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# Columbia River Fishery Notice

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

May 11, 2011

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## Compact Action

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

### Non-Indian Fisheries

#### ***Commercial Mainstem Salmon Fishery***

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial season as follows:

**Season:** 3 PM Thursday May 12 to 5 AM Friday May 13, 2011 (14 hours)

**Area:** Zones 1-4 upstream to Kelley Point

**Sanctuaries:** Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B

**Gear:** **8-inch minimum mesh size** restriction. Use of monofilament web is allowed.

Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. 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.

**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.

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

A maximum of **five** white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) the fishery is open. The weekly white sturgeon sales limit applies to the mainstem only. Select Area fisheries remain under a two white sturgeon weekly retention limit.

**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.

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 tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.

All non-legal sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped Chinook 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.

Use of recovery boxes is required on all lethargic or bleeding steelhead and all lethargic or bleeding non-adipose fin-clipped salmon. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.

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

## Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- The following fisheries were modified by Compact action in concurrent OR/WA jurisdiction waters and by the state of Oregon or Washington in state waters.

### ***Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery (Zone 74)***

- The fishing period scheduled for 7 PM Thursday May 12 through 7 AM Friday May 13 was **re-scheduled** to 7 PM Wednesday May 11 through 7 AM Thursday May 12, 2011. The fishery scheduled for Thursday night in these areas is rescinded. All other regulations as previously adopted on February 8, 2011 remain in effect.

### ***Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery (Zone 71)***

- The fishing period scheduled for 7 PM Thursday May 12 through 7 AM Friday May 13 was **re-scheduled** to 7 PM Wednesday May 11 through 7 AM Thursday May 12, 2011. The fishery scheduled for Thursday night in these areas is rescinded. Except as described below, all other regulations as previously adopted on February 8, 2011 remain in effect.
- Effective Wednesday May 11 through the remainder of the spring season, fishers in the Tongue Point/South Channel fishery are no longer required to have their catches sampled at the sampling station near Tongue Point. Fishers are instead required to call 503-428-0518 and leave a message including name, catch, and location and time the fish will be sold.

### ***Youngs Bay (Zone 70)***

- Retention of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook is prohibited from 3 PM Thursday May 12, 2011 through midnight Sunday May 15, 2011.

## Treaty Indian Fisheries

The Compact also allowed sales of fish caught in Zone 6 Treaty Indian experimental-gear test fisheries conducted by Yakama or Umatilla tribes from May 16 through July 31, 2011. Allowable commercial sales of fish are limited to shad, walleye, yellow perch, bass, catfish and carp.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A Joint State Hearing has been scheduled for 1:00 PM Friday May 13, 2011 via teleconference to review Columbia River recreational fisheries.
- For information concerning these decisions see the May 11, 2011 Spring Fact Sheet #6 at: [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact\\_sheets.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp)
- 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>