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# Columbia River Action Notice

## Joint State Action

### Compact Action

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

December 15, 2005

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The Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington met today to review sturgeon and smelt stock status and consider non-Indian and treaty Indian fishing options and took the following actions:

#### Non-Indian Fisheries

##### *Commercial Mainstem Sturgeon Fishery*

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial season as follows:

<b>Season:</b>	6 PM Tuesday January 10	to	6 PM Wednesday January 11	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday January 17	to	6 PM Wednesday January 18	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday January 24	to	6 PM Wednesday January 25	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday January 31	to	6 PM Wednesday February 1	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 7	to	6 PM Wednesday February 8	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 14	to	6 PM Wednesday February 15	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 21	to	6 PM Wednesday February 22	(24 hrs)

**Area:** Zones 1 - 5.

**Sanctuaries:** Sandy River sanctuary is in effect.

**Gear:** 9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.

**Allowable Sales:** Sale of sturgeon and adipose fin-clipped salmon allowed.

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##### *Commercial Mainstem Smelt Fishery*

- Effective 12:01 AM Sunday January 1, 2006, the current commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River will be modified to a Level 1 fishery as follows:

**Season:** Mondays and Thursdays from 7 AM – 4 PM (9 hrs) during January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006.

**Area:** Zones 1 – 5.

**Gear:** Gill nets, dip nets, or trawls as per permanent regulations.

**Participants:** Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear.

The following Washington Reporting Rule applies to **both** non-Indian commercial seasons adopted above:

Washington Reporting Rule: WDFW adopted a regulation requiring all Washington wholesale buyers purchasing fish from the commercial mainstem sturgeon and smelt fisheries to send a report of their landings to WDFW by 10AM on the day after the purchase date via either:

- FAX transmission to (360) 906-6776 or (360) 906-6777
- E-mail to [crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)
- Telephone to 1-866-791-1281

## **2006 Miscellaneous Regulations**

- Adopted a 60-inch maximum green sturgeon size limit for lower Columbia River mainstem non-Indian commercial fisheries.

## **Treaty Indian Fisheries**

**Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington did not modify the currently adopted fishery shown below.**

### ***Winter Sturgeon Setline Fishery***

- Under permanent Compact rules, a treaty Indian commercial setline season occurs as follows:

**Season:** 12 noon Sunday January 1 to 12 noon Tuesday January 31

**Area:** All of Zone 6.

**Sanctuaries:** Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries are in effect.

**Miscellaneous Rules:** Sturgeon between 48-60 inches in length in The Dalles and John Day pools and sturgeon between 45-60 inches in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence use.

**Washington Reporting Rule:** WDFW adopted a regulation requiring all Washington wholesale buyers purchasing fish from the treaty Indian winter sturgeon setline fishery to send a report of their landings to WDFW by 10AM on the day after the purchase date via either:

- a) FAX transmission to (360) 906-6776 or (360) 906-6777
- b) E-mail to [crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)
- c) Telephone to 1-866-791-1281

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) will meet prior to the January 26, 2006 Compact hearing to review stock assessment updates and to make recommendations for subsequent Zone 6 sturgeon management in 2006.

**The state of Washington announced their intentions concerning smelt fisheries in Washington tributaries.**

## **Tributary Fisheries**

### ***Washington Tributary Smelt Fisheries***

- Commercial smelt fishing with dipnets will be allowed in the Cowlitz River (downstream of Peterson's Eddy) from 6 PM – midnight on Sundays and Wednesdays during January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006.
- All other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing as per permanent regulations.
- Sport smelt fishing will be allowed in the Cowlitz River from 6 AM to 10 PM Saturdays during January 1, 2006 through March 31, 2006. A daily limit of 10 pounds per person is in effect.

The states of Oregon and Washington approved the following rule changes for Columbia and Willamette River sturgeon sport fisheries:

### **2005 Lower Columbia River Sturgeon Sport Fishery**

#### **Above Wauna Powerlines**

In the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines (River Mile 40) upstream to Bonneville Dam, all adjacent Washington tributaries, and the Willamette River upstream to Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel):

- Allow retention of sturgeon three days per week on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday effective Sunday January 1, 2006 through Monday July 31, 2006 and Sunday October 1, 2006 through Sunday December 31, 2006.
- Prohibit the retention of sturgeon seven days per week from Tuesday August 1, 2006 through Saturday September 30, 2006.

#### **Below Wauna Powerlines**

In the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines (River Mile 40) downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay; and all adjacent Washington tributaries:

- Allow retention of sturgeon seven days per week from Sunday January 1, 2006 through Sunday April 30, 2006 with a 42-inch minimum size limit in effect.
- Allow retention of sturgeon seven days per week from Saturday May 13, 2006 through Tuesday July 4, 2006 with a 45-inch minimum size limit in effect.
- Prohibit the retention of sturgeon seven days per week from Monday May 1, 2006 through Friday May 12, 2006 and Wednesday July 5, 2006 through Sunday December 31, 2006. Catch and release of sturgeon may continue during retention closures.
- Catch limits and other restrictions listed in the current 2006 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations pamphlet remain in effect the entire year.

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The next Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2006 at 10 AM at the Museum of the Oregon Territory, 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City, Oregon to review salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt stock status; and consider fishing options in the mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas.

Note: Joint Staff Reports, Fact Sheets, and Columbia River Action Notices are also available through the Internet at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OSCRP/CRM/main.html>

For information concerning these decisions see the December 15, 2005 Winter Fact Sheet #1. [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OSCRP/CRM/FS/05/dec\\_12\\_fact.pdf](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/OSCRP/CRM/FS/05/dec_12_fact.pdf)