
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

May 11, 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: 4:00 PM Tuesday May 12 to 6:00 AM Wednesday May 13, 2015 (14 hours)

Area: Zones 1-5.

Sanctuaries: Grays River, Elochoman-B, 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 knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact.

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.

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.

Oregon State Action

The state of Oregon took the following actions:

Youngs Bay Commercial Salmon Fishery (Zone 7)

- Retention and sale of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook from Youngs Bay is prohibited from 4:00 PM Tuesday May 12 through 12:00 PM (noon) Wednesday May 13, 2015.

Joint State Action

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

White Sturgeon Recreational Fisheries

The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam)

- Effective 12:01 AM Thursday May 14, 2015 the retention of white sturgeon in The Dalles Pool and tributaries is prohibited.
- White sturgeon fishing is prohibited from May 1 through July 31 in the sturgeon spawning sanctuary from the John Day Dam 2.4 miles downstream to the west end of the Rufus grain elevator.
- For all recreational sturgeon fisheries, catch limits and other restrictions in the 2015 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations pamphlet remain in effect the entire year, including catch and release angling allowed during periods closed to sturgeon retention.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact/Joint State hearings are currently scheduled. The Columbia River treaty tribes may request a hearing for Monday May 18, 2015.
- For information concerning these decisions see the May 11, 2015 Spring Fact Sheets #4 at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp