,500	354,600	Strong return, fourth largest since 1964.
Snake River wild (SRW)	NA	NA	Data not available at time of print.
Mid-Columbia bright (MCB)	121,900	89,700	Good return, stronger than 10-year average..
Bonneville upriver bright (BUB)	52,500	44,700	Good return, stronger than 10-year average..
Lower river bright (LRB)	2,200	2,400	Formally a component of BUB stock.
Pool upriver bright (PUB)	67,200	42,600	Good return, stronger than 10-year average..
Select area bright (SAB)	7,100	11,500	Strong return, largest on record (1985).
Upriver summer steelhead	309,000	308,600	Good return, similar to 10-year average.
Skamania index (May 1 - June 30)	21,000	15,300	3,600 wild
A-run index (length <78cm)	250,600	245,500	57,500 wild
B-run index (length ≥78cm)	37,400	47,800	9,400 wild
Coho	446,200	206,400	Less than 10-year average.
Early stock	293,200	178,200	
Late stock	153,000	28,200	Poor return.

¹. Columbia River mouth return, except summer steelhead is Bonneville Dam return.

2005 COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

Sturgeon

- Landings of 543 white sturgeon during the 2005 winter/spring mainstem fisheries were substantially less than recent years and well below the 2,000 allocation established in the white sturgeon management protocol.
- Landings through July (including Select Areas landings through July 19) total approximately 2,190 white sturgeon, leaving 5,810 white sturgeon available for commercial harvest from the 2005 allocation of 8,000 sturgeon.

<i>2005 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary</i>		
Fishery	Guideline	Catch
Mainstem Winter/ Summer Gillnet	2,000	1,912
Select Area Gillnet	400	278
August Gillnet	2,600	0
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,000	0
	Cumulative Catch to Date =	2,190
	Quota Remaining =	5,810

Summer Season Fisheries

- Six, 10-hour fishing periods occurred during the summer season of 2005 targeting summer Chinook and sturgeon. The fishing periods occurred weekly during June 23-July 26 in Zones 1-5 with an 8-inch minimum mesh restriction. Landings totaled 2,787 summer Chinook, 1,369 white sturgeon, and 38 green sturgeon.

FISHERY PROPOSALS

Mainstem Salmon Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	7 PM Thursday August 4 to 7 AM Friday August 5 (12 hours) 7 PM Sunday August 7 to 7 AM Monday August 8 (12 hours) 7 PM Tuesday August 9 to 7 AM Wednesday August 10 (12 hours) 7 PM Thursday August 11 to 7 AM Friday August 12 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1- 5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A, Washougal and Sandy Rivers.
Gear:	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 5 sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The five sturgeon possession and sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Expected Catch:	5,800 Chinook 1,000-1,500 white sturgeon <25 green sturgeon
Miscellaneous Rules:	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2005 Fall Management Agreement and results of North of Falcon negotiation process.
- ✓ The proposed fishery provides opportunity to catch Chinook with minimal impacts to URB stock fall Chinook.
- ✓ The proposed fishery provides access to tule fall Chinook in the lower river when in a more marketable condition. About half of the catch is expected to be LRH and BPH stock.
- ✓ The open area in Zones 1-5 provides opportunity throughout the commercial fishing area.
- ✓ The proposed weekly sturgeon retention regulation is consistent with the white sturgeon protocol and should maintain total sturgeon landings within the 2,600 fish allocation for August fisheries.
- ✓ Closed days between fishing periods allow for fishery checkpoints to update and modify the fishery as needed.
- ✓ General response to past possession and sales limits suggest that weekly limits are preferred over daily limits and reduces complexity of regulations required when adopting new fishing periods or modifying previously adopted fishing periods.

Future Compact Hearings

- The Joint Staff recommends a Compact hearing be held on August 11 or 12 via teleconference to consider non-Indian commercial fishing periods during the week of August 15. An additional Compact hearing could be scheduled for August 19 to consider non-Indian and treaty Indian commercial fishing seasons beginning the week of August 21.

2005 FALL SELECT AREA FISHERIES

Management Considerations and Expected Returns

Salmon Management

- Select Area fishery impacts on non-local and listed Columbia River salmon and steelhead have been addressed in a combined treaty Indian and non-Indian Biological Assessment concerning fall fisheries.
- Select Area bright (SAB) fall Chinook escapement requirements to Klaskanine Hatchery include 300 females to maintain the broodstock program and 900 females for full production.
- Big Creek Hatchery needs approximately 3,000 fall Chinook (LRH) to achieve a minimum broodstock goal of 1,500 females. This requires an escapement of about 4,000 fish to the mouth of Big Creek as instream mortalities and natural spawn can exceed 1,000 fish.

Sturgeon Allocation

- Sturgeon landings will be managed in accordance with protocol adopted at the December 16, 2004 Compact hearing.
 - ✓ White sturgeon landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 fish for the entire year with landings not to exceed 300 fish for winter/spring/summer fisheries.
 - ✓ Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers, landings and possession limits will be in the form of per vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.

Expected Returns

- Average coho returns are expected in all Select Area fishing sites in 2005.
- The predicted SAB fall Chinook return in 2005 is the largest to date; however, landings of SABs in Select Area fisheries and egg collections at Klaskanine Hatchery have generally not achieved preseason goals.
- Tule fall Chinook returns to Big Creek Hatchery are expected to be $\leq 1,500$ fish above the hatchery escapement goal.

<i>Salmon Returns to Select Area Fishing Sites During Fall of 2004</i>		
Select Area	Expected Adult Return To Select Areas	Harvest Potential
Youngs Bay	32,000 early coho 5,400 SAB fall Chinook	32,000 <4,300
Big Creek	7,100 tule fall Chinook	$\leq 1,500$
Tongue Point	9,000 early coho	9,000
Blind Slough	2,000 early coho	2,000
Deep River	6,000 early coho	6,000
Steamboat Slough	1,000 early coho	1,000

Past Fisheries and Management

Big Creek Fishery

- The Big Creek terminal fishery occurs intermittently when stock abundance allows.
- Past fisheries have had minor impacts on non-local stocks.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
1983	1,200	6	11
1987	14,700	746	3
1988	9,200	172	1
1996	3,400	143	25
1997	2,000	55	20
2002	Included in Blind Slough Landings (2,760 CHF)		
2003	Included in Blind Slough Landings (1,903 CHF)		
2004	Included in Blind Slough Landings (6,235 CHF)		

Youngs Bay Fishery

- The fishery has occurred annually since 1962, but has increased in importance since 1975 with involvement of the CEDC Fisheries Project that pioneered the net-pen acclimation program, and establishment of the BPA-funded Select Area Fisheries (SAFE) Project in 1993.
- Fall SAFE fisheries target net-pen produced coho with a 100% harvest goal and provide moderate harvest opportunity for SAB fall Chinook while allowing adequate escapement to Klaskanine Hatchery for broodstock needs.
- Impacts to non-local stocks have typically been low in this fishery.
- Since 1993, commercial fishing periods prior to late August have been limited to increase escapement of SAB fall Chinook to Klaskanine Hatchery while also providing recreational fishing opportunity in the upper Youngs Bay area.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
1990	73	3,200	27,600	21	8
1991	74	2,200	82,100	13	31
1992	76	1,600	19,600	46	31
1993	70	400	15,500	4	17
1994	44	100	57,800	14	4
1995	65	800	22,300	7	65
1996	62	1,400	15,800	3	85
1997	66	1,700	13,600	2	76
1998	64	1,400	19,500	2	102
1999	59	1,600	15,900	2	99
2000	61	1,700	33,200	1	88
2001	62	2,040	25,469	1	21
2002	66	3,774	51,859	0	96
2003	63	4,271	91,425	0	45
2004	66	3,890	34,613	1	23

Other Select Area Fisheries

- Fisheries in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River were established in 1996 as part of the SAFE Project and are intended to allow for 100% harvest of net-pen produced coho salmon. The Steamboat Slough fishery was initiated in 2000.

<i>Landings During Fall Seasons in Other Select Area Fishing Sites, 1996-2004</i>					
		<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
<u>1996</u>	Tongue Point	2,000	50	0	-
	Blind Slough	2,300	82	2	-
	Deep River	2,200	35	0	-
<u>1997</u>	Tongue Point	900	180	1	-
	Blind Slough	1,600	32	0	-
	Deep River	1,000	149	1	-
<u>1998</u>	Tongue Point	3,400	431	1	68
	Blind Slough	600	95	0	1
<u>1999</u>	Tongue Point	3,700	339	0	106
	Blind Slough	2,000	167	0	4
	Deep River	1,400	48	2	0
<u>2000</u>	Tongue Point	10,731	252	0	59
	Blind Slough	3,398	132	0	9
	Deep River	14,039	109	1	0
	Steamboat Slough	463	78	0	1
<u>2001</u>	Tongue Point	2,021	116	0	0
	Blind Slough	3,764	793	0	0
	Deep River	2,491	149	0	0
	Steamboat Slough	26	0	0	0
<u>2002</u>	Tongue Point	15,560	1,708	0	202
	Blind Slough	1,449	2,760	0	33
	Deep River	303	145	1	3
	Steamboat Slough	105	183	0	0
<u>2003</u>	Tongue Point	15,598	2,451	0	97
	Blind Slough	3,816	1,903	0	28
	Deep River	3,333	168	0	3
	Steamboat Slough	107	44	0	0
<u>2004</u>	Tongue Point	10,196	2,124	0	33
	Blind Slough	1,355	6,235	0	59
	Deep River	5,780	134	0	2
	Steamboat Slough	0	0	0	0

- Catch composition in these fisheries includes relatively low levels of non-local coho with limited impacts to non-local fall Chinook and chum.
- Sturgeon sales in other Select Areas were not allowed prior to 1998.

Fishery Proposals

- A public meeting was held July 21 in Astoria prior to developing fall SAFE fishery proposals; however, regulations and season structure proposed in 2005 are generally consistent with those adopted since 2001.

- General considerations for 2005 SAFE fall fisheries include:
 - ✓ Due to Labor Day occurring later than normal in 2005 (September 5), all areas will open the week prior to access early coho returns and facilitate direct marketing during the holiday weekend.
 - ✓ An 8-inch maximum mesh restriction in Youngs Bay during most of August will focus harvest on SAB fall Chinook. A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction is required in all areas during late August through October to target coho and reduce handle of white sturgeon and Chinook salmon.
 - ✓ Modest (30-36 hour) fishing periods each week in Youngs Bay during most of August combined with downstream relocation of the upper fishing boundary to Battle Creek Slough (August-October) will allow for harvest of SAB fall Chinook while permitting necessary hatchery escapement.
 - ✓ Continuous fishing opportunity in Youngs Bay from early September through October will maximize harvest of larger coho returns at this site. Weekend closures and primarily nighttime fishing periods through mid-September are planned in all other Select Areas to minimize interaction with recreational boaters.
 - ✓ As occurred in 2004, fishing periods proposed for Tongue Point/South Channel and Deep River during mid-September through October open earlier to provide additional daylight fishing opportunities as requested by industry. Fishing hours are not expanded in Blind/Knappa Sloughs to limit Chinook harvest and avoid conflict with recreational anglers/boaters. Additional fishing time in Steamboat Slough is not being proposed due to limited participation.
 - ✓ Proposed weekly sturgeon retention regulations in all areas are consistent with the white sturgeon protocol and landing limits proposed for mainstem fisheries.

Big Creek Fishery

- Returns of tule fall Chinook to Big Creek Hatchery are anticipated to be lower than in recent years; therefore, a target Chinook fishery in Knappa Slough during August is not planned for 2005.

Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are concurrent jurisdiction waters and require Compact action.
- A license from either Oregon or Washington is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Staff Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas for the fall of 2005:	
Season:	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from August 30 through September 9 (6 nights) <u>and</u> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 12 through October 28 (28 nights) Open 7 pm-7 am (12 hours) from August 30 through September 9 and 4 pm -8 am (16 hours) thereafter.
Areas:	Tongue Point and South Channel areas open entire season. The Tongue Point fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker midway between the red USCG navigation light #2 at the tip of Tongue Point and the downstream (northern most) pier (#8) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility, to the flashing green USCG navigation light #3 on the rock jetty at the west end of Mott Island, a line from a marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a marker on the northwest tip of Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island westerly to a marker on the Oregon shore. The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green USCG buoy #7 to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to the flashing red USCG marker #10, northwesterly to a marker on Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.
Gear:	In the Tongue Point fishing area, restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum length of 250 fathoms, and weight not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area, restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Participants in the Tongue Point fishery may have stored onboard their boats gill nets with leadline in excess of two pounds per any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of five sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The five sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules are in effect.

- ✓ As occurred in 2004, South Channel is open concurrent with the Tongue Point fishing area throughout the season to reduce congestion and maximize harvest of net-pen produced coho.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough 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 in Blind Slough 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.

<i>Staff Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Areas for the fall of 2005:	
Season:	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from August 30 through September 9 (6 nights) <u>and</u> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 12 through October 28 (28 nights) Open 7 pm-7 am (12 hours) from August 30 through September 23 and 6 pm -8 am (14 hours) thereafter.
Areas:	The Blind Slough fishing area includes all waters from markers at the mouth of Gnat Creek located approximately ½-mile upstream of the county road bridge, downstream to markers at the mouth of Blind Slough. The Knappa Slough fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from the north marker at the mouth of Blind Slough, westerly to a marker on Karlson Island, downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore. An area closure of about a 100' radius at the mouth of Big Creek is defined by markers.
Gear:	In both fishing areas, restrict gear to a 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of five sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The five sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules are in effect.

- ✓ Knappa Slough fishing area open during the entire season to reduce congestion.
- ✓ Historic nighttime fishing periods minimize potential interaction with sport fishers at the mouth of Big Creek and recreational boaters launching from Blind Slough.
- ✓ The 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction will focus the fishery on coho and reduce Chinook harvest.

Deep River Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Compact action.
- Washington state waters extend upstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Washington state action.

- A Washington license is required in Washington state waters and either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Deep River Select Area for the fall of 2005:	
Season:	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from August 30 through September 9 (6 nights) and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 12 through October 28 (28 nights). Open 7 pm-7 am (12 hours) from August 30 through September 9 and 4 pm -8 am (16 hours) thereafter.
Area:	The Deep River fishing area includes all waters downstream of the town of Deep River to the mouth defined by a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore.
Gear:	Restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross the navigation channel.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of five sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The five sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation rules are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules are in effect.

✓ Proposed fishing hours are concurrent with Tongue Point/South Channel.

Steamboat Slough Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are concurrent jurisdiction waters and require Compact action.
- A license from either Oregon or Washington is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Staff Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Steamboat Slough Select Area for the fall of 2005:	
Season:	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from August 30 through September 9 (6 nights) <u>and</u> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 12 through October 28 (28 nights) Open 7 pm-7 am (12 hours) from August 30 through September 23 and 6 pm -8 am (14 hours) thereafter.
Area:	The Steamboat Slough fishing area includes all waters bounded by markers on Price Island and the Washington shore at both ends of Steamboat Slough.
Gear:	Restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of five sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The five sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation rules are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules are in effect.

- ✓ 2005 will be the last fishing season in Steamboat Slough since coho releases were terminated at this site in 2004 (2002 brood).
- ✓ No landings were reported at this site in 2004.

Youngs Bay Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Staff Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Youngs Bay Select Area for the fall of 2005:	
Season:	6 am Wednesday August 3 to 6 pm Thursday August 4 (36 hours) 6 am Wednesday August 10 to noon Thursday August 11 (36 hours) 6 am Wednesday August 17 to noon Thursday August 18 (30 hours) 6 am Wednesday August 24 to noon Thursday August 25 (30 hours) 6 am Tuesday August 30 to 6 am Friday September 2 (3 days) Noon Tuesday September 6 - noon Sunday October 31 (56 days)
Area:	The Youngs Bay fishing area includes all waters from the new Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the upper boundary markers at Battle Creek Slough; except for closed waters southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River).
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction through August 25 and 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction thereafter. Restrict net to maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of five sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The five sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation rules are not required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules are in effect.

- ✓ Youngs Bay August fishing periods are designed to provide some commercial harvest opportunity on SAB fall Chinook while allowing for escapement to Klaskanine Hatchery and tidewater recreational fisheries.
- ✓ Lowering the upper fishing boundary to Battle Creek Slough is intended to protect SAB fall Chinook destined for Klaskanine Hatchery.
- ✓ Per industry request, the first two fishing periods in August are extended (+6 hours) to allow some additional harvest opportunity early in the season.
- ✓ The 3-day fishing period during the week prior to Labor Day weekend provides a reasonable harvest opportunity when abundance of local stocks are increasing, facilitates direct marketing of fish to the general public during the holiday weekend, and maintains concurrent openings among all Select Areas.
- ✓ Continuous fishing after Labor Day in Youngs Bay is intended to maximize harvest of net-pen produced coho.
- ✓ The 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction targets the fishery on Chinook during most of August and the 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction targets the fishery on coho as their abundance begins to peak.

Select Area Sport Fisheries

- As per permanent regulations the Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/Sough Channel, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Areas are open the entire year for Chinook and adipose fin-clipped coho (bag limit is two fish in any combination).
- As per permanent regulations listed in 2005-06 Washington State Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet, the Deep River and Steamboat Slough Select Areas are open for salmon August 1-December 31. See site-specific regulations for season dates and bag limits.
- Effective in 2005, the North Fork Klaskanine River will be closed to angling upstream of the Olney Lane Bridge during September 1-October 15 to protect migrating SAB broodstock.