

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 9
Columbia River Compact
March 21, 2007**

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial salmon

Management guidelines and run forecasts for the 2007 spring season were presented in the Winter Fact Sheet #2 (January 25, 2007)

2007 Winter Salmon Commercial Fishery

- Two commercial salmon fishing periods have occurred during March in Zones 1-4, upstream to Kelley Point.

Chinook and Steelhead During 2007 Winter Fishery											
Fishing Period	% Up-River Del		Chinook Kept			Chinook Released			White Sturgeon	Sthd Handle	
			Ttl. Kept	Upriver Stock	L River Stock	Ttl. Rel	Upriver Stock	L River Stock		Wild Winter	Incidental Mortality
Sturgeon Season	58%	~200	194	107	87	24	20	4	1,424	0	0
Mar 6, 12h, 8"	48%	85	415	159	256	166	123	43	18	59	18
Mar 21, 10h, 4 1/4"	47%	100	863	343	520	220	167	53	6	165	31
Total			1,472	609	863	410	310	100	1,448	224	49

- On-board monitoring is conducted during all fishing periods to collect data including Chinook and steelhead handle, and mark rates.

2007 Spring Chinook Commercial Fishery -- Preliminary Observation Data																			
Fishery	Date	Mesh Size	# Drifts	Lower R.			UpRiver			No VSI			% Upriver	Total Chinook	Chk /Sthd	Total Steelhead	Steelhead		
				Clipped	No Clip	Unknown	Clipped	No Clip	Unknown	Clipped	No Clip	Unknown					Clipped	No Clip	Unknown
Test	25-Feb	4¼"	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	4	0.8	5	1	3	1	
Test	04-Mar	4¼"	16	6	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	8	0.7	11	3	8	0	
Full Fleet	06-Mar	≥8	59	13	9	0	7	3	0	15	2	0	31%	49	8.2	6	1	5	0
Test	11-Mar	4¼"	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	1	0.1	7	5	2	0	
Test	18-Mar	4¼"	18	10	1	0	7	1	0	0	0	0	42%	19	1.7	11	6	5	0
Full Fleet	20-Mar	4¼"	40	22	5	0	7	2	0	18	5	0	25%	59	3.9	15	6	9	0

- The observed Chinook mark rate (80%) and the Chinook/steelhead ratio from the recent fishery were better than expected. Chinook stock composition based on VSI of the landed catch, was also within expectations.
- To date, commercial fisheries have used about 70% of the (0.48%) upriver impacts allocated to the fishery and about 15% of the (2.00%) wild winter steelhead impact limit.

Joint Staff Recommendation- Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery

Season:	10 PM Thursday March 22 through 6 AM Friday March 23, 2007 (8 hours)
Area:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1-4)
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina –B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.
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.
New Regulation	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. 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
Additional Regulations:	Use of recovery boxes is required on all lethargic or bleeding salmon or steelhead. 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. 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. 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. Lighted buoys are required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise. Cooperation of vessel operators to allow state monitors onboard to observe and collect data is also required. Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

- The estimated Chinook catch for the proposed fishery is ~900 fish. Mark rates and stock composition are expected to be similar to last night’s fishery.
- Impacts associated with the proposed fishery are illustrated in the table below:

2007 Summary of Upriver Spring Chinook ESA Impacts from Non- Indian Fisheries					
Non-Indian Fisheries	Preseason	To Date	Proposed	Total	Remaining
Mainstem	0.480	0.338	0.125	0.463	0.017
SAFE	0.100	0.004	--	0.004	0.096
Commercial Total	0.580	0.342	0.125	0.467	0.113

Future Hearings

A Compact hearing is recommended for 2:00 PM Monday March 26 via telephone.