

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
January 28, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:

- Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon fishing plan
- Select Area commercial and recreational fisheries
- Recreational salmon fisheries
- Non-Indian mainstem commercial research-level smelt fishery
- Recreational tributary research-level smelt fishery

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent reports are the 2015 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (December 18, 2014) and the 2015 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 21, 2015). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Columbia River Smelt (Eulachon)

Columbia River smelt (*Eulachon*) return annually to the Columbia River to spawn in the mainstem and several of its tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam. The fish typically begin to enter the Columbia River in December and peak tributary abundance is usually in February. Columbia River smelt are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Upriver Spring Chinook

The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between January 1 and June 15 are managed as upriver spring Chinook. Snake River wild spring/summer Chinook and upper Columbia wild spring Chinook are components of this run and are federally-listed under the ESA. Spring Chinook returning to other tributaries above Bonneville Dam are part of this run but are not ESA-listed. Based on the recent ten-year average, Bonneville Dam passage is usually 50% complete by May 8. Over the past ten years, adult runs have averaged around 178,000 (range 86,000 to 315,000).

Willamette Spring Chinook

Willamette River spring Chinook exhibit broader migration timing than upriver spring Chinook. Wild spring Chinook destined for portions of the Willamette River and its tributaries are ESA-listed. Over the past ten years, runs (adults and jacks) have averaged around 58,000 fish (range 27,000 to 110,000).

Lower Columbia Spring Chinook

Spring Chinook returning to the tributaries of the lower Columbia River are destined for the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Sandy rivers and the Select Areas. Wild components of this group are ESA-listed, with the exception of the Select Area fish. Over the past ten years, the combined adult return of these lower river stocks has averaged around 20,000 fish (range 10,000 to 24,000) in the tributaries and 8,000 fish (range 2,000 to 26,000) in Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Wild populations from the Cowlitz River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek and from specific areas above Willamette Falls are ESA-listed. Steelhead handled downstream of Bonneville Dam during November through April are managed as winter steelhead. Over the past ten years, wild winter steelhead returns have averaged around 16,000 fish (range 12,000 to 20,000).

<i>Columbia River Mouth Fish Returns Actual and Forecasts**</i>					
			2014 Forecast	2014 Return	2015 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Total Spring Chinook		308,000	315,600	312,600
	Willamette		58,700	51,800	55,400
	Sandy		5,500	6,000	5,500
	Cowlitz*		7,800	10,500	11,200
	Kalama*		500	1,000	1,900
	Lewis*		1,100	1,500	1,100
	Select Areas*		7,400	2,200	5,000
	Lower River total		81,000	73,000	80,100
	Wind*		8,500	4,000	4,800
	Drano Lake*		13,100	8,700	7,800
	Klickitat*		2,500	2,900	2,700
	Yakima*		9,100	8,800	9,300
	Upper Columbia	Total	24,100	33,100	27,500
	<i>Upper Columbia</i>	<i>Wild</i>	3,700	5,700	4,500
	Snake River Spring/Summer	Total	125,000	137,900	140,800
	<i>Snake River</i>	<i>Wild</i>	42,200	46,000	45,300
	Upriver Total		227,000	242,600	232,500
Winter Steelhead		<i>Wild</i>	16,100	14,900	16,100

*Return to tributary mouth **Totals may not sum due to rounding

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Columbia River Smelt

- Beginning in 2001, the Washington and Oregon Eulachon Management Plan (WOEMP) provided guidance in structuring smelt fisheries. The plan identified three levels of fisheries based on expected adult run size, juvenile production and ocean productivity. Level 1 fisheries are the most conservative and Level 3 are the most liberal.
- In response to the ESA listing in 2010, the states discontinued commercial and recreational smelt fisheries. The states have continued to work closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in order to reinstate a research-level smelt fishery to provide biological data, fishery landing and pounds per landing (CPUE) data so that smelt status and run strength can be better assessed.

2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides the treaty Indian and non-Indian fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The MA includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest schedule for upriver spring Chinook. Based on the MA and the preseason forecast, ESA impacts for 2015 fisheries are limited to 12%, with 2% for non-Indian fisheries and 10% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Fisheries will also be managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook which requires upriver mortalities in non-Indian fisheries to not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries.
- The MA also specifies fisheries occurring prior to a run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the predicted upriver spring Chinook run size.
- A 30% reduction to the preseason forecast equates to a run size of 162,750 fish, which allows for an ESA limit of 1.9% and an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 14,810 upriver spring Chinook for non-Indian fisheries prior to a run size update.

Endangered Species Act

- A Biological Opinion (BO) based upon the management actions outlined in the MA was issued by NMFS in 2008.
- Impacts to wild winter steelhead are limited to 2% for all mainstem Columbia River non-Indian fisheries.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to <15%.
- The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish which determines the allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls. The escapement goals are also intended to allow for full recreational fisheries in the upper Willamette River.
- Based on FMEP guidance, an expected return of 45,200 hatchery spring Chinook and the FMEP escapement goal of 25,300 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 19,900 hatchery fish. This surplus is allocated 80% (15,900) for recreational fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls (including the mainstem Columbia River) and 20% (4,000) to commercial fisheries (including Select Areas).

2015 Spring Chinook Management

- The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions (Commissions) have provided guidance on spring Chinook management. Allowed ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook are allocated 70% to recreational fisheries and 30% to commercial fisheries. Prior to a run update the allowed recreational and commercial ESA impacts are reduced by 20% and 40%, respectively. This direction combined with catch balance provisions in the MA, result in the following guidelines:

Prior to the run update, allocation of upriver fish (including release mortalities) for non-Indian fisheries will be:

- 10,318 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
- 1,376 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
- 1,112 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River/Upper Columbia
- 1,760 fish for the mainstem commercial fishery
- 244 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

2015 NON-INDIAN FISHERIES

Bonneville Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries

- Managers met in December and set a March 2 closure date for the 2015 winter retention period in Bonneville Pool. A summer retention season is expected to begin in June.
- Sturgeon harvest during January 1-25 totaled 101 fish, which is much less than the 400-550 fish allocated to the winter season from the total expected guideline of 1,100 fish. Staff will continue to monitor the fishery and provide updates as needed.

Columbia River Smelt Research-Level Fisheries

- In 2014, limited conservation-level research fisheries occurred in February through early March. Although smelt abundance levels allowed for a Level 2 fishery under the WOEMP, a more conservative reduced Level 1 fishery was recommended and adopted.
- Abundance indicators for the 2015 smelt return are mixed; however, the general consensus is the 2015 return is likely to be similar to the good runs of the past few years, but not as strong as 2014.
- After discussion with NMFS, and considering the mutual desire to continue a conservative management approach to smelt fisheries, staff is recommending a research-level fishery structure for 2015 that will provide biological and run strength data as well as provide some fishing opportunity for both recreational and commercial fisheries.

2015 Research-Level Smelt Fisheries

- All the proposed seasons are similar or less than the 2014 seasons, and much more conservative than a Level 1 fishery as defined in the WOEMP.

<i>2015 Commercial Mainstem Smelt Fishery Recommendation</i>	
Season:	Mondays and Thursdays from February 2 through February 26, 2015 Open hours are 7 AM to 2 PM.
Area:	Zones 1-3
Gear:	Gill net only. Specifications per permanent regulations.
Miscellaneous:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- The proposed fishery would provide a small harvest opportunity while continuing the historic index of run strength. Landings will be sampled to collect biological data.

2015 Washington Tributary Recreational Smelt Fishery Recommendation

Season:	Saturday, February 7 and Saturday, February 14, 2015. Open hours are 6 AM to Noon
Area:	Cowlitz River (bank only)
Gear:	Dip net
Daily Limit:	10 pounds per person.

- The proposed fishery would be monitored to provide effort, catch, biological data, and weekly harvest estimates.
- Given the highly variable patterns of annual run timing, additional recreational fishing periods may be considered based on fishery performance.

2015 Oregon Tributary Recreational Smelt Fishery Recommendation

Season:	Saturday March 7 and Sunday March 15, 2015. Open hours are 6 AM to Noon.
Area:	Sandy River. (bank only)
Gear:	Dip net
Daily Limit:	10 pounds per person.

- The proposed fishery structure is intended to moderate harvest and allow staff to track progress of the fishery.
- Given the highly variable patterns of annual run timing, additional recreational fishing periods may be considered based on fishery performance.

2015 Tribal Ceremonial & Subsistence Smelt Fisheries

- Minor tribal fisheries may occur in the Cowlitz River for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) use only, using traditional hand-held dipnets fished from shore. WDFW will coordinate with the tribes on any C&S fishery in the Cowlitz River.

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- The Columbia River downstream of the I-5 Bridge is currently open under permanent regulations for hatchery salmon and steelhead through March 31.
- The Columbia River from I-5 Bridge upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge is currently open under permanent regulations for hatchery steelhead through March 31.
- Staff modeled lower river spring Chinook season scenarios for 2015 based on past input from the public and the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG). Modeled seasons were discussed with the CRRAG to identify preferences. None of the modeled seasons extended into the run size update timeframe of early May.

<i>2015 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries - Recommendations</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Season	Sunday March 1 through Friday April 10, 2015, <u>except closed</u> March 24, March 31 and April 7 (Tuesdays)	38 retention days
Area:	Buoy 10 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 salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook.	
Kept Catch:	Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Kept Catch:	11,500 adult Chinook (all stocks) from 100,200 angler trips.	
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border		
Season:	Monday March 16 through Wednesday May 6, 2015	52 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only <u>one</u> may be a Chinook.	
Kept Catch:	Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Kept Catch:	1,250 adult Chinook.	

- Fishery recommendations were developed to remain within and comply with:
 - ✓ Impact limits for species listed under the ESA.
 - ✓ Buffers and catch balance provisions outlined in the MA.
 - ✓ Policy guidance and management objectives provided by the Commissions.
- The proposed season for below Bonneville Dam received the strongest support from CRRAG, including some support for the concept of closed days to accommodate the commercial fishery.
- The season for the Zone 6 fishery is based on the available pre-update allocation and estimated catch rates.
- Continuing a one-fish bag extends the Zone 6 season a few days closer to the runsize update time frame.
- Although a key management goal is to minimize the need for in-season emergency action, due to the dynamic nature of fisheries and fish runs, none of the seasons recommended guarantee that in-season action will not be necessary in order to remain within ESA limits and/or catch balancing requirements.

- Staff is recommending a Joint State hearing be scheduled for Tuesday April 7 to review the ongoing lower Columbia recreational spring Chinook fishery and consider an extension if enough fish remain available for harvest.

Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Recreational Fishery

- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA closes to steelhead retention April 1. The area downstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens May 16 and the area upstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens June 16.
- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River is open for shad angling all year, except closed downstream of Bonneville Dam from April 1 through May 15.

<i>Retention of Hatchery Steelhead and Shad During Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries – Recommendation</i>
Effective March 1 – May 15, 2015, the mainstem Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead and shad ONLY during days and in areas open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.

- Beginning May 16 permanent rules resume: hatchery steelhead retention is allowed from the Tongue Point – Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge and shad retention is allowed river-wide.

Tributary Spring Chinook Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- No changes to permanent regulations are recommended for spring Chinook recreational fisheries in the Sandy, Clackamas, and Willamette rivers.
- Washington tributary seasons are in the 2014-2015 Fishing in Washington pamphlet and are currently the same as in 2014.

Mainstem Columbia River Winter/Spring Salmon Commercial Fishery

- Since 2004, a commercial fishing plan has been developed in cooperation with the Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group (CRCAG) to maximize the catch of hatchery spring Chinook and minimize handle of ESA-listed upriver spring/summer Chinook and wild winter steelhead.
- The Joint Staff will use the fishing plan as a guideline for managing the upcoming winter/spring season.
- The Joint Staff met with the CRCAG to solicit input for potential 2015 spring salmon seasons. Based on the preseason forecasts, 4,000 Willamette hatchery spring Chinook and approximately 1,700 upriver spring Chinook are available for commercial harvest prior to a run size update. The upriver allocation will limit commercial harvest of Willamette spring Chinook. Prior to a runsize update, staff expects only one or two fishing periods will occur.

2015 Winter/Spring Pre-Season Commercial Chinook Fishing Plan

- ✓ Manage mainstem commercial fisheries to remain within commission allocation and catch balancing guidelines.
- ✓ Test fishing is expected to occur on Sundays and/or Tuesdays beginning in mid-March.
- ✓ Compact hearings to occur on Mondays (and/or Wednesdays) if test fishing results are positive.
- ✓ Full-fleet fisheries are expected to occur on Tuesdays (and/or Thursdays) of each week, but may be scheduled on other days in order to maintain flexibility in developing fishing seasons. Results from Tuesday fisheries will determine whether fishing occurs on Thursdays.
- ✓ Fisheries may be conducted during daylight and nighttime hours, dependent upon water conditions and to minimize conflicts between user groups.
- ✓ Fisheries may occur in Zones 1-5.
- ✓ Based on test fishing results, fishing periods could begin by late March, primarily depending on steelhead abundance.
- ✓ Only tangle net gear will be used (4¼-inch mesh) unless adaptive management is initiated.
- ✓ Additional fishing periods may occur after run size updates are available.
- ✓ Test fishing may continue throughout the winter/spring season to collect biological data and maintain historic test fishing databases.

- In addition to the fishing plan, a set of general regulations typically in place during the winter/spring season will also be in effect. Such regulations include use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, live-capture certification, and cooperation with the on-board observation program.

Select Area Fisheries

- Select Area fisheries target spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons (mid-February through mid-June) and both spring Chinook and Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook during the summer season (mid-June through July).
- Harvest in winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial fisheries has averaged 11,800 Chinook annually over the past five years (2010–2014), with 85% of the harvested fish originating from Select Area sites. Excluding the exceptionally high catch in 2010, the average harvest is about 8,500 fish.
- From the commercial allocation of ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook, a fixed allocation of 0.15% has been allotted to Select Area commercial fisheries (unchanged since 2008).
- Harvest in winter, spring, and summer Select Area recreational fisheries has averaged 700 Chinook annually over the past five years (2010–2014) based on preliminary Catch Record Card data.
- Recommendations for 2015 winter, spring, and summer Select Area fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held January 14, 2015 in Astoria and subsequent discussions with commercial fishers.

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.

<i>2015 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area - Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from February 9 through March 31. Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Tuesday and Thursday nights from April 21 through May 1, <u>and</u> Monday and Thursday nights from May 4 through June 12. Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Winter season: Blind Slough and Knappa Slough are open through March 20, and only Blind Slough area open March 23 through March 31. Spring season: Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are open. From May 4 through June 12, the lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is extended downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9 ³ / ₄ -inch maximum mesh size restriction Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. 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.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers. New catch reporting codes have been established for Blind Slough and Knappa Slough to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries

- ✓ Similar to recent years, the additional winter season in Knappa Slough and increased winter fishing periods in Blind Slough provide additional access to locally returning spring Chinook with minimal risk of increasing impacts to upriver stocks.
- ✓ Beginning in 2015, unique fishery catch reporting areas (commercial zone codes) have been created for Knappa Slough and Blind Slough to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter and spring fisheries in these two adjacent fishing sites.
- ✓ In accordance with OAR 635-006-0210(2)(h) and WACs 220-69-230(1)(i) and 220-22-010(9)(a-b), commercial fishers are expected, and fish dealers are required, to report landings for winter-spring fisheries in Knappa and Blind Slough separately. Fish dealers are requested to keep harvest from these two sites separate to aid in sampling.

Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery

- All waters in the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area are under concurrent Oregon and Washington jurisdiction and require Compact action.

<i>2015 Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area - Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from February 9 through March 13. Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Tuesday night April 21 from 8 PM to midnight (4 hours), Thursday April 23 from 9 PM to 3 AM Friday April 24 (6 hours), Tuesday April 28 from 7 PM to 7 AM Wednesday April 29 (12 hours), Thursday April 30 from 7 PM to 7 AM Friday May 1 (12 hours), and 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours) on Monday and Thursday nights from May 4 through June 12.
Area:	The winter and spring season Tongue Point fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line extended from the upstream (southernmost) pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility through navigation marker #6 to Mott Island (new spring lower deadline), a line from a marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a marker on the northwest tip of Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island westerly to a marker on the Oregon shore. The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green USCG buoy #7 to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to the flashing red USCG marker #10, northwesterly to a marker on Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9 ³ / ₄ -inch maximum mesh size restriction In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. 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.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

- ✓ Similar to 2013-14, the winter season in Tongue Point/South Channel is intended to provide information about catch composition and abundance during that timeframe. This enhanced opportunity should pose minimal risk of accruing significant impacts to upriver stocks.
- ✓ Spring fishing periods are concurrent with other Select Area sites to distribute effort.

Deep River Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action.

<i>2015 Deep River Select Area - Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from February 9 through March 31. Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Tuesday and Thursday nights from April 16 through May 1, <u>and</u> Monday and Thursday nights from May 4 through June 12. Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	From the markers at USCG navigation marker #16 upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on headline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the headline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream or channel any gill net longer than three-fourths the width of the stream (WAC 220-20-015 (1)). It shall be unlawful in any area to use, operate, or carry aboard a commercial fishing vessel a licensed net or combination of such nets, whether fished singly or separately, in excess of the maximum lawful size or length prescribed for a single net in that area, except as otherwise provided for in the rules and regulations of the department WAC 220-20-010 (17). 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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by WDFW staff. <u>Winter season:</u> fishers are required to call 360-795-0319 to confirm the place and time of sampling. <u>Spring season:</u> a sampling station will be established at WDFW's Oneida Road boat ramp, about 0.5 miles upstream of the Deep River area downstream boundary (USCG navigation marker #16). 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers

- ✓ Additional fishing periods during the late portion of the winter season provide access to locally returning spring Chinook with minimal risk of impacts to upriver stocks.

Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery

- All waters in Youngs Bay are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- The entire Youngs Bay Select Area is open to either Oregon or Washington fishers who possess valid licenses (fishing and boat) issued by either state. Per permanent rule, all landings from Youngs Bay must be delivered to an Oregon licensed buyer.

<i>2015 Youngs Bay Select Area - Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	<p>Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from February 9 – March 5. Open hours are from 6 AM to Midnight (18 hours) on Mondays and Thursdays, and 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) on Wednesdays. and Monday March 9 from 9 AM to 1 PM (4 hours) Wednesday March 11 from 11 AM to 3 PM (4 hours) Thursday March 12 from 12 PM to 4 PM (4 hours) Monday March 16 from 4 PM to 8 PM (4 hours) Wednesday March 18 from 6 PM to 10 PM (4 hours) Thursday March 19 from 7 PM to 11 PM (4 hours) Monday March 23 from 9 AM to 1 PM (4 hours) Wednesday March 25 from 11 AM to 3 PM (4 hours) Thursday March 26 from 12 PM to 4 PM (4 hours) Monday March 30 from 10 AM to 2 PM (4 hours)</p>
Spring Season:	<p>Tuesday night April 21 from 8 PM to midnight (4 hours) Thursday April 23 from 9 PM to 3 AM Friday April 24 (6 hours) Tuesday April 28 from 7 PM to 7 AM Wednesday April 29 (12 hours) Thursday night April 30 from 7 PM to 7 AM Friday May 1 (12 hours), and Monday May 4 from 9 AM to 3 AM Tuesday May 5 (18 hours) Wednesday May 6 from 9 AM to 9 PM (12 hours) Thursday May 7 from 9 AM to 3 AM Friday May 8 (18 hours), and Noon Monday through Noon Friday (4 days/week) from May 11 – June 12</p>
Summer Season:	<p>Noon Tuesday through Noon Friday (3 days/week) from June 16 – June 19 Noon Monday to Noon Friday (4 days/week) from June 22 – July 3 Noon Monday July 6 to Noon Thursday July 9 (3 days/week), and Noon Tuesday through Noon Thursday (2 days/week) from July 14 – July 30</p>
Area:	<p>Entire Youngs Bay fishing area: The waters of Youngs Bay from the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the upper boundary markers at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers including the lower Walluski River upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge. During the winter season, those waters southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River) are closed. During the spring and summer seasons, the Youngs Bay fishing area includes the lower Lewis and Clark River upstream to the overhead power lines immediately upstream of Barrett Slough.</p>

Gear:	<p>Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction</p> <p>Spring/Summer season: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction</p> <p>Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed upstream of markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River <u>and in the Lewis and Clark River upstream of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge.</u></p>
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect.

- ✓ Staff worked with industry to provide increased opportunity in the winter while minimizing the risk of encountering upriver stocks during the late winter and early spring timeframes.
 - Additional winter fishing periods with reduced hours in March provide harvest opportunity, while minimizing impacts to upriver stocks.
 - The opening day of the proposed spring season is delayed in an attempt to minimize impacts on upriver spring Chinook which have exhibited a later run timing in recent years.
 - The spring fishery consisting of progressively increasing fishing time should maximize harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts to non-local stocks.
- ✓ Similar to 2014, the majority of the winter-season fishing periods in Youngs Bay are scheduled primarily during daylight hours with industry support.
- ✓ The expanded summer fishery provides significant additional harvest opportunity while allowing for SAB broodstock escapement.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries

- Permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2015 Oregon Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January 1–July 31), adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho except for some seasonal tributary closures.

- Permanent Washington recreational fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge are open to Chinook salmon (fin-clipped only during January 1–July 31), fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped coho the entire year.
- In order to ease enforcement of co-occurring recreational fisheries in Select Areas and the mainstem Columbia River, staff recommends that daily bag limits in Select Area recreational fisheries be modified to match those of the mainstem when the fisheries are open concurrently.

<i>2015 Select Area Recreational Fisheries - Recommendation</i>
<p>Effective March 1 – June 15, 2015:</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is <u>closed</u> to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply.</p>

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends a Joint State hearing be scheduled for April 7, 2015.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration</i>		
	Page(s)	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mainstem commercial smelt fishery	4	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Washington tributary recreational smelt fishery	5	Washington State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oregon tributary recreational smelt fishery	5	Oregon State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan	8	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area commercial fisheries	9	Compact and Oregon State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area commercial fisheries	10	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep River Select Area commercial fisheries	11	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youngs Bay Select Area fisheries	12-13	Oregon State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Spring Chinook recreational fisheries	6	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shad and hatchery steelhead retention	7	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Select Area recreational fisheries	14	Joint State