

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2
Columbia River Compact
February 6, 2003**

Purpose: To review salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt stock status and consider commercial fishing seasons for salmon, sturgeon, shad, and smelt in the Columbia River, including Select Area fisheries in Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Deep River, and Youngs Bay.

TAC: The Joint Staff report was mailed out on January 23, 2003 and was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) prior to mailing.

<i>Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Forecasts</i>				
Run	2003 Forecast	2003 Comments	2002	
			Preseason Forecast	Actual Return
<u><i>Spring Chinook</i></u>				
Willamette	109,800 (98,800 hatchery fish)	Good, second largest since 1991	73,800	121,700
Sandy	4,800	Good, sixth largest on record (1980)	4,300	7,000
Cowlitz	4,900	Improved, largest since 1993	3,100	3,700
Kalama	3,600	Good, largest since 1983	1,600	2,800
Lewis	3,100	Improved, largest since 1995	2,000	2,900
Select Area	10,000-14,000	Similar to record high in 2002	8,000	11,700
Upriver	145,400	Good, fourth largest since 1973	333,700	295,100
Snake River Wild	25,000	Good, second largest in database (1986)	44,900	60,200
Upper Columbia Wild	1,300	Poor, less than 2001 and 2002	5,100	6,300
<u><i>Summer Chinook</i></u>				
Upriver	87,600	Good, fourth largest since 1962	77,700	129,000
Snake River Wild	7,700	Improved, second largest in database (1986)	6,600	4,400
<u><i>Sockeye</i></u>				
Upriver	22,100	Poor, sixth smallest on record (1938)	41,200	49,600
Snake River	80	Poor, mostly returns from captive brood	26	57
<u><i>Steelhead</i></u>				
Wild Winter	15,500	Average, about half of 2002	--	>34,100
Skamania Index	16,600	Average, similar to recent 5-year average	17,400	25,000
Group A Index	279,600	Good, fifth largest on record (1984)	369,700	323,100
Group B Index	64,700	Good, seventh largest on record (1984)	60,600	129,900
Total Upriver Index	360,900	Good, twelfth largest on record (1938)	447,800	478,000

2003 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2001-2003 Interim Management Agreement

- An Interim Management Agreement covering fisheries for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye is in effect for 2001-2003.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes a sliding scale spring chinook harvest matrix for 2001-2005 and allocates upriver impacts between non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries for 2001-2003.
- In accordance with the Interim Management Agreement, impacts to listed upriver spring chinook during 2003 will be limited to 2% for non-Indian fisheries and 9% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian impacts are allocated 1.7% for fisheries below McNary Dam and 0.3% for fisheries above McNary Dam, Select Area fisheries, and as a management buffer.
- For 2003 upriver impacts for non-Indian fisheries below McNary Dam, are further allocated 35% (0.59% impact) for commercial fisheries and 65% (1.11% impact) for sport fisheries.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Fisheries being considered at this Compact are addressed in a Section 7/10 Application outlining proposed non-Indian fisheries that the states of Washington and Oregon submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on November 3, 2000.
- The states' intent is to manage non-Indian winter/spring season fisheries in accordance with ESA-related impact limits shown below.

SUMMARY OF ESA IMPACT LIMITS	
<u>Chinook</u>	
Spring Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 12%
Spring Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 15%
Summer Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Sockeye</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 1%
<u>Steelhead</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Columbia River Hatchery	≤ 6%
Middle Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 2%
<u>Trout</u>	
Coastal Cutthroat Wild	≤ 0.3%
Bull Trout	0%

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for Willamette River spring chinook was implemented on February 2001.
- The FMEP limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring chinook to ≤15% and requires the release of wild Willamette spring chinook in sport and commercial freshwater fisheries.

- The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP) was most recently modified at the December 14, 2001 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting. The revised plan includes a sliding scale for escapement goals and determines allocation of surplus hatchery spring chinook to sport and commercial fisheries.
- Based on the WFMP and an expected return of 98,800 hatchery spring chinook the freshwater harvest of surplus hatchery Willamette River spring chinook is allocated 70% for sport fisheries and 30% for commercial fisheries.

2002-2003 Non-Indian Spring Chinook Allocation

- The following guiding principles and fishery management objectives were adopted to provide the Joint Staff with guidance when shaping fisheries preseason and managing fisheries inseason and will be in effect for two years, 2002-2003.

<i>Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation For Non-Indian Fisheries, 2002-2003</i>
Guiding Principles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet conservation requirements for wild spring chinook, including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. • Manage non-Indian harvest of spring chinook within the provisions of the <i>U.S. v Oregon</i> Management Agreement for upriver spring chinook. • Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals. • Focus sport and commercial fisheries' allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring chinook. • Allocate 15 percent of the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impacts to sport and non-treaty Indian fisheries upstream of McNary Dam and to provide for a lower river fisheries management buffer.
Fisheries Management Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the mainstem Columbia River commercial fishery to attain the commercial allocation of Willamette spring chinook. • Manage the combined mainstem Columbia River and lower Willamette River sport fisheries to attain the sport fishery allocation of Willamette spring chinook. • Manage non-Indian upriver spring chinook impacts to provide for equitable sport and commercial hatchery spring chinook harvest opportunity in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam. • Maximize the economic benefits of spring chinook harvested by the commercial fishery by focusing the majority of the commercial fishing effort early in the spring chinook season in years where there is sufficient Willamette spring chinook abundance. Commercial fishing later in the season would be dependent on remaining commercial upriver spring chinook impact allocation and would be structured to minimize effects on the sport fishery. • Maximize sport fishing opportunity during late March through April, <i>and extending into May if possible,</i>¹ to provide angler opportunity during the period of peak spring chinook abundance. <i>Recognize associated economic benefits after mid-March</i>². The number of recreational fishing days in April will depend on the annual abundance of upriver spring chinook, fishing conditions, and the level of effort. • Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available and after public discussions. • Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e. upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.

¹ Additional language endorsed by WFWC.

² Additional language endorsed by OFWC.

- The following matrix, endorsed by both Commissions, provides a high likelihood of achieving the sport fishery needs under most run sizes and a high to moderate likelihood of meeting the commercial fishery needs under most run sizes. The associated footnotes provide management flexibility necessary for making inseason fishery management decisions.

<i>Sharing of Non-Indian Upriver Spring Chinook Impacts Dependent on Willamette and Upriver Spring Chinook Annual Abundance</i>				
		Willamette Hatchery Fish Run Size		
		< 40,000	40-75,000	>75,000
Upriver Run Size (Impacts)	30-50,000 (0.85%)	Comm - 10% (0.08) Sport - 90% (0.77)	Comm - 30% (0.25) Sport - 70% (0.60)	Comm -25% (0.21) Sport - 75% (0.64)
	50-<75,000 (1.25%)	Comm - 40% (0.50) Sport - 60% (0.75)	Comm - 35% (0.44) Sport - 65% (0.81)	Comm - 30% (0.37) Sport - 70% (0.88)
	>75,000 (1.7%)	Comm - 50% (0.85) Sport - 50% (0.85)	Comm - 40% (0.68) Sport - 60% (1.02)	Comm - 35% (0.59) Sport - 65% (1.11)

Footnotes Concerning In-Season Management Adjustments

- In years when the sport fishery upriver impact allocation will be used prior to May 15, and the commercial fishery does not need their entire upriver impact allocation to attain the Willamette allocation or an equitable catch share, commercial impacts may be transferred to the sport fishery. An assessment of upriver impact needs and Willamette allocation will be conducted after mid-April in conjunction with the upriver run size update.*
- In years when the sport fishery does not need their entire upriver spring chinook allocation to continue the fishery through May 15, the remaining sport impacts may be transferred to the commercial fishery for late spring commercial fishing opportunity. The sport fishery impact needs will be updated after mid-April in conjunction with the upriver run size update.*

2003-2005 Sturgeon Management

- The average annual harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon for lower Columbia River fisheries is allocated 8,000 (20%) commercial and 32,000 (80%) sport.
- During 2000-2002, commercial and sport catches totaled 30,000 and 120,000, respectively, and were within the 3-year catch guidelines set forth in the Joint State Agreement.
- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on February 5 to discuss recommendations for 2003 Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines.
- 2003 catch guidelines for The Dalles Pool have not been determined at this time and catch guidelines for the remaining two pools are expected to be similar to those used in 2002.
- The SMTF recognizes an annual treaty Indian subsistence catch expectation of 300 sturgeon.

<i>Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines For 2003</i>			
Pool	Sport	Treaty	Total
Bonneville Pool	1,520	1,300	2,820
The Dalles Pool	NA	NA	NA
John Day Pool	165	335	500
Total	NA	NA	NA

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

2003 Smelt Fisheries

- Smelt fisheries are being managed consistent with a Joint State Eulachon Management Plan.
- A Level 3 commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River was adopted at the December 18, 2002 Compact hearing.
- The adopted fishery consists of four 18-hour fishing periods per week (3 AM-9 PM Sundays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays) and is scheduled to occur during January 1 - March 31, 2003.
- Effort, landings, and CPUE's in the mainstem Columbia River commercial fishery have been low due to limited markets. Landings to date have totalled 2,400 pounds with less than 10 fishers participating. CPUE's have ranged between 65 and 350 pounds per delivery during January.
- Migration conditions have been good with water temperatures at Bonneville Dam at or above 40°F since January 1.
- Flow measured at Bonneville Dam has been below average during January with daily flows exceeding 135 kcfs for only three days during the month. Flow measured at Bonneville increased in February with flows ranging between 190 kcfs and 240 kcfs during the first four days of February.
- Turbidity measured at Bonneville Dam ranged between five feet and seven feet during January and has not exceeded two feet since February 1.
- The Sandy River is open to commercial and sport smelt dipping year round 24 hours per day.
- Significant commercial landings occurred in the Sandy River for the first time since 1985 and significant sport catches occurred in the Sandy River for the first time since 1988.
- A total of 11,000 pound of smelt were commercially landed from the Sandy River during January 23-24.
- Level 3 commercial and sport fisheries were adopted for Washington tributaries of the Columbia River for 2003.
- The Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers are open to commercial smelt fishing weekly from 6 PM Sunday through 6 AM Monday, 6 PM Tuesday through 6 AM Wednesday, and 6 PM Wednesday through 6 AM Thursday during January 1-March 31, 2003. Other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing.
- All Washington tributaries of the Columbia River are open for sport smelt fishing weekly from 6 AM to 10 PM daily (seven days per week) during January 1-March 31, 2003.
- Smelt have been present in the Cowlitz River since early January and were present in the Lewis River for a short time.
- Sport dipping in the Cowlitz River has been fair to good during January.
- Commercial landings during the first half of January were generally less than 5,000 pounds per fishing period and increased to 45,000 pounds on February 5.

2003 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- At the December 18, 2002 Compact hearing the initial winter commercial sturgeon season was adopted with a 1,500 white sturgeon catch guideline was also adopted for this fishery at that hearing.
- Catch rates exceeded expectations and when it became apparent that landings would exceed the 1,500 white sturgeon catch guideline the Compact modified the originally adopted seasons at hearings occurring on January 24, 2003 and January 31, 2003.
- The fishery consisted of three 30-hour fishing periods from noon Tuesday to 6 PM Wednesday during January 7-January 22 followed by one 12-hour fishing period from 6 AM-6 PM on Tuesday January 28, 2003.
- Season total landings included 1,477 white sturgeon and one spring chinook.

Week	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
January 5-11	--	--	--	994	773	382
January 12-18	558	610	534	555	502	365
January 19-25	338	248	205	360	338	408
January 26-Feb 1	600	189	139	341	409	322
February 2-8	433	225	75	384	134	--
February 9-15	746	211	247	--	469	--
Total	2,675	1,483	1,200	2,634	2,625	1477

Sturgeon Management

- A variety of regulations regarding sturgeon retention in commercial fisheries were in effect during 2000-2002 fall fisheries.
- During 2000, white sturgeon retention was allowed throughout the late fall season and target sturgeon fisheries occurred in October.
- During 2001, white sturgeon retention was prohibited during mid-August through October.
- During 2002, a five sturgeon per vessel possession and landing restriction was in effect for most seasons that occurred during August through October and no target sturgeon seasons occurred during the fall timeframe.
- The Joint Staff met with the commercial fishing industry on December 2, 2002 and January 23, 2003 to discuss issues regarding white sturgeon retention in commercial fisheries for 2003-2005. The Joint Staff has developed the following protocol for sturgeon retention during 2003-2005 commercial fisheries, based in part on the results of these public meetings.

Season	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Winter Sturgeon	2,710	2,670	1,780	1,520	2,630	2,710
Winter Salmon	--	--	--	740	430	80
August Lower River	1,740	2,540	2,790	2,490	4,720	1,390
August 2S	140	90	70	300	1,020	370
Late Fall	7,810	8,060	4,130	5,130	--	4,240
Spring SAFE	350	360	520	530	490	630
Fall SAFE	80	170	210	160	20	340
Total	12,830	13,890	9,500	10,870	9,310	9,760

Recommendation

- The Joint Staff recommends that white sturgeon retention in commercial fisheries during 2003-2005 be managed in accordance with the following protocol:
 - ✓ Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 2,000 for the winter-summer timeframe (January-July), 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,600 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).
 - ✓ Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
 - ✓ Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
 - ✓ Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during winter and early fall timeframes if feasible.
 - ✓ Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
 - ✓ Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season specific catch expectation or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.
 - ✓ Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers landings and possession limits will be in the form of per vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.

- ✓ The proposed fishery protocol will provide for predictable and stable commercial fisheries harvesting sturgeon in the lower Columbia River.
- ✓ The proposed protocol provides the Joint Staff with guidance in managing lower Columbia River commercial fisheries harvesting white sturgeon.
- ✓ The commercial industry was not able to achieve consensus regarding this protocol. The Joint Staff recommendation is within the range of options proposed by various segments of the commercial fishing industry.
- ✓ The proposed protocol provides fairness with respect to providing sturgeon harvest through the entire river and year.
- ✓ The proposed protocol is consistent with the Joint State agreement on Columbia River sturgeon management.

2003 Winter Salmon Demonstration Fishery

- Based on preseason run size forecasts, the Interim Management Agreement, and the Willamette Fish Management Plan the commercial fishery has been allocated a 0.59% impact on listed upriver spring chinook and a catch of 17,500 Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- The Joint Staff recommends that this fishery be managed for a 1.8% impact on wild winter steelhead. Managing for 1.8% impact rate will provide a management buffer to ensure that impacts to listed steelhead do not exceed 2%.
- Mark rates are expected to be 85% for Willamette spring chinook and about 50% for upriver spring chinook.
- Long-term mortality rates for 2003 fishery management are based on preliminary results from long-term mortality studies conducted on spring chinook during 2001 and 2002.
- The mortality rate for 8" mesh is projected to be 50% which is similar to the mortality rate estimate based on the long term mortality study conducted on spring chinook in 2001.
- The mortality rate for 4-¼" mesh is projected to be 25% which is within the range of spring chinook mortality rates estimated based on long-term mortality studies conducted using 4-½" mesh nets during 2001 and 2002.
- Long-term mortality rates are assumed to be the same for spring chinook and steelhead.

- The demonstration fishery would allow commercial fisheries the opportunity to access a portion of their Willamette hatchery spring chinook allocation while remaining within their allocated upriver impacts (0.59%) and not exceeding impact rates for listed steelhead.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is recommending the following commercial demonstration fishing season to allow harvest of Willamette hatchery spring chinook: 	
Season:	5 AM - 9 PM Monday February 17 (16 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Wednesday February 19 (16 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Friday February 21 (16 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Monday February 24 (16 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Wednesday February 26 (16 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Friday February 28 (16 hours)
Area:	Mouth to Kelly Point (Zones 1 - 4).
Sanctuaries:	Gray River, Gnat Creek, Elokomin-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A sanctuaries.
Gear:	Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. 8" minimum mesh size restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes. 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. Use of recovery boxes will be required on all lethargic or bleeding fish. Each participant will be required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber.

- ✓ The proposed fishery will be initiated in mid-February to harvest the large abundance of early returning 5-year-old Willamette spring chinook and reduce impacts on listed upriver spring chinook.
- ✓ The 8" minimum mesh size restriction will target spring chinook while minimizing steelhead handle.
- ✓ Three day per week fishing seasons during the last half of February will increase commercial fishing opportunity to access surplus Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- ✓ The proposed fishery will be managed to remain within ESA-related impact limits and WFMP catch allocations of 0.59% for listed upriver spring chinook, 1.8% on wild winter steelhead, and 17,500 Willamette hatchery spring chinook.
- ✓ On-board monitoring will occur inseason to determine species specific encounter and mark rates for use in estimating cumulative impact rates.

Quick Reporting Rule for Washington Buyers

WDFW has adopted rules that require commercial purchasers to report their landings by a specified time. This rule can be attached to any commercial season that is adopted, but is not in place unless specified. WDFW staff recommends that the "quick reporting required" clause be in place for the spring chinook tangle net fishery for 2002. Washington buyers would be required to send a report of their landings to WDFW by 10AM on the day after the purchase date by either:

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

- ✓ The proposed demonstration fishery is consistent with guiding principles adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions.
- ✓ The proposed demonstration fishery is expected to effectively target Willamette stock hatchery spring chinook while minimizing impacts to listed spring chinook and steelhead.
- ✓ The proposed demonstration fishery is expected to occur prior to when the majority of the listed winter steelhead stocks have entered the Columbia River.
- ✓ Use of recovery box will improve survival rate of all listed species.

2003 Non-Indian Area 2S Commercial Shad Season

- The proposed 2003 shad season is similar to seasons adopted during 1996-2002.

Recommendation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is recommending the following commercial fishery to allow the harvest of shad:
Season:	3 PM - 10 PM Daily May 19-23 (5 days) May 27-30 (4 days) June 2-6 (5 days) June 9-13 (5 days) June 16-20 (5 days) June 23-27 (5 days)
Area:	True north/south line through Light #50 near the mouth of the Sandy River upstream to the commercial fishing boundary near Beacon Rock.
Gear:	Single-wall, unslacked, floater gill net; 5-3/8" to 6-1/4" mesh size restrictions; 10-lb breaking strength; and the net may not exceed 150 fathoms in length nor 40 meshes in depth.
Allowable Sales:	Only shad may be kept and sold. All salmon, walleye, and sturgeon must be immediately returned to the water and those alive must be returned to the water unharmed.

- ✓ Area restrictions have been in effect since 1976 and gear restrictions have been in effect since 1996.
- ✓ The Joint Staff will estimate salmonid handle and mortalities in this fishery based on monitoring and/or past years' data.
- ✓ The catch expectation is for about 45,000 shad. Impacts to other salmonids are expected to include 12 summer chinook, 10 steelhead, and two listed wild steelhead.
- Due to lack of participation in recent years no shad commercial fishery is proposed for the Washougal Reef area in 2003.

2003 Anchovy and Herring Bait Fishery

- The anchovy and herring season is open year-round seaward of the Astoria-Megler Bridge, with seines of a mesh size not less than 1/2-inch and not over 1,400 feet in length. All other species must be released.

Recommendation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Joint Staff is not proposing any changes to the currently adopted regulations.

NON-INDIAN SPORT FISHERIES

2003 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to salmon angling during January 1 through March 31 under permanent regulations.
- The sport fishery has been allocated a 1.11% impact rate on listed upriver spring chinook.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
•	The Joint Staff is recommending that the current mainstem Columbia River sport fishery be expanded to include additional sport fishing opportunity. The entire recommended season is as follows:
Area:	Columbia River mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to McNary Dam (not including Bonneville Pool).
Dates:	January 1 - May 15, 2003 below I-5 Bridge. February 15 - May 15, 2003 from I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam and from Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below the Dalles Dam) upstream to McNary Dam plus the Oregon bank between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.
Catch Limits:	2 adipose fin-clipped adult salmon per day per permanent rules.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Fishery will be closed prior to May 15 if upriver allocation is reached.

- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with guiding principles, fishery management objectives, and allocation plan adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions.
- ✓ The proposed fishery provides sport fishing opportunity to access surplus hatchery spring chinook and limits impacts to listed species.
- ✓ Time period ending in mid-May targets the fishery on spring chinook and minimizes impacts to summer chinook.

2003 Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River is currently closed to steelhead angling below I-5 Bridge during April 1 - May 15 and between I-5 Bridge and McNary Dam during April 1 - June 15 under permanent regulations.
- The mainstem Columbia River upstream to Bonneville Dam is currently closed to shad angling during April 1-May 15 under permanent regulations.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
•	The Joint Staff is recommending that the mainstem Columbia River be open for adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad when and where open for adipose fin-clipped spring chinook.

2003 Tributary Spring Chinook Sport Fisheries

- No changes to permanent regulations for the Sandy River spring chinook sport fishery.
- Many Washington tributaries of the Columbia River are expected to open for spring chinook angling in 2003. Announcements of season dates and times are expected soon.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

2003 Treaty Indian Sturgeon Setline Season

- Under permanent Compact rules the commercial sturgeon setline fishery is open from January 1-31, 2003.
- Landings through January 31 have totaled 17 white sturgeon.
- Catch is typically low in this season with landings ranging between 11-173 white sturgeon during 1996-2002.

2003 Treaty Indian Winter Gillnet Season

- The treaty Indian mainstem winter commercial season was adopted at the December 18, 2002 Compact hearing.
- The adopted season includes all of Zone 6 from noon Saturday February 1 through noon Friday March 21.
- Other fishery regulations in effect include all standard sanctuaries, except no Spring Creek sanctuary; no mesh size restrictions; allowable sales of salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, and carp; and 48"-60" size limits for sturgeon.

2003 Treaty Indian Spring and Summer Ceremonial and Subsistence (C&S) Fisheries

- The tribes may recommend spring and summer C&S season options at this hearing.

2003 Treaty Indian Experimental Tribal Zone 6 Target Shad Season

- In 2003, the tribes may implement a shad dipnet fishery at The Dalles Dam east ladder exit if a market can be identified. Gear and methods will have little or no adverse impact to listed salmonids.

<i>Recommendation for Treaty Indian Shad Fisheries</i>
The Joint Staff is recommending that treaty Indian fishers continue to be allowed to sell shad caught incidental to commercial salmonid seasons and in traditional dipnet fisheries, as well as the proposed experimental trap and dipnet fisheries.

SELECT AREA FISHERIES

- During 1990-1994 smolts were released into Youngs Bay by Clatsop Economic Development Council (CEDC) fisheries project in cooperation with the ODFW.
- The Select Area Fisheries Evaluation (SAFE) Project, funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), increased and expanded the spring chinook program beginning in 1995. The SAFE Project created under the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, is an interagency (CEDC, WDFW, and ODFW) coalition whose goal is to create and expand known stock fisheries in the Columbia River Basin that allow harvest of strong stocks while protecting depressed stocks.
- Since 1996 spring chinook releases have stabilized at about 1 million smolts annually.
- The 11,700 spring chinook landed in 2002 Select Area fisheries was a record large catch.

- Based on visual stock identification (VSI) and coded-wire-tag (CWT) recoveries, catch in SAFE fisheries has been comprised of 83% local, 15% lower river, and 2% upriver stocks during the year 1998-2002.
- Since 1998 impacts to listed Snake River wild spring chinook have ranged between 0.03% and 0.20% and have averaged 0.1%.
- Sport fisheries have improved in recent years. Based on limited creel surveys in 2002 minimum spring chinook catch estimates were 100 for Youngs Bay and 600 for Blind Slough.
- A public meeting was held in Astoria, Oregon on Monday February 3, 2003. The purpose of this meeting was to solicit input from interested participants concerning 2003 winter, spring, and summer fishery recommendations. Input received was considered by staff in developing fishery recommendations for the winter, spring, and summer of 2003.

Fishery Objectives

- Maximize commercial harvest while providing quality sport fishing opportunity.
- Minimize impacts on nonlocal chinook and steelhead.

Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are concurrent jurisdiction waters and require Compact action.
- A license from either Oregon or Washington is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following season for the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area:	
Spring Season:	Thursday nights during April 17 through April 25 and Tuesday and Thursday nights during April 29 through June 13 (16 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Tongue Point and South Channel areas (see map).
Gear:	In the Tongue Point fishing area restrict gear to 8-inch maximum mesh size, net to maximum length of 250 fathoms, and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area restrict gear to 8-inch maximum mesh size, net to maximum length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Participants in the Tongue Point fishery may have stored onboard their boat, gill nets with leadline in excess of two pounds per any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ Fishing periods are recommended to occur in conjunction with Blind Slough/Knappa Slough fishing periods at Industries' request to develop more orderly fisheries.
- ✓ Season may be modified depending on mainstem season during late April and May.
- ✓ The 8-inch maximum mesh size is recommended to target salmon not sturgeon.
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.
- ✓ Special transportation permits have not been required since the 1999 spring season.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The Joint Staff is recommending the following seasons for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area:	
Winter Season:	Saturday nights from February 15 through March 2 (3 nights). Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Thursday nights during April 17 through April 25 and Tuesday and Thursday nights during April 29 through June 13. (16 nights). Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Blind Slough area only open during winter season and Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas open during spring season (see map).
Gear:	A 7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season and an 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the spring season. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. During the winter season a maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations would be in effect.

- ✓ The winter season is recommended to target early arrivals of age 5 spring chinook.
- ✓ Weekend fishing periods during the winter season eliminate overlapping open fishing periods for mainstem and Select Areas.
- ✓ Previous monitoring data has shown that steelhead handle during winter season is negligible.
- ✓ A 7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction has shown to be effective at targeting spring chinook and reducing steelhead handle.
- ✓ Spring season may be modified depending on mainstem seasons during late April and May.
- ✓ The 8" maximum mesh size restriction is recommended to target salmon not sturgeon,
- ✓ Night fishing periods and weekend closures will minimize interactions with recreational boaters.
- ✓ Special transportation permits have not been required since the 1999 spring season.

Deep River Commercial Fishery

- The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will be considering a proposal to change the definition of the river mouth boundary for Deep River at their meeting on February 7-8. The WDFW staff is proposing that the commercial boundary be at the Highway 4 Bridge.

- The WDFW intends to open the Deep River commercial fishery during late March to early April to harvest net pen reared spring chinook that have been released at that site.
- The WDFW staff recommends that a decision regarding the Deep River commercial fishery be considered at future Compact hearing.

Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required to participate in this fishery.

<i>Recommendation</i>	
The ODFW staff is recommending the following seasons for the Youngs Bay Select Area:	
Winter Season:	5 AM - 9 PM Tuesday February 18 (16 hours) Noon Saturday February 22 - 6 PM Sunday February 23 (30 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Tuesday February 25 (16 hours) Noon Saturday March 1 - 6 PM Sunday March 2 (30 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Tuesday March 4 (16 hours) Noon Saturday March 8 - 6 PM Sunday March 9 (30 hours)
Spring Season:	Noon Wednesday April 16 - 6 PM Friday April 18 (2 days) Noon Wednesday April 23 - 6 PM Friday April 25 (2 days) Noon Tuesday April 29 - 6 PM Friday May 2 (3 days) Noon Monday May 5 - 6 PM Friday May 9 (4 days) Noon Monday May 12 - 6 PM Friday May 16 (4 days) Noon Monday May 19 - 6 PM Friday May 23 (4 days) Noon Monday May 26 - 6 PM Friday May 30 (4 days) Noon Monday June 2 - 6 PM Friday June 6 (4 days) Noon Monday June 9 - 6 PM Thursday June 12 (3 days)
Summer Season	Noon Wednesday June 18 - 6 PM Friday June 20 (2 days) Noon Wednesday June 25- 6 PM Friday June 27 (2 days) Noon Wednesday July 2- 6 PM Thursday July 3 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 9- 6 PM Thursday July 10 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 16- 6 PM Thursday July 17 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 23- 6 PM Thursday July 24 (1 day) Noon Wednesday July 30- 6 PM Thursday July 31 (1 day)
Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers (see map).
Gear:	7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction during the winter season. 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction in effect during the spring and summer seasons. Restrict net to maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon, sturgeon, and shad. During the winter season a maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special permit would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ The 6-day winter season will target the first arrivals of the age 5 component of the run prior to the time when significant interceptions of nonlocal chinook stocks occur.
- ✓ Tuesday and weekend fishing periods during the winter season eliminate overlapping open fishing periods for mainstem and Select Areas.
- ✓ Previous monitoring data has shown that steelhead handle during winter season is negligible.

- ✓ A 7-¼ inch minimum mesh size restriction has shown to be effective at targeting spring chinook and reducing steelhead handle in past fisheries.
- ✓ The 30-day spring fishery opening in late April with two, 2-day fishing periods followed by an increasing progression of fishing days through the season is designed to maximize the harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts on nonlocal stocks.
- ✓ The 9-day summer fishery during June 8 - July 31 is recommended to provide harvest opportunity on early returning SAB stock fall chinook and remaining local spring chinook.
- ✓ Fishing periods late in week during summer season were requested by commercial industry representatives to facilitate direct sales to public.
- ✓ Since 1979, transportation of catch by fishers out of Youngs Bay during the mainstem closed season has been prohibited. Special transportation rules have not been in effect since the 1999 spring season.

Sport Fisheries

- Permanent Oregon angling regulations for waters within the select areas of Youngs Bay, Tongue Point Basin/South Channel, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2003 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations booklet and are open to chinook salmon, adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.
- Permanent Washington sport fishing rules list waters of Deep River open to chinook salmon, fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.

<i>Summary of Recommendations For Non-Indian Fisheries</i>
➤ Adopt the sturgeon retention protocol for commercial fisheries during 2003-2005 as proposed on page 7.
➤ Adopt the adipose fin-clipped winter salmon commercial demonstration season as proposed on page 8.
➤ Adopt the commercial shad season as proposed on page 9.
➤ Adopt the anchovy and herring bait fishery as proposed on page 9.
➤ Adopt the spring chinook sport fishery as proposed on page 10.
➤ Adopt the steelhead and shad sport fishery as proposed on page 10.
➤ Adopt Select Area commercial fishing seasons as proposed on pages 11 -14.

NEXT COMPACT HEARING

- The Joint Staff recommends that the next Compact hearing be scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2003 at 10 AM at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife headquarters commission room, located at 2501 SW First Avenue, Portland, Oregon to consider commercial fishing seasons for salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt.
- Additional Compact hearings will be held as needed to modify ongoing fisheries.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 February 6, 2003

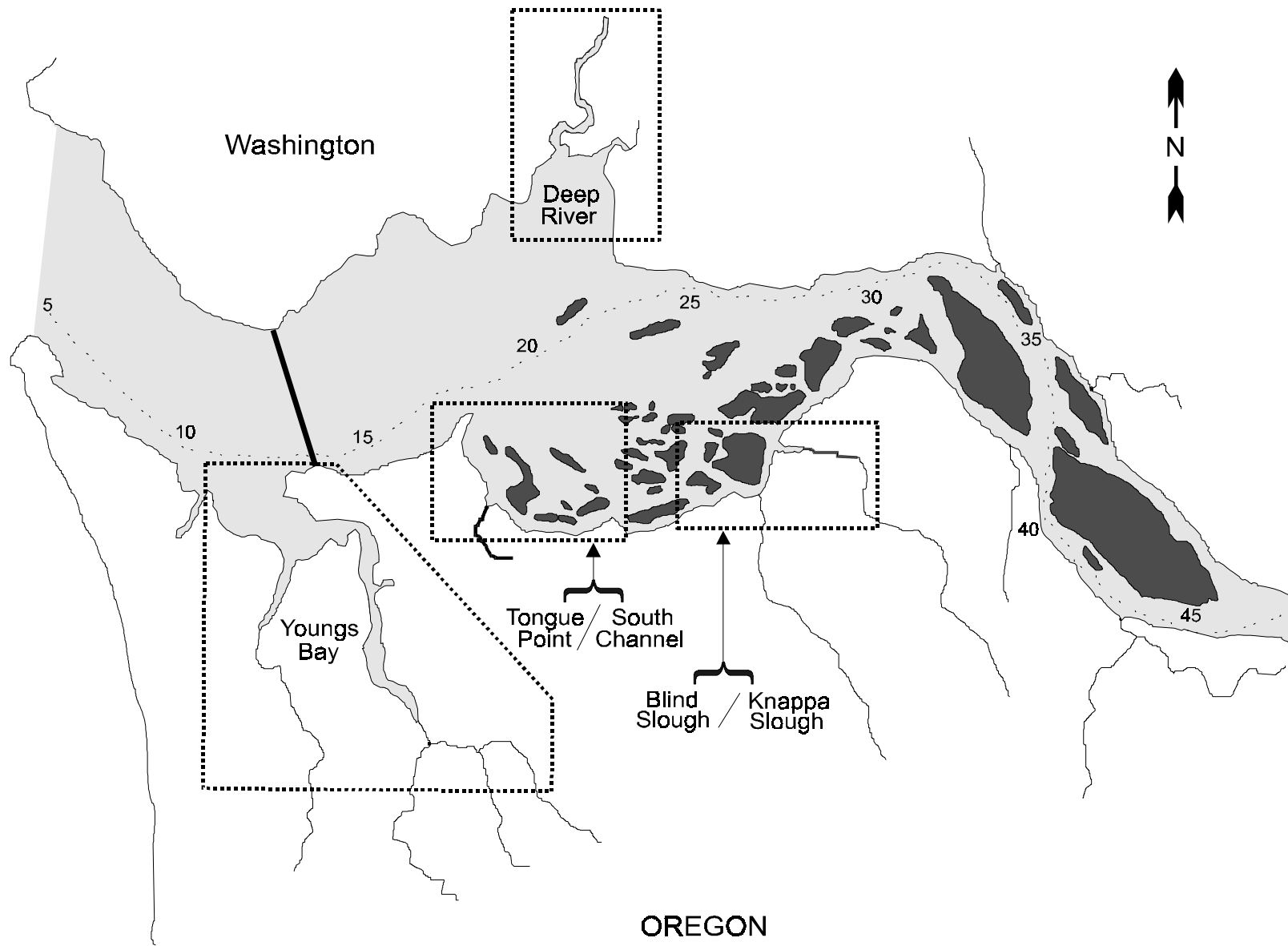


Figure 1. Select Area Fishery Locations

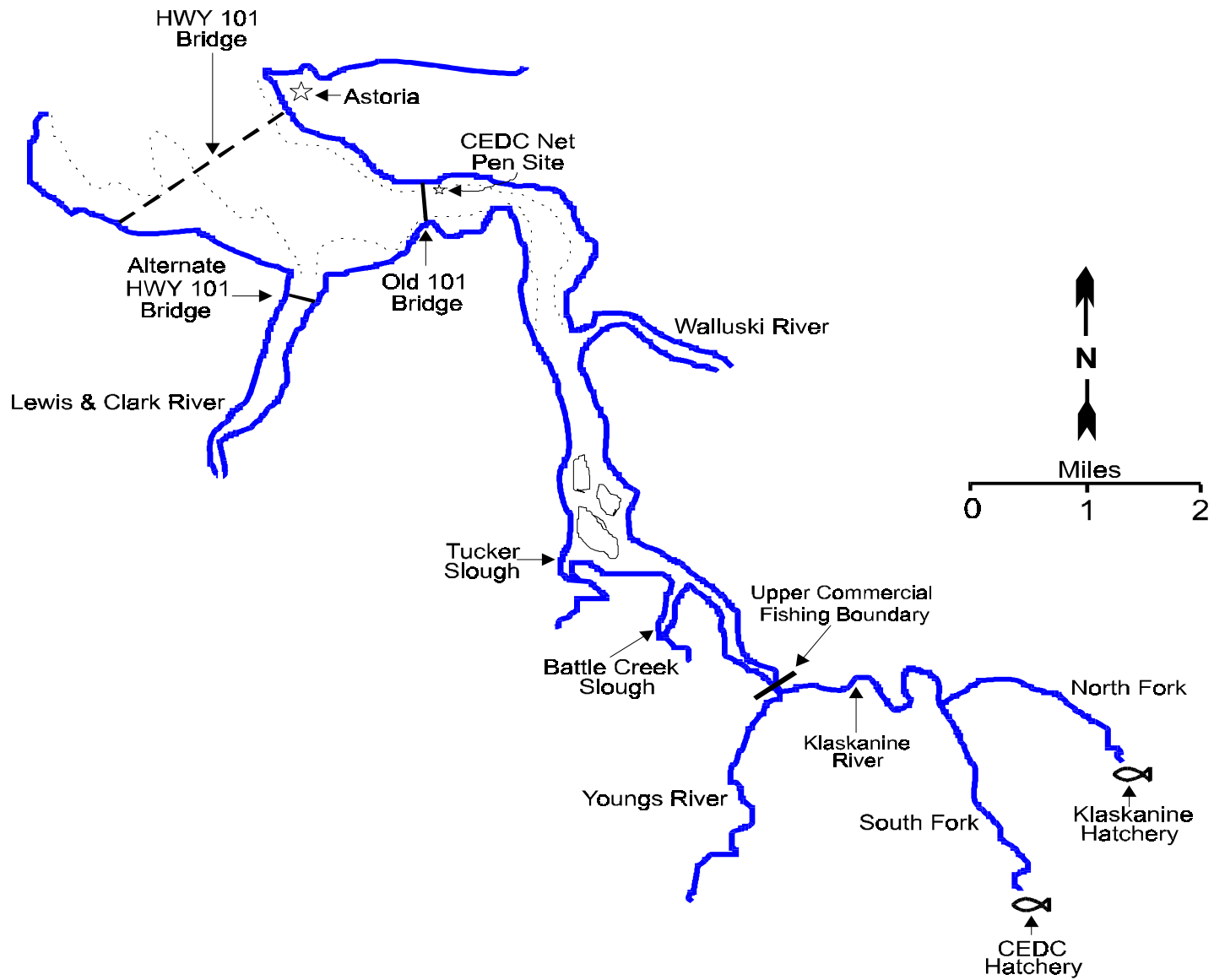


Figure 2. Youngs Bay Select Area Fishery Site.

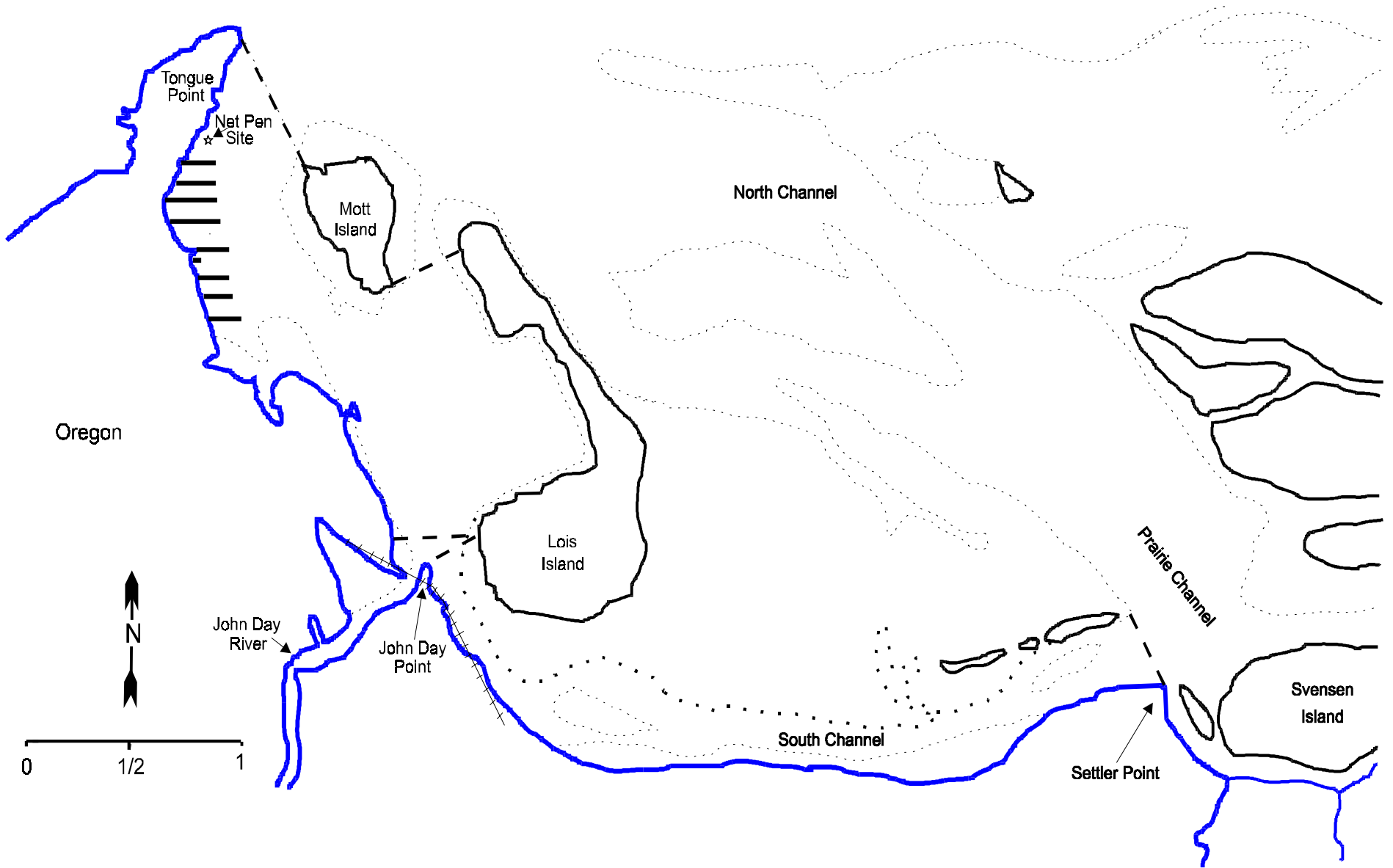


Figure 3. Tongue Point Basin/South Channel Select Area Fishery Site.

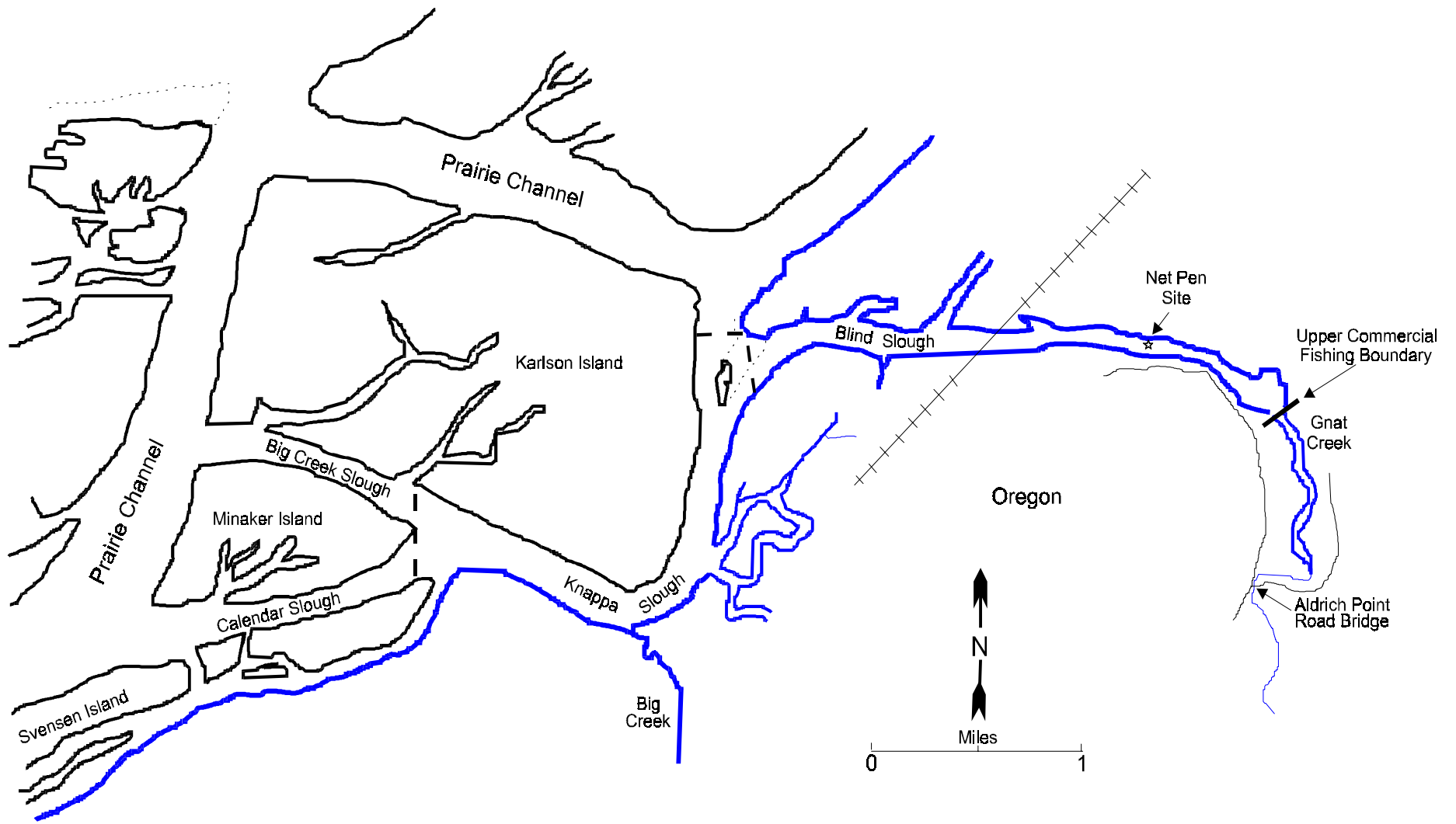


Figure 4. Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area Fishery Site.

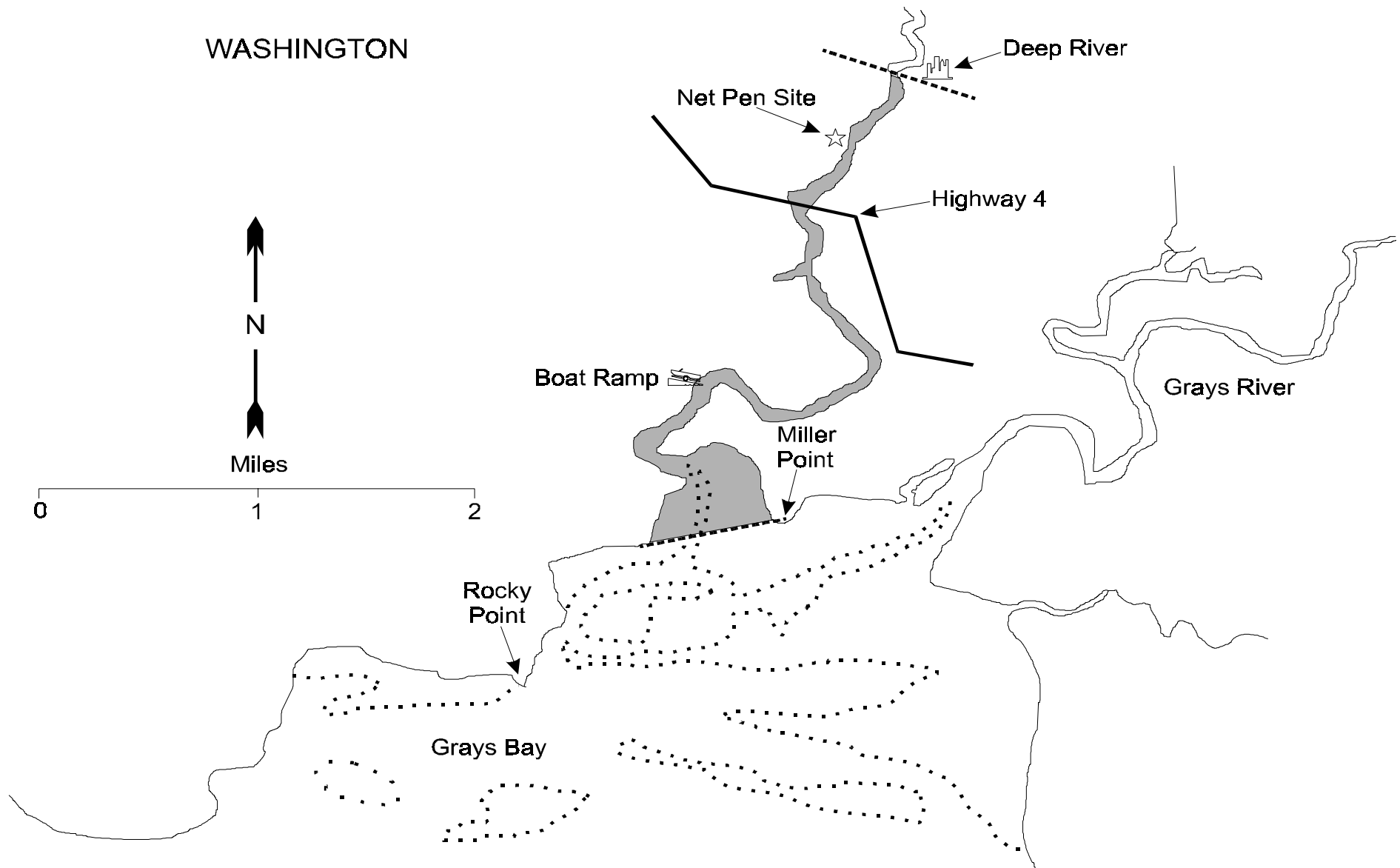


Figure 5. Deep River Select Area Fishing Site.