
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

April 30, 2015

Compact Action

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

Non-Indian Fisheries

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Adopted a season as follows:

Season: 10:00 AM to 12:00 AM (midnight) Monday May 4, 2015 (14 hours)

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 and shad.

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-inch maximum mesh size. 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 inside 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.

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-inch maximum mesh size tangle net. The excluder panel web must be a minimum mesh size of 12-inch 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-inch 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 standard red corks described previously.

**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 39½ 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 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 is 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. Additionally, cooperation with department personnel prior to a fishing period is expected.

Select Area Fisheries

- Adopted fishing periods and rescinded or modified previously adopted fishing periods by Compact action in concurrent OR/WA jurisdiction waters and by the state of Oregon or Washington in state waters.

Youngs Bay Commercial Salmon Fishery (Zone 7)

- Modified the previously adopted spring season fishing periods scheduled to occur May 5 through May 8. Modifications in **bold**.

7 PM Tuesday May 5 – **7 AM Wednesday May 6** (12 hours)
7 PM Thursday May 7 – 7 AM Friday May 8 (12 hours)

Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Salmon Fishery (Zone 71)

- Modified the previously adopted spring season fishing periods scheduled to occur May 5 through May 8. Modifications in **bold**.

7 PM Tuesday May 5 – **7 AM Wednesday May 6** (12 hours)
7 PM Thursday May 7 – 7 AM Friday May 8 (12 hours)

Blind Slough (Zone 74) and Knappa Slough (Zone 73) Commercial Salmon Fishery

- Rescinded the following previously adopted spring season fishing period:

7 PM Monday May 4 – 7 AM Tuesday May 5 (1 night)

- Adopted the following spring season fishing period:

7 PM Tuesday May 5 – 7 AM Wednesday May 6 (12 hours)

Deep River Commercial Salmon Fishery (Zone 80)

- Rescinded the following previously adopted spring season fishing period:

7 PM Monday May 4 – 7 AM Tuesday May 5 (1 night)

- Adopted the following spring season fishing period:

7 PM Tuesday May 5 – 7 AM Wednesday May 6 (12 hours)

- All other regulations (including area, gear, allowable sales, and Washington Reporting Rule) as previously adopted on January 28, 2015 remain in effect.

Joint State Action

The states of Oregon and Washington discussed the following recreational fishery and took the following action:

Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Spring Chinook Fishery

- Adopted the following recreational fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam.

Area: **Tongue Point/Rocky Point line** upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline.

Legal upstream boat boundary defined as: "A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse One) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock."

Dates: Open Saturday May 2 through Sunday May 3, 2015.

Catch Limits: Two adult adipose fin-clipped salmonids per day, only one of which may be a Chinook. All sockeye must be released.

The mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad only during days and seasons open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

Additional Regulations: Effective Sunday March 1 through Monday June 15, 2015, on days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.

On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is closed to Chinook retention, permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply.

Anglers fishing for salmon, steelhead or sturgeon in the Columbia River and its tributaries are required to have a Columbia River Basin endorsement. See a [map of the Basin and get more information](#).

All other permanent regulations remain in effect, including catch limits for jacks and the use of barbless hooks when fishing for salmon, steelhead, or trout.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. The Joint Staff may recommend a hearing as early as Tuesday May 5 to review stock status and non-Indian fisheries.
- For information concerning these decisions see the April 30, 2015 Spring Fact Sheet #1 at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp