

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5a
 Columbia River Compact
 February 11, 2026**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Zone 6 treaty commercial setline fisheries Treaty commercial research fishery in John Day Pool
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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 online. The most recent report relevant to this fishery is the 2026 Sturgeon/Smelt Report is 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 temperatures at The Dalles Dam tailrace has averaged 41.0 degrees which is the highest 5-day average temperature for these dates since 2020.
- The recent 5-day average outflow at The Dalles Dam is approximately 164.4 kcfs compared to the 5-year average for these dates of 138.5 kcfs.

STOCK STATUS

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The states and tribes work cooperatively to complete white sturgeon stock assessments, which rotate between the three Zone 6 reservoirs on an annual basis. The 2025 survey was conducted in the John Day Pool and was reviewed by the Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) on January 27.

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 SMTF, which is a joint state and tribal body, met January 27 to review the stock assessment for the John Day Pool. Current guidelines 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.

2026 TREATY WINTER FISHERIES

- 2026 Sturgeon Setline fisheries to date have included the following openings: January 8 through January 17 in The Dalles and John Day Pools; January 19 through January 29 in the Bonneville Pool; and February 2 through February 7 in The Dalles Pool. Catches through February 7 are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and sales directly to the public. No salmonids were handled in these setline fisheries.

Table 1. Projected Sturgeon Harvest to date.

Reservoir	Projected Total	Guideline	Remaining	% of Guideline Harvested
Bonneville	402	1,250	848	32.2%
The Dalles	211	825	614	25.6%
John Day	78	210	132	37.1%
Total	647	2,285		

- Catch rates for The Dalles and Bonneville pools have continued to be lower than in recent years although water temperature has been warm and effort has been good. Catch rates for the John Day Pool were the highest observed in recent years for January. Catch rates tend to increase over time throughout the season.
- Catches and effort for steelhead harvest in platform fisheries are normally very low in the winter and will be reported when available.

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

<i>2026 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (Bonneville Pool)</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Thursday February 12 through 6:00 PM on Monday February 16, 2026 (4.5 days).
Area:	Bonneville Pool only
Gear:	Setlines
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Allowed Sales:	Sturgeon between 38 to 54 inches fork length may be sold or kept for subsistence. 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. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

<i>2026 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (The Dalles and John Day Pools)</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Wednesday February 18 through 6:00 PM on Saturday February 21, 2026 (3.5 days).
Area:	The Dalles Pool and John Day Pool only
Gear:	Setlines
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Allowed Sales:	Sturgeon between 43 to 54 inches fork length may be sold or kept for subsistence. 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. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.

- The tribes have used conservative estimates of likely average daily catches based on higher than average observed catches from recent years, which are higher than observed catches so far in 2026.
- Bonneville Pool catches per day in the first opening were 39 fish per day which was lower than January catch rates in 2025. The expected total sturgeon catch in the Bonneville Pool in the planned opening would be 176 based on this catch rate but could be up to 840 based on the highest catch rate observed in any opening in 2025. Given this year’s catch rates to date in the Bonneville Pool have been less than last year, the tribes expect the catch in this opening to be less than 840 but will likely be above 176.
- The Dalles Pool catch rates in the first opening were 12 fish per day and 20 fish per day in the second opening. Based on these catch rates, the expected catch in the planned opening would be no more than 70 fish. However, the highest observed catch rate in The Dalles pool was 97 fish per day which would produce a catch of 340 fish. The catch is expected to be within this range.
- The John Day Pool catch rate in the first opening was 11 fish per day, which would equate to a catch of 39 fish. The highest setline catch rate in the John Day Pool on record was 28 fish per day which would equate to a catch of 98 fish in the planned opening. The expected catch is within this range.
- The expected catch of steelhead in setline fishing is zero.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect it may be possible to set additional fishing time after these openings close.

STOCK STATUS

Salmonids

- No spring Chinook are expected to be present in the John Day Pool during this time period and only very small numbers of A-/B-Index steelhead from last year’s run would be present. No salmonids are expected to be present in the backwater areas for the planned fishery.

Non-Native Fish Species

- There are no stock status data for non-native fish species, but non-native fish are known to be present in the John Day Pool, especially in backwater areas.

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon and Steelhead

- In the unlikely event that any salmonid mortalities occur with the planned fisheries, impacts would be counted against mainstem treaty fishery impact limits in the *U.S. v. Oregon* Management Agreement and its associated ESA impact limits.

Sturgeon

- Sturgeon mortalities in fisheries other than target commercial sturgeon fisheries are counted with subsistence catch for which there is no annual limit. Any such mortalities are documented and used in stock assessments. No sturgeon are expected to be handled in the planned fishery.

Non-native fish species

- There are no harvest limits for non-native fish species, and it is the tribal policy to maximize the removal of these invasive fish to the extent feasible. Non-native fish species are known to prey on native fish including salmon and steelhead and juvenile sturgeon. Non-native fish cause ecological harm by changing predator prey relationships, providing forage for birds that also prey on salmon and steelhead. They can also modify the environment through their spawning and feeding behaviors. Any efforts to reduce numbers of non-native fish should provide benefits to the Columbia River ecosystem.

2025 TREATY INDIAN SPRING RESEARCH FISHERY FOR NON-NATIVE FISH

- To test the feasibility and practicality of using commercial fishing techniques as a tool to assist in the control of non-native fish, the tribes issued one research fishing permit in 2025 to test gillnets in selected backwater areas of the John Day Pool.
- The initial tests were done over seventeen days in two areas over four permit periods and resulted in a harvest of 103 carp, 40 bass, 132 walleye, and 178 catfish. No salmonids or sturgeon were handled. The only native fish caught were 31 northern pikeminnow and 26 suckers.
- The tribes plan to continue testing methods of harvesting non-native fish in 2026 starting this winter. One permit is expected, but more may possibly be issued. Fishing is not expected to occur throughout the entire permit period.
- Carp are the target species, but any other non-native species as well as pikeminnow may be retained for commercial or other purposes. Permits will require that no non-native species be released alive.
- Logbooks will be the primary tool to assess the program although there will be requirements for permit holders to have daily contact with their tribes' fishery managers. On the water monitoring will occur as staff availability allows. Permit holders will be required to attend gear while fishing. Exact permit language may vary by tribe, but permits will stipulate collection of

data on number of fish handled by species including any juveniles. Descriptions of gears and number of gears used will be documented. The tribes may include various other limits for fishers as appropriate, and these could include time or location limits and additional restrictions if salmonids are handled. The tribes will reserve the right to limit or modify permits as needed to ensure compliance with permits and ensure minimal risk to listed salmonids or sturgeon. Individual permits may or may not be valid for the full duration of the planned time period.

2026 Treaty Indian Winter Season Research Commercial Fishery (John Day Pool)	
Season:	6:00 AM Friday February 13 through 6:00 PM Saturday March 21 (36.5 days)
Area:	The following areas in the John Day Pool: Railroad Island slough (45.72504, -120.69580)- only the slough side waters up from the railroad tracks. Paterson Slough (45.70664, -120.46430)- only the slough side to the north of Hwy 14. Sundale slough (45.72008, -120.31364)- only the slough side waters up from the railroad tracks. Jones Canyon slough (45.71576, -121.24522)- only the slough south of the railroad tracks. Willow Creek slough (45.79306, -120.01470)- only waters south of the eastbound lanes of I-84. Alderdale slough (45.83741, -119.92876)- only waters north of Hwy 14. Paterson Slough (45.92950, -119.55259)- waters inside the mouth of the slough, across from Irrigon & Umatilla fish hatcheries.
Gear:	Gillnets Only.
Sanctuaries	These areas do not include any standard closed areas applicable to gillnet gear.
Allowed Sales	Yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, carp, northern pikeminnow and northern pike may be sold or retained for other purposes. These species may be sold after the permit fishing period concludes. All other species including salmon, steelhead and sturgeon must be released.
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.

- The planned permits are expected to have zero handle or mortality to adult or juvenile salmonids or sturgeon. Any mortality to these species will be accounted for under existing treaty fishery impacts for those species.
- The results of the permit research fishery will be shared with co-managers. Depending on the results, the tribes could propose additional research fisheries in other areas or at other times of the year at some later date.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Joint State hearing is scheduled for 11:30 AM February 19, 2026 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.

- The tribes may request a hearing during the week of February 23, 2026.

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5b
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 11, 2026**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Select Area commercial fisheries Zone 6 recreational white sturgeon
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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 online. The most recent reports relevant to these fisheries are the 2026 Stock Status and Fisheries for White Sturgeon Report (January 21, 2026) and the 2026 Stock Status and Fisheries for Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 2, 2026) 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 9, the current Columbia River water temperature at Bonneville Dam of 41°F is higher than the five-year average for this time in February (39°F). The outflow is about 167.5 kcfs, which is higher than the recent 5-year average of 141.4 kcfs. Visibility is 7 feet compared to the five-year average of 6.5 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 upstream of 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 126,247 fish (range 73,105 to 187,816).

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 43,203 fish (range 27,292 to 55,391).

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 20,112 fish (range 6,803 to 33,577) to the tributaries and 12,878 fish (range 2,717 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 15,344 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 2026 return of summer steelhead are not yet available; however, the expectation is for abundance to be low again. If so, this would be the eleventh 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 13, 2025.

<i>Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted</i>				
		2025 Forecast	2025 Return	2026 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Upriver Total *	122,500	154,703	147,300
	Upper Columbia	21,500	22,193	16,300
	<i>Upper Columbia natural-origin</i>	<i>2,200</i>	<i>4,002</i>	<i>2,400</i>
	Snake River Spring/Summer	56,200	82,973	61,600
	<i>Snake River natural-origin</i>	<i>9,800</i>	<i>12,864</i>	<i>12,500</i>
	Lower River Total	95,000	97,799	81,400
	Total Spring Chinook	217,500	252,502	228,700
	<u>Area-specific detail</u>			
	Willamette River	51,200	50,527	43,700
	<i>Willamette River hatchery-origin</i>	<i>36,600</i>	<i>40,582</i>	<i>32,000</i>
	Sandy River	7,300	7,123	6,400
	Select Areas**	16,600	19,818	13,700
	Cowlitz River	13,700	11,377	9,300
	Kalama River	3,000	4,235	3,300
	Lewis River	3,200	4,719	5,000
	Wind River**	4,900	8,529	6,100
	Drano Lake/Little White Salmon River**	7,600	12,235	11,300
	Hood River**	n/a	3,005	n/a
	Klickitat River**	1,200	1,480	1,700
	Deschutes River**	n/a	1,953	n/a
	John Day River**	n/a	2,111	n/a
	Umatilla River**	2,600	2,395	n/a
	Yakima River**	2,600	3,765	3,600
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	38,000	43,642	41,000
Sockeye	Total Sockeye	350,200	167,549	274,900
	Wenatchee	94,000	63,716	85,200
	Okanogan	248,000	101,551	184,000
	Yakima	5,000	839	2,300
	Deschutes	100	175	100
	Snake River	3,100	1,268	3,300
Winter Steelhead	Wild	17,400	17,445	17,400
<i>Note: Italicized wild and hatchery components are included in the stock total</i>				
* Upriver totals are developed by 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.				
** Return to tributary mouth.				
1/26/2026				

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 2026 preseason forecasts of 147,300 upriver spring Chinook and 12,500 Snake River natural-origin spring Chinook, ESA impacts for 2026 fisheries are limited to 10.0%, with 1.7% for non-treaty fisheries and 8.3% 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 103,110 upriver spring Chinook. This abundance applied to the 8.3% allowed treaty harvest rate results in an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 8,558 adult upriver spring Chinook.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits annual freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to $\leq 15\%$.
- 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 2026 return of 32,800 hatchery spring Chinook, and the FMEP escapement goal of 23,000 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 9,800 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 13, 2025.
- The *U.S. v. OR* Sturgeon Management Task Force, a joint state/tribal body, met on January 27, 2026 and recommended maintaining the harvest guidelines for 2025–2027 in John Day Pool (315 fish total guideline: 210 for treaty commercial fisheries and 105 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

2026 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

2026 Spring Chinook Harvest Management

- The Oregon and Washington upriver spring Chinook allocation policies for 2026 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 ≤ 501 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 16,407 Chinook annually over the past five years (2021–2025), with 92% of the harvested fish originating from Select Area sites. The 2026 harvest expectation is 13,700 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 2026 winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held in Astoria on January 21. For 2026, 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 2026 winter/spring/summer Select Area commercial fisheries are expected to be $\leq 0.34\%$ for upriver spring Chinook, 0.90% for Willamette spring Chinook, 0.00% for sockeye, 0.06% 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 commercial or recreational fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam in 2026.
- Shad retention and sales are allowed in Oregon Select Area commercial fisheries as per OAR 635-042-0105.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

- 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: 2026 Blind Slough and Knappa Slough Select Areas

Winter Season:	<p>The winter Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 22 fishing periods from February 15 through April 14 as described below:</p> <p><u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u></p> <p>7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 15-March 20 (15 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 23-April 14 (7 nights)</p>
Spring Season:	<p>The spring Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 30 fishing periods from April 16 through June 12 as described below:</p> <p><u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u></p> <p>7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights April 16-April 24 (3 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 27-May 1 (3 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 4-May 15 (8 nights) 6 PM to 9 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 18-June 12 (16 nights)</p>
Summer Season:	<p>The summer Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 19 fishing periods from June 16 through July 17 as described below:</p> <p><u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u></p> <p>7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights June 16-July 17 (19 nights)</p>
Area:	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed.</p> <p>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.</p>
Gear:	<p><u>Gear restrictions as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction.• Spring and Summer seasons: 9³/₄-inch maximum mesh size restriction.• The maximum net length is 750 feet (125 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 and expands hours in late spring during timeframes with lower relative abundance of upriver stocks and modifies summer periods to add opportunity while maintaining minimal encounters with non-local stocks.
- 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 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: 2026 Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas

Winter Season: The winter Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 22 fishing periods from February 15 through April 14 as described below:
Tongue Point and South Channel open:
 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 15-March 13 (12 nights)
Tongue Point open:
 5:30 PM to 9:30 PM Sunday March 15 (4 hours)
 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM Tuesday March 17 (4 hours)
 8 PM Thursday March 19 to 12 AM Friday March 20 (4 hours)
South Channel open:
 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights March 15-March 20 (3 nights)
 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 23-April 14 (7 nights)

Spring Season: The spring Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 30 fishing periods from April 16 through June 12 as described below:

South Channel open:

7 PM Thursday April 16 to 7 AM Friday April 17 (1 night)

7 PM Monday April 20 to 7 AM Tuesday April 21 (1 night)

Tongue Point open:

9:30 PM Monday April 20 to 1:30 AM Tuesday April 21 (4 hours)

Tongue Point and South Channel open:

7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 23-May 1 (4 nights)

7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 4-May 15 (8 nights)

6 PM to 9 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 18-June 12 (16 nights)

Summer Season:

The summer Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 19 fishing periods from June 16 through July 17 as described below:

Tongue Point and South Channel open:

7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights June 16-July 17 (19 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 is generally concurrent with Blind Slough and continues the expanded winter schedule utilized in recent years and expands hours in late spring during timeframes with lower relative abundance of upriver stocks and modifies summer periods to add opportunity while maintaining minimal encounters with non-local 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: 2026 Youngs Bay Select Area

Winter Season: The winter Youngs Bay season includes 25 fishing periods from February 16 through April 2 as described below:

Youngs Bay open:
6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday February 16-March 12 (16 periods)
5 AM to 9 AM Monday March 16 (4 hours)
6:30 AM to 10:30 AM Wednesday March 18 (4 hours)
7 AM to 11 AM Thursday March 19 (4 hours)

Upper Youngs Bay Area open:
10 AM to 2 PM Monday March 23 (4 hours)
12 PM to 4 PM Wednesday March 25 (4 hours)
1:30 PM to 5:30 PM Thursday March 26 (4 hours)
5 AM to 9 AM Monday March 30 (4 hours)
6 AM to 10 AM Wednesday April 1 (4 hours)
7 AM to 11 AM Thursday April 2 (4 hours)

Spring Season:

The spring Youngs Bay season includes 14 fishing periods from April 20 through June 12 as described below:

Upper Youngs Bay Area open:

9 AM to 1 PM Monday April 20 (4 hours)

Youngs Bay open:

12 PM to 4 PM Thursday April 23 (4 hours)

4 PM to 8 PM Monday April 27 (4 hours)

5 PM to 9 PM Wednesday April 29 (4 hours)

6 PM to 10 PM Thursday April 30 (4 hours)

8:30 AM to 12:30 PM Monday May 4 (4 hours)

9 AM to 1 PM Tuesday May 5 (4 hours)

9:30 AM to 1:30 PM Wednesday May 6 (4 hours)

10 AM to 2 PM Thursday May 7 (4 hours)

6 AM Mondays – 9 AM Fridays May 11 – June 12 (4 continuous days/wk) (20 days)

Summer Season:

The summer Youngs Bay season includes seven fishing periods from June 16 through July 30 as described below (all periods include multiple continuous days):

6 AM Tuesday June 16 – 9 AM Friday June 19 (3 continuous days)

6 AM Mondays – 9 AM Fridays June 22 – July 17 (4 continuous days/wk) (16 days)

6 AM Tuesdays – Noon Thursdays July 21 – July 30 (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: 9³/₄-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.
 - Added three fishing periods in March (two in early March, one in late March) relative to the 2025 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.
 - Scheduled 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.

<i>Recommendation: 2026 Deep River Select Area</i>	
Winter Season:	The winter Deep River season includes 22 fishing periods from February 15 through April 14 as described below: 7 PM to 9 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 15-March 20 (15 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 23-April 14 (7 nights)
Spring Season:	The spring Deep River season includes 22 fishing periods from April 16 through May 29 as described below: 7 PM to 9 AM Monday and Thursday nights April 16-April 24 (3 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 27-May 1 (3 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 4-May 29 (16 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:	<p><u>Gear restrictions as follows:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (17). • 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:	<p>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.</p> <p>Winter and Spring seasons: fishers are required to call 360-846-5268 to confirm the place and time of sampling.</p> <p>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.</p>

- The proposed season structure largely aligns with prior winter and spring fisheries in the Deep River site and proposed season structure for 2026 in Blind/Knappa Slough and South Channel except that the Deep River proposed season was shortened to conclude on May 29 as there has been very little catch or effort in recent years beyond the end of May.
- 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

- Given the recent high levels of effort and catch observed on the traditional January 1 start date, as well as unseasonably warm water temperatures during the previous two seasons, the states took action to enact retention closures in Bonneville and The Dalles pools until later in the winter when fisheries could be crafted that would project to stay within harvest guidelines.

- Current recreational sturgeon guidelines and harvest estimates for 2026 Zone 6 recreational fisheries are summarized below (as of February 10, 2026):

Pool	Angler Trips	Harvest	Recreational Guideline	Percent of Guideline
Bonneville	--	--	1,250	--
The Dalles	--	--	275	--
John Day	929	99	105	94%

- Water temperatures in the tailrace of The Dalles Dam have cooled relative to January 1, but are still warmer than the historical average for this time of year.
- Current conditions would be expected to result in high, but reduced catch rates and effort in Bonneville and The Dalles pools relative to the expectations had these fisheries opened on January 1.
- Therefore, given the expected catch rates and level of effort, staff recommend the following retention sturgeon fisheries in Bonneville Pool and The Dalles Pool.

<i>Recommendation - 2026 Bonneville Pool Recreational Sturgeon Fishery</i>		
Season:	Monday, February 16	1 day
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to The Dalles Dam, and all adjacent tributaries	
Allowable Catch:	White sturgeon Legal size: 38-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 <u>under</u> the fish) Daily bag limit: One fish (applicable to any/all sturgeon retention fisheries) Annual bag limit: Two fish (applicable to any/all sturgeon retention fisheries)	

<i>Recommendation - 2026 The Dalles Pool Recreational Sturgeon Fishery</i>		
Season:	Monday, February 16	1 day
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 <u>under</u> the fish) Daily bag limit: One fish (applicable to any/all sturgeon retention fisheries) Annual bag limit: Two fish (applicable to any/all sturgeon retention fisheries)	

- With this recommendation, the expected catch in Bonneville Pool is projected to total 771 fish (62% of the guideline) and expected catch in The Dalles Pool is projected to total 95 fish (35% of the guideline).
- Following these openers, staff will assess harvest balances and determine whether additional retention opportunity can be recommended.
- Given John Day Pool only has six fish remaining on its guideline, this retention fishery will remain closed for the remainder of the year.
- 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 Joint State hearing is scheduled for 11:30 AM February 19, 2026 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area	6-7	Compact and Oregon state
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area	7-9	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youngs Bay Select Area	9-11	Oregon state
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep River Select Area	11-12	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zone 6 Recreational White Sturgeon	13	Joint state