

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 9
Columbia River Compact
March 31, 2008**

<i>Fisheries under consideration</i>	Non-Indian winter commercial salmon fishery
--------------------------------------	---

2008 Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery -- Preliminary Observation Data																								
2008		Lower R.			UpRiver			No VSI			Ratio			Steelhead										
Fishery	Date	Mesh size (inches)		Drifts	Clipped	No Clip	Unk	Clipped	No Clip	Unk	Clipped	No Clip	Unk	Total Chinook	Chinook/Drift	Chinook / Steelhead	Steelhead/Drift	Total Steelhead	Clipped	No Clip	Unk	DNA count	% Upriver Chinook	#Marked Chinook
Test*	03-Mar	4.25	14		0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1	0.3	0.2	3	3	0	0	0	100%	1
Test*	10-Mar	4.25	14		2	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	7	0.5	1.8	0.3	4	2	2	0	2	43%	4
Test*	16-17 Mar	4.25	16		2	3	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	19	1.2	2.7	0.4	7	3	4	0	4	74%	14
Test	23-Mar	4.25	8		0	0	0	11	2	0	0	0	0	13	1.6	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	100%	11
Test**	27-Mar	4.25	4		5	0	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	12	3.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	55%	11
Test	30-Mar	4.25	8		1	0	0	11	3	0	0	0	0	15	1.9	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	93%	12

*Occurred in Zone 1-3 to maintain historical database

** Demonstration test fishing

- Chinook passage at Bonneville Dam through March 29 totals 132 fish. Based on the recent 10-year average, passage is typically 1% complete by this date.
- The recreational fishery from Hayden Island upstream to Bonneville Dam opened March 16. Catch rates have been higher than anticipated for March. During March 16-23, an estimated 825 Chinook were kept (and 150 released). During this recent weekend (March 29-30), catch rates at some ramps approached one kept fish per boat.
- The recreational fishery downstream of Hayden Island opened March 24 and is scheduled to close effective April 5. Catches to date have been sporadic.

<i>Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM – 10 PM Tuesday April 1, 2008	(16 hours)
Area:	West powerlines on Hayden Island upstream to Beacon Rock (Zone 4-5)	
Sanctuaries:	Washougal River and Sandy River.	
Gear:	Drift nets only. 4¼” maximum mesh size restriction. Use of monofilament tangle nets <u>not</u> allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon.	
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear and have attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques.	

Multi- Net Rule:	<p>Multiple Net Rule: It will be legal to have onboard a commercial vessel more than one net provided the nets are of mesh size legal for the fishery, or the net has a minimum mesh size of 9 inches, and the length of any one net does not exceed 1,500 feet in length.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater</p>
Additional Regulations:	<p>Use of recovery boxes is required on all lethargic or bleeding salmon or steelhead.</p> <p>Each vessel participating in this fishery is required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Operable recovery boxes require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to each chamber of the box(es). Each box must be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Lighted buoys are required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>Cooperation of vessel operators to allow state monitors onboard to observe and collect data is also required.</p> <p>24 hour Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.</p>

- Estimated catch is less than 1,500 Chinook with minimal steelhead handle.

Future Hearings

- Staff may recommend a Compact hearing for Monday April 7. Test fishing is scheduled for Sunday April 6. Test fishing results will determine if a Compact hearing is needed. Staff will distribute information by 9:30 AM on Mondays to notify the public if a hearing is to take place or not.