
Columbia River Action Notice

Compact Action

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

March 8, 2006

The Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington met today via phone to consider non-Indian commercial salmon and smelt fishing options and took the following actions:

Non-Indian Fisheries

Commercial Mainstem Winter Salmon Fishery

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial salmon season as follows:

Season: Noon Thursday March 9 to 6 AM Friday March 10 (18 hours)

Area: Mouth to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4).

Sanctuaries: Grays River, Elokom-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, and Lewis-B sanctuaries will be in effect.

Gear: 8" minimum and 9-³/₄" maximum mesh size restrictions in effect.
Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.
Use of monofilament nets is allowed.

Allowable Sales: Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, sturgeon, and shad.

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.

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:

As adopted at January 26, 2006 Compact hearing:

Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when the first mesh enters the water to when the 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 salmon or steelhead.

Each vessel participating in this fishery is required to have two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place. 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.

Commercial Mainstem Smelt Fishery

- Modified the previously adopted Level 1 commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River as follows. Changes to the previously adopted season are in **bold**.

Season: **Rescinded the fishing period for Thursday March 9 and adopted a fishing period for Saturday March 11, 2006.**

All other previously adopted regulations and fishing periods remain unchanged.
Open hours from 7 AM – 4 PM (9 hrs)

Area: Zones 1 – 5.

Gear: Gill nets, dip nets, or trawls as per permanent regulations.

Participants: Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear.

The following Washington Reporting Rule applies to **both** non-Indian commercial seasons adopted above:

Washington WDFW adopted a regulation requiring all Washington wholesale buyers
Reporting purchasing fish from the commercial mainstem sturgeon and smelt fisheries to
Rule: send a report of their landings to WDFW by 10AM on the day after the purchase
 date via either:

- a) FAX transmission to (360) 906-6776 or (360) 906-6777
- b) E-mail to crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov
- c) Telephone to 1-866-791-1281

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Columbia River Compact hearing is scheduled for 8:15 AM Monday March 13, 2006 at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife office located at 2108 Grand Blvd, Vancouver, Washington and via telephone to review the ongoing winter commercial salmon fishery and consider additional fishing options.

For information regarding these decisions see March 8, 2006 Winter Fact Sheet #6.

http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OSCRP/CRM/FS/06/06_march_8wfact.pdf

- Recorded Sport Fishery Updates and Action Notices can be accessed by calling (503) 657-2000 ext. 392.
- Recorded Columbia River “Mainstem” Commercial Fishery Updates and Action Notices can be accessed by calling (503) 657-2000 ext. 391.
- Recorded lower Columbia River “Select Area” Commercial Fishery Updates and Action Notices can be accessed by calling (503) 657-2000 ext. 396.

Note: Joint Staff Reports, Fact Sheets, and Columbia River Action Notices are also available through the Internet at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OSCRP/CRM/main.html>