
Columbia River Action Notice

Compact Action

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

April 7, 2008

The Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington met today and took the following actions:

Non-Indian Fisheries

Commercial Mainstem Winter Salmon Fishery

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial season as follows:

Season: 7 AM to 11 PM Tuesday April 8, 2008. (16 hours)

Area: Zones 4 and 5. Hayden Island powerlines (west towers) upstream to the upper commercial fishing deadline at Beacon Rock.

Sanctuaries: Sandy and Washougal River sanctuaries will be in effect.

Gear: Drift nets only. 4¼" maximum mesh size restriction in effect. Use of monofilament nets is prohibited.

Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.

Optional use of a steelhead excluding panel hung between the cork line and the tangle net mesh. Excluder panel must be a minimum of 5' in depth and not exceed 10' in depth with a 12" minimum mesh size (mono or multifilament) restriction in effect.

Use of weedlines or droppers, used in smelt bobber nets, are allowed in place of a steelhead excluder panel. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of 5' above the tangle net mesh.

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

Participants: 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.

Multiple Net Rule: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel if properly stored. A properly stored net is defined as a net on a drum that is fully covered by a tarp (canvas or plastic) and bound with a minimum of ten revolutions of rope with a diameter of 3/8 (0.375) inches or greater.

Nets authorized for this fishery, and nets with a mesh size of ≤ 2 inches or ≥ 9 inches are not required to be properly stored.

Other permanent gear regulations remain in effect.

Miscellaneous Regulations:

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.

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. Two red corks are required on each end of nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.

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 2 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.

24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Columbia River Compact hearing has been scheduled for 11:00 AM Monday April 14 via teleconference to consider non-Indian fisheries. Additional Compact hearings via telephone will occur at 11 AM on Monday's if the test fishing results warrant a hearing. Potential hearing dates are:
 - April 21
 - April 28
- There will be very short notice for these hearings. Participants are advised to set aside the date and time in advance. Staff will confirm hearings Monday morning via email and fax.
- For information concerning these decisions see the April 7, 2008 Winter Fact Sheet #11 at: 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/fish/OSCRP/CRM/index.asp>