
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

February 25, 2026

Compact Action

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

Treaty Indian Fisheries

Allowed commercial sales of fish landed in the following fisheries:

Zone 6 Commercial Winter Setline Fisheries (The Dalles and John Day Pools)

Season: 6 AM Thursday February 26 through 6 PM Wednesday March 4 (6.5 days)
Area: The Dalles Pool and John Day Pool
Sanctuaries: Standard closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Gear: Setlines
Allowable Sales: Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Reporting Rule: Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.
24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

Non-Treaty Fisheries

Mainstem Columbia River Commercial Smelt Fishery

Modified the following on-going fishery (modifications in **bold**):

Season: Daily open hours are 5 AM to 5 PM (12 hours)
Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from January 12 through February 19
Monday February 23 and Thursday February 26
Mondays, **Wednesdays**, and Thursdays from March 2 through March 19
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

Adopted the following retention fishery:

The Dalles Pool (The Dalles Dam upstream to John Day Dam)

Date: Tuesday March 3, 2026 (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 under the fish).

The daily bag limit is one fish. The annual bag limit is two fish (applicable to any/all sturgeon retention fisheries).

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

Regulation updates are available at: <https://myodfw.com/recreation-report/fishing-report/columbia-zone>.

For information concerning these decisions see the February 25, 2026 Winter Fact Sheets No.7a & 7b at: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp.

Future Meetings

No Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as necessary.