

**2003 FALL SELECT AREA FISHERIES  
FACT SHEET  
Compact/Joint State Hearing  
July 30, 2003**

**PURPOSE:** Consider fall commercial salmon seasons in Columbia River Select Fishing Areas of Big Creek, Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Deep River, Steamboat Slough, and Youngs Bay

**2003 Management Considerations and Expected Returns**

***Salmon Management***

- Select Area fishery impacts on nonlocal and listed Columbia River salmon and steelhead have been addressed in a combined treaty Indian and non-Indian Biological Assessment concerning fall fisheries.
- SAB fall chinook escapement requirements to Klaskanine Hatchery include 300 females for broodstock need and 900 females for full program needs.
- A 3,000 adult escapement goal is in place for Big Creek tule fall chinook.

***Sturgeon Allocation***

- Sturgeon landings will be managed in accordance with protocol adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.
  - ✓ Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
  - ✓ 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.

***Expected Returns***

- Good coho returns are expected to all Select Area fishing sites in 2003.
- SAB fall chinook return remains below full production due to reduced escapement during parental return years.
- SAB catches to date are less than preseason expectations in Select Area fisheries.
- Tule fall chinook returns to Big Creek Hatchery are expected to be well above the hatchery escapement goal.

<i>Salmon Returns to Select Area Fishing Sites During Fall of 2003</i>		
Select Area	Expected Adult Return To Select Areas	Harvest Potential
Youngs Bay	29,400 early coho	29,400
	4,300 SAB fall chinook	3,100
Big Creek	15,300 tule fall chinook	12,300
Tongue Point	7,800 early coho	7,800
Blind Slough	4,000 early coho	4,000
Deep River	4,200 early coho	4,200
Steamboat Slough	1,900 early coho	1,900

## Past Fisheries and Management

### *Big Creek Fishery*

- Fishery occurs intermittently when stock abundance allows.
- Provides opportunity to harvest large returns of tule fall chinook destined for Big Creek Hatchery thereby reducing surplus broodstock returning to hatchery.
- Past fisheries had minor impacts on non-local stocks.

<i>Landings in Prior Big Creek Select Area Fisheries</i>			
<u>Year</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
1983	1,200	6	11
1987	14,700	746	3
1988	9,200	172	1
1996	3,400	143	25
1997	2,000	55	20
2002	Included in Blind Slough Landings		

### *Youngs Bay Fishery*

- The fishery has occurred annually since 1962, with openings concurrent with the late fall mainstem gillnet season through 1976.
- Beginning in 1977 separate Youngs Bay seasons were adopted and the fishery increased in importance with CEDC's involvement, especially the development of the successful net-pen acclimation program for coho.
- Fall fisheries target coho with the goal of harvesting 100% of net-pen produced coho and providing for some harvest of SAB fall chinook while allowing adequate escapement of SAB fall chinook to Klaskanine Hatchery for broodstock needs.
- Impact on non-local stocks is typically very low in this fishery.
- Since 1993 the number of days open prior to Labor Day have been reduced in an effort to provide fishing opportunities for recreational anglers. Recently closed periods during August have been adopted to increase escapement of SAB fall chinook to Klaskanine Hatchery.

<i>Recent Youngs Bay Fall Seasons and Associated Landings</i>					
<u>Year</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
1990	73	3,200	27,600	21	8
1991	74	2,200	82,100	13	31
1992	76	1,600	19,600	46	31
1993	70	400	15,500	4	17
1994	44	100	57,800	14	4
1995	65	800	22,300	7	65
1996	62	1,400	15,800	3	85
1997	66	1,700	13,600	2	76
1998	64	1,400	19,500	2	102
1999	59	1,600	15,900	2	99
2000	61	1,700	33,200	1	88
2001	62	2,000	25,500	1	21
2002	66	3,800	51,900	0	96

### *Other Select Area Fisheries*

- Other Select Areas include Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knapa Slough, Deep River, and Steamboat Slough.
- These fisheries, excluding Steamboat Slough, were established in 1996 as part of the BPA-funded Select Area Fisheries Enhancement Project and are intended to allow for 100% harvest of net-pen produced coho salmon. The Steamboat Slough fishery was initiated in 2000.

<i>Landings During Previous Fall Seasons in other Select Area Fishing Sites</i>					
		<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
<u>1996</u>	Tongue Point	2,000	50	0	-
	Blind Slough	2,300	82	2	-
	Deep River	2,200	35	0	-
<u>1997</u>	Tongue Point	900	180	1	-
	Blind Slough	1,600	32	0	-
	Deep River	1,000	149	1	-
<u>1998</u>	Tongue Point	3,400	431	1	68
	Blind Slough	600	95	0	1
<u>1999</u>	Tongue Point	3,700	339	0	106
	Blind Slough	2,000	167	0	4
	Deep River	1,400	48	2	0
<u>2000</u>	Tongue Point	10,700	252	0	59
	Blind Slough	3,400	132	0	9
	Deep River	13,800	109	1	0
	Steamboat Slough	400	78	0	1
<u>2001</u>	Tongue Point	2,000	122	0	0
	Blind Slough	3,800	793	0	0
	Deep River	2,400	149	0	0
	Steamboat Slough	<100	0	0	0
<u>2002</u>	Tongue Point	15,600	1,708	0	202
	Blind Slough	1,400	2,760	0	33
	Deep River	300	145	1	3
	Steamboat Slough	100	171	0	0

- Coho catch composition indicates low levels of non-local stocks in these fisheries and impacts to non-local fall chinook stocks are typically low in these fisheries.
- Chum impacts are typically very low with fewer than five chum landed per year.
- Sturgeon sales in other Select Areas were not allowed prior to 1998.

### **2003 Fall Fishery Proposals**

- A public meeting was held on July 28, 2003 to discuss fall fishery proposals with interested participants and the results are as follows:
  - ✓ Fisheries structure used in 2001 and 2002 was effective and should be repeated in 2003.
  - ✓ Additional late August and early September fishing opportunities in both Blind Slough and Knappa Slough to harvest surplus tule fall chinook destined for Big Creek Hatchery were supported. Effectiveness of the fishery will be strongly affected by market conditions, as was the case in 2002.
  - ✓ Additional fishing time prior to or during the Labor Day weekend in Youngs Bay was requested to support direct sales to the general public. A Friday night fishery was preferred over a Saturday night fishery.
- The following Joint Staff recommendations are consistent with results of the July 28 public meeting and past fishery regulations. Recommendations for other Select Area fisheries will include:

- ✓ A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction to target coho and reduce handle of white sturgeon and chinook salmon.
- ✓ Weekend closures and nighttime fishing periods to minimize interaction with recreational boaters.
- ✓ Additional fishing hours in October that coincide with longer nights.

***Big Creek 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.
- The traditional Big Creek terminal fishing area is the same as the current Knappa Slough select area.

<i>Staff Recommendation</i>
Adopt a fishery for the Big Creek terminal fishing area for the fall of 2003 as part of the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area fishery.

***Tongue Point/South Channel 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>Staff Recommendation</i>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area for the fall of 2003:	
Season:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 2 through October 31 (35 nights).  Open during 7 pm-7 am (12 hours) through September 26 and open 6 pm-8 am (14 hours) thereafter.
Area:	Tongue Point area only open through September 12 and Tongue Point and South Channel areas open thereafter (see map).
Gear:	In the Tongue Point fishing area restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, 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 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline.  Participants in the Tongue Point fishery may have stored onboard their boats, gill nets with leadline in excess of two pounds per any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ The later opening for the South Channel area is designed to minimize catch of non-local stocks.
- ✓ Area is expanded to include South Channel area to reduce congestion and harvest 100% of the net-pen produced coho.

***Blind Slough/Knappa Slough 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.

<b><i>Staff Recommendation</i></b>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area for the fall of 2003:	
Season:	7 pm Monday August 25 - 7 pm Thursday August 28 (3 days)  Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 2 through October 31 (35 nights).  Open during 7 pm - 7 am (12 hours) during September 2 through September 26 and open 6 pm - 8 am (14 hours) thereafter.
Area:	Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas (see map).
Gear:	In both fishing areas restrict gear to 9-¾ inch maximum mesh size prior to September 16 and to 6-inch maximum mesh size thereafter, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation permits would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation regulations would be in effect.

- ✓ Harvestable surplus of tule fall chinook destined for Big Creek Hatchery will support chinook-directed fisheries.
- ✓ August fishing opportunities in the Knappa Slough and Blind Slough fishing areas are designed to maximize catch of surplus tule fall chinook destined for Big Creek Hatchery.
- ✓ Area includes the Knappa Slough fishing area during the entire season to reduce congestion and harvest the expected large chinook return destined for Big Creek Hatchery.
- ✓ The 9-¾ inch maximum mesh size restriction prior to September 16 allows fishers to target fall chinook when abundance is high.

### ***Deep River Fishery***

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Hwy. 4 Bridge and require Compact action.
- Washington state waters extend upstream from the Hwy. 4 Bridge and require Washington state action.
- A Washington license is required in Washington state waters and either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Deep River Select Area for the fall of 2003:	
Season:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 2 through October 31 (35 nights). Open during 7 pm - 7 am (12 hours) through September 26 and open 6 pm - 8 am (14 hours) thereafter.
Area:	Deep River fishing area (see map)
Gear:	Restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special transportation rules would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ Fishing area is designed to minimize impacts on non-local stocks.
- ✓ Fishing season is designed to harvest 100% of the net pen produced coho.

### ***Steamboat Slough 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.

<b><i>Staff Recommendation</i></b>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Steamboat Slough Select Area for the fall of 2003:	
Season:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 2 through October 31 (35 nights). Open during 7 pm - 7 am (12 hours) through September 26 and open 6 pm - 8 am (14 hours) thereafter.
Area:	Steamboat Slough fishing area (see map).
Gear:	Restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area is unlawful unless by licensed buyer. An exception to the rule would allow fishers to transport their catch out of the fishing area with a permit issued by an authorized agency employee after examining the catch.

- ✓ Steamboat Slough is a new fishery that is still in the experimental phase.
- ✓ The strict transportation rules will insure full accounting and 100% sampling of the catch.

## ***Youngs Bay 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.

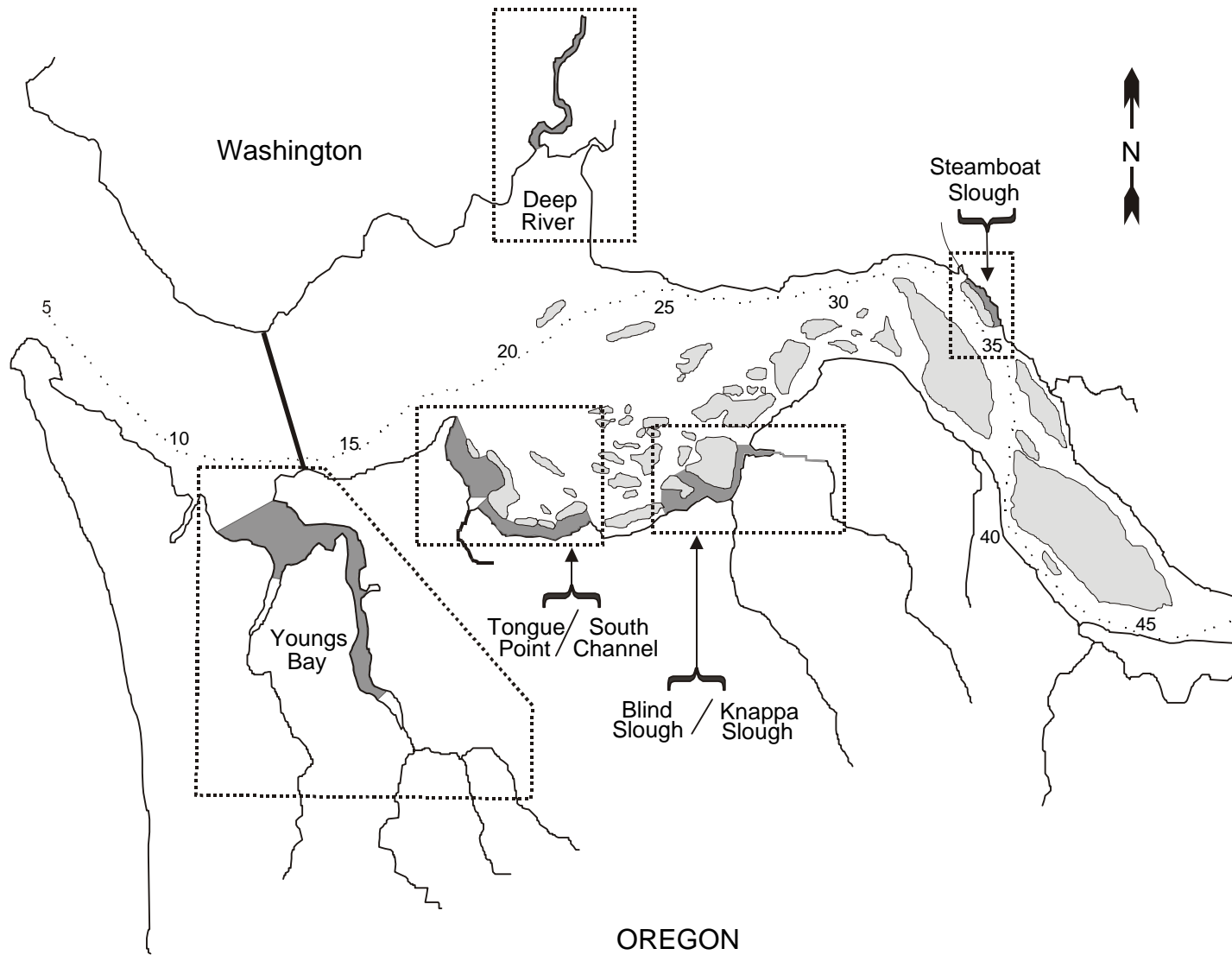
<b><i>Staff Recommendation</i></b>	
Adopt the following fishery for the Youngs Bay Select Area for the fall of 2003:	
Season:	Noon Wednesday August 6 to 6 pm Thursday August 7 (30 hours) Noon Wednesday August 13 to 6 pm Thursday August 14 (30 hours) Noon Wednesday August 20 to 6 pm Thursday August 21 (30 hours) Noon Wednesday August 27 to 6 pm Thursday August 28 (30 hours) 6 pm Friday August 29 to 6 am Saturday August 30 (12 hours) Noon Tuesday September 2 - 6 pm Friday October 31 (59 days)
Area:	Youngs Bay fishing area with upper boundary at Battle Creek Slough (see map).
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction through August 28 and 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction thereafter.  Restrict net to maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of seven sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday), during August 3-16. The seven sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Special permit would not be required to take fish outside the fishing area. Permanent transportation rules would be in effect.

- ✓ The short 30-hour fishing periods in August allow for some harvest of net-pen produced SAB fall chinook while minimizing interception of SAB broodstock and non-local salmon and steelhead stocks.
- ✓ The 12-hour fishing period prior to Labor Day weekend provides for increased opportunity to directly market fish to the general public during the Labor Day weekend.
- ✓ Proposed fishery is consistent with past Youngs Bay August chinook salmon seasons.
- ✓ Upper fishing boundary at Battle Creek Slough is intended to protect SAB fall chinook destined for Klaskanine Hatchery.
- ✓ Continuous fishing after Labor Day is an effort to harvest 100% of the net-pen produced coho returning to Youngs Bay.
- ✓ A 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction targets the fishery on coho when abundance begins to peak in the fishing area.
- ✓ The proposed weekly sturgeon retention regulation is consistent with the white sturgeon protocol.

## ***Sport Fisheries***

- As per permanent regulations the Youngs Bay, Tongue Point/Sough Channel, and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Areas are open the entire year for chinook and adipose fin-clipped coho.
- The Deep River and Steamboat Slough Select Areas are open for salmon August 1-December 31. Wild (non fin-clipped) coho must be released.
- Closed commercial fishing periods prior to Labor Day provide for recreational opportunity during period of building salmon abundance.

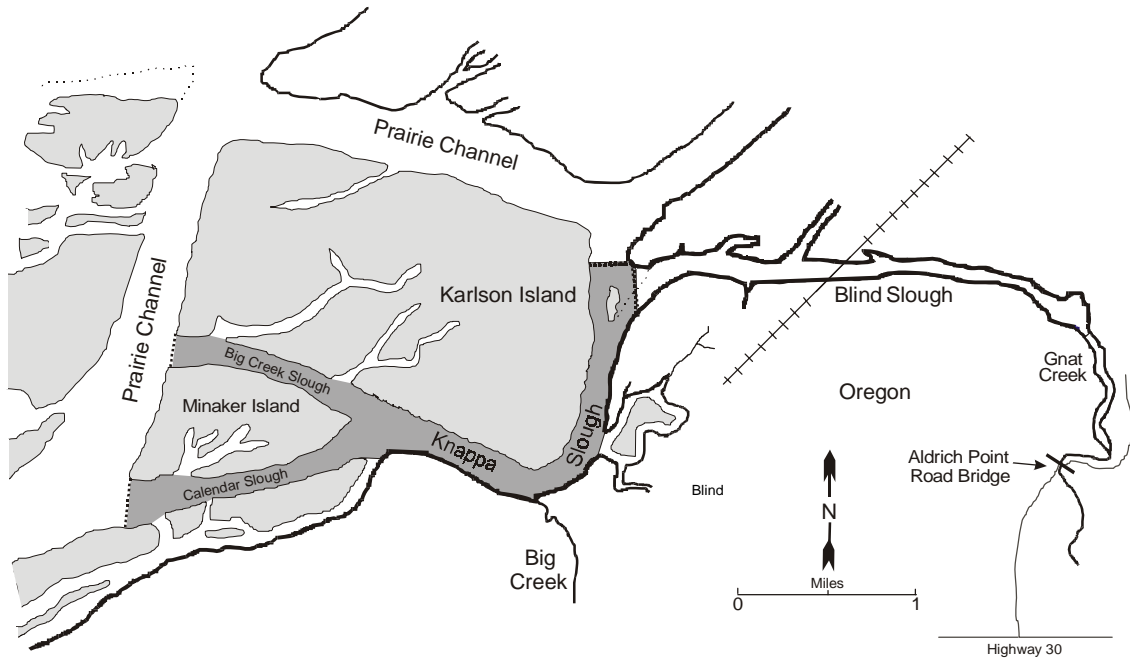
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
July 30, 2003



Fall Select Area Fishery Locations



# Big Creek

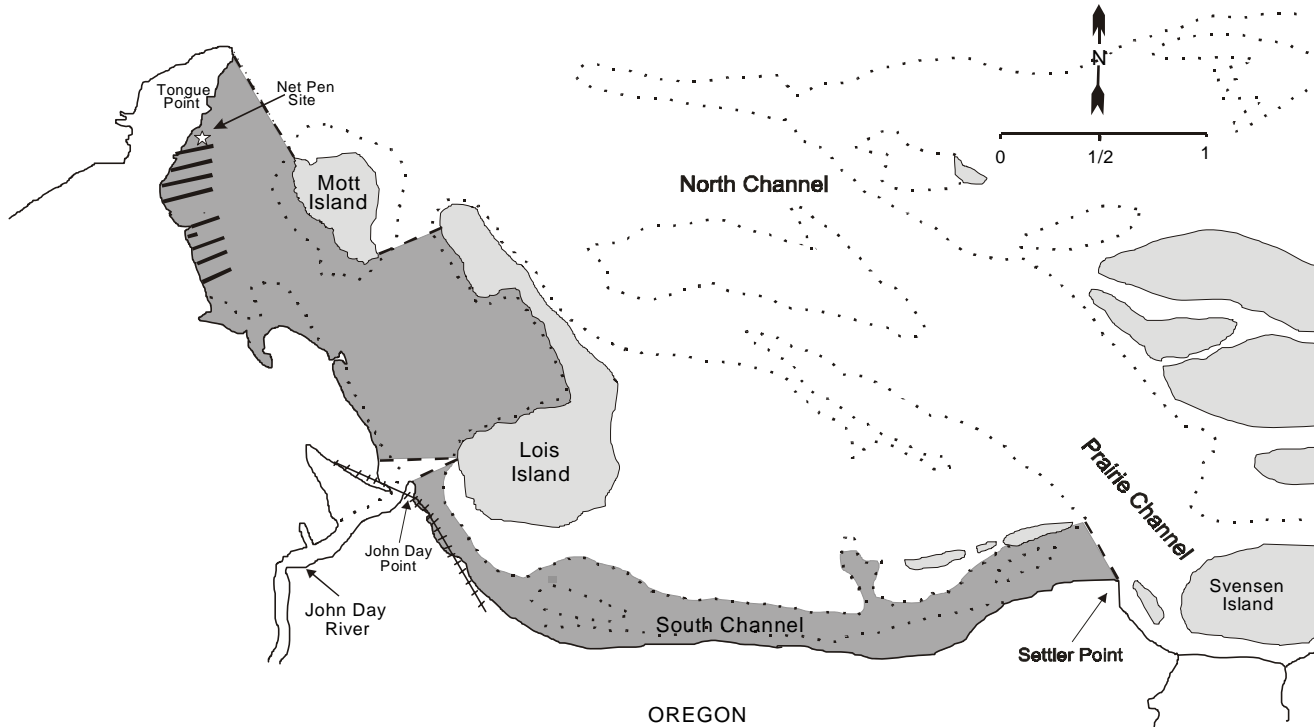


Big Creek Select Area Fishery Site

## *Commercial Fishing Area*

**Big Creek** fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from the northerly most marker at the mouth of Blind Slough westerly to a marker on Karlson Island downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the western end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore. An area closure of about a 100' radius at the mouth of Big Creek defined by markers. All waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.

# Tongue Point/South Channel



## *Commercial Fishing Areas*

**Tongue Point** fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from the red light at Tongue Point to the flashing green light at the rock jetty on the northwesterly tip of Mott Island, a line from a marker at the south end of Mott Island easterly to a marker on the northwest bank on Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island due westerly to a marker on the opposite bank. All waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.

**South Channel** area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green buoy "7" thence to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to flashing red marker 10" thence northwesterly to a marker on the sand bar defining the terminus of South Channel. All waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.

## Blind Slough/Knappa Slough

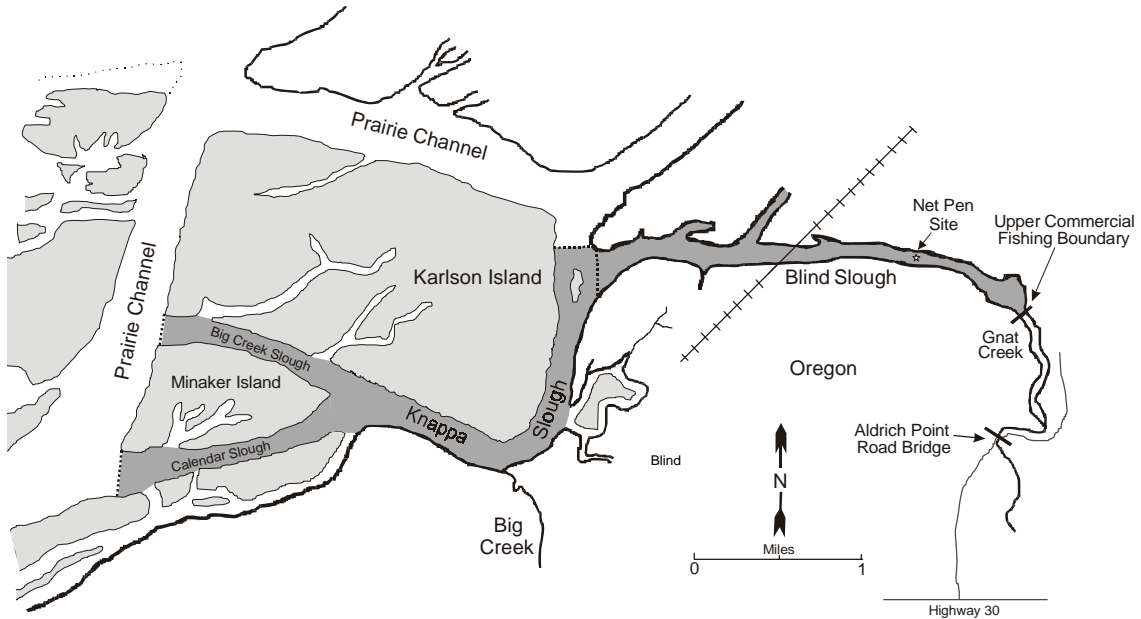


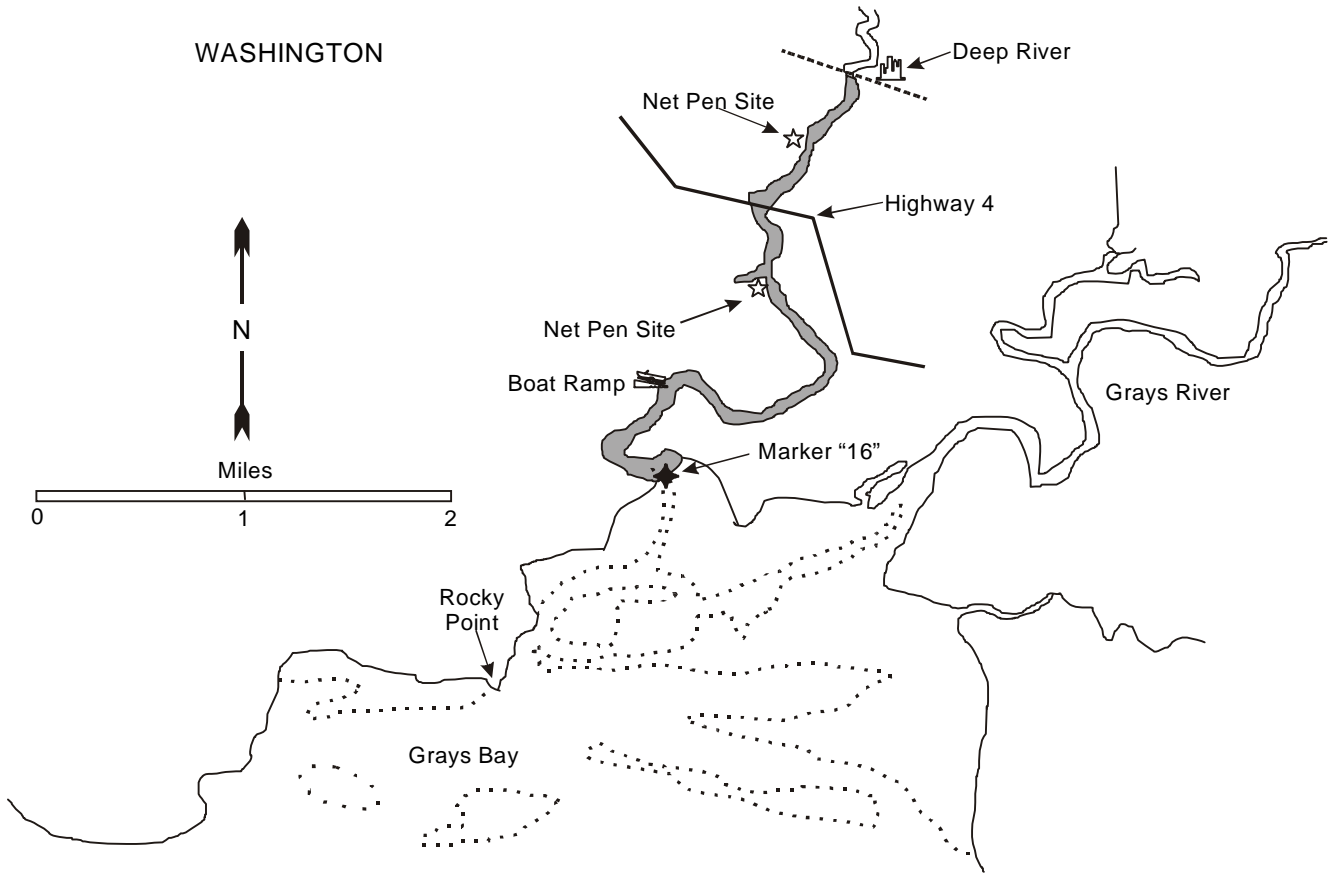
Figure 4. Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area Fishery Site

### *Commercial Fishing Areas*

**Blind Slough** fishing area includes all waters from markers at the mouth of Gnat Creek located approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile upstream of the county road bridge downstream to markers at the mouth of Blind Slough. Concurrent waters extend downstream of the railroad bridge. Oregon State waters extend upstream of the railroad bridge.

**Knappa Slough** fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from the northerly most marker at the mouth of Blind Slough westerly to a marker on Karlson Island downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the western end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore. An area closure of about a 100' radius at the mouth of Big Creek defined by markers. All waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.

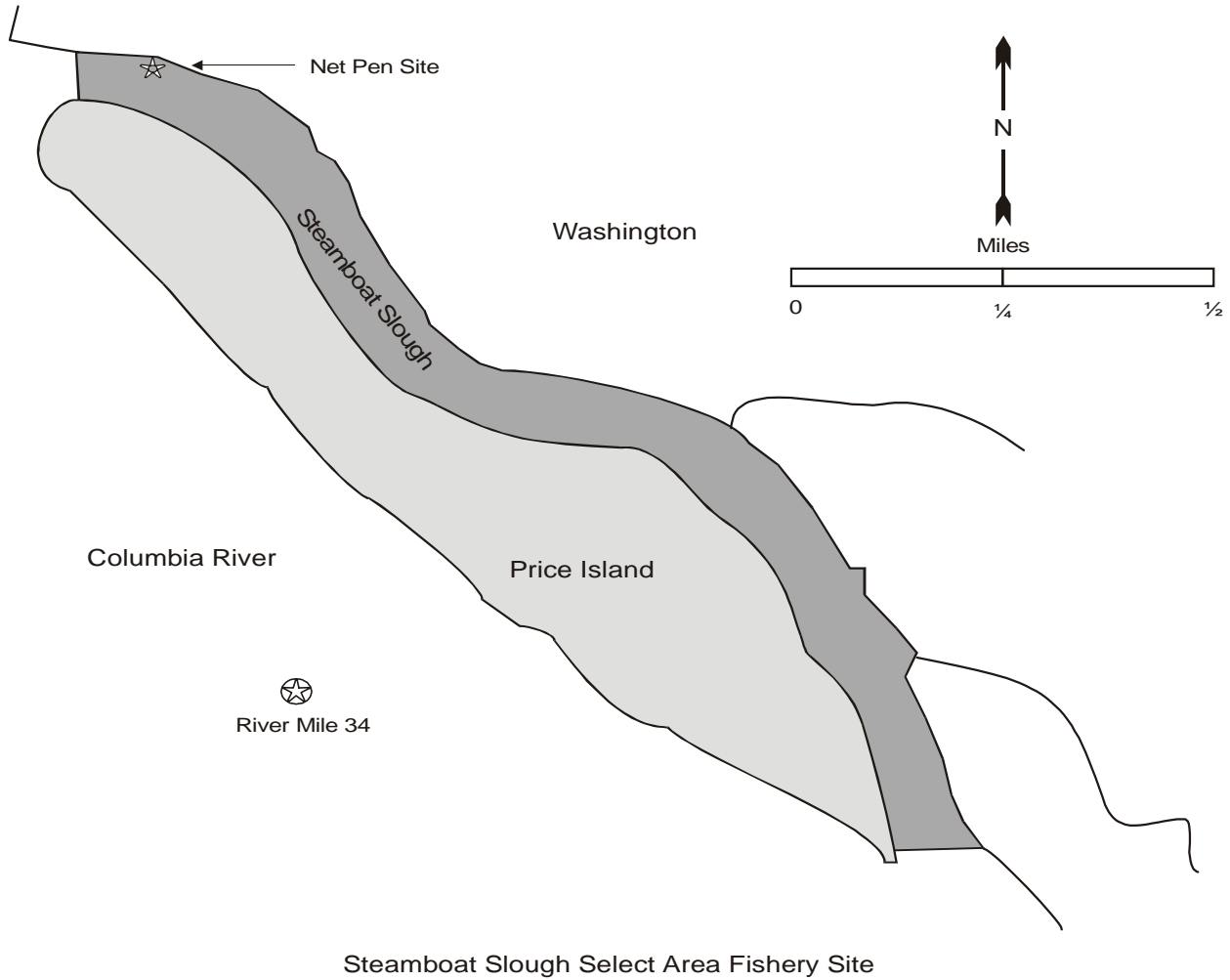
# Deep River



## *Commercial Fishing Area*

**Deep River** fishing area includes all waters downriver from the town of Deep River to the mouth (a line from navigation marker "16" southwest to a marker on the Washington shore). Concurrent waters extend downstream of the Highway 4 bridge. Washington State waters extend upstream of the Highway 4 bridge.

# Steamboat Slough

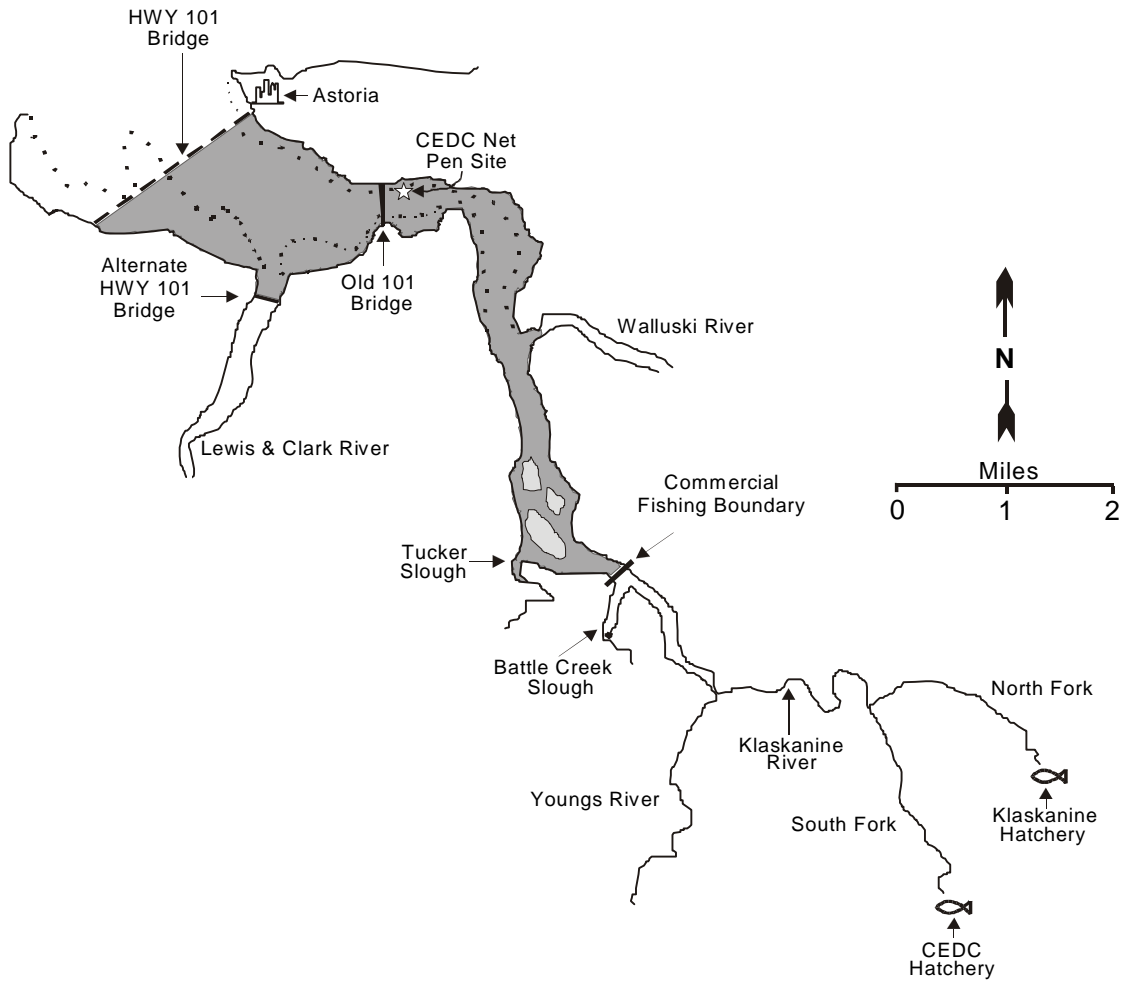


Steamboat Slough Select Area Fishery Site

## *Commercial Fishing Area*

**Steamboat Slough** fishing area includes all waters bounded by markers on Price Island and the Washington shore at both ends of Steamboat Slough. All waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.

# Youngs Bay



## *Commercial Fishing Area*

**Youngs Bay** fishing area includes those waters of Youngs Bay from the new Highway 101 Bridge upstream to either the upper boundary markers at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers or Battle Creek Slough; except for those waters which are closed southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River). Upper fishing boundary varies between Battle Creek Slough and confluence of Youngs and Klaskanine rivers depending on adopted fishery. All waters are under State of Oregon jurisdiction.