
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

April 4, 2011

Compact Action

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: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM Wednesday April 6, 2011 (6 hours)

Area: Zones 1-5

Sanctuaries: Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal rivers.

Gear: Drift nets only, 4¼-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Multifilament web required for the 4¼-inch mesh.

Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms, except tangle nets constructed with an optional steelhead excluder device (large mesh panel, weedlines, or droppers) hung between the corkline and the 4¼" maximum mesh size tangle net may extend to a maximum length of 175 fathoms. The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12" stretched measure when taut under hand tension. Monofilament mesh is allowed for the excluder panel only. The excluder panel must be a minimum of five feet in depth and must not exceed ten feet in depth as measured from the corkline to the upper margin of the tangle net mesh as the net hangs naturally from a taut corkline. Weedlines or droppers (bobber type) may be used in place of the steelhead excluder panel. A weedline-type excluder means the net is suspended below the corkline by lines of no less than five feet in length between the corkline and the upper margin of the tangle net. A dropper-type excluder means the entire net is suspended below the surface of the water by lines of no less than five feet in length extending from individual surface floats to a submersed corkline. The corkline cannot be capable of floating the net in its entirety (including the leadline) independent of the attached floats. Weedlines or droppers, must extend a minimum of five feet above the 4¼" maximum mesh size tangle net. Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers must have two red corks at each end of the net, as well as the red corks required under miscellaneous regulations

There are no restrictions on the use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically. There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net and is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline.

Allowable Sales: Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, and shad.
A maximum of six adipose fin clipped Chinook may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel. The first six adult hatchery fish must be retained and no additional drifts may be conducted once the Chinook limit has been retained.

Additional Regulations: Standard regulations typically in place for spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, tangle-net certification, etc.

Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from 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.

Lighted Buoys: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked. Each chamber of the recovery box(es) must include an operating water pumping system capable of delivering a minimum flow of 16 gallons per minute, not to exceed 20 gallons per minute of freshwater per chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must meet the following dimensions as measured from within the box; the inside length measurement must be at or within 39 ½ inches to 48 inches, the inside width measurements must be at or within 8 to 10 inches, and the inside height measurement must be at or within 14 to 16 inches.

Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water inlet hole between ¾ inch and 1 inch in diameter, centered horizontally across the door or end wall of the chamber and 1¾ inches from the floor of the chamber. Each chamber of the recovery box must include a water outlet hole that is a least 1½ inches in diameter located on either the same or opposite end as the inlet. The center of the outlet hole must be located a minimum of 12 inches above the floor of the box or chamber. The fisher must demonstrate to WDFW and ODFW employees, fish and wildlife enforcement officers, or other peace officers, upon request, that the pumping system is delivering the proper volume of fresh river water into each chamber.

All non-legal sturgeon, all non-retained salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box.

Any fish that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

Observer program: As a condition of fishing, 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 his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.

Live Capture workshop: Licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.

24-hour **quick reporting** will be required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240.

Joint State Action

In joint Oregon and Washington state action after the Compact adjourned; the states discussed the following recreational fishery and took the following actions:

Columbia River Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Fisheries

John Day Pool (John Day Dam to McNary Dam)

- Effective 12:01 AM Sunday April 10, 2011 the retention of sturgeon in the Columbia River and tributaries between John Day and McNary Day dams will be prohibited.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Joint State hearing has been scheduled for 3:00 PM Wednesday April 6, 2011 via teleconference to review the lower Columbia River recreational spring Chinook fishery.
- For information concerning these decisions see the April 4, 2011 Winter Fact Sheet #5a and 5b at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp
- Recorded Mainstem Commercial and Select Area Commercial 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>