

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact
February 28, 2005**

**Fisheries under Consideration: Non-Indian Winter Commercial Salmon
Select Area Fisheries**

2005 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- Preliminary landings for the final winter sturgeon season fishing period on February 24-25 included 45 white sturgeon and 23 spring chinook resulting in preliminary season total landings of 473 white sturgeon and 83 spring chinook.
- Based on sampling of 45 spring chinook during week 9 fishing periods (February 22-25), 24% of the landed spring chinook were of upriver origin.

2005 Winter Select Area Fisheries

- Preliminary landings for Select Area winter fisheries during the first four fishing periods (February 16-27) include four spring chinook and one white sturgeon landed in Youngs Bay and six spring chinook landed in Blind Slough.

2005 Winter Commercial Salmon Fishery

- The first test fishing for the 2005 Columbia River winter commercial salmon fishery was conducted on Sunday February 27 in Zones 2 and 3.

2005 Winter Commercial Chinook Fishery Test/Observation Data																			
*ALL DATA PRELIMINARY										*All mesh sizes are 4 ¼ unless otherwise noted.									
Date	Lower R.			UpRiver			Chinook no VSI			Total Chinook	Ratio Chinook / Steelhead	Total Steelhead	Steelhead			% Steelhead	% UpRiver Chinook	% Chinook Marked	# Drifts
	Clipped	No Mark	Undetermined	Clipped	No Mark	Undetermined	Clipped	No Mark	Undetermined				Hatchery	Wild	Undetermined				
27-Feb Test	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	1	0	100	0	0	15	

- Based on test fishing results, chinook abundance in the lower river remains fairly low. Some steelhead are present but handle should be minimal with use of large-mesh nets.

Recommendation

Season:	5 PM Tuesday March 1 through 5 AM Wednesday March 2, 2005 (12 hours)
Area:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4)
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokom-in-B, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh sizes during large mesh fishery Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.
New Regulations	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.
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. 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. 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. Lighted buoys are required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise. Quick Reporting Rule for Washington buyers.

- The next Compact hearing has been scheduled for 2:00 PM March 2, 2005 via telephone.