

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 6
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
March 28, 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.
- Most of the winter-season Select Area fisheries were planned through March 26 except Blind Slough/Knappa Slough which was planned through April 2.
- Combined Select Area landings through March 27 total 221 Chinook, or 35% of the recent 5-year average harvest of 632 spring Chinook.
- Ex-vessel price is high, with an average ex-vessel value last week around \$15.00/pound.
- Fishers have requested additional Select Area fishing opportunity in Youngs Bay, Blind and Knappa sloughs and South Channel.
- Currently 10 upriver mortalities have been accrued in winter Select Area fisheries with only two periods remaining, both in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough.
- Given the current and expected accrual of upriver mortalities for the remaining winter Select Area fisheries, staff believes some additional fishing time can be provided without modifying the current spring fishing schedule.

Recommendation: 2018 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Adopt the following winter season periods:

Youngs Bay

5 PM to 9 PM Thursday March 29

Youngs Bay above the Alternate Hwy 101 Bridge:

7:30 AM to 11:30 AM Monday April 2

Youngs Bay (Walluski Area):

10 AM to 2 PM Thursday April 5

2 PM to 6 PM Monday April 9

South Channel only:

7 PM to 11 PM Thursday March 29

10 PM Monday April 2 to 2 AM Tuesday April 3

11:30 PM Thursday April 5 to 3:30 AM Friday April 6

4 AM to 8 AM Tuesday April 10

Blind Slough Only:

7 PM Thursday April 5 to 7 AM Friday April 6

7 PM Monday April 9 to 7 AM Tuesday April 10

Modify the following winter season periods:

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough:

7 PM Thursday March 29 to 7 AM Friday March 30

7 PM Monday April 2 to 7 AM Tuesday April 3

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

- Although Select Area harvest to date is less than expected, catches should improve as the season progresses.
- Due to the low abundance of upriver spring Chinook to date and the combination of shorter hours and restricted fishery areas, staff anticipates the proposed periods will not exceed winter season upriver harvest expectations.
- The proposed fishing periods provide additional opportunity to access Select Area spring Chinook at high ex-vessel prices. These modifications do not affect the expected impacts to wild winter steelhead or wild Willamette spring Chinook outlined in the 2018 spring Joint Staff Report.

Future Hearings

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