

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SUMMER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
June 28, 2005

Fisheries under consideration:	Recreational Summer Salmon Recreational Sturgeon Commercial Shad
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MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- The Interim Management Agreement titled "*2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon*" provides specific fishery management guidelines for summer Chinook and sockeye.
- The 2003-2005 Joint State Sturgeon Management Agreement will direct management in sturgeon harvest and allocation. Under this agreement, sturgeon fisheries are managed under a 40,000 fish harvest guideline allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- The states 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.

STOCK STATUS

Upper Columbia Summer Chinook

- An estimated 62,400 summer Chinook are expected to return to the Columbia River in 2005.
- The Bonneville Dam counts through June 27th total 21,864 adult fish and 1,209 jacks.
- Based on the recent 5-year average, 39% of the run has passed by June 27th, and passage is 50% complete by July 1st.
- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on June 27th to evaluate the status of the summer Chinook run. TAC reports the run is tracking slightly less than forecast and should range between 55,000-62,000 fish.

Sockeye

- An estimated 70,800 sockeye are expected to return to the Columbia River in 2005.
- The Bonneville Dam counts through June 27th total 37,015 adult fish. Passage is typically 50% complete by the end of June.

Shad

- Counts through June 26 include 3.8 million shad at Bonneville Dam and 5.6 million at The Dalles Dam. 2004 Bonneville Dam passage totaled 5.4 million and was 50% complete by June 10th. Daily passage has averaged 85,200 since June 21st.

SUMMER SEASON FISHERIES

2005 Sport Salmon/Steelhead Fisheries

- Summer Chinook fisheries began June 16 from the Tongue Pt./Rocky Pt. line upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge at Pasco. At a Joint State Hearing on June 2nd, regulations were adopted to start the season as a selective fishery due to concerns about the accuracy of the run forecast.
- In Washington waters, non-selective Chinook fisheries are scheduled from above the Hwy 395 Bridge to Priest Rapids Dam between June 16-July 31, and from Priest Rapids Dam to Chief Joseph Dam beginning July 16 and continuing through Oct 15.
- Below Bonneville Dam an estimated 11,000 anglers have caught 1,244 Chinook (653 kept and 591 released) between June 16th and June 26th.

2005 Sport Sturgeon Fishery

Estuary

- The recreational sturgeon fishery downstream of the Wauna powerlines is currently scheduled to remain open 7-days per week through July 4.
- The estimated catch for this area through July 4 is anticipated to be 13,650 fish as summarized in the following table:
- Based on estimated catch rates, approximately 4,150 additional fish will remain available for harvest after July 4th.
- Catch rates to date have been less than those observed in recent years.

<i>2005 Estimated Estuary Sturgeon Harvest</i>	
Inseason Guideline	17,800
Harvest	
January 1-May 14	2,500
June 1-19 ^a	6,400
June 20-30 ^a	3,000
July 1-4 ^a	1,750
Total	13,650
Remaining	4,150
^a Preliminary estimate	

Zone 6 recreational sturgeon

- The sport guideline for John Day Reservoir is 165 sturgeon.
- Estimated harvest through June 26 is 118 sturgeon.

<i>John Day Reservoir Sport Harvest, 2000-2004</i>			
Year	Harvest Guideline	Harvest	Closure Date
2000	560	434	No closure
2001	560	299	No closure
2002	165	187	August 24
2003	165	163	July 28
2004	165	229	July 12

- Three different harvest projection scenarios were analyzed based on the range of HPUE observed so far in 2005 and the most recent two-week average number of angler trips.

<i>Project 2005 Closure Dates for John Day Reservoir Sport Fishery</i>			
Projected HPUE	HPUE Source	Projected Closure Date	Total Harvest
0.011	June 13-26 average	July 28 (Thursday)	165
0.021	June max weekly average	July 14 (Thursday)	165
0.028	2005 max monthly average	July 8 (Friday)	159

- Angling effort and HPUE has varied significantly from one week to the next during the past five years, providing no distinct trend to base harvest projections on.

<i>Angler Trips and HPUE for John Day Reservoir, 2000-2004</i>						
Week		Year				
		2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Number of Angler Trips						
June	Week 1	468	670	370	459	937
	Week 2	321	1,637	376	712	657
	Week 3	516	337	331	742	169
	Week 4	1,149	478	879	305	137
July	Week 1	<u>477</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>564</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>867</u>
	Average	586	697	504	522	553
Harvest per Angler Trip						
June	Week 1	0.000	0.028	0.097	0.048	0.010
	Week 2	0.065	0.010	0.021	0.035	0.017
	Week 3	0.014	0.101	0.045	0.018	0.213
	Week 4	0.021	0.031	0.005	0.046	0.000
July	Week 1	<u>0.027</u>	<u>0.038</u>	<u>0.043</u>	<u>0.033</u>	<u>0.080</u>
	Average	0.025	0.042	0.042	0.036	0.064

- Bonneville Reservoir closed to retention June 11 with an estimated season harvest of 588 sturgeon on a 700 fish guideline.
- The Dalles Reservoir closed to retention June 25 with an estimated season harvest of 384 sturgeon on a 400 fish guideline.

2005 Non-Treaty Commercial Fisheries

- Three 12-hour (7 PM-5 AM) fishing periods in Zones 1-5 were adopted for June 23rd, June 27th and July 5th at the June 15th Compact hearing. Mesh size is 8-inch minimum. Allowable sales include Chinook, coho, shad and sturgeon, with a weekly landing limit of eight sturgeon.
- Landings from the June 23rd fishing period include 808 Chinook, 284 sturgeon and 12 green sturgeon from 96 deliveries. A total of 1,173 sturgeon remain in the winter-summer 2,000 commercial harvest guideline.
- A minimum of 47,724 shad (128,856 pounds) have been landed in mainstem commercial shad seasons through June 17 (week 25). Area 2S data for week 25 is incomplete and landings in the Washougal Reef area are not yet available.

FISHERY RECOMMENDATIONS

Summer Chinook Recreational Fishery

<i>Recommendation</i>
<p>The following are two options for the mainstem Columbia River recreational salmon fishery:</p> <p><u>Option 1:</u> Maintain the ongoing summer chinook recreational fishery with the current selective (adipose fin-clipped) salmon regulations.</p> <p><u>Option 2:</u> Effective 12:01 AM Friday, July 1st, 2005 Open the mainstem Columbia River for the retention of marked and un-marked Chinook and hatchery (adipose fin-clipped) steelhead from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge near Pasco, Washington</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catch limits: Oregon: Two adult salmon <u>or</u> hatchery steelhead per day. Washington: Two adult salmon <u>and</u> two hatchery steelhead per day

Estuary Sport Sturgeon Fishery

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<p>The Joint Staff is recommending the following modifications to mainstem Columbia River recreational sturgeon fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Extend the ongoing recreational sturgeon fishery downstream of the Wauna powerlines through 11:59 PM Sunday July 10.

- The preliminary harvest estimate for the season extension is 2,000 fish but precision of this estimate could vary substantially depending on effort and catch rates.
- The charter boat industry has expressed interest in a day-per-week (Friday-Saturday open) regulation to extend the sturgeon fishery further into July. The effect of incorporating this type of regulation has not yet been modeled, but could extend the season into August.
- Retention days/week in the estuary was not considered during season-shaping discussions with the recreational stakeholders, but will be considered in-season to manage within the catch guideline.
- Days/week retention would provide time for staff to get catch estimates for previous fishing periods. Daily effort would likely be higher for a day/week fishery. This would require staff to conduct staff to conduct flights on Fridays to estimate estuary effort.

John Day Pool Sport Sturgeon Fishery

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<p>The Joint Staff is recommending the following options to mainstem Columbia River recreational sturgeon fisheries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Option 1 Effective 12:01 AM Monday July 11th, 2005 prohibit retention of sturgeon in the John Day pool.• Option 2: Consider adopting fishery modifications at the July 6th hearing, when additional data is available.

Area 2S Commercial Shad

Joint Staff Recommendation

The Joint Staff is recommending the following extension to Area 2S commercial shad fishery:

Season:	June 29-30 (2 days) 3PM-10PM
Area:	True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslacked, floater gill net; 5-3/8" to 6-1/4" mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length nor 40 meshes in depth.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water and those alive must be returned to the water unharmed.

- The proposed season extension will allow additional commercial harvest opportunity requested by one fishermen to maintain 2005 shad markets and develop shad markets for 2006.
- Due to the low effort anticipated for this fishery extension, incidental handle of salmonids should be limited to less than 2 chinook, 2 sockeye, and 1 steelhead. No salmonid mortalities are anticipated.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The staff recommends a Joint State Hearing be scheduled for 1 PM July 6th, via telephone to discuss the ongoing sport fisheries.
- The Treaty tribes may request a Compact Hearing during July 6-8 to adopt summer chinook and possibly sockeye commercial fisheries.
- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 10 AM Thursday, July 28, 2005 in the 6th floor Hearing Room of the Clark County Board of Commissioners located at the Public Service Center, 1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver, WA.