
Columbia River Action Notice

Joint State Action

Compact Action

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

December 13, 2007

The Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington met today to review sturgeon and smelt stock status and took the following actions:

Non-Indian Fisheries

Commercial Mainstem Sturgeon Fishery

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial season as follows:

Season:	6 PM Tuesday January 8	to	6 PM Wednesday January 9, 2008	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday January 15	to	6 PM Wednesday January 16, 2008	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday January 22	to	6 PM Wednesday January 23, 2008	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday January 29	to	6 PM Wednesday January 30, 2008	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 5	to	6 PM Wednesday February 6, 2008	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 12	to	6 PM Wednesday February 13, 2008	(24 hrs)

Area: Zones 1 - 5.

Sanctuaries: Sandy River sanctuary is in effect.

Gear: 9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.

Allowable Sales: Sale of white sturgeon and adipose fin-clipped salmon allowed.

Commercial Mainstem Smelt Fishery

- Effective 12:01 AM Tuesday January 1, 2008, the current commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River will be modified to a Level 1 fishery as follows:

Season: Mondays and Thursdays from 7 AM – 4 PM (9 hrs)
during January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008.

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 Reporting Rule: WDFW adopted a regulation requiring all Washington wholesale buyers purchasing fish from commercial fisheries to send a report of their landings to WDFW within **24** hours of the closure of the fishery via either:

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

Treaty Indian Fisheries

Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington did not modify the currently adopted fishery shown below:

Winter Sturgeon Setline Fishery

- Under permanent Compact rules, a treaty Indian commercial setline season occurs as follows:

Season: 12 noon Tuesday January 1, 2008 to 12 noon Thursday January 31, 2008

Area: All of Zone 6.

Sanctuaries: Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries are in effect.

Miscellaneous Rules: Sturgeon between 48-60 inches in length in The Dalles and John Day pools and sturgeon between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence use.

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) will meet in January 2008 to review stock assessment updates and develop recommendations for subsequent Zone 6 sturgeon management in 2008.

The state of Washington announced their intentions concerning smelt fisheries in Washington waters.

Washington Mainstem Columbia River Smelt Fisheries

- Adopted a recreational mainstem smelt fishery as follows:

Season: Open 7 days a week, 24-hours a day during January 1 - March 31, 2008

Area: Zones 1 – 5.

Limit: 25 pounds per person.

Miscellaneous: Concurrent rules with Oregon

Washington Tributary Smelt Fisheries

- Commercial smelt fishing with dipnets will be allowed in the Cowlitz River (downstream of Peterson's Eddy) from 6 PM – midnight (6 hours) on Sundays and Wednesdays during January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008. The 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule is in effect for Washington buyers.
- All other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing as per permanent regulations.
- Sport smelt fishing will be allowed in the Cowlitz River from 6 AM to 10 PM Saturdays during January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008. A daily limit of 10 pounds per person is in effect.

The states of Oregon and Washington approved the following rule changes for Columbia and Willamette River sturgeon sport fisheries:

2008 Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Sport Fishery

Above Wauna Powerlines

In the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines (River Mile 40) upstream to Bonneville Dam, all adjacent Washington tributaries, and the lower Willamette River upstream to Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel):

- Allow retention of sturgeon four days per week on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday effective Tuesday January 1, 2008 through Thursday July 31, 2008 and Wednesday October 1, 2008 through Wednesday December 31, 2008.
- Prohibit the retention of sturgeon seven days per week from Friday August 1, 2008 through Tuesday September 30, 2008.
- Retention of green sturgeon is prohibited as per permanent regulations.

Below Wauna Powerlines

In the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines (River Mile 40) downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay; and all adjacent Washington tributaries:

- Allow retention of white sturgeon seven days per week from Tuesday January 1, 2008 through Wednesday April 30, 2008 with a 42-inch minimum size limit in effect.
- Allow retention of white sturgeon seven days per week from Saturday May 10, 2008 through Tuesday June 24, 2008 (or until the catch guideline is reached) with a 45-inch minimum size limit in effect.
- Prohibit the retention of white sturgeon seven days per week from Thursday May 1, 2008 through Friday May 9, 2008 and Wednesday June 25, 2008 through Wednesday December 31, 2008. Catch and release of sturgeon may continue during retention closures.
- Retention of green sturgeon is prohibited as per permanent regulations.
- Catch limits and other restrictions listed in the current 2008 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations pamphlet remain in effect the entire year.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The next Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for 10 AM, Thursday, January 24, 2008 at the Water Resources Education Center in Vancouver, Washington to review salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt stock status; and consider non-Indian commercial fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas. The treaty tribes may also propose commercial fisheries at this hearing.
- For information concerning these decisions see the December 13, 2008 Winter Fact Sheet #1. http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp
- Recorded Mainstem Commercial, Select Area Commercial, and Sport Fishery Updates and Action Notices can be accessed by calling (971) 673-6000 and following recorded instructions.
- 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>