

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET
Columbia River Compact
March 3, 2004**

Purpose: To consider non-Indian commercial fishing seasons for salmon and sturgeon in the Columbia River

Spring Chinook:

- .Monitoring Data: (3/2/04) 77 drifts resulted in 12 chinook and 4 steelhead. The chinook mark rate was 67% and 8% of the chinook were Upriver stock
- Sampling Summary: 101 chinook were sampled. Lower River stock accounted for 85% of the catch. The average weight was 18.9 pounds.
- Landings Summary: 69 deliveries with 205 chinook and 21 sturgeon.

Impacts:

- Up River Stock – 0.006% (Guideline 0.8%). Based on mark rate observed in test fisheries and monitoring (70%).
- Wild Winter Steelhead – 0.068% (Guideline 2%)

SAFE:

- Young's Bay – 41 chinook total to date, 20 chinook were landed week of Feb 18th, 15 chinook were landed the week of Feb 25th. 2 sturgeon landed total.
- Blind Slough – 12 chinook were landed between Feb 21st- 29th. No sturgeon reported

Sport Report:

- Feb 23-29: Columbia River: 46 bank anglers report zero chinook kept or released, and 1 steelhead released. 50 boat anglers report 1 chinook kept, 2 steelhead released.

Smelt:

- Mainstem – 12,846 pounds thru Feb 22nd. Last landing on Feb 15.
- Tributaries– 105,362 pounds. Last landing reported Feb 16th.
- Over all smelt fishing is slow with reports of smelt in the Gray's River.
- Water temperature at Longview is 42 degrees.

Recommendations:

2004 COMMERCIAL DEMONSTRATION SALMON FISHERY

DATES:	5AM – 9PM Thursday March 4, 2004 (16 hrs)
AREA:	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zone 1-4)
SANCTUARIES:	Grays River, Gnat Creek, Elokomin –B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B.
GEAR:	Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. 9” minimum and 9 ¾ “ maximum mesh sizes
ALLOWABLE SALES:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 3 sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel
PARTICIPANTS:	Commercial River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in the fishery.
MISCELLANEOUS RULES:	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 will be required on all lethargic or bleeding salmonids. Each participant will be required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in this fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber. Each box shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Lighted buoys required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise. Optional use of a steelhead excluder panel hung between the cork line and the tangle net mesh. Excluder panel must be a minimum of 5’ in depth and not exceed 10’ in depth with a 12” minimum mesh size restriction in effect. Use of weedlines or droppers, used in smelt bobber nets, are allowed in place of a steelhead excluder panel. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of 5’ above the tangle net mesh. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedline, or droppers.

Quick reporting rule in effect