

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
August 10, 2006**

Fisheries under consideration:	Non-Indian commercial salmon
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Management guidelines, allocations, and run forecasts for the 2006 fall season were presented in the Fall Fact Sheet #1 (July 27, 2006)

2006 FALL COMMERCIAL FISHERIES REVIEW

Early August Non-Indian Commercial Fishery

- Preseason expectations for non-Indian commercial fisheries in early August include a total Chinook catch of 4,100 fish, including 470 URB's (5% of the 4.13% allocation). Expectations for mid-August fishing periods include a catch of an additional 4,100 Chinook, including 670 URB's (6.5% of the allocation).
- A total of 2,000 sturgeon have been allocated for August commercial fisheries.
- At the July 27 hearing, the Compact adopted three fall fishing periods (7 PM-7 AM) for the nights of August 2, 7, and 9. Open areas included all of Zones 1-5 with an 8-9¾ inch mesh restriction and a 5 sturgeon landing/possession limit per vessel, per calendar week (Sunday-Saturday).
- Landings of both Chinook and white sturgeon to date are tracking below expectations:

<i>Early August Commercial Fishery Landings, 2006</i>				
Date	Deliveries	Chinook	Coho	White Sturgeon
Aug 2-3	64	273	0	151
Aug 7-8	93	410	5	200
Aug 9-10				
Total		683	5	351

- CWTs for the August 2-3 period were comprised of 3 lower river spring Chinook, 6 summer Chinook, 1 fall Chinook, and 1 unknown origin.

Mainstem Commercial Salmon Fishery

The Joint Staff recommends adoption of the following commercial salmon fishing periods for the mainstem Columbia River:	
Season:	7 PM Sunday August 13 to 7 AM Monday August 14 (12 hours) 7 PM Tuesday August 15 to 7 AM Wednesday August 16 (12 hours) 7 PM Thursday August 17 to 7 AM Friday August 18 (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1- 5 (Upstream of the Astoria-Megler Bridge) on August 13-14 and Zones 2-5 on August 15-16 and August 17-18
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal River, and Sandy River.
Gear:	8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 7 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The 7 white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
	Green sturgeon retention is prohibited.

Expected Catch:	<4,100 Chinook 800-1,000 white sturgeon
Miscellaneous	Quick Reporting Rules will be in effect for Washington buyers.
Rules:	

- ✓ The proposed fishery:
 - Is consistent with the 2006 Fall Management Agreement and results of North of Falcon (NOF) negotiation process.
 - Provides opportunity to harvest Chinook with limited impacts to the URB stock.
- ✓ Proposing the Astoria-Megler Bridge as the lower fishing boundary on August 13-14 is consistent with NOF, allows for additional commercial fishing area, should not adversely affect the recreational fishery, and poses limited risk of exceeding catch expectations and URB impacts for early-mid August fisheries.
- ✓ The proposed weekly sturgeon retention regulation is consistent with the white sturgeon protocol and should maintain total sturgeon landings within the 2,000 fish allocation for August fisheries.
- ✓ Closed days between fishing periods allow for fishery checkpoints to update and modify fishing periods if needed.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for Thursday August 17. The Joint Staff recommends that this hearing occur at 2:00 PM via telephone to consider additional non-Indian commercial fishing periods for the week of August 20.
- The Columbia River treaty tribes may propose a Compact hearing for Friday August 18 or for the following week to consider treaty Indian commercial fishing periods.