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# Columbia River Fishery Notice

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

May 15, 2024

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## 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 Salmon Fishery***

Adopted a season as follows:

- Season: 7 AM to 7 PM Monday May 20, 2024 (12 hours)
- Area: Zones 1 – 5
- Sanctuaries: Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy River, and Washougal sanctuaries in effect.
- Allowable Sales: Adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) Chinook salmon and shad. A maximum of twenty-five (25) adult adipose fin-clipped Chinook may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel. The first twenty-five (25) adult hatchery fish must be retained, and no additional drifts may be conducted once the adult Chinook limit has been retained. Jacks (Chinook less than 24-inches in total length) do not count against the adult landing limit.
- Participants: Licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. 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.
- 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.
- 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. There are no restrictions on the use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically.
- Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms, except under the following conditions: Tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers can be up to 175 fathoms.
- An optional steelhead excluder panel of mesh 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 red corks as required below.

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.

Additional Regulations: Soak times, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the web is deployed into the water until the web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

Recovery Box: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. 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 at 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.

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

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.

### **Select Area Commercial Fisheries**

Retention and sales of **non**-adipose fin-clipped Chinook from ongoing Select Area commercial fisheries is prohibited from 7 AM Monday May 20 through 12 PM (noon) Tuesday May 21, 2024.

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## **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 fishery:

#### **Downstream of Bonneville Dam**

Dates: Friday May 17 through Sunday May 19, Saturday May 25 through Monday May 27, and Wednesday June 12 through Saturday June 15, 2024

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.

Daily bag limit: Two adult hatchery salmonids (Chinook or steelhead only) per day, but only one may be a Chinook.

All previously adopted regulations, including permanent regulations remain in effect.

Current regulations are available at: <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/columbia-zone>.

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For information concerning these decisions review the May 15, 2024 Spring Fact Sheet No.1 at: [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact\\_sheets.asp](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp).

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## **Future Meetings**

No Compact/Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. Joint Staff will monitor the fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.