

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3
Columbia River Compact
February 12, 2007**

Fisheries under consideration: Non-Indian commercial fisheries

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

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

2007 Smelt Fisheries

- The fishery is progressing within expectations and no modifications to current fisheries are proposed at this time.

2007 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- Landings through February 7 (week 6) include 1,233 white sturgeon and five Chinook leaving 367 white sturgeon available for harvest from the 1,600 fish guideline.
- The fishery is currently planned to include two additional 24-hour (6 PM-6 PM) fishing periods during February 13-14 and February 20-21.

FISHERY PROPOSALS

<i>Recommendation</i>	
Season:	6 PM Thursday February 15 through 12:00 noon Friday February 16, 2007 (18 hours) 6 PM Thursday February 22 through 12:00 noon Friday February 23, 2007 (18 hours)
Area:	Zones 1 – 5.
Sanctuaries:	Sandy River sanctuary.
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restrictions.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of ten white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the season is open. Green sturgeon retention is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Quick Reporting Rule is in effect for Washington buyers.

- The proposed modification to the on-going sturgeon fishery will help track arrival and relative abundance of spring Chinook. Weekly landing limits will help ensure sturgeon harvest remains within the 1,600 allocation for the winter sturgeon season.
- Chinook catch should be lower river stock. Steelhead handle is expected to be minimal.
- Spring Chinook test fishing will begin on Sunday February 25 with the first winter commercial salmon season expected to begin Tuesday February 27.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff is recommending a Compact hearing (via telephone) be scheduled for 2:00 PM Monday February 26 to consider a commercial fishing period for Tuesday, February 27.