

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 15, 2008**

Fisheries under consideration:

- Non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam
- Select Area commercial fisheries (March through July)
- Non-Indian commercial shad fisheries
- Non-Indian commercial winter white sturgeon fisheries
- Non-Indian recreational fisheries from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam

<i>Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead – 2008 Forecasts and 2007 Returns</i>				
Run	2008 Forecast		2007	
			Preseason Forecast	Actual Return
<u>Spring Chinook</u>				
Willamette	34,000	Lowest return since the mid-1990s	52,000	40,500
Sandy	6,800	Greater than 2007 return - similar to 5-yr ave.	7,900	3,400
Cowlitz	5,200	Greater than 2007 return - less than 5-yr ave.	6,400	3,700
Kalama	7,300	Less than 2007 return - greater than 5-yr ave.	4,000	7,300
Lewis	3,500	Less than 2007 return and recent 5-yr ave.	5,500	6,700
Select Areas	3,700	Well below average due to poor expected survival of 2004 brood	9,700	6,400
<u>Upriver Spring (Includes Snake River Summer Chinook)</u>				
Total Upriver Run	269,300	Greater than 2007 return, 3rd highest since 1977	78,500	86,200
Snake River Wild	21,100	Greater than 2007 return, similar to 5-yr ave.	13,100	10,600
Upper Columbia Wild	2,900	Greater than 2007 return, similar to 5-yr ave.	1,200	900
<u>Summer Chinook</u>				
Upper Columbia	52,000	Greater than 2007 return-similar to 5-yr ave.	45,600	37,200
<u>Sockeye</u>				
Upriver	75,600	Greater than 2007 return and 5-yr ave.	27,300	26,100
Snake River	700	Up from recent years, returns from captive brood	300	57
<u>Steelhead</u>				
Wild Winter	15,300	Similar to 2007 return, less than 5-yr ave.	16,200	15,000
Skamania Index	10,400	Greater than 2007 return, less than 5-yr ave.	16,700	9,400
Group A Index	266,300	Similar to 2007 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	241,500	258,900
Group B Index	49,700	Less than 2007 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	56,400	51,100
Total Upriver Index	326,400	Similar to 2007 return and 5-yr ave.	314,600	319,400

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. The spring management timeframe is January 1 through June 15. Wild spring/summer Chinook destined for the Snake River are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and wild spring Chinook destined for most tributaries between Rock Island and Chief Joseph Dams are also ESA listed.

Willamette Spring Chinook

- The Willamette River spring Chinook run passes through the lower Columbia River from February through May, with peak abundance during mid-March to mid-April. Migration through the lower Willamette River varies with water conditions but typically occurs from mid-March through April. Passage through the Willamette Falls fishway occurs from mid-April to mid-June, with peak passage in May. Wild spring Chinook destined for portions of the Willamette River and its tributaries are ESA-listed.

Winter Steelhead

- The winter steelhead range includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek in Oregon and the Klickitat River in Washington. All wild winter steelhead are ESA-listed except those within the Southwest Washington ESU. The Southwest Washington ESU includes all naturally-spawned populations of winter-run steelhead in river basins of, and tributaries to, Grays Harbor, Willapa Bay, and the Columbia River below the Cowlitz River in Washington and the Willamette River in Oregon. Willamette River winter steelhead destined for specific areas above Willamette Falls are also ESA-listed.

2008 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon and Steelhead

Interim Management Agreement

- The "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon" provides species-specific harvest frameworks and harvest rates for non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries management.
- A new, 10-year agreement is in the final stages of completion, and is expected to be in effect soon. The 2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement has been extended until the new agreement is in place.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest matrix for upriver spring and Snake River summer Chinook. Based on this matrix (and preseason forecasts), impacts during 2008 are limited to 12% for both non-treaty fisheries (2%) and treaty Indian fisheries (10%) combined.
- Impacts to wild winter steelhead are limited to 2% of the total run.

Endangered Species Act

- The TAC submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) describing proposed fisheries consistent with the "2005-2007 Interim Management Agreement for Upriver Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead, Coho and White Sturgeon".
- A BA regarding impacts to wild winter steelhead during 2006-2007 fisheries was submitted to NMFS in January 2006 and a BA covering impacts to green sturgeon through 2007 was submitted in June 2006.
- A Biological Opinion for these assessments has been received from NMFS, and has been extended until the new 2008-2017 BA is in place.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to <15%.
- The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish and determines allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls.
- Based on the FMEP and an expected return of 29,000 hatchery Willamette River spring Chinook, the freshwater harvest of surplus spring Chinook (6,000 fish) is allocated 100% for recreational fisheries. Commercial fisheries are allocated <1% of the total return of hatchery fish (<290) for incidental catch in commercial fisheries.

Non-Indian Spring Chinook Allocation

- Guiding principles, fishery management objectives and recreational/commercial impact allocations were considered by the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions (WFWC and OFWC) in February 2008 to provide the Joint Staff with preseason guidance when shaping and managing fisheries during 2008.
- The two commissions did not originally concur on allocation of upriver spring Chinook to individual fisheries, and authorized the directors of WDFW and ODFW to negotiate the 2008 season guidelines and to provide staff with additional guidance for implementing WFWC and OFWC Commission policies concerning allocation of non-Indian upriver spring Chinook impacts between recreational and commercial fisheries.
- The resulting decision included the following management objectives:
 - Manage fisheries for upriver spring Chinook impacts of 61% to recreational fisheries and 39% to commercial fisheries.
 - Provide for a mainstem Columbia River fishery above the Willamette from March 16-April 30, 6-days per week, with a one-fish bag limit.
 - Provide for a fishery downstream of the Willamette River from late March through early April, 7-days per week, with a one-fish bag limit.
 - Manage the mainstem commercial fishery to 5,200 catch (76% of mainstem commercial guideline) prior to May 1 or until run size update is available.

- Establish a 10% buffer:
 - 75% of the buffer comes from the mainstem commercial fishery and 25% from the recreational fishery above the mouth of the Willamette as a result of the one-fish daily bag limit.
 - Half of the total buffer can be used in-season to meet the April 30 recreational fishery objective above the mouth of the Willamette.
 - Half of the total buffer will be reserved for a run size update.

Sturgeon

- A Joint State Agreement is in effect through 2008.
- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is allocated 80% (32,000 fish) recreational and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial with specific size limits in place for both user groups.
- Season allocations within the sturgeon commercial fishery protocol were developed for 2008 at the November 2007 Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group meeting.

<i>Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2008</i>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 1,800 for the winter-spring timeframe (January-June 15) with 1,600 for winter sturgeon and 200 for winter salmon, 500 for the summer timeframe (June 16-July 31), 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,200 for the late fall timeframe (September-October). Any unused allocation from winter-summer fisheries to be redistributed equally between August and late fall fisheries (50% to each fishery). ✓ Manage for a commercial harvest of 7,927 white sturgeon remaining on the cumulative 3-year guideline total. ✓ 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 white sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons. ✓ Conduct limited target white sturgeon fisheries during winter timeframe if feasible. ✓ Conduct target white sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access the commercial allocation. ✓ Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season-specific catch expectations or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons. ✓ Joint Staff will conduct an annual post-season evaluation of white sturgeon with industry. |
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- 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 and agreed to modify the current slot limit of 45-60 inches for tribal fisheries in Bonneville Reservoir to 42-60 inches. The slot limit for sturgeon caught in The Dalles and John Day pools remains at 48-60 inches for all fisheries.

Smelt

- A Joint State Eulachon Management Plan has been in effect since 2001.
- At the December 13, 2007 Compact/Joint State hearing, Level 1 fisheries were adopted for commercial and recreational fisheries in the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers during January-March, 2008.
- Level 1 fisheries are adopted when there is great uncertainty in the run strength, or indications of a poor return.
- The Joint Staff is not recommending any changes to the current season in place.

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

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. The first smelt landings of the 2007-2008 season occurred on December 11 with total December landings of 111 pounds. Landings improved in mid-January followed by a period of limited catch through mid-February, likely due to decreasing water temperatures. Landings improved significantly on February 11 with 3,970 pounds landed. Landings during January 1-31 total 1,960 pounds and landings during February 1-11 total 4,727 pounds for a season total of 6,798 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 declined from a high of 43°F in mid-January to 39°F in late January but have recently risen to 43°F. Water temperatures below 40°F are not conducive to smelt migration.

2008 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- The winter commercial sturgeon season consisted of six 24-hour (6 PM-6 PM) fishing periods and two 18-hour (6 PM-noon) fishing periods during January 8 through February 13 with a 1,600 white sturgeon catch guideline in effect.
- Total season landings total 662 white sturgeon and three spring Chinook. An additional ~900 sturgeon remain available for harvest within the winter season guideline.

<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	38
Jan. 26-Feb. 1	139	341	409	328	375	106	27	253	174
Feb. 2-8	75	384	134	--	234	144	43	125	255
Feb. 9-15	247	--	469	--	252	23	51	84	72
Feb 16-23	--	--	--	--	--	80	58	110	--
Total	1,200	2,634	2,625	1,490	1,696	473	288	1,424	662

- Extended fishing opportunity above the mouth of the Willamette would allow for additional sturgeon harvest with minimal risk of handling Willamette spring Chinook.

<i>Recommendation - 2008 Non-Indian Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery</i>	
Season:	6 PM Thursday February 21 through 12:00 noon Friday February 22, 2008 (18 hours) 6 PM Tuesday February 26 through 12:00 noon Wednesday February 27, 2008 (18 hours) 6 PM Thursday February 28 through 12:00 noon Friday February 29, 2008 (18 hours)
Area:	Hayden Island powerlines (west towers) upstream to the upper boundary of Zone 5 (Beacon Rock).
Sanctuaries:	Sandy and Washougal River sanctuaries.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9 ³ / ₄ " maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	White sturgeon, adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- Benefits of this recommendation include market stability and access to white sturgeon remaining on the winter season allocation.
- This fishery was not previously discussed with the Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group.
- Industry input regarding this recommendation has been mixed.

2008 Winter Salmon Commercial Fishery

- Since 2004, a commercial fishing plan has been developed in cooperation with the Columbia River Commercial Fishing Advisory Group to maximize the catch of Willamette River hatchery spring Chinook and minimize handle of ESA-listed upriver spring/summer Chinook and wild winter steelhead.
- Due to the unique mix of Willamette and upriver spring Chinook run size forecasts in 2008, this year's fishing plan will be unlike those seen in past years. The 2008 plan will continue to protect ESA listed salmon and steelhead, however commercial fishing will be

restricted to the area upstream from the Willamette River mouth in order to avoid Willamette River Chinook.

- The following plan is proposed by the Joint Staff for the 2008 winter season:

<i>2008 Winter Pre-Season Commercial Fishing Plan</i>	
✓	Test fishing below the mouth of the Willamette River to occur weekly during March to maintain a historical data base and provide information on run strength and stock mix.
✓	Test fishing above the mouth of the Willamette River to occur prior to all full fleet fisheries to evaluate abundance of steelhead and spring Chinook and mark rate of spring Chinook.
✓	Full fleet fishery to occur upstream of the Willamette River on Tuesdays during March 25- April 29,. Commercial fishing may occur anytime from Monday night through Tuesday night each week.
✓	Fishing may be conducted during both daylight and nighttime hours depending on fishery performance. The fishery will be focused during daylight hours if possible.
✓	Manage mainstem commercial fisheries up to 76% of impact allocation prior to May 1 or a run size update (late April- early May).
✓	Additional fisheries may occur after run size updates are available.

- This fishing plan will:
 - Allow for continued collection of test fishing data for the lower Columbia River, where spring commercial fishing is most often conducted.
 - Provide in-season data necessary for making orderly fishery management decisions.
 - Provide for timely adoption of fishing seasons based on data collected from the full fleet fishery or test fishing.
 - Avoid potential user conflicts on the water and at limited public boat ramps.
- The 2008 mark rate is expected to be about 75% for upriver spring Chinook and 83% for Willamette River spring Chinook.
- The TAC previously provided the following recommendations for commercial fishery mortality rates:
 1. Large mesh gear (8” or 9” minimum mesh size): 40% for spring Chinook and 30% for steelhead.
 2. Tangle net gear (4¼” maximum mesh size): 18.5% for spring Chinook and steelhead.

<i>Preseason Recommendation - 2008 Commercial Spring Chinook Regulations</i>	
Season:	Individual fishing periods will not exceed 24 hours in length.
Area:	Fishery to occur from the Hayden Island powerlines (west towers) upstream to the upper commercial fishing deadline at Beacon Rock.
Sanctuaries:	Sandy and Washougal River sanctuaries.
Gear:	Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms except nets fitted with a steelhead excluder may be 175 fathoms. 8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh sizes during large mesh fishery. 4¼" maximum mesh size during tangle net fishery. Use of nets fitted with a steelhead excluder is encouraged.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, and shad.

Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that have attended and completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>As a condition of fishing, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department observers or observers collecting data for the Department, when notified by the observer of their intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.</p> <p><u>Soak times</u>, 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><u>Red corks</u> 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>Use of <u>recovery boxes</u> 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><u>Lighted buoys</u> are required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.</p>

- ✓ 2008 commercial fisheries will be:
 - Managed to remain within ESA impact limits for listed upriver spring/summer Chinook and wild winter steelhead,
 - Managed within the Willamette FMEP allocation for Willamette hatchery spring Chinook and ESA impact limits to wild Willamette spring Chinook.
 - Consistent with policy objectives adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions.
 - Designed to avoid Willamette spring Chinook and minimize impacts to listed spring/summer Chinook and steelhead.
- ✓ Single fishing periods each week facilitate in-season management.
- ✓ Ability to use either large mesh or tangle nets allows for in-season flexibility to minimize handle and/or impacts to listed salmonids and maximize harvest of available hatchery fish.
- ✓ Tributary sanctuaries will increase protection for wild winter steelhead.
- ✓ Use of recovery boxes will improve the survival rate of all released salmonids.
- ✓ The use of nets fitted with a steelhead excluder is encouraged to further reduce steelhead handle.
- ✓ Recreational closures one day per week in the area above the Hayden Island powerlines (west towers) are recommended to minimize commercial/recreational interactions due to the reduced fishing area and limited boat ramp access.

2008 Non-Indian Area 2S Commercial Shad Season

- The proposed 2008 shad season is similar to seasons adopted since 1996.

<i>Recommendation - 2008 Commercial Shad fishing periods</i>	
Season:	3 PM - 10 PM daily May 12-16 (5 days) May 19-23 (5 days) May 27-30 (4 days) June 2-6 (5 days) June 9-13 (5 days) June 16-20 (5 days)
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, unslackened, floater gill net; 5 ³ / ₈ "- 6 ¹ / ₄ " mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length or 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 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 past years data adjusted for run sizes.
- ✓ The Washougal Reef shad fishery is not being recommended due to lack of participation in previous years.

NON-INDIAN RECREATIONAL FISHERIES

2008 Smelt Recreational Fishery

- Recreational smelt fisheries on the mainstem Columbia River are open 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.
- Limited effort and catch has been observed or reported in the Cowlitz River recreational fishery to date.

2008 Mainstem Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery

- Under permanent regulations 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.
- Due to the unique mix of Willamette and upriver spring Chinook run size forecasts, the 2008 spring Chinook season will be unlike those seen in recent years. The 2008 season structure

will continue to protect ESA listed salmon and steelhead; however, recreational fishing will be limited below the mouth of the Willamette, with most fishing opportunity taking place above the mouth of the Willamette and in the tributaries.

- The Joint Staff met with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group in January to discuss season recommendations and in-season management of the Columbia River spring Chinook fishery.

<i>Recommendation - 2008 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery</i>	
	Effective February 25, 2008 , close the ongoing recreational salmonid fishery from the Columbia River mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge
	<u>Below Hayden Island powerlines (west towers)</u>
Area	Buoy 10 to Hayden Island powerlines (west towers)
Date:	Monday March 24 – Friday April 4
	<u>Hayden Island powerlines (west towers) upstream to Bonneville Dam</u>
Area:	Hayden Island powerlines (west towers) to the boat-restricted zone boundary below Bonneville Dam
Date:	March 16- April 30
Restrictions	Closed to angling (both catch-and-release and retention) for all species on Tuesdays from March 25 through April 30 (March 25, April 1, April 8, April 15, April 22, and April 29).
Catch Limits for area below Bonneville Dam:	<u>Oregon</u> : Two adult salmonids per day only one of which may be a Chinook. <u>Washington</u> : One adult salmon <u>and</u> two steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.
	<u>Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam</u>
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to McNary Dam plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
Dates:	March 16 – May 10
Catch Limits for area above Bonneville Dam	<u>Oregon</u> : Two adult salmon <u>or</u> steelhead per day. . <u>Washington</u> : Two adult salmon <u>and</u> two steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery upstream of the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line effective February 15 through June 15, it is unlawful when fishing from vessels which are less than 30 feet in length, substantiated by Coast Guard documentation or Marine Board registration, to totally remove from the water any salmon or steelhead required to be released.

- ✓ The fishery options:
 - Considers the recreational allocation of the non-Indian fishery impact limit on upriver spring and Snake River summer Chinook, and includes a management buffer to account for run size and catch projection uncertainties.
 - Is consistent with policy guidance provided by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions.

- The recommended seasons meet objectives for fishing opportunity above the Hayden Island powerlines (west towers), allows for some opportunity below Hayden Island, and contributes to protection of the expected weak Willamette return.
- The first fishery checkpoint is scheduled for Tuesday April 1.

2008 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Recreational Fishery

- Under permanent regulations, the mainstem Columbia River is currently open for steelhead angling from Buoy 10 to McNary Dam through March 31 and closed below I-5 Bridge during April 1-May 15 and between I-5 Bridge and McNary Dam during April 1-June 15.
- The mainstem Columbia River upstream to Bonneville Dam is closed to shad angling during April 1-May 15 under permanent regulations.

<i>Recommendation For Retention of Steelhead and Shad During Spring Chinook Season prior to May 16</i>

The Joint Staff is recommending that the mainstem Columbia River be open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad during days and seasons open for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.
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The Joint Staff is also recommending that the mainstem Columbia River be closed for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad during days and seasons closed for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

2008 Tributary Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- Oregon intends to limit retention of salmon in the Willamette River and tributaries to one Chinook per day.
- No changes are recommended for permanent regulations pertaining to spring Chinook recreational fisheries in the Sandy River.
- Washington tributary fisheries in the Cowlitz, Kalama and Lewis rivers are expected to support full season fisheries and bag limits based on the preseason forecast.
- Fishing seasons in the Washington tributaries of Bonneville Pool will be announced at a later date.

<i>Recommendation For Retention of Spring Chinook in Willamette River and Tributary Recreational Fisheries</i>

The Joint Staff is recommending the following modification to permanent regulations for the Willamette and tributaries:

Effective March 1, 2008, the daily bag limit in the Willamette River and tributaries including the Clackamas River upstream to North Fork Dam will be two adult salmonids per day only one of which may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.

2008 Mainstem White Sturgeon Recreational Fishery

- Recreational white sturgeon fishing seasons for 2008 were adopted at the December 13, 2007 Compact.

- In the area above Wauna, white sturgeon retention is allowed Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays only from January 1-July 31 and October 1- December 31, 2008.
- In the area below Wauna, the fishery is open for retention 7 days per week from January 1-April 30 and May 10 - June 24, 2008.
- A formal checkpoint for these fisheries is scheduled for early June when modifications to these fisheries may be considered to maintain catch guidelines for each area.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

2008 Sturgeon Setline Season

- Under permanent rules, the commercial sturgeon setline fishery is open January 1-31.
- No landings were reported for this season.

2008 Winter Gillnet Season

- A winter gillnet season is currently in place from 6 AM February 1 through 6 PM March 21, 2008.
- The fishery in any pool will be closed earlier if the harvest guideline for that pool is reached prior to March 21.
- If significant numbers of spring Chinook are harvested in the winter gillnet fishery, the tribes may at their discretion make changes to the fishery.
- Landings through February 12 include 123 white sturgeon and 85 steelhead.

SELECT AREA FISHERIES

- Select Area (SAFE) fisheries targeting spring Chinook have occurred in Youngs Bay since 1992, in Blind Slough since 1998, and in Deep River since 2003.
- SAFE fisheries target spring Chinook during winter, spring and summer seasons occurring from mid-February through July.
- 2007 spring Chinook landings in Select Area fisheries totaled 6,800 fish (6,200 SAFE stock), which is comparable to the 2006 catch.
- Based on visual stock identification (VSI) and coded-wire-tag (CWT) recoveries, catch in winter-summer SAFE fisheries has been comprised of 89% local, 9% lower river, and 2% upriver stocks during 2003-2007.
- Since 1998, impacts to upriver spring Chinook have ranged between 0.01% and 0.19% and have averaged 0.088%. The 2007 impact rate to upriver spring Chinook was 54% (0.054%) of the 0.10% allocation for SAFE fisheries.
- Recreational harvest of spring Chinook in Select Areas has ranged between 25 and 1,100 fish per year since 1999. Based on limited creel surveys in 2007, a minimum of 200 spring Chinook were caught in Select Areas and associated tributaries.

- Recommendations for 2008 winter-summer SAFE fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held January 17, 2008 with commercial fishers in Astoria.
- At the January 24, 2008 hearing the Compact adopted commercial winter seasons for the month of February.
- Joint Staff is recommending 2008 Select Area commercial fisheries be managed for an upriver spring Chinook impact guideline of 0.15%.

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.

<i>Recommendation - Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area (March – June)</i>	
Winter Season:	Sunday and Wednesday nights from March 2 through March 27 (8 nights) and Sunday nights of March 30 and April 6 (2 nights) Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours)
Spring Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from April 17 through June 13 (17 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Blind Slough area only open during winter season and both Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas open during spring season. From May 1 through June 13, the lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is extended downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	A 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season. 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.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect.

- ✓ Winter season fisheries are in place through February 28, 2008.
- ✓ Additional fishing periods between March 12 and April 7 during the winter season will provide access to locally returning spring Chinook with minimal risk of increasing impacts to upriver stocks.
- ✓ Fishing seasons are generally concurrent with Youngs Bay and Deep River seasons to minimize congestion in the fishing areas.

- ✓ The 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season is recommended to target salmon and minimize sturgeon harvest.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures during the spring season will minimize interactions with recreational anglers.
- ✓ Split fishing periods allow for fishery modifications as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring Chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Extending the downstream boundary of Knappa Slough to the west end of Minaker and Karlson Islands (fall boundary) beginning in May was implemented in 2006 to provide additional fishing area and has shown little risk of increasing impacts to upriver spring Chinook.

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.

<i>Recommendation - Deep River Select Area (March – June)</i>	
Winter Season:	Monday nights March 3 through March 10 (2 nights) Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours)
Spring Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from April 17 through June 13 (17 nights). Open hours are 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 (all concurrent water)
Gear:	7-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season. 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.
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. During the winter season arrangements must be made with Marc Miller at 360-244-9125 for the place and time of sampling. In, the spring season a sampling station will be established upstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at the upper pen site at Stephen’s dock.

- ✓ Winter season fisheries are in place through February 26, 2008
- ✓ An 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season is recommended to target salmon and minimize sturgeon catch.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures during the spring season will minimize interactions with recreational anglers.

- ✓ Split fishing periods allow for fishery modifications as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring Chinook and minimize handle of listed species.

Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery

- All waters in Youngs Bay are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- 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 commercial fishers includes all areas open for commercial fishing.

<i>Recommendation – Youngs Bay Select Area (March – July)</i>	
Winter Season:	<p><u>Entire bay:</u> Sunday and Wednesday nights from March 2 through March 10 (3 nights). Open hours are from noon to 6 AM (18 hours).</p> <p>10 AM to 2 PM Wednesday March 12 (4 hours)</p> <p><u>Upstream of Old Youngs Bay Bridge:</u> Noon Sunday March 16 to 6 AM Monday March 17 (18 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday March 18 (12 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday March 20 (12 hours) Noon Sunday March 23 to 6 AM Monday March 24 (18 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday March 25 (12 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday March 27 (12 hours)</p> <p><u>Walluski Area:</u> Noon Sunday March 30 to 6 AM Monday March 31 (18 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday April 1 (12 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday April 3 (12 hours) Noon Sunday April 6 to 6 AM Monday April 7 (18 hours) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday April 8 (12 hours)</p>
Spring Season:	<p><u>Entire bay:</u> 6 PM Thursday April 17 – 6 AM Friday April 18 (12 hours) 6 PM Monday April 21 – 6 AM Tuesday April 22 (12 hours) 6 PM Thursday April 24 – 6 AM Friday April 25 (12 hours)</p> <p>6 PM Monday April 28 - noon Tuesday April 29 (18 hours) 6 PM Thursday May 1 - noon Friday May 2 (18 hours)</p> <p>Noon Monday May 5 - noon Friday May 9 (4 days) Noon Monday May 12 - noon Friday May 16 (4 days) Noon Monday May 19 - noon Friday May 23 (4 days) Noon Monday May 26 - noon Friday May 30 (4 days) Noon Monday June 2 - noon Friday June 6 (4 days) Noon Tuesday June 10 - noon Friday June 13 (3 days)</p>
Summer Season:	<p>Wednesdays through Fridays from June 18 to July 25 (12 days). Open hours are from 6 AM Wednesday to 6 AM Friday.</p> <p>6 AM Wednesday July 30 – 6 PM Thursday July 31 (36 hours).</p>

Area:	<p><u>March 2 through March 12 and April 17 through July 31:</u> Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.</p> <p><u>March 16 through March 27</u> Old Youngs Bay Bridge upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.</p> <p><u>March 30 through April 8:</u> Markers directly under the first powerlines downstream of the Walluski River upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.</p>
Gear:	<p>A 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring and summer seasons.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation rules will be in effect.

- ✓ Winter season fisheries are in place through February 28, 2008.
- ✓ The 8-day regular winter season will target the first arrivals of the age-5 component of the run prior to the time when non-local Chinook stocks may be typically present.
- ✓ Additional winter fishing periods after mid-March with progressively restrictive area boundaries provides increased area and harvest opportunity, reduces opportunity for pinniped predation on adult returns, and minimizes impacts to upriver stocks that may be in the lower bay area during this timeframe.
- ✓ The 28-day spring fishery consisting of progressively increasing fishing time is designed to maximize harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts to non-local stocks.
- ✓ As with all Select Area winter-spring fisheries, landings will be monitored weekly to determine stock composition. In-season modifications to fishing periods may occur to maximize harvest while minimizing impacts to non-target stocks.
- ✓ The regulation requiring red corks at 25-fathom intervals was requested by enforcement to facilitate enforcement of net length. This regulation was implemented for all Youngs Bay fisheries beginning in 2006.
- ✓ Split fishing periods during the winter and early spring seasons allow for in-season modifications as needed to maximize catch of SAFE stock spring Chinook and minimize handle of listed species.
- ✓ Spring fishing periods are generally concurrent with Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Deep River openings to minimize congestion in fishing areas.
- ✓ The 14-day summer fishery is recommended to provide harvest opportunity on remaining local spring Chinook and early returning Select Area bright (SAB) stock fall Chinook while allowing for SAB broodstock escapement.

- ✓ Fishing periods late in week during the summer season facilitate direct sales to public.

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.
- To maintain concurrent regulations with the mainstem spring Chinook recreational fishery, Joint Staff recommends the following bag limit modification for Select Area recreational fisheries:

<i>Recommendation For Select Area Recreational Fisheries</i>
During March 24 through April 4, 2008, the daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be two adult salmonids per day only one of which may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.

- 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.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is not recommending any additional Compact hearings at this time.
- Additional Compact hearings will be held beginning in late March to consider commercial salmon fishing periods.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration</i>
➤ Non-Indian commercial sturgeon fishing periods (page 6)
➤ Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan and gear regulations (pages 7-8).
➤ Area 2S shad fishing season (page 9).
➤ Non-Indian spring Chinook recreational fishing season- 4 recommendations (pages 10).
➤ Steelhead and shad retention during the non-Indian spring Chinook recreational fishery (page 11).
➤ Willamette River recreational fishing bag limit. Oregon state action (page 11).
➤ Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area commercial fisheries - Compact and Oregon state action (pages 13).
➤ Deep River Select Area commercial fisheries (page 14).
➤ Youngs Bay Select Area fisheries - Oregon state action (pages 15-16).
➤ Select Area recreational fisheries – Compact and Oregon and Washington state action (page 17).