
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

January 24, 2023

Compact Action

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

Non-Treaty Fisheries

Mainstem Columbia River Commercial Smelt Fishery

- Adopted a season as follows:

Season: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 5 AM – 5 PM (12 hours)
from January 25 through March 16 (23 periods)

Area: Zones 1–3

Gear: Gillnets only. Mesh size may not exceed two inches stretch measure.
Nets may not exceed 1,500 feet in length along the cork line.

Allowable Sales: Smelt

Misc. Regulations: Multiple net rule in effect. 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.

Reporting Rules: Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours.

24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-352-315.

Treaty Indian Fisheries

Zone 6 Commercial Gillnet Fishery

- Allowed commercial sales of fish landed in the following fisheries:

Season: 6 AM Saturday February 4 to 6 PM Monday February 6 (2.5 days)

Area: The Dalles Pool only

Sanctuaries: Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear are in effect.

Gear: Gillnets (no minimum mesh-size restriction)

Allowable Sales: Salmon (all species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence use.
Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.

Washington Reporting Rule: 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

Season: 6 AM Wednesday February 1 through 6 PM Monday February 13 (12.5 days)

Area: John Day Pool only

Sanctuaries: Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries applicable to gillnet gear are in effect.

Gear: Gillnets (no minimum mesh-size restriction)

Allowable Sales: Salmon (all species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence use.
Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in John Day Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.

Washington Reporting Rule: 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

Zone 6 Platform and Hook-and-Line Fishery

- Allowed commercial sales of fish landed in the following fisheries:

Season: 6 AM Wednesday February 1 through 6 PM Saturday March 18

Area: All of Zone 6

Sanctuaries: Standard dam and river mouth sanctuaries applicable to platform and hook-and-line gear are in effect.

Gear: Hoop nets, dip nets, and hook and line

Allowable Sales:	Salmon (all species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence use. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in Bonneville Pool and from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools may be kept for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon within the legal-size limit and caught in the platform and hook-and-line fishery may be sold only if caught during the open period and open pool of an open gillnet fishery. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Washington Reporting Rule:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

Joint State Action

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

Columbia River Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries

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

- Effective 11:59 PM Wednesday January 25, 2023 the retention of sturgeon is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from The Dalles Dam upstream to John Day Dam (The Dalles Pool), and all adjacent tributaries.

John Day Pool (John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam)

- Effective 11:59 PM Sunday January 29, 2023 the retention of sturgeon is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam (John Day Pool), and all adjacent tributaries.

For all recreational sturgeon fisheries, catch limits, seasonal sturgeon spawning sanctuary closures, and other restrictions in the 2023 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations pamphlet remain in effect the entire year, including catch and release angling allowed during periods closed to sturgeon retention.

Current regulations are available at:

<https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/columbia-zone>.

Future Meetings

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled for 10 AM February 9, 2023, to consider treaty commercial fisheries.
- A Compact Hearing is scheduled for 10 AM February 14, 2023, via teleconference to consider Select Area (winter-summer) and treaty commercial fisheries.
- A hybrid Joint State Hearing is scheduled for 10 AM February 22, 2023, to consider mainstem Columbia River recreational spring Chinook fisheries. The meeting will be held at the WDFW Ridgefield office (5525 S. 11th Street, Ridgefield, Washington 98642) and a teleconference call-in option will be available.
- For information concerning these decisions see the January 24, 2023, Winter Fact Sheets #3a & 3b at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp.