
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

March 13, 2024

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 from March 18 through March 28, 2024 (6 periods). Open hours are 5 AM to 5 PM (12 hours).
- 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 required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315.
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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

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

Effective 11:59 PM Thursday, March 14, 2024 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 2024 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>.

For information concerning these decisions see the March 13, 2024 Winter Fact Sheet No.8 at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp.

Future Meetings

No Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. Joint staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.