

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
March 13, 2018**

Fisheries under consideration:	Select Area Commercial Fisheries
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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 report is the 2018 Spring/Summer report (February 20, 2018): <https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01973/wdfw01973.pdf> or http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports/18_reports/2018_spring_jsr.pdf

- Select Area fisheries target local-origin spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons and both spring Chinook and Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook during the summer season.
- The 2018 winter/spring/summer commercial seasons were adopted at the January 30, 2018 Compact hearing.
- Winter-season fisheries in Tongue Point/South Channel were planned through March 12 with South Channel-only periods continuing through March 23.
- Combined Select Area landings through March 9 total 73 Chinook, or 60% of the recent 5-year average harvest of 122 spring Chinook. No upriver spring Chinook have been observed in the catch.
- Ex-vessel price is high, with an average ex-vessel value last week around \$15.40/pound.
- Fishers have requested additional Select Area fishing opportunity in Tongue Point. Given the expected accrual of upriver mortalities for currently scheduled winter Select Area fisheries, staff believes some additional fishing time can be provided without affecting the spring fishing schedule.

<i>Recommendation: 2018 Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fisheries</i>
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Rescind the following winter season periods:

South Channel only:

7 PM Thursday March 15 to 7 AM Friday March 16

7 PM Monday March 19 to 7 AM Tuesday March 20

Adopt the following winter season periods:

Tongue Point/South Channel:

7 PM to 11 PM Thursday March 15

9 AM to 1 PM Monday March 19

South Channel only:

4 PM to 8 PM Thursday March 26

All other previously adopted regulations specific to each site remain in effect.

- Although Select Area harvest to date is less than expected, catches are expected to improve as the season progresses.
- The proposed fishing periods provide additional opportunity to access Select Area spring Chinook at high ex-vessel prices. These modifications do not change the expected impacts to wild winter steelhead or wild Willamette spring Chinook outlined in the 2018 spring Joint Staff Report (0.03% and 1.74%, respectively).

Future Hearings

- No Compact or Joint State hearings have been scheduled at this time. The Joint Staff will recommend additional hearings as needed.