
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

December 18, 2008

Compact Action

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

Non-Indian Fisheries

Commercial White Sturgeon Fisheries

Effective January 1, 2009 non-Indian commercial fisheries will convert from a total length to a fork length measurement for white sturgeon (measure from the tip of the nose to the fork in the tail).

- The new commercial legal-size slot limit is **43-54 inches fork length**.

Winter Commercial Mainstem White Sturgeon Fishery

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial season as follows:

Season:	6 PM	Tuesday January 6	to	6 PM	Wednesday January 7, 2009	(24 hrs)
	6 PM	Tuesday January 13	to	6 PM	Wednesday January 14, 2009	(24 hrs)
	6 PM	Tuesday January 20	to	6 PM	Wednesday January 21, 2009	(24 hrs)
	6 PM	Tuesday January 27	to	6 PM	Wednesday January 28, 2009	(24 hrs)
	6 PM	Tuesday February 3	to	6 PM	Wednesday February 4, 2009	(24 hrs)
	6 PM	Thursday February 5	to	Noon	Friday February 6, 2009	(18 hrs)
	6 PM	Tuesday February 10	to	6 PM	Wednesday February 11, 2009	(24 hrs)
	6 PM	Thursday February 12	to	Noon	Friday February 13, 2009	(18 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: White sturgeon (**43-54 inches fork length**) and adipose fin-clipped salmon.

Commercial Mainstem Smelt Fishery

- Effective 12:01 AM Thursday January 1, 2009, 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 – 2 PM (7 hrs)
during January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009.

Area: Zones 1 – 5.

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

The following Washington Quick 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:
- 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

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 Thursday January 1, 2009 to 12 noon Saturday January 31, 2009

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 42-60 inches in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence use.

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) will meet in early 2009 to review stock assessment updates and develop recommendations for subsequent Zone 6 sturgeon management in 2009.

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

Washington Mainstem Columbia River Recreational 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, 2009

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, 2009 through March 31, 2009. The 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule is in effect for Washington buyers.
- Recreational smelt fishing will be allowed in the Cowlitz River from 6 AM to 10 PM Saturdays during January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009. A daily limit of 10 pounds per person is in effect.
- All other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial and recreational smelt fishing.

Joint State Action

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

2009 Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Recreational 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 white sturgeon three days per week on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday effective Thursday January 1, 2009 through Friday July 31, 2009 and Thursday October 1, 2009 through Thursday December 31, 2009 with a **38-inch minimum and 54-inch maximum fork length restriction in effect.**
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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 during:
 - Thursday January 1, 2009 through Thursday April 30, 2009.
 - Saturday May 9, 2009 through Sunday June 28, 2009.
 - Thursday July 2, 2009 through Sunday July 5, 2009 (or until guideline is met).
 - **38-inch minimum fork length** in effect during January 1 through April 30, 2009.
 - **41-inch minimum fork length** in effect during May 9, 2009 through the rest of the season.
 - **54-inch maximum fork length** in effect throughout the season.
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The following regulations apply to the recreational sturgeon seasons adopted above:

- 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 2009 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 29, 2009 at the Clackamas County Historical Society, 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City, Oregon to review salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and shad stock status; and consider non-Indian commercial and recreational fishing seasons in the mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas.
- For information concerning these decisions see the December 18, 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.