

**JOINT STAFF REPORT  
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2  
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
January 25, 2007**

***Fisheries under consideration:***

- Non-Indian commercial and recreational fisheries below Bonneville Dam
- Select Area commercial fisheries
- Non-Indian recreational fisheries from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam
- Treaty Indian Fisheries

<b><i>Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead - 2007 Forecasts and 2006 Returns</i></b>				
<b>Run</b>	<b>2007 Forecast</b>		<b>2006</b>	
			<b>Preseason Forecast</b>	<b>Actual Return</b>
<b><u>Spring Chinook</u></b>				
<b>Willamette</b>	52,000	Less than 2006 return - similar to late 1990's	46,500	59,700
<b>Sandy</b>	7,900	Greater than 2006 return - similar to 5-yr ave.	8,200	5,700
<b>Cowlitz</b>	6,400	Less than 2006 and recent 5-yr ave. returns	8,700	7,000
<b>Kalama</b>	4,000	Less than 2006 and recent 5-yr ave. returns	2,100	5,600
<b>Lewis</b>	5,500	Less than 2006 and recent 5-yr ave. returns	4,400	7,500
<b>Select Areas</b>	9,700	Greater than 2006 return - similar to 5-yr ave.	3,100	7,200
<b><u>Upriver Spring (Includes Snake River Summer Chinook)</u></b>				
<b>Total Upriver Run</b>	78,500	Less than 2006, greater than ave. runs of 1990's	88,400	132,100
<b>Snake River Wild</b>	13,100	Less than 2006 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	14,600	16,700
<b>Upper Columbia Wild</b>	1,200	Less than 2006 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	1,600	2,800
<b><u>Summer Chinook</u></b>				
<b>Upper Columbia</b>	45,600	Less than 2006 and recent 5-yr ave., greater than ave. runs of 1990's	49,000	76,200
<b><u>Sockeye</u></b>				
<b>Upriver</b>	27,300	Down from recent years, improved over late 1990's	31,100	37,100
<b>Snake River</b>	300	Up from recent years, returns from captive brood	21	79
<b><u>Steelhead</u></b>				
<b>Wild Winter</b>	16,200	Similar to 2006 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	16,000	16,600
<b>Skamania Index</b>	16,700	Greater than 2006 return, similar to recent 5-yr ave.	15,600	9,900
<b>Group A Index</b>	241,500	Similar to 2006 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	253,400	245,100
<b>Group B Index</b>	56,400	Less than 2006 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	55,400	74,200
<b>Total Upriver Index</b>	314,600	Similar to 2006 return, less than recent 5-yr ave.	324,400	329,200

## 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.

### *Upper Columbia Summer Chinook*

- Upper Columbia summer Chinook pass Bonneville Dam during June 16 through July 31. These Chinook are not listed under the ESA and the population is considered healthy. The population consists of both hatchery and natural origin fish.

### *Winter Steelhead*

- The winter steelhead range includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteenmile 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.

## 2007 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

### Salmon

#### *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.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest matrix for upriver spring and Snake River summer Chinook with impacts during 2007 limited to 8.5% for both non-treaty fisheries (1.5%) and treaty Indian fisheries (7%) combined based on preseason forecasts.

#### *Endangered Species Act (ESA)*

- The TAC submitted a Biological Assessment 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 Biological Assessment to NMFS regarding impacts to wild winter steelhead during 2006-2007 fisheries was submitted in January of 2006.
- A Biological Opinion for both of these assessments has been received from NMFS.

#### *Willamette Spring Chinook Management*

- The Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to <15% and requires the release of wild Willamette spring Chinook in all freshwater fisheries.

- The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP) includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance and determines allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries.
- Based on the WFMP and an expected return of 46,800 hatchery Willamette River spring Chinook, the freshwater harvest of surplus spring Chinook (20,700 fish) is allocated 80% (16,560 fish) for recreational fisheries and 20% (4,140 fish) for commercial fisheries.

***Non-Indian Spring Chinook Allocation***

- Guiding principles, fishery management objectives and recreational/commercial impact allocations were adopted by the Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commissions (WFWC and OFWC) in January 2006 to provide the Joint Staff with preseason guidance when shaping and managing fisheries during 2006-2007. The following table reflects the policy guidance from both commissions:

<b><i>Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation for Non-Indian Fisheries, 2006-2007</i></b>
<b>Guiding Principles</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet conservation requirements for wild spring Chinook, including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.</li> <li>• Manage non-Indian harvest of spring Chinook within the provisions of the <i>U.S. v Oregon</i> Management Agreement for upriver spring/summer Chinook.</li> <li>• Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals.</li> <li>• Focus recreational and commercial fisheries allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring Chinook.</li> </ul>
<b>Fisheries Management Objectives</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific structure of recreational and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available.</li> <li>• Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring Chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e., upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.</li> <li>• Adjustments to the recreational fishery may occur in-season if it is estimated the fishery will reach the allocation guideline prior to the expected closure date. In-season adjustments may include such options as days/week and area closures.</li> <li>• Recognize economic benefits of recreational and commercial fisheries in the Columbia River.</li> <li>• Provide for recreational fisheries throughout the Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam, recreational/tribal fisheries in the Snake River and Upper Columbia River, commercial fisheries in the lower Columbia River, and commercial and recreational fisheries in Select Areas.</li> </ul>

- The directors of WDFW and ODFW provided 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.
- Through 2007, upriver spring Chinook impacts will be allocated 57% to recreational fisheries and 43% to commercial fisheries.
- The OFWC policy guidance suggested that if possible, commercial fishing opportunity should be focused on the February-March timeframe in order to harvest earlier arriving Willamette hatchery Chinook and avoid conflicts with recreational anglers in April.
- The Joint staff recommends managing both the commercial and recreational fisheries with a 10% buffer on available upriver spring Chinook impact limits.

<i>2007 Upriver Spring Chinook ESA-Impact Allocation by Fishery</i>	
	<b>With 10% Buffer</b>
<b>Commercial Fishery (43% of ESA impacts)</b>	
Mainstem salmon <sup>1</sup>	0.480
SAFE Commercial Winter/Spring	0.100
<b>Commercial Total</b>	<b>0.580</b>
<b>Recreational Fishery (57% of ESA impacts)</b>	
Lower Columbia (below Bonneville) <sup>2</sup>	0.577
Bonneville to McNary Dam	0.064
Snake River Recreational/Wanapum Tribal	0.128
<b>Recreational Total</b>	<b>0.770</b>
<b>Total Non-Treaty Buffer (10%)</b>	<b>1.35</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.50</b>
<p>1. Impacts associated with the commercial shad fishery (<math>\leq 0.01\%</math>) are included in the commercial allocation.</p> <p>2. Impacts associated with the lower Columbia steelhead fishery (<math>\leq 0.01\%</math> if no Chinook retention May 15-Jun 15) are included in the recreational allocation.</p>	

### 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 2007 at the December 2006 Columbia River Commercial Advisory Group meeting.

<i>Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2007</i>
✓ Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of <b>1,800 for the winter-spring timeframe (January-June 15) with 1,600 for winter sturgeon and 200 for winter salmon</b> , 500 for the summer timeframe (June 16-July 31), 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August) plus all rollover of any remaining allocation from winter-summer seasons, and 3,150 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).
✓ Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
✓ The allocation reflects a total of 7,850 fish, in response to a 150 fish overage from the 2006 season.
✓ Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
✓ Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during the winter timeframe if feasible.
✓ Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
✓ Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season specific catch expectation 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.

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) will meet on February 2, 2007 to discuss Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines for 2007. Meeting results will be presented at a future Compact.

## Smelt

- A Joint State Eulachon Management Plan has been in effect since 2001.
- Effective January 1, 2007 a Level 1 fishery was implemented for commercial and recreational fisheries in the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers.
- Level 1 fisheries are adopted when there is great uncertainty in the run strength, or indications of a poor return.

### **NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

#### ***2007 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 improved until mid-January when water temperatures dropped rapidly. The first smelt landings occurred on December 19, 2006 with total December landings of 755 pounds. Landings during January 1-22 total 1,757 pounds for a season total of 2,512 pounds landed to date.
- 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 have declined from 42°F to 38°F, which is below levels conducive to smelt migration.

#### ***2007 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery***

- The winter commercial sturgeon season consists of seven 24-hour fishing periods from 6 PM Tuesday to 6 PM Wednesday during January 9-February 21 with a 1,600 white sturgeon catch guideline in effect.
- Landings through the first two fishing periods (Jan. 9-10 and Jan. 16-17) total 596 white sturgeon and zero spring Chinook.

<b><i>White Sturgeon Landings During Winter Commercial Seasons, 2000-2007</i></b>								
<b>Week</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
Jan. 5-11	--	994	773	389	--	--	25	412
Jan. 12-18	534	555	502	365	407	80	61	184
Jan. 19-25	205	360	338	408	428	40	23	N/A
Jan. 26-Feb. 1	139	341	409	328	375	106	27	
Feb. 2-8	75	384	134	--	234	144	43	
Feb. 9-15	247	--	469	--	252	23	51	
Feb 16-22	--	--	--	--	--	80	58	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>2,634</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>1,490</b>	<b>1,696</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>596</b>

- Depending on how landings in this fishery progress, the Joint Staff will consider additional fishing time (up to two days/week) beginning as soon as early February to provide additional

opportunity to reach the winter season commercial sturgeon guideline. Multiple sturgeon fishing periods each week in February would serve as a low risk test fishery to facilitate transition to the winter salmon fishery.

### ***2007 Winter Salmon Commercial Fishery***

- Since 2004 a 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. A similar plan is being proposed by the Joint Staff for the 2007 winter season:

<b><i>2007 Winter Season Commercial Fishing Plan</i></b>	
✓	Test fishing occurs on Sunday.
✓	Compact to occur Monday afternoon.
✓	Full fleet fishery may occur Tuesday depending on results from test fishing on Sunday.
✓	Use Tuesday full fleet fishery as test fishery or conduct test fishing on Tuesday.
✓	Compact to occur Wednesday afternoon.
✓	Full fleet fishery may occur Thursday depending on results from previous full fleet fishery or test fishing on Tuesday.
✓	Manage commercial fisheries for upriver spring Chinook guidelines of 0.480 in the mainstem Columbia River and 0.100 in Select Areas.

- ✓ The fishing plan will:
  - Provide 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.
- The 2007 mark rate is estimated to be about 65% for upriver spring Chinook and 90% 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. Small mesh gear (4¼” maximum mesh size): 18.5% for spring Chinook and steelhead.
- Commercial fishing periods are expected to begin in late February, following the conclusion of the winter sturgeon season.

**Recommendation - 2007 Commercial Spring Chinook Regulations**

<b>Season:</b>	Individual fishing periods will not exceed 24 hours in length during large mesh fisheries and will not exceed 16 hours during small mesh fisheries.
<b>Area:</b>	Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4) likely for majority of the fishery.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries.
<b>Gear:</b>	Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms except for nets fitted with a steelhead excluder (175 fathoms). 8" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh sizes during large mesh fishery. 4¼" maximum mesh size during tangle net fishery. Use of steelhead excluder encouraged by both Washington and Oregon management staff.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sturgeon and shad.
<b>Participants:</b>	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.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	As a condition of fishing, <u>owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate</u> 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. <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. <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. Use of <u>recovery boxes</u> 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. <u>Lighted buoys</u> are required on each end of nets being fished between sunset and sunrise. <b>Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.</b>

- ✓ The proposed fishery:
  - Will be managed to remain within ESA-related impact limits and WFMP catch allocations for listed upriver spring Chinook, wild winter steelhead, and Willamette hatchery spring Chinook.
  - Is consistent with guiding principles adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions.
  - Is expected to effectively target Willamette hatchery spring Chinook while minimizing impacts to listed spring/summer Chinook and steelhead.
- ✓ Short fishing periods facilitate in-season management and limit handle of steelhead and wild Chinook.
- ✓ Ability to use either large mesh or tangle nets allows for in-season flexibility to maximize harvest and minimize handle and/or impacts to listed salmonids.
- ✓ Large B sanctuaries for Washington tributaries will increase protection for wild winter steelhead in the associated streams.
- ✓ 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.

- ✓ Nighttime seasons may be adopted to minimize commercial/recreational interactions.
- ✓ Onboard monitoring will occur in-season and throughout the test fishery to determine species-specific encounter and mark rates for use in estimating cumulative impact rates.
- ✓ Oregon permanent regulations (OAR 635-006-0140) require that as a license condition, owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department or Federal fishery observers, or observers collecting data for the Department.

**2007 Non-Indian Area 2S Commercial Shad Season**

- The proposed 2007 shad season is similar to seasons adopted since 1996.

<i>Recommendation - 2007 Commercial Shad fishing periods</i>	
Season:	3 PM - 10 PM daily May 14-18 (5 days) May 21-25 (5 days) May 29- Jun 1 (4 days) June 4-8 (5 days) June 11-15 (5 days) June 18-22 (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 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>8</sub> "- 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> " 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.
- ✓ The Washougal Reef shad fishery is not being recommended for 2007 due to lack of participation in previous years.

**NON-INDIAN RECREATIONAL FISHERIES**

**2007 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.



- Very light effort and catch has been observed or reported in the Cowlitz River recreational fishery to date.

**2007 Mainstem Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery**

- 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 under permanent regulations.
- The ODFW and WDFW met with the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group on January 18, 2007 to discuss season recommendations and in-season management of the Columbia River spring Chinook fishery

<b>Recommendation - 2007 Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery Mainstem Columbia River</b>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the current mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery be extended beyond March 31, to allow for additional fishing opportunity.	
<b>Option 1:</b>	<b><u>Buoy 10 to I-5 Bridge</u></b>
Area:	Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge.
Date:	January 1 – <b>April 15</b>
<b>Option 1a:</b>	<b><u>Add March from I-5 Bridge to Bonneville Dam (reduces season below I-5 by 3 days to <b>April 12</b>)</u></b>
<b>Option 2:</b>	<b><u>Buoy 10 to I-205 Bridge</u></b>
Area:	Buoy 10 upstream to the I-205 Bridge
Date:	January 1- <b>April 12</b>
<b>Option 2a:</b>	<b><u>Add March from I-205 Bridge to Bonneville Dam (reduces season below I-205 by 2 days to <b>April 10</b>)</u></b>
Catch Limits:	Oregon: Two adult salmon <u>or</u> steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. Washington: Two adult salmon <u>and</u> two steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept.
<b><u>Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam</u></b>	
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to McNary Dam plus the Oregon bank between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
Dates:	March 16 - <b>April 30</b>
Catch Limits:	Oregon: Two adult salmon <u>or</u> steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. Washington: Two adult salmon <u>and</u> two steelhead per day. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	For the mainstem Columbia River salmon and steelhead fishery upstream of the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line effective during February 15 through May 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 allocation of 1.5% non-Indian fishery impact limit on upriver spring and Snake River summer Chinook and includes a 10% management buffer.
  - Is consistent with policy guidance provided by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife commissions.
  - Provides recreational fishing opportunity to access surplus hatchery spring Chinook and limits impacts to ESA-listed species.
  - Provides a stable fishery for planning purposes.

- Option 1 is recommended by the Joint Staff because it provides for the longest season (number of angler trips/days on water) and allows for in-season management.
  - ✓ Additional fishery options using the Option 1 fishery as a baseline have the following effect:
    - One fish daily limit below I-5 Bridge or I-205 Bridge results in one additional fishing day.
    - Allowing Chinook retention during March above I-5 Bridge reduces April opportunity below I-5 Bridge by three angler days (April 12 vs. April 15) and reduces overall angler effort by 7,900 trips.
    - Splitting anglers days evenly above and below I-5 Bridge reduces April opportunity below I-5 Bridge by eight days (April 7 vs. April 15) and reduces overall angler effort by 20,300 trips.
    - Changing the upper boundary to I-205 reduces April opportunity by three angler days (April 12 vs. April 15) and reduces overall angler effort by 9,400 trips.
    - Changing the upper boundary to I-205 with March also open above I-205 reduces April opportunity by five angler days (April 10 vs. April 15) and reduces overall angler effort by 17,500 trips.
- First fishery checkpoint is scheduled for Tuesday April 3.

#### ***2007 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.

<b><i>Recommendation For Retention of Steelhead and Shad During Spring Chinook Season</i></b>
The Joint Staff is recommending that the mainstem Columbia River be open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad during open seasons for adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

#### ***2007 Tributary Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries***

- No changes are recommended for permanent regulations pertaining to spring Chinook recreational fisheries in the Willamette, Clackamas, and Sandy rivers.
- 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.

#### ***2007 Mainstem Sturgeon Recreational Fishery***

- The 2007 recreational sturgeon fishing season was adopted at the December 14, 2006 Compact.
- In 2006, the area above Wauna was managed for a harvest of 12,800 fish; however, only 8,545 sturgeon were harvested, leaving 4,255 more fish available for harvest during 2007-2008 in the area above Wauna in addition to the annual allocation.

- Following the December Compact, Joint Staff met with the Recreational Advisory Group to discuss potential modifications to the 2007 season to allow opportunity to harvest the additional fish.
- Joint Staff recommends the ~4,200 fish remaining be split over the 2-year period for fishery stability and consistency in regulations.
- The adjusted annual harvest guideline for 2007 and 2008 would be 14,900 white sturgeon as detailed below:

<i>2006-2008 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest Scenario</i>			
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Below Wauna</b>			
Guideline	16,000	16,000	16,000
Harvest	<u>15,700</u>		
Remaining	300		
<b>Above Wauna</b>			
Guideline	12,800	12,800	12,800
Roll over surplus		2,100	2,100
Harvest	<u>8,545</u>	'--	'--
Remaining	4,255		
Adjusted Guideline	na	14,900	14,900

<i>Recommendation – Modify the 2007 Recreational Sturgeon Fishery Above Wauna</i>	
<b>Current Season:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>January 1-July 31</u>: White sturgeon retention allowed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only.</li> <li>• <u>August 1-September 30</u>: Sturgeon retention not allowed.</li> <li>• <u>October 1-December 31</u>: White sturgeon retention allowed Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only.</li> </ul>
<b>Potential Modifications:</b>	
<b>Option 1:</b>	<u>Effective February 1, 2007 add Sunday's</u> to existing retention days
<b>Option 2:</b>	<u>Effective February 1, 2007 add Tuesdays and Wednesday</u> to existing retention days.
<b>Area:</b>	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam, all adjacent Washington tributaries, and the lower Willamette River upstream to Willamette Falls, including Multnomah Channel.
<b>Other restrictions:</b>	<b>Retention of green sturgeon prohibited effective January 1, 2007.</b>
<b>Expected Catch:</b>	Option 1: 14,600 white sturgeon kept. Option 2: 14,900 white sturgeon kept

- Both options provide additional fishing opportunity throughout the year and would result in an estimated 103,000 angler trips.
- The difference between the two options is additional weekend verses weekday opportunity.
- Option 2 poses a slightly higher risk of maintaining the fishery over two years if 2007 fall catches are higher than anticipated

## TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

### *2007 Sturgeon Setline Season*

- Under permanent Compact rules the commercial sturgeon setline fishery is open January 1-31.
- No landings have been reported as of January 23.

### *2007 Winter Gillnet Season*

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) will meet February 2 to discuss status of Zone 6 sturgeon populations and harvest guidelines.
- The current size limit for sturgeon caught for tribal subsistence and commercial purposes are 4'-5' in length in The Dalles and John Day pools and between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool.

<i>Treaty Indian Winter Season Proposal</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	Noon February 1 through 6 PM March 21, 2007.
<b>Area:</b>	All of Zone 6.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries in effect except no Spring Creek sanctuary.
<b>Gear:</b>	No mesh size restrictions.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Chinook, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Sturgeon between 4-5 feet in length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be sold or retained for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville pool may also be sold or retained for subsistence purposes.
<b>Miscellaneous Regulations:</b>	Sale of platform caught fish is allowed during open commercial gillnet seasons. Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- 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.

## 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.
- The 7,245 Chinook landed in 2006 Select Area winter-summer fisheries was the fifth highest harvest since 1998 but less than the 2001-2005 average (8,342 Chinook).
- Based on visual stock identification (VSI) and coded-wire-tag (CWT) recoveries, catch in winter-summer SAFE fisheries has been comprised of 85% local, 12% lower river, and 3% upriver stocks during 1998-2006.
- Since 1998, impacts to listed Snake River wild spring Chinook have ranged between 0.01% and 0.20% and have averaged 0.084%. The 2006 impact rate to upriver spring Chinook was 90% of the 0.10% guideline with 0.012% accrued in winter fisheries and 0.078% for the spring fishery (0.09% combined).
- Recreational fisheries in Select Areas have increased in recent years but harvest in 2006 was reduced from previous years. Based on limited creel surveys in 2006, a minimum of 340 spring Chinook were caught in Select Areas and associated tributaries.

- Commercial spring Chinook fisheries occurred in the Tongue Point fishing site during 1998-2003; however, production-level releases were terminated in 2000 due to straying of returning adults. Limited releases continued to evaluate new release strategies at this site. A limited fishery may be considered in May 2007 to evaluate the feasibility of re-establishing fisheries at this site if sufficient commercial impacts remain available.
- Recommendations for 2007 winter-summer SAFE fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held January 17 with commercial fishers in Astoria.
- Joint Staff is recommending Select Area commercial fisheries be managed for an upriver spring Chinook impact guideline of 0.1%.

***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.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following seasons for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area:	
Winter Season:	Wednesday and Sunday nights from February 21 through March 12 (6 nights). and Sunday nights of March 18 and March 25 (2 nights). Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Monday and Thursday nights during April 19 through June 15 (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 3 through June 15, 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. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent transportation regulations will be in effect.

- ✓ Wednesday and Sunday night fishing periods during the winter season should provide adequate harvest opportunity while avoiding overlap of mainstem and Select Area fishing periods.
- ✓ Additional Sunday night fishing periods on March 18 and March 25 during the winter season will provide access to locally returning spring Chinook with minimal risk of increasing impacts to upriver stocks.

- ✓ Fishing seasons are 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 Calendar sloughs (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.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following season for the Deep River Select Area:	
Winter Season: (Full-fleet test fishery)	Sunday nights from February 18 through March 12 (4 nights) Open hours are from 6 PM to 8 AM (14 hours)
Spring Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from April 19 through June 15 (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.
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. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).
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. <b>During the winter test season arrangements must be made with Marc Miller at 360-244-9125 for the place and time of sampling.</b> In the spring season a sampling station will be established upstream of the Highway 4 Bridge at the upper pen site at Kato's dock.

- ✓ For the second year, a full-fleet test winter season is proposed to hopefully increase participation at this site and reduce escapement. Sunday nights were requested by industry to avoid conflicts with mainstem fisheries.
- ✓ Fishing seasons are concurrent with Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough seasons to minimize congestion in fishing areas.

- ✓ 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.
- An Oregon license is required to participate in this fishery.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
The ODFW staff is recommending the following seasons for the Youngs Bay Select Area:	
Winter Season:	<p>Wednesday and Sunday nights from February 14 through March 12 (8 nights). Open hours are from 6 PM to noon (18 hours).</p> <p>3 PM to 7 PM Wednesday March 14 (4 hours; upstream of Old Youngs Bay Bridge)</p> <p>Noon Sunday March 18 to 6 AM Monday March 19 (18 hours; Walluski Area) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday March 20 (12 hours; Walluski Area) 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday March 22 (12 hours; Walluski Area) Noon Sunday March 25 to 6 AM Monday March 26 (18 hours; Walluski Area) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday March 27 (12 hours; Walluski Area) 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday March 29 (12 hours; Walluski Area) Noon Sunday April 1 to 6 AM Monday April 2 (18 hours; Walluski Area) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday April 3 (12 hours; Walluski Area) 6 AM to 6 PM Thursday April 5 (12 hours; Walluski Area) Noon Sunday April 8 to 6 AM Monday April 9 (18 hours; Walluski Area) 6 AM to 6 PM Tuesday April 10 (12 hours; Walluski Area)</p>
Spring Season:	<p>6 PM Thursday April 19 – 6 AM Friday April 20 (12 hours) 6 PM Monday April 23 – 6 AM Tuesday April 24 (12 hours) 6 PM Thursday April 26 – 6 AM Friday April 27 (12 hours)</p> <p>6 PM Monday April 30 - noon Tuesday May 1 (18 hours) 6 PM Thursday May 3 - noon Friday May 4 (18 hours)</p> <p>Noon Monday May 7 - noon Friday May 11 (4 days) Noon Monday May 14 - noon Friday May 18 (4 days) Noon Monday May 21 - noon Friday May 25 (4 days) Noon Monday May 28 - noon Friday June 1 (4 days) Noon Monday June 4 - noon Friday June 8 (4 days) Noon Tuesday June 12 - noon Friday June 15 (3 days)</p>
Summer Season	<p>6 AM Wednesday June 20 – 6 AM Friday June 22 (2 days) 6 AM Wednesday June 27 – 6 AM Friday June 29 (2 days) 6 AM Wednesday July 4 – noon Thursday July 5 (30 hours) 6 AM Wednesday July 11 – noon Thursday July 12 (30 hours) 6 AM Wednesday July 18 – noon Thursday July 19 (30 hours) 6 AM Wednesday July 25 – noon Thursday July 26 (30 hours)</p>
Area:	<p><u>February 14 through March 12 and April 19 through July 26:</u> Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.</p>

March 14

Old Youngs Bay Bridge upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.

March 18 through April 10:

Markers directly under the first powerlines downstream of the Walluski River upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers.

Gear: 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.

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.

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.

Allowable Sales: Salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday).

Miscellaneous Regulations: Permanent transportation rules will be in effect.

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Wednesday and Sunday night fishing periods during the winter season should provide adequate harvest opportunity while avoiding overlap of mainstem and SAFE fishing periods. All periods are recommended to be 18-hours in duration to increase opportunity.
- ✓ Additional winter fishing periods after mid-March with progressively restrictive area boundaries provides increased harvest opportunity, reduces 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.
- ✓ Most spring fishing periods are concurrent with Blind Slough/Knappa Slough and Deep River openings to minimize congestion in fishing areas.
- ✓ The 8-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 2007 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.
- 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.

### **MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS**

- Consistent with the ESA listing of Green Sturgeon, the Joint States have prohibited green sturgeon retention in commercial fisheries effective July of 2006 and in recreational fisheries effective January 1, 2007.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The Joint Staff is not recommending any additional Compact hearings at this time. If the winter season commercial sturgeon fishery is projected to fall short of or exceed the guideline, a Compact hearing may be needed as early as February 6.
- Additional Compact hearings will be held beginning in late February to consider commercial salmon fishing periods.

<b><i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration</i></b>
➤ Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan and gear regulations (pages 6-7).
➤ Area 2S shad fishing season (page 8).
➤ Non-Indian spring Chinook recreational fishing season (pages 9).
➤ Steelhead and shad retention during the non-Indian spring Chinook recreational fishery (page 10).
➤ Non-Indian sturgeon recreational fishing season (pages 11).
➤ Treaty Indian winter gillnet fishery (page 12).
➤ Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area winter and spring commercial fisheries - Compact and Oregon state action (pages 13).
➤ Deep River Select Area winter and spring commercial fisheries - Compact action (page 14).
➤ Youngs Bay Select Area winter, spring, and summer fisheries - Oregon state action (pages 15-16).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
January 25, 2007