
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

January 8, 2026

Compact Action

The Columbia River Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington met today and took the following actions:

Non-Treaty Fisheries

Mainstem Columbia River Commercial Smelt Fishery

Adopted a season as follows:

Season: Daily open hours are 5 AM to 5 PM (12 hours)
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from January 12 (18 periods)
through February 19
Mondays and Thursdays from February 23 through March 19 (8 periods)

Area: Zones 1-3

Gear: Gillnets only. Mesh size may not exceed two inches stretch measure. Nets may not exceed 1,500 feet in length along the cork line.

Allowable Sales: Smelt

Misc. Regulations: Multiple net rule in effect. Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the 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.

Reporting Rules: Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets 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.

24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315.

Joint State Action

The states of Oregon and Washington discussed the following recreational fisheries and took the following actions:

Columbia River Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries

John Day Pool (John Day Dam to McNary Dam)

- Effective Saturday January 10, 2026 the retention of sturgeon is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from John Day Dam upstream to McNary Dam (John Day Pool) and all adjacent tributaries.

For all recreational sturgeon fisheries, the statewide harvest limits, seasonal sturgeon spawning sanctuary closures, and other restrictions in the 2026 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations book will be in effect the entire year, including catch-and-release angling allowed during periods closed to sturgeon retention.

Current regulations are available at:

<https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/columbia-zone>.

For information concerning these decisions see the January 8, 2026 Winter Fact Sheet No.3 at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp.

Future Meetings

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Wednesday February 11, 2026 via teleconference to consider Select Area commercial salmon fisheries (winter, spring, and summer seasons).
- A Joint State hearing is scheduled for 11:30 AM Thursday February 19, 2026 to consider Columbia River recreational spring Chinook fisheries. The hearing will be held at the ODFW Clackamas office located at 17330 SE Evelyn Street, Clackamas, OR 97015. A teleconference call-in option will be available.