
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

May 14, 2013

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: 10:00 AM to 12:00 AM (Midnight) Wednesday May 15, 2013 (14 hrs)

Area: Zones 1-5.

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

Allowable Sales: Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, shad and white sturgeon (43-54 inch fork length).

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: 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.

Gear: Drift nets only. 4¼" maximum mesh size restriction. Single-wall multi-filament net only.

Monofilament tangle nets are not allowed.

Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension and the measurement is taken from the inside of one vertical knot to the outside of the opposite vertical knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact.

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.

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.

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.

Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms, except under the following conditions: Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers, may extend to a maximum length of 175 fathoms. An optional steelhead excluder mesh panel may be hung between the corkline and the 4¼" maximum mesh size tangle net. The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12 inches when stretched 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 submerged 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 under miscellaneous regulations.

Miscellaneous Regulations:

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.

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers, on board. 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 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 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, non-adipose fin-clipped 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 salmonid 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.

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

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.

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.

Youngs Bay (Zone 70)

- Retention and sale of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook is prohibited from 10:00 AM Wednesday May 15 through 12:00 PM (noon) Thursday May 16, 2013.

South Channel (Zone 71)

- Effective May 16 through June 14, 2013 the maximum net length in the South Channel is **250** fathoms. All other gear regulations previously adopted including the allowed use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the headline remain in effect.

Joint State Action

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

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery

- No action taken. Retention of adult Chinook remains closed.
- Under permanent regulations, the lower Columbia River from the Tongue Point/Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge will open Thursday May 16 for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and adipose fin-clipped jack Chinook.
- All other permanent angling regulations described in the "2013 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations Pamphlet" remain in effect.

Bonneville Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery

- Adopted the following recreational sturgeon fishery in the Bonneville Pool:

Season: Friday June 14 through Saturday June 15, 2013 2 days

 Friday June 21 through Saturday June 22, 2013 2 days

Area: Mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to
 The Dalles Dam, including adjacent tributaries.

Allowable White sturgeon between 38-inches and 54-inches fork length.
Catch:

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for Monday May 20, 2013 at 4:00 PM via teleconference to review stock status and consider mainstem recreational and commercial spring Chinook fishing opportunities.
- For information concerning these decisions see the May 14, 2013 Spring Fact Sheet #1 at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp