

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
January 31, 2002**

Purpose: To review salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt stock status and consider commercial fishing seasons for salmon, sturgeon, shad, and smelt in the mainstem Columbia River.

TAC: The Joint Staff report was mailed out on January 18, 2002 and was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) prior to mailing.

<i>Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Forecasts</i>				
Run	2002 Forecast	2002 Comments	2001	
			Preseason Forecast	Actual Return
<u><i>Spring Chinook</i></u>				
Willamette	73,800 (66,400 hatchery fish)	Average, second largest since 1992	61,000	80,400
Sandy	4,300	Average, less than 2001	4,000	5,600
Cowlitz	3,100	Improved return, largest return since 1994	1,000	1,700
Kalama	1,600	Average, similar to 2001	1,000	1,700
Lewis	2,000	Poor, similar to 1996-2001	2,800	2,200
Upriver	333,700	Outstanding, second largest on record (1938)	364,600	416,500
Snake River Wild	NA		39,300	NA
Upper Columbia Wild	5,100	Average, second largest since 1993	6,300	10,600
<u><i>Summer Chinook</i></u>				
Upriver	77,700	Improved, largest since 1971	24,500	76,400
Snake River Wild	NA		3,100	NA
<u><i>Sockeye</i></u>				
Upriver	39,900	Poor, eighth smallest on record (1938)	78,100	116,600
Snake River	26	Poor, mostly returns from captive brood	105	51
<u><i>Summer Steelhead</i></u>				
Skamania Index	17,400	Above average, second largest since 1990	12,000	28,700
Group A Index	369,700	Outstanding, second largest on record (1984)	201,300	515,100
Group B Index	60,600	Good, second largest since 1989	36,000	86,400
Total Upriver Index	447,800	Outstanding, second largest on record (1938)	249,300	630,200

2002 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2001-2003 Interim Management Agreement

- An Interim Management Agreement covering fisheries for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye is in effect for 2001-2003.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes a sliding scale spring chinook harvest matrix for 2001-2005 and allocates upriver impacts between non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries for 2001-2003.
- In accordance with the Interim Management Agreement impacts to listed upriver spring chinook will be limited to 2% for non-Indian fisheries and 12% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- For 2002 non-Indian fisheries below McNary Dam upriver impacts are allocated 40% (0.68% upriver impact) for commercial fisheries and 60% (1.02% upriver impact) for sport fisheries.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Fisheries being considered at this Compact are addressed in a Section 7/10 Application that the states of Washington and Oregon submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on November 3, 2000 outlining proposed non-Indian fisheries.
- The states' intent is to manage non-Indian winter/spring season fisheries in accordance with ESA-related impact limits shown below.

<i>SUMMARY OF ESA IMPACT LIMITS</i>	
<u>Chinook</u>	
Spring Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 12%
Spring Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 15%
Summer Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Sockeye</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Steelhead</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Hatchery	≤ 6%
Middle Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 2%
<u>Trout</u>	
Coastal Cutthroat Wild	≤ 0.3%
Bull Trout	0%

2001 and Beyond Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMPEP) for Willamette River spring chinook was implemented on February 2001.
- The FMPEP limited freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring chinook to ≤20% in 2001 and ≤15% thereafter.
- The FMPEP requires the release of wild Willamette spring chinook in sport and commercial freshwater fisheries beginning in 2002.

- The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP) was most recently modified at the December 14, 2001 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The revised plan includes a sliding scale for escapement goals and determines allocation of surplus hatchery spring chinook to sport and commercial fisheries.
- Based on the WFMP and an expected return of 66,400 hatchery spring chinook the freshwater harvest of surplus hatchery Willamette River spring chinook is allocated 73% for sport fisheries and 27% for commercial fisheries.

2002-2003 Non-Indian Spring Chinook Allocation

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is proposing adoption of the following guiding principles, management objectives, and allocation matrix.

- The following guiding principles and fishery management objectives were endorsed by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions at their respective December meetings with the intention of providing staff with guidance when shaping fisheries preseason and managing fisheries inseason and will be in effect for two years, 2002-2003.

<i>Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation For Non-Indian Fisheries, 2002-2003</i>
Guiding Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet conservation requirements for wild spring chinook, including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. • Manage non-Indian harvest of spring chinook within the provisions of the <i>U.S. v Oregon</i> Management Agreement for upriver spring chinook. • Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals. • Focus sport and commercial fisheries' allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring chinook. • Allocate 15 percent of the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impacts to sport and non-treaty Indian fisheries upstream of McNary Dam and to provide for a lower river fisheries management buffer.
Fisheries Management Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the mainstem Columbia River commercial fishery to attain the commercial allocation of Willamette spring chinook. • Manage the combined mainstem Columbia River and lower Willamette River sport fisheries to attain the sport fishery allocation of Willamette spring chinook. • Manage non-Indian upriver spring chinook impacts to provide for equitable sport and commercial hatchery spring chinook harvest opportunity in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam. • Maximize the economic benefits of spring chinook harvested by the commercial fishery by focusing the majority of the commercial fishing effort early in the spring chinook season in years where there is sufficient Willamette spring chinook abundance. Commercial fishing later in the season would be dependent on remaining commercial upriver spring chinook impact allocation and would be structured to minimize effects on the sport fishery. • Maximize sport fishing opportunity during late March through April, <i>and extending into May if possible,</i>¹ to provide angler opportunity during the period of peak spring chinook abundance. <i>Recognize associated economic benefits after mid-March</i>². The number of recreational fishing days in April will depend on the annual abundance of upriver spring chinook, fishing conditions, and the level of effort. • Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available and after public discussions. • Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e. upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.

^{1.} Additional language endorsed by WFWC.

^{2.} Additional language endorsed by OFWC.

- The following matrix, endorsed by both Commissions, provides a high likelihood of achieving the sport fishery needs under most run sizes and a high to moderate likelihood of meeting the commercial fishery needs under most run sizes while the associated footnotes provide management flexibility necessary for making inseason fishery management decisions.

<i>Sharing of Non-Indian Upriver Spring Chinook Impacts Dependent on Willamette and Upriver Spring Chinook Annual Abundance</i>				
		Willamette Hatchery Fish Run Size		
		< 40,000	40-75,000	>75,000
Upriver Run Size (Impacts)	30-50,000 (0.85%)	Comm - 10% (0.08) Sport - 90% (0.77)	Comm - 30% (0.25) Sport - 70% (0.60)	Comm - 25% (0.21) Sport - 75% (0.64)
	50-<75,000 (1.25%)	Comm - 40% (0.50) Sport - 60% (0.75)	Comm - 35% (0.44) Sport - 65% (0.81)	Comm - 30% (0.37) Sport - 70% (0.88)
	>75,000 (1.7%)	Comm - 50% (0.85) Sport - 50% (0.85)	Comm - 40% (0.68) Sport - 60% (1.02)	Comm - 35% (0.59) Sport - 65% (1.11)

Footnotes Concerning In-Season Management Adjustments

- In years when the sport fishery upriver impact allocation will be used prior to May 15, and the commercial fishery does not need their entire upriver impact allocation to attain the Willamette allocation or an equitable catch share, commercial impacts may be transferred to the sport fishery. An assessment of upriver impact needs and Willamette allocation will be conducted after mid-April in conjunction with the upriver run size update.*
- In years when the sport fishery does not need their entire upriver spring chinook allocation to continue the fishery through May 15, the remaining sport impacts may be transferred to the commercial fishery for late spring commercial fishing opportunity. The sport fishery impact needs will be updated after mid-April in conjunction with the upriver run size update.*

2000-2002 Sturgeon Management

- The average annual harvestable number of 50,000 white sturgeon for lower Columbia River fisheries is allocated 10,000 (20%) commercial and 40,000 (80%) sport.
- During 2000 and 2001 fisheries, commercial landings totaled 20,300 and sport catches totaled 81,700 which each slightly exceeded annual catch guidelines.
- At the December 12, 2001 hearing the Compact adopted the following fishery management protocol for 2002 fisheries.

<i>Sturgeon Fishery Management Protocol For 2002</i>	
✓	Overages during 2000 and 2001 will be applied to currently adopted 2002 catch guidelines.
✓	Sport and commercial fisheries will be managed to less than the maximum catch guideline for 2002 as a management buffer. Reduction will be 2,000 for sport and 500 for commercial.
✓	Based on the December 12, 2001 catch update 2002 sport fisheries would be managed for a catch target of 36,500 not to exceed 38,500 and commercial fisheries would be managed for a catch target of 9,200 not to exceed 9,700.
✓	2002 catch guidelines may be further modified as 2001 catches are updated.

- Based on the most recent catch updates the sport catch guideline is 36,300 not to exceed 38,300 and the commercial catch guideline remains at 9,200 not to exceed 9,700.
- Commercial sturgeon seasons are allowed outside traditional salmon fishing periods to optimize the economic benefits of the commercial sturgeon allocation.

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on January 28 to discuss recommendations for 2002 Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines.
- Based on the most recent population estimate, guidelines for the John Day pool have been reduced from 2001 levels.
- Other 2002 catch guidelines remain the same as those used during 2001.
- The SMTF recognizes an annual treaty Indian subsistence catch expectation of 300 sturgeon.

<i>Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines For 2002</i>			
Pool	Sport	Treaty	Total
Bonneville Pool	1,520	1,300	2,820
The Dalles Pool	700	1,100	1,800
John Day Pool	165	335	500
Total	2,385	2,735	5,120

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

2002 Smelt Fisheries

- The states have completed a Joint State Eulachon Management Plan.
- A Level 2 commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River was adopted at the December 12, 2001 Compact hearing.
- The adopted fishery consists of two 18-hour fishing periods per week (3 AM-9 PM Sundays and Wednesdays) and is scheduled to occur during January 1 - March 31, 2002.
- Effort has been low with less than 10 fishers participating to date.
- Landings through late January are improved compared to recent years with a total catch of 4,600 pounds.
- CPUE's have been high ranging between 270 and 850 pounds per delivery during January 13-27.
- Migration conditions have been good with water temperatures at Bonneville Dam exceeding 43°F since January 1.
- Flow measured at Bonneville Dam has been below average with daily flows ranging between 108 and 197 kcfs for the month of January.
- Level 2 commercial and sport fisheries were adopted for Washington tributaries of the Columbia River in 2002.
- The Cowlitz River is open to commercial smelt fishing weekly from 6 PM Sunday through 6 AM Monday and 6 PM Wednesday through 6 AM Thursday during January 1-March 31, 2002. Other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing.
- Significant landings have occurred in the Cowlitz River during 2002 with an estimated 96,700 pounds being sold during the five fishing periods occurring between January 13 and January 28.
- Data from the Cowlitz River fishery shows that CPUE, as measured by pounds per delivery, had increased from 1,100 during January 13-14 to 4,800 during January 23-24 and subsequently decreased to 1,800 on January 27-28.
- All Washington tributaries of the Columbia River are open for sport smelt fishing weekly from 6 PM to 10 PM Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday during January 1-March 31, 2002.

- Smelt fishing recently slowed in the lower Cowlitz River with dippers getting 0-10 smelt per dip.
- Smelt abundance in the Cowlitz River upstream of Lexington is currently good with test fishers averaging 0-12 smelt per dip.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
•	Based on positive fishery results to date the Joint Staff is proposing to modify the ongoing mainstem fishery, by adopting an additional 18-hour fishing period per week.
Season:	February 1, 2002 through March 31, 2002.
Open Days:	Friday
Hours:	3 AM to 9 PM
Gear:	Gill net, dip net, or trawl as per permanent regulations.
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear.

- Proposed fishery is consistent with Level 2 fisheries described in the Joint State Smelt Management Plan.
- Significant smelt landings have occurred during January in the mainstem Columbia River and the Cowlitz River for the first time since 1990.
- Proposed fishery allows additional fishing opportunity in response to improved abundance indicated by fishery results to date.

2002 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- The following fishing periods were adopted at the December 12, 2001 Compact hearing.

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
J		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████	
A	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
N		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████	
U	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
A		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████	
R	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Y		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████		Noon ██████████	6 PM ██████████	
	27	28	29	30	31	1	

- Fishery structure is based on 1998-2001 successful fisheries.
- White sturgeon catch to date is less than 2001 but exceeds 1998-2000.
- Preseason catch expectations for this fishery were 1,500-2,500 white sturgeon and up to 50 spring chinook.

- To date no spring chinook have been landed in this fishery.
- Catches through February 1 are expected to total about 2,000 white sturgeon.

<i>Commercial White Sturgeon Landings, 1998-2002</i>					
Date	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998
January 7-8	479	433	401	433	367
January 10-11	340	614	133	177	191
January 14-15	281	353	123	122	188
January 17-18	231	230	82	126	150
January 21-22	175	238	112	108	327
January 24-25	<u>150</u>	<u>138</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>81</u>	<u>273</u>
Total to date	1,656	2,006	878	1,047	1,496

- Season total landings during 1997-2000 ranged from 1,800 to 2,700 and averaged 2,400.
- Landings during 2001 totaled 3,200 for the winter season.
- The Joint Staff met with commercial fishing representatives on Wednesday January 23, 2002 to discuss the white sturgeon commercial fishing schedule for 2002 and opinions considering the fishing structure were mixed.
- The following is a summary of expectations for future fisheries in 2002.
 - 1) Some continuation of ongoing winter commercial sturgeon fishery.
 - 2) Remaining fisheries will be managed for catch expectations of 1,000 white sturgeon in tangle net spring chinook and Select Area fisheries, 2,500 for the August fisheries (including August target sturgeon fisheries), and 3,000 in fall fisheries.
 - 3) Delay adoption of the August sturgeon fishery until later to calculate results of prior commercial fisheries.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is proposing to modify the ongoing fishery by adopting two additional 30-hour fishing periods. 	
Season:	Noon Monday February 4 to 6 PM Tuesday February 5 (30 hours) Noon Monday February 11 to 6 PM Tuesday February 12 (30 hours)
Area:	Zones 1 - 5.
Sanctuaries:	Sandy River.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped salmon and sturgeon.
Expected Catch:	200 - 500 white sturgeon ≤ 20 spring chinook ≤ 1 upper Willamette wild mortalities 2 winter steelhead

- Proposed fishery is consistent with Joint State Agreement and results of discussions with commercial fishing industry representatives.
- Proposed fishery is similar in duration and catch in past winter target sturgeon commercial fisheries.
- Proposed fishery would allow commercial access to white sturgeon during the winter time frame while not jeopardizing other future commercial fishing opportunities.

2002 August Target Sturgeon Commercial Fishery

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff will not present any proposal concerning the August target sturgeon commercial fishery at this time. 	

- If an August target sturgeon commercial fishery is proposed it will need to be adopted prior to May 1, 2002 for notification purposes.
- The Joint Staff recommendation is consistent with results of discussions with commercial fishing industry representatives.

2001 Spring Chinook Tangle Net Study

- During the spring of 2001 the states conducted a 4-faceted study concerning the use of small mesh tangle nets as a live capture method for capturing spring chinook in commercial salmon fisheries.

<i>Four Facets of Commercial Live Capture Study</i>	
1) Long Term Mortality:	The primary purpose of this portion of the study was to determine relative long-term survival rates for spring chinook captured and released using 3½ and 4½ tangle nets and conventional gill nets (about 8" mesh size).
2) Soak Time:	The primary purpose of this portion of the study was to compare short-term survival rates for spring chinook captured with conventional gill nets (about 6¾ mesh size) and tangle nets (3½ mesh size) that are fished for differing lengths of time. Data collected will be used to compare short-term survival rates between methods of capture and for different soak times (duration of fishing drift).
3) Mesh Size:	The primary purpose of this portion of the study was to determine the feasibility of using small mesh (3½-6") tangle nets in a commercial fishery that would allow the live release of unmarked spring chinook and retention of marked spring chinook. The effectiveness of 3½, 4½ and 5" -6" mesh tangle nets will be evaluated.
4) Floating Trap:	The primary purpose of this portion of the study was to examine the feasibility of using a floating trap to capture spring chinook in the mainstem Columbia River.

- In the long-term mortality rate portion of this study, spring chinook were captured at Bonneville Dam using a trap and below Bonneville Dam using conventional gill nets and small mesh tangle nets. Long term mortality rates of spring chinook captured with nets are compared to long-term mortality rates of spring chinook in the Bonneville Dam trap with fish captured in the trap being considered the control in this portion of the study.
- Relative long-term mortality rates are based on returns to fishery and escapement areas.
- Results from the long-term mortality portion of this study are summarized below:

<i>Summary of Mortality Rates</i>			
Capture Method	Number Captured	Immediate Mortality Rate	Long-term Mortality Rate *
Bonneville Control	1,206	0 %	0 % (assumed)
3 ½" single wall tangle net	186	4.3%	9%
4 ½" single wall tangle net	342	2.6%	
5" multi-wall trammel net	38	10.5%	NA
8" conventional gill net	815	1%	50%

*Released below Bonneville Dam. Includes sport fishery and passage related mortalities.

- 1) Long-term mortality rates may be overestimated due to sport fishery and passage related mortalities.
- 2) Long-term mortality rates with small mesh tangle net were less than with conventional gill nets.
- 3) Data suggests that immediate mortality rates were higher for multi-wall trammel nets as compared to single wall tangle nets.
- 4) Long-term mortality rates for small mesh tangle nets were less than 10%.

- The soak time portion of the study compared catch and short-term mortality rates associated with 3 ½ tangle nets and conventional 6¾ -7" gill nets.
- Short-term mortality includes immediate mortalities and mortalities observed in fish held in net pens for 72 hours.
- Results of soak time portion of study are summarized below:

<i>Results of Soak Time Portion of Study</i>					
Gear	Spring Chinook Caught	Adult Chinook Catch Rate *	Mortality Rates (%)		
			Immediate	Short-term	Total
Conventional 6¾ -7" gill net	32	1.65	13	7	20
3 ½ mesh tangle net	41	1.50	7	0	7

*Catch rate defined as adult chinook captured per 150 fathoms of net and soak time of 30 minutes.

- 1) Mortality rates of spring chinook captured in small mesh tangle nets is half of that observed for spring chinook captured in conventional gill nets.
 - 2) Total mortality rate is comprised of 67% immediate mortalities and 33% short-term mortalities.
- An experimental tangle net gear permit fishery occurred for four weeks during April 23- May 18, 2001 to collect data concerning catch rates and immediate mortality rates associated with small mesh tangle nets.
 - During all four weeks of the fishery 3 ½ and 4 ½ tangle nets were fished while 5"-6" tangle nets were fished at the request of industry during the last two weeks of the fishery.

<i>Catches During Experimental Tangle Net Gear Permit Fishery</i>						
Gear	Drifts	Chinook Kept			Chinook Released	Steelhead Handled
		Adults	Jacks	Total		
3 ½	292	170	62	232	142	79
4 ½	290	282	124	406	270	81
5"-6"	151	163	62	225	132	44

- The permit fishery also compared the effectiveness of nets hung in at a 3:1 ratio without slackers (3:1), nets hung in at 3:1 ratio with slackers (3:1s), nets hung even at 2:1 ratio without slackers (2:1), nets hung even at 2:1 ratio with slackers (2:1s), and 5-6" nets with no hang restrictions.
- Catch rates (standardized for a 75 fathom net) and immediate mortality rates from the permit fishery are summarized below:

<i>Catch and Immediate Mortality Rates for Experimental Tangle Net Gear Permit Fishery</i>					
	3 ½ Gear		4 ½ Gear		5"-6"
	3:1	2:1s	3:1	2:1s	Gear
Spring chinook per hour	1.7	2.2	2.7	3.4	2.7
Immediate spring chinook mortalities	1.6%	0.0%	83%	1.1%	8.0%
Steelhead per hour	0.48	0.34	0.40	0.33	0.32

- 1) Spring chinook catch rate for 4 ½ - 6" tangle nets was higher than catch rate for 3 ½ tangle nets.

- 2) Spring chinook catch rates were similar for 4 ½ and 5" - 6" tangle nets.
- 3) Steelhead catch rate was similar for all mesh sizes used in this portion of the study.
- 4) Immediate mortality rates averaged 1% for 3½ tangle nets, 5% for 4 ½ tangle nets, and 8% for 5" - 6" tangle nets.
- 5) Data collected in this fishery indicates that all gears used have low mortality rates and steelhead handle rates that are adequate to allow their use in a live capture commercial fishery.
- 6) Data collected in this fishery is not adequate to determine which mesh size or hanging modification would be most effective for use in a live capture commercial fishery.
- 7) Based on data collected in the 2001 study the Joint Staff is recommending a 10% mortality rate be used during the demonstration fishery proposed for 2002.

2002 Tangle Net Demonstration Fishery

- A study of live capture commercial fisheries has been proposed for 2002, including a full fleet tangle net demonstration commercial fishery.
- The proposed demonstration fishery is based on the positive results observed during the 2001 study.
- Restrictions associated with the proposed demonstration fishery are based on results of the 2001 study.
- The purpose of the proposed demonstration fishery is to test the logistics of incorporating live capture fishing methods into full fleet commercial fisheries.
- Based on preseason run size forecasts, the Interim Management Agreement, and the Willamette Fish Management Plan the commercial fishery has been allocated a 0.68% impact on listed upriver spring chinook and a catch of 9,700 Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- The proposed demonstration fishery would allow commercial fisheries to access their Willamette hatchery spring chinook allocation while remaining within their allocated upriver impact agreement.

Joint Staff Recommendation

- The Joint Staff is proposing a small mesh tangle net demonstration commercial fishery to allow harvest of Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- Season:** 5 AM - 7 PM Monday February 25 (14 hours)
 5 AM - 7 PM Wednesday February 27 (14 hours)
 5 AM - 7 PM Friday March 1 (14 hours)
 5 AM - 7 PM Monday March 4 (14 hours)
 5 AM - 7 PM Wednesday March 6 (14 hours)
 5 AM - 7 PM Friday March 8 (14 hours)
- Area:** Zones 1 - 5.
- Sanctuaries:** Gray River, Gnat Creek, Elokomina-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis -A, Washougal River, and Sandy river sanctuaries.
- Gear:** Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.
 5 ½ maximum mesh size restriction.
- Allowable Sales:** Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon.
- Participants:** Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriated licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a permit that allows participation in this fishery.
- Miscellaneous Regulations:** 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.
 Use of recovery boxes will be required on all lethargic or bleeding fish.
 Each participant will be required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber.

- Based on discussions with commercial fishing industry representatives the staff has developed the following weekly catch scenario in an attempt to achieve the allocation objectives.

Week	Catch
February 24 - March 2	3,000
March 3 - 9	5,000
March 10 - 16	4,500
March 17 - 23	4,000
March 24 - 30	3,000

- The proposed fishery will be managed to remain within ESA-related impact limits of 0.68% for listed upriver spring chinook and 9,700 Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- In aggregate with all other non-Indian fisheries the proposed demonstration fishery will be managed within ESA-related limits of 2% for listed wild steelhead and 6% for listed hatchery steelhead.

- The Joint Staff expects spring chinook mortality rates in 2002 to be less than 2001 because the 2001 study occurred primarily on smaller-sized age 4 upriver spring chinook while the proposed demonstration fishery will focus on larger-sized Willamette age 5 spring chinook.

Quick Reporting Rule for Washington Buyers

WDFW has adopted rules that require commercial purchasers to report their landings by a specified time. This rule can be attached to any commercial season that is adopted, but is not in place unless specified. WDFW staff recommends that the “quick reporting required” clause be in place for the spring chinook tangle net fishery for 2002. Washington buyers would be required to send a report of their landings to WDFW by 10AM on the day after the purchase date by either:

- a) FAX transmission to (360) 906-6776 or (360) 906-6777
- b) E-mail to crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov
- c) Telephone to 1-866-791-1281

- On-board monitoring will occur inseason to determine species specific encounter rates and immediate mortality rates.

- Fishery impact rates will be modified inseason if encounter or immediate mortality rates are significantly different from preseason expectations.
- Proposed demonstration fishery is consistent with guiding principles adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions.
- Proposed demonstration fishery is consistent with the results of discussions with commercial fishery industry representatives.
- Proposed demonstration fishery is expected to effectively target Willamette stock hatchery spring chinook while minimizing impacts to listed spring chinook and steelhead.
- Proposed demonstration fishery is expected to occur after the majority of the listed winter steelhead stock enter the tributaries.
- Based on preliminary results from fall coho test fisheries 5 1/2" maximum mesh size restriction is not expected to significantly increase impacts to listed steelhead.
- Use of recovery box will improve survival rate of all listed species.

2002 Non-Indian Area 2S Commercial Shad Season

- The proposed 2002 shad season is similar to seasons adopted during 1996-2001.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>	
•	The Joint Staff is proposing a commercial fishery to allow the harvest of shad.
Season:	3 PM - 10 PM Daily
	May 20-24 (5 days)
	May 28-31 (4 days)
	June 3-7 (5 days)
	June 10-14 (5 days)
	June 17-21 (5 days)
	June 24-28 (5 days)
Area:	True north/south line through Light #50 near Sandy River mouth upstream to 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, 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.

- Area restrictions have been in effect since 1976 and gear restrictions have been in effect since 1996.
- The Joint Staff will estimate salmonid handle and mortalities in this fishery based on monitoring and/or past years' data.
- Catch expectation is for about 45,000 shad. Impacts to other salmonids is expected to include eight summer chinook, 33 steelhead, and five listed wild steelhead.
- Due to lack of participation in recent years no shad commercial fishery is proposed for the Washougal Reef area in 2002.

2002 Anchovy and Herring Bait Fishery

- The anchovy and herring season is open year-round seaward of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, with seines of a mesh size not less than ½inch and not over 1,400 feet in length. All other species must be released.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Joint Staff is not proposing any changes to the currently adopted regulations.

NON-INDIAN SPORT FISHERIES

2002 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to salmon angling during January 1 through March 31 under permanent regulations.
- The sport fishery has been allocated a 1.02% impact rate on listed upriver spring chinook.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Joint Staff is proposing that the current mainstem Columbia River sport fishery be expanded to include additional sport fishing opportunity. The entire recommended season is as follows: Area: Columbia River mouth at Buoy 10 to McNary Dam (not including Bonneville Pool). Dates: January 1 - May 15, 2002 below I-5 Bridge. March 16 - May 15, 2002 from I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam and from The Dalles Dam upstream to McNary Dam. Catch Limits: 2 adipose fin-clipped adult salmon per day per permanent rules. Miscellaneous Regulations: Fishery will be closed prior to May 15 if upriver allocation is reached.

- Proposed fishery is consistent with guiding principles, fishery management objectives, and allocation plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions.
- Proposed fishery is consistent with recommendation from sport fishing industry leaders.
- Proposed fishery allows access to hatchery spring chinook and minimizes impacts to listed species.
- Time period ending in mid-May targets the fishery on spring chinook and minimizes impacts to summer chinook.

2002 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River is currently closed to steelhead angling below I-5 Bridge during April 1 - May 15 and between I-5 Bridge and McNary Dam during April 1 - June 15 under permanent regulations.
- The mainstem Columbia River upstream to Bonneville Dam is currently closed to shad angling during April 1-May 15 under permanent regulations.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Joint Staff is proposing that the mainstem Columbia River be open for adipose-clipped steelhead and shad when open for adipose-clipped spring chinook.

2002 Tributary Spring Chinook Sport Fisheries

- No changes to permanent regulations for the Sandy River spring chinook sport fishery.
- Many Washington tributaries of the Columbia River are expected to open for spring chinook angling in 2002. Announcements of season dates and times are expected soon.

2002 Sport Sturgeon Fishery

- Catches are expected to exceed the 2002 guideline of 36,300. Modifications to current regulations are necessary.
- Staff met with the sport sturgeon advisory group on Tuesday January 15, 2002 and Tuesday January 22, 2002 to discuss options for 2002.
- The advisory group did not reach consensus on any one option but consensus was reached by two subgroups concerning two different options (Option 1 and Option 2).
- The Joint Staff has developed three options for Compact consideration.

<i>Option 1</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibit retention of sturgeon in the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, including Youngs Bay, during April 1 - May 10 and July 25 - September 30, 2002. Expected trips: 142,500-155,000 Expected catch: -32,700-36,100

- Ensures that catch during 2002 will not exceed catch guideline.
- Expands on retention restrictions in effect during 2001.
- Prohibits sturgeon retention in conjunction with times of peak salmon abundance.
- Allows for flexibility to modify retention restrictions after the mid-July catch update.

<i>Option 2</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibit retention of sturgeon in the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, including Youngs Bay, every Sunday and Monday during March 1 - December 31, 2002. Expected trips: 172,200 Expected catch: 35,800

- Expected to remain within catch guideline for 2002 based on average catch rates observed prior to 2001.
- Daily closures have been used effectively in other fisheries.
- Allows experimentation with implementing a different kind of retention restriction than what has been used in recent years.
- Would require block retention restriction near end of year if not adequate.

<i>Option 3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prohibit retention of sturgeon in the mainstem Columbia River below Bonneville Dam, including Youngs Bay, all days during August 1 - September 30, 2002 and every Sunday and Monday during March 15 - June 16, 2002. Expected trips: 162,500-171,400 Expected catch: 32,900-38,300

- Likely to remain within catch guideline for 2002; however, additional block retention restriction after September may be required to remain within catch guideline.
- Maintains consistency with 2001 block retention restrictions.
- Allows for experimentation with daily retention restrictions.
- Allows for flexibility to modify retention restrictions after the mid-July catch update.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMERCIAL REGULATIONS

Monofilament Gear

- The use of monofilament gear in mainstem commercial fisheries was considered at several Compact hearings and public meetings during 2000 and 2001.
- At the September 13, 2001 hearing the Compact adopted regulations that would allow the use of monofilament nets in mainstem, including Select Areas, commercial fisheries during the fall of 2001.
- Current permanent rules do not allow the use of monofilament nets in mainstem and Select Area fisheries, excluding Youngs Bay.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is proposing that permanent rules be changed to allow the use of monofilament nets in mainstem, including Select Area, commercial fisheries effective February 18, 2002.

- Proposal is consistent with Compact decision in fall of 2001.

Heavy Leadlines

- Current permanent rules are in effect that limit the weight on a leadline to not exceed 2 pounds per any one fathom.
- Members of the commercial fishing industry requested that this regulation be modified to allow the use of heavier leadlines during target sturgeon fisheries.
- The use of heavy leadlines was discussed at a meeting with commercial fishing industry representatives on January 23, 2002 and no consensus was reached on this issue.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is proposing no changes to the current permanent regulations that limits weight on the leadline to no more than 2 pounds per any one fathom.

- A change in this regulation was not fully supported by all industry representatives.
- Heavier leadlines would increase nets efficiency in capturing sturgeon which would be inconsistent with current attempts to constrain sturgeon fisheries within the annual catch guideline.

Summary of Recommendations For Non-Indian Fisheries

- ✓ Adopt guiding principles, fishery objectives, and allocation matrix as proposed on page 3 and 4.
- ✓ Modify ongoing commercial smelt seasons as proposed on page 6.
- ✓ Modify ongoing winter commercial sturgeon season as proposed on page 7.
- ✓ Delay decision on commercial August sturgeon season.
- ✓ Adopt the adipose fin-clipped spring chinook commercial demonstration fishery as proposed on page 11.
- ✓ Adopt commercial shad season as proposed on page 12.
- ✓ Adopt anchovy and herring bait fishery as proposed on page 13.
- ✓ Adopt spring chinook sport fishery as proposed on page 13.
- ✓ Adopt steelhead and shad sport fishery as proposed on page 13.
- ✓ Joint Staff has no recommendation on sport sturgeon seasons but does provide three options for Compact consideration on page 14.
- ✓ Modify permanent rules regarding the use of monofilament gill nets in Columbia River commercial fisheries, including Select Areas, as proposed on page 15.
- ✓ Joint Staff recommends no changes to current leadline rules on page 15.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

2002 Treaty Indian Sturgeon Setline Season

- Under permanent Compact rules the commercial sturgeon setline fishery is open from January 1-31, 2002.
- Landings through January 27 have totaled 12 white sturgeon.
- Catch is typically low in this season with landings during 1996-2001 ranging between 35-103 white sturgeon. Landings totaled 35 white sturgeon with 30 landed through January 27, 2001.

2002 Treaty Indian Winter Gillnet Season

- The tribes may recommend winter gillnet season options.

2002 Treaty Indian Spring and Summer Ceremonial and Subsistence (C&S) Fisheries

- The tribes may recommend spring and summer C&S season options.

2002 Treaty Indian Experimental Tribal Zone 6 Target Shad Season

- In 2002, the tribes may implement a shad dipnet fishery at The Dalles Dam east ladder exit if a market can be identified. Gear and methods will have little or no adverse impact to listed salmonids.

<i>Recommendation for Treaty Indian Shad Fisheries</i>
The Joint Staff recommends treaty Indian fishers continue to be allowed to sell shad caught incidental to commercial salmonid seasons and in traditional dipnet fisheries, as well as the proposed trap and dipnet fisheries.

NEXT COMPACT HEARING

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact hearing be scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2002 at 10 am at Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife headquarters commission room, located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon.
- The purpose of this hearing is to update salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt stock status and consider commercial fishing seasons for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt.
- Additional Compact hearings will be held as needed to modify ongoing fisheries.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
January 31, 2002