COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5a
Columbia River Compact
February 10, 2025

Fisheries under consideration:	Zone 6 treaty commercial setline fisheries

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available online. The most recent report relevant to this fishery is the 2025 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 7, 2025) available at:

https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports and
https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The recent 5-day average river temperature at The Dalles Dam tailwater has averaged 38.9° F which matches the 5-year average for these dates. Water temperatures often reach their lowest point in early February and then begin to increase.
- The recent 5-day average outflow at The Dalles Dam is approximately 116 Kcfs which is the lowest average flow for this time period in at least the last 5 years. The five-year average flow for these dates is 149.4 Kcfs.

STOCK STATUS

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The most recent stock assessment for Zone 6 was in the Bonneville Pool which was discussed in Fact Sheet 3a. A stock assessment for the John Day Pool is being conducted in 2025.

Steelhead and Salmon

- No chinook or steelhead are handled in sturgeon setline fisheries and are therefore not discussed in this Fact Sheet.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force met on January 22 and recommended 2025 harvest guidelines for the Bonneville Pool based on current stock assessment information. The 2025 guidelines for treaty commercial and recreational retention were revised to 1,250 each. Current guidelines for the Zone 6 reservoirs are presented in the table below.

Pool	Current Zone 6 Harvest Guidelines		
	Overall Guideline	Treaty Commercial	Recreational Retention
Bonneville	2,500	1,250	1,250
The Dalles	1,100	825	275
John Day	315	210	105

- There is no harvest guideline for the treaty subsistence catch of sturgeon, but these catches are accounted for and used in population assessments. Subsistence harvest typically occurs in association with fisheries targeting other species and is generally low.

2025 TREATY INDIAN WINTER FISHERIES

- Setline Fisheries to date include:

  Bonneville Pool – Noon January 1 through 6:00 PM January 8. (7.25 days)

  The Dalles Pool – Noon January 1 through 6:00 PM January 11. (10.25 days)

  and 7:00 AM February 1 through 6:00 PM February 4 (3.5 Days)

  John Day Pool – Noon January 1 through 6:00 PM February 15 (45.25 Days)

- Preliminary catch estimates through February 6 are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and direct to public sales. No salmonids are handled in setline fisheries.

Table 1. Preliminary Sturgeon Harvest to Date.

Week	Bonneville	The Dalles	John Day	Total
Week 1	329	21	0	350
Week 2	377	307	20	704
Week 3	Closed	Closed	9	9
Week 4	Closed	Closed	23	23
Week 5	Closed		16	16
Week 6	Closed	181	3	184
Total	706	509	71	1,286
Guideline	1,250	825	210	
Remaining	544	316	139	
% of guideline caught	56.5%	61.7%	33.8%	

- Catch rates and effort have continued to be low in the John Day Pool and no action is needed in the ongoing fishery.
- Catch rates in the last opening in the Dalles Pool averaged 52.4 per day which was an increase from catch rates in January.
- There have been no observed steelhead harvest in platform fisheries to date. Any steelhead harvest will be reported when available. Normally, catches and effort are very low in the winter.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

2025 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (The Dalles Pool)	
Season:	6:00 AM Tuesday February 11 through 6:00 PM Thursday February 13 (2.5 days)
Area:	The Dalles Pool only
Gear:	Setlines Only
Sanctuaries	Closed areas include standard closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Allowed Sales	Sturgeon between 43- and 54-inches fork length in The Dalles Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- While catch information for The Dalles Pool is preliminary, monitoring data continue to indicate moderate effort and catch. This planned opening setline fishery in The Dalles Pool is projected to add up to 295 sturgeon at maximum observed catch rates observed last year (117.5/day), which would result in 97% of the guideline being caught. If catches are substantially less than projected, it is possible that the tribes would schedule additional fishing time later.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. Fishery opening will be modified or closed if needed to stay within the allowed harvest guidelines.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes may request to be added to the Hearing scheduled for February 19, or other hearings if additional fishery actions are needed.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5b

Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing

February 10, 2025

Fisheries under consideration:	Select Area commercial fisheries Zone 6 recreational white sturgeon

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available online. The most recent report is the 2024 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (January 31, 2025) available at: https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports and https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of February 10, the current Columbia River water temperature at Bonneville Dam of 39°F is the same as the five-year average for this time in February (39°F). The outflow is about 120.8 kcfs, which is lower than the recent 5-year average of 162.1 kcfs. Visibility is 7 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.3 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam plus Snake River summer Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between January 1 and June 15 are managed as upriver spring Chinook. Snake River spring/summer Chinook and upper Columbia spring Chinook are components of this run and are federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act (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 12. Over the past ten years, adult returns have averaged 139,676 fish (range 73,105 to 288,993).

Willamette Spring Chinook

- Willamette River spring Chinook exhibit broader migration timing than upriver spring Chinook. Spring Chinook destined for areas upstream of Willamette Falls and the Clackamas River are in the upper Willamette River ESU which is listed under the ESA. Over the past ten years, adult returns have averaged 46,604 fish (range 27,292 to 84,532).

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 (CKLS) and the Select Areas. CKLS populations are in the Lower Columbia ESU which is listed under the ESA; hatchery spring Chinook produced for Select Area fisheries are not considered part of the ESU. Over the past ten years, the combined adult return of these lower river stocks has averaged 20,799 fish (range 6,803 to 34,323) to the tributaries and 12,332 fish (range 2,479 to 21,468) to the Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

- The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteenmile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Populations returning to Washington-side tributaries from the Cowlitz River upstream to the Klickitat River and Oregon-side tributaries from the Willamette River upstream to Fifteenmile Creek are in the Lower Columbia DPS and populations from areas upstream of Willamette Falls are in the Upper Willamette DPS; both of these DPSs are listed under the ESA. 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 15,611 fish (range 9,440 to 25,396).

Summer Steelhead

- Steelhead encountered in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam in May and June are managed as lower river Skamania-stock summer steelhead.
- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. For the purpose of fisheries management fish passing in April through June are categorized as upriver Skamania-stock steelhead while those passing during July through October are categorized as A-Index or B-Index (based on fork length, A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥78 cm). Passage during July is primarily A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake River basins.
- Preseason forecasts for the 2025 return of summer steelhead are not yet available; however, the expectation is for abundance to be low again. If so, this would be the tenth consecutive year of lower-than-average returns for these fish.

White Sturgeon – Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam)

- White sturgeon stock status for populations and fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam was presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1, dated November 8, 2024.

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted				
		2024 Forecast	**2024 Return**	**2025 Forecast**
Spring Chinook	**Upriver Total ***	**121,000**	**116,332**	**122,500**
	Upper Columbia	19,400	18,224	21,500
	Upper Columbia natural-origin	*2,700*	*1,609*	*2,200*
	Snake River Spring/Summer **	63,500	70,743	56,200
	*Snake River natural-origin***	*9,200*	*10,514*	*9,800*
	Lower River Total	**84,600**	**73,227**	**95,000**
	Total Spring Chinook	**205,600**	**189,559**	**217,500**
	Area-specific detail			
	Willamette River	48,800	37,737	51,200
	Willamette River hatchery-origin	*39,300*	*28,099*	*36,600*
	Sandy River	7,700	5,358	7,300
	Select Areas***	18,100	15,953	16,600
	Cowlitz River	4,700	8,983	13,700
	Kalama River	1,900	2,474	3,000
	Lewis River	3,400	2,722	3,200
	Wind River***	4,200	4,604	4,900
	Drano Lake/Little White Salmon River***	5,300	7,863	7,600
	Hood River***	n/a	881	n/a
	Klickitat River***	1,300	491	1,200
	Deschutes River***	n/a	580	n/a
	John Day River***	n/a	2,430	n/a
	Umatilla River***	n/a	1,319	2,600
	Yakima River***	2,400	2,501	2,600
Summer Chinook	**Upper Columbia**	**52,600**	**42,511**	**38,000**
Sockeye	**Total Sockeye**	**401,700**	**761,682**	**350,200**
	Wenatchee	97,000	183,445	94,000
	Okanogan	288,700	572,552	248,000
	Yakima	12,100	4,485	5,000
	Deschutes	100	21	100
	Snake River	3,800	1,179	3,100
Winter Steelhead	**Wild**	14,400	25,361	17,400

* Upriver totals are developed by the *U.S. v. OR* TAC for use in management of *U.S. v. OR* fisheries. Wild components are included in the stock total. Area-specific estimates for upriver tributaries detailed here are provided by other agencies/entities and may not sum to TAC's upriver abundance estimates.

** 2024 return is based on current TAC run reconstruction methodology.

*** Return to tributary mouth.

1/28/2025

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2018–2027 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2018–2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides the treaty Indian and non-treaty fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Fisheries are managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook which requires upriver mortalities in non-treaty fisheries to not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Based on the MA, the 2025 preseason forecasts of 122,500 upriver spring Chinook and 9,800 Snake River natural-origin spring Chinook, ESA impacts for 2025 fisheries are limited to 9.0%, with 1.6% for non-treaty fisheries and 7.4% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- To allow for uncertainty in preseason forecasting, the MA requires a 30% reduction from the preseason forecast (i.e., a run-size buffer) to plan and manage the initial phase of the spring Chinook fisheries, which equates to 85,750 upriver spring Chinook. At this abundance, the MA allows for a non-treaty ESA limit of 1.6% and an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 6,346 based on the allowed treaty harvest rate of 7.4%.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits annual 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 2025 return of 37,883 hatchery spring Chinook, and the FMEP escapement goal of 23,000 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 14,883 hatchery fish this year. At this level, the entire harvestable surplus is allocated to recreational fisheries while commercial fisheries can harvest up to 1% of the run as incidental catch in non-Willamette spring Chinook target fisheries.

White Sturgeon – Zone 6 (Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam)

- Management guidelines for white sturgeon fisheries upstream of Bonneville Dam were presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1, dated November 8, 2024.
- The *U.S. v. OR* Sturgeon Management Task Force, a joint state/tribal body, met on January 22, 2025 and recommended increasing the harvest guidelines for 2025–2027 in Bonneville Pool (2,500 fish total guideline: 1,250 for treaty commercial fisheries and 1,250 for recreational fisheries). Current white sturgeon harvest guidelines in Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day reservoirs are shown in the table below:

Pool	Recreational Guideline	Treaty Guideline	Total Guideline
Bonneville	1,250	1,250	2,500
The Dalles	275	825	1,100
John Day	105	210	315

2025 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

2025 Spring Chinook Harvest Management

- The Oregon and Washington upriver spring Chinook allocation policies for 2025 specific to commercial/recreational ESA-impact sharing and within-recreational sub-allocations are not concurrent. Under the Washington policy, no more than 70% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the recreational fisheries, and under Oregon rule, no more than 20% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the commercial fisheries. Therefore, preseason modeling only utilizes 90% of the non-treaty upriver spring Chinook ESA impacts and results in a Select Area commercial fisheries allocation of ≤392 upriver spring Chinook.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area fisheries target spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons (mid-February through mid-June) and late-returning spring Chinook and early returning 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 13,327 Chinook annually over the past five years (2020–2024), with 91% of the harvested fish originating from Select Area sites. The 2025 harvest expectation is 16,600 adult Select Area-origin Chinook.
- Age-3 jacks and age-4 and age-5 adult spring Chinook are expected to return to the Deep River Select Area site this year from a sub-yearling release program initiated in 2018. Fisheries were reinitiated in 2021.
- Recommendations for 2025 winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held in Astoria in January 22. For 2025, the staff recommendations incorporate additional fishing time during off-peak timeframes at all sites, reduced areas during initial spring fishing periods, and short tidal-based fishing periods during peak migration of upriver stocks to reduce interceptions and stabilize fishing opportunity.
- Handle rates of non-local stocks in Select Area commercial fisheries are low. Impacts to ESA-listed stocks in 2025 winter/spring/summer Select Area commercial fisheries are expected to be ≤0.32% for upriver spring Chinook, 0.90% for Willamette spring Chinook, 0.00% for sockeye, 0.07% for winter steelhead, 0.05% for Skamania summer steelhead, and 0.01% each for upriver A- and B-Index summer steelhead.
- Joint state staff will not be recommending sturgeon retention in recreational or commercial fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam in 2025.
- Shad retention and sales are allowed in Oregon Select Area commercial fisheries as per OAR 635-042-0105.

<u>Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery</u>

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough, encompass all of Knappa Slough, and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream of the Railroad Bridge and only require Oregon action.

Recommendation: 2025 Blind Slough and Knappa Slough Select Areas	
Winter Season:	The winter Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 23 fishing periods from February 13 through April 15 as described below: <u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u> 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 13-March 21 (16 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 24-April 15 (7 nights)
Spring Season:	The spring Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 30 fishing periods from April 17 through June 13 as described below: <u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u> 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights April 17-April 25 (3 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 28-May 2 (3 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 5-June 13 (24 nights)
Summer Season:	The summer Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 15 fishing periods from June 16 through July 18 as described below: <u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u> 6 PM to 9 AM Monday, Wednesday and Thursday nights June 16-July 18 (15 nights)
Area:	The Blind Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Blind Slough and Gnat Creek from a north-south line represented by regulatory markers at the mouth of Blind Slough upstream to a regulatory marker in Gnat Creek located approximately 0.5 miles southeasterly (upstream) of the Barendse Road Bridge. The Knappa Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Knappa Slough, Calendar Slough, and Big Creek Slough bounded to the north (upstream) by a line projecting from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Karlson Island to the northernmost regulatory marker at the mouth of Blind Slough and bounded to the west (downstream) by a line projecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwestern tip of Karlson Island through regulatory markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore. The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed. Through the first Friday in May the downstream (western) boundary in Knappa Slough is a north-south line projecting through the easternmost tip of Minaker Island and regulatory markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore.
Gear:	<u>Gear restrictions as follows:</u> • Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction. • Spring and Summer seasons: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. • The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms). • There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted. • Nets not specifically authorized for use 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 (except Chum) and shad.
Misc. Regulations:	Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours. Blind Slough and Knappa Slough have unique catch reporting codes to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries.

- The proposed season structure continues the expanded winter schedule utilized in recent years coupled with the strategy of having fewer periods during timeframes with higher relative abundance of upriver stocks to reduce potential encounters of those fish.
- 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-summer fisheries in Knappa Slough and Blind Slough separately using appropriate area coding. Fish dealers are requested to keep landings 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.

Recommendation: 2025 Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas	
Winter Season:	The winter Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 23 fishing periods from February 13 through April 15 as described below: Tongue Point and South Channel open: 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 13-March 14 (13 nights) Tongue Point open: 9 PM Sunday March 16 to 1 AM Monday March 17 (4 hours) 9:30 PM Tuesday March 18 to 1:30 AM Wednesday March 19 (4 hours) 11 PM Thursday March 20 to 3 AM Friday March 21 (4 hours) South Channel open: 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights March 16-March 21 (3 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 24-April 15 (7 nights)
Spring Season:	The spring Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 30 fishing periods from April 17 through June 13 as described below: South Channel open: 7 PM Thursday April 17 to 7 AM Friday April 18 7PM Monday April 21 to 7AM Tuesday April 22 (2 nights) Tongue Point open: 2:30 AM to 6:30 AM Tuesday April 22 (4 hours)

Tongue Point and South Channel open:
7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 24- May 2 (4 nights)
7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 5-June 13 (24 nights)

Summer Season: The summer Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 15 fishing periods from June 16 through July 18 as described below:

Tongue Point and South Channel open:
6 PM to 9 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights June 16-July 18 (15 nights)

Area: The Tongue Point Winter-Spring Subarea is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from the end of the southern-most pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility projecting in a straight line through flashing red USCG light "6" to the shore of Mott Island, a line from a regulatory marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the northwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker located on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island. If the marker on the Oregon shore is not in place, the upper boundary is defined by a line projecting easterly from a point (46°10'57.7"N latitude 123°44'35.3"W longitude) on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island.

For summer fisheries, the open waters include the entire Tongue Point Select Area as described in OAR 635-042-0170(1)(a) and WAC 220-301-010 (11)(c). If the marker on the eastern shore of Tongue Point is not in place, the downstream boundary is defined by a line projecting from a point (46°12'31.1"N latitude 123°45'34.0"W longitude) on the eastern shore of Tongue Point to the flashing green USCG light "3" on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island.

The South Channel Select Area is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the Oregon shore at John Day Point projecting northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker on Settler Point projecting northwesterly to the flashing red USCG light "10" then projecting westerly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island.

Gear: Gear restrictions as follows:

- Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction
- Spring and Summer seasons: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction
- The maximum net length is 1,500 feet (250 fathoms).
- In the Tongue Point winter-spring subarea and the Tongue Point Select Area, the lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom.
- In the South Channel Select Area, there is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.
- Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a vessel if properly stored, however, unstored gillnets legal for use in South Channel may be onboard. 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 (except Chum) and shad.
Misc. Regulations:	Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours.

- The proposed season structure adds a winter period in Tongue Point, further expands hours in the South Channel, and adds three hours to all periods in the summer season, concurrent with Blind Slough, while continuing to reduce the likelihood of encountering upriver stocks.

Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery

- All waters in Youngs Bay are Oregon state waters and require Oregon 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.

Recommendation: 2025 Youngs Bay Select Area	
Winter Season:	The winter Youngs Bay season includes 23 fishing periods from February 13 through April 7 as described below: Youngs Bay open: 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday February 13-February 27 (9 periods) 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday March 3-March 13 (6 periods) 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM Monday March 17 (4 hours) 10 AM to 2 PM Wednesday March 19 (4 hours) 10:30 AM to 2:30 PM Thursday March 20 (4 hours) Upper Youngs Bay Area open: 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM Monday March 24 (4 hours) 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM Thursday March 27 (4 hours) 8 AM to 12 PM Monday March 31 (4 hours) 11 AM to 3 PM Thursday April 3 (4 hours) 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM Monday April 7 (4 hours)
Spring Season:	The spring Youngs Bay season includes 14 fishing periods from April 21 through June 13 as described below: Upper Youngs Bay Area open: 1 PM to 5 PM Monday April 21 (4 hours) Youngs Bay open: 4 PM to 8 PM Thursday April 24 (4 hours) 7 PM to 11 PM Monday April 28 (4 hours) 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM Wednesday April 30 (4 hours)

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM Thursday May 1 (4 hours)
1:30 PM to 5:30 PM Monday May 5 (4 hours)
2:30 PM to 6:30 PM Tuesday May 6 (4 hours)
3:30 PM to 7:30 PM Wednesday May 7 (4 hours)
4 PM to 8 PM Thursday May 8 (4 hours)

6 AM Mondays – 9 AM Fridays May 12 – June 13 (4 continuous days/wk) (20 days)

Summer Season: The summer Youngs Bay season includes seven fishing periods from June 16 through July 31 as described below (all periods include multiple continuous days):
6 AM Mondays – 9 AM Fridays June 16 – July 18 (4 continuous days/wk) (20 days)
6 AM Tuesdays – Noon Thursdays July 22 – July 31 (2 continuous days/wk) (4 days)

Area: The Youngs Bay Select Area is defined as waters of Youngs Bay and Youngs River southeasterly of the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the regulatory marker(s) at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers, including the Walluski River downstream of the Highway 202 Bridge, and the Lewis and Clark River north (downstream) of the overhead power lines (approximately 500 feet south (upstream) of Barrett Slough). During the winter season, the upstream boundary in the Lewis and Clark River is the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark Bridge).

The Upper Youngs Bay Area includes all waters within the Youngs Bay Select Area upstream of the old Youngs Bay Bridge.

Gear: Gear restrictions as follows:

- Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction
- Spring and Summer seasons: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction
- The maximum net length is 1,500 feet (250 fathoms).
- Lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom, except additional weights or anchors attached directly to the lead line is permitted in these areas:
  - Youngs River upstream of regulatory markers located approximately 200 yards southerly (upstream) of the mouth of the Walluski River.
  - In the lower Walluski River from the first dock near the mouth upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge.
  - In the Lewis and Clark River from the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the overhead power lines (approximately 500 feet southerly (upstream) of Barrett Slough).
  - A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net.

  Red corks at 25-fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.

Nets not specifically authorized for use 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 (except Chum) and shad.

Misc. Regulations:	Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210. Electronic fish tickets must be submitted within 24 hours of closure of the fishing period, or within 24 hours of landing for fishing periods lasting more than 24 hours.

- Staff worked with industry to maximize opportunity while reducing the likelihood of encountering non-local stocks during the late winter and early spring timeframes.
  - One additional fishing period in early April relative to the 2024 structure.
  - Set fishing periods with reduced hours/area from mid-March through early May to maintain harvest opportunity and improve fishery stability during peak migration of upriver stocks.
  - Schedule fishing periods with reduced hours around low tide to reduce non-local encounters.
- Similar to recent years, the majority of the winter-season fishing periods in Youngs Bay are scheduled during daylight hours.

Deep River Commercial Fishery

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

Recommendation: 2025 Deep River Select Area	
Winter Season:	The winter Deep River season includes 23 fishing periods from February 13 through April 15 as described below: 7 PM to 9 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 13-March 21 (16 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 24-April 15 (7 nights)
Spring Season:	The spring Deep River season includes 30 fishing periods from April 17 through June 13 as described below: 7 PM to 9 AM Monday and Thursday nights April 17-April 25 (3 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 28-May 2 (3 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 5-June 13 (24 nights)
Area:	From the mouth of Deep River defined as a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore, upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.
Gear:	Gear restrictions as follows: Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Spring season: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms). There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted. 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 220-354-010 (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 220-353-060 (1). Nets not specifically authorized for use 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 (except Chum) and shad.
Misc. 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 if needed. Winter and Spring seasons: fishers are required to call 360-846-5268 to confirm the place and time of sampling. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The proposed season structure largely aligns with prior winter and spring seasons in the Deep River site and proposed season structure for 2025 in Blind/Knappa Slough and South Channel.
- The proposed fisheries are expected to have minimal impacts to upriver stocks as in previous years.
- Stock composition of the catch will be assessed in-season and the fishery may be adjusted. If local spring Chinook are still present in mid-June, additional openings may be considered.

Recreational White Sturgeon – Zone 6

- Under permanent regulations, the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam opens January 1 each year for white sturgeon retention. Upon opening for retention, all three Zone 6 reservoirs are managed to the pool-specific guidelines.
- At a Joint State Hearing on November 8, 2024, the states modified the Bonneville and The Dalles pool fisheries for 2025 by adopting a limited two days-per-week retention fishery. John Day Pool retention fisheries opened under permanent rules on January 1, 2025.
- On January 2, 2025, the states took action to close Bonneville Pool and The Dalles Pool to sturgeon retention prior to the next scheduled open day. Higher than average angler effort and catch rates on January 1 lead to a harvest total that exceeded the guideline in Bonneville Pool. Additionally, the harvest guideline in The Dalles Pool would likely have been exceeded if this fishery had proceeded as originally scheduled.
- Current recreational sturgeon guidelines and harvest estimates for 2025 Zone 6 recreational fisheries are summarized below (as of February 10, 2025):

Pool	Angler Trips	Harvest	Recreational Guideline	Percent of Guideline
Bonneville	2,010	1,365	1,250	109%
The Dalles	386	141	275	51%
John Day	2,139	36	105	34%

- Currently, lower water temperatures would be expected to result in reduced catch rates relative to those observed on January 1, 2025 in The Dalles Pool.
- Therefore, given 134 fish remain available for harvest, staff recommend additional retention days for this recreational sturgeon fishery.

Recommendation - 2025 The Dalles Pool Recreational Sturgeon Fishery		
Season:	Saturday, February 15 and Thursday, February 20	2 days
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from The Dalles Dam to John Day Dam, and all adjacent tributaries	
Allowable Catch:	White sturgeon Legal size: 43-inch minimum and 54-inch maximum fork length (Fork length is measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork in the caudal fin (tail) with the fish laying on its side on a flat surface, with the tape measure/ruler positioned flat under the fish) Daily bag limit: One fish Annual bag limit: Two fish (applicable to any/all sturgeon retention fisheries)	

- With this recommendation, the expected catch in The Dalles Pool through February 20 is projected to total 251 fish (91% of the guideline).
- Given John Day Pool has additional fish remaining on its guideline, this fishery can remain open as scheduled. Staff will continue to monitor harvest closely and will recommend management action when needed.
- Green sturgeon are not present upstream of Bonneville Dam and therefore are not expected to be handled during these fisheries.
- Permanent regulations allow for catch-and-release sturgeon angling all year, except angling for sturgeon is prohibited May 1 through August 31 within the sanctuary areas designated downstream of the dam tailraces. Daily and annual sturgeon bag limits apply to all fisheries statewide.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A hybrid Joint State hearing is scheduled for 10 AM February 19, 2025 to consider mainstem Columbia River recreational spring Chinook fisheries. The hearing will be held at the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife office located at: 17330 SE Evelyn St, Clackamas, OR 97015 in the Building 16 conference room. A teleconference call-in option will be available.

	Page(s)	Action
☑ Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area	6-7	Compact and Oregon state
☑ Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area	7-9	Compact
☑ Youngs Bay Select Area	9-11	Oregon state
☑ Deep River Select Area	11-12	Compact
☑ The Dalles Pool Rec. White Sturgeon	13	Joint state