
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

May 28, 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: 7:00 PM Wednesday May 29 to 7:00 AM Thursday May 30, 2013 (12 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 **three** 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. **8-inch minimum mesh size** restriction. Use of monofilament web is allowed. Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.

Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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 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.

Miscellaneous Regulations:

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.

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.

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 7:00 PM Wednesday May 29 through 12:00 PM (noon) Thursday May 30, 2013.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No Compact hearings have been scheduled at this time. If needed, a Compact hearing will be scheduled for Monday June 3, 2013 at 3:30 PM via teleconference to consider additional mainstem commercial fishing periods.
- For information concerning these decisions see the May 28, 2013 Spring Fact Sheet #4 at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp