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# Columbia River Fishery Notice

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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

December 17, 2009

## Compact Action

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

### Non-Indian Fisheries

#### *Winter Commercial Mainstem White Sturgeon Fishery*

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial season as follows:

<b>Season:</b>	6 PM Tuesday January 19	to	6 PM Wednesday January 20, 2010	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday January 26	to	6 PM Wednesday January 27, 2010	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 2	to	6 PM Wednesday February 3, 2010	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 9	to	6 PM Wednesday February 10, 2010	(24 hrs)
	6 PM Tuesday February 16	to	6 PM Wednesday February 17, 2010	(24 hrs)

**Area:** Zones 1 - 5.

**Sanctuaries:** Sandy River sanctuary is in effect.

**Gear:** 9" minimum and 9-3/4" maximum mesh size restrictions.

**Allowable Sales:** White sturgeon (43-54 inch fork length) and adipose fin-clipped salmon. A maximum of **15** white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open.

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#### *Commercial Mainstem Smelt Fishery*

- Effective 12:01 AM Friday January 1, 2010, the current commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River will be modified to a Level 1 fishery as follows:

**Season:** Mondays and Thursdays from 7 AM – 2 PM (7 hrs) during January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010.

**Area:** Zones 1 – 5.

**Gear:** Gill nets, dip nets, or trawls as per permanent regulations.

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The following Washington Quick Reporting Rule applies to **both** non-Indian commercial seasons adopted above:

Washington Reporting Rule: WDFW adopted a regulation requiring all Washington wholesale buyers purchasing fish from commercial fisheries to send a report of their landings to WDFW within **24** hours of the closure of the fishery via either:

- a) FAX transmission to (360) 906-6776 or (360) 906-6777
- b) E-mail to [crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)
- c) Telephone to 1-866-791-1281

## Treaty Indian Fisheries

Compact agencies of Oregon and Washington did not modify the currently adopted fisheries shown below:

### ***Winter Sturgeon Setline Fishery***

- Under permanent Compact rules, a treaty Indian commercial setline season occurs as follows:

**Season:** 12 noon Friday January 1, 2010 to 12 noon Sunday January 31, 2010  
**Area:** All of Zone 6.  
**Sanctuaries:** Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries are in effect.  
**Miscellaneous Rules:** White sturgeon between 43-54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools and white sturgeon between 38-54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence use.

### ***Winter Sturgeon Commercial Fishery***

- Under permanent Compact rules, a treaty Indian winter commercial season occurs as follows:

**Season:** Noon Monday February 1 to 6 PM Sunday March 21, 2010.  
**Area:** All of Zone 6.  
**Sanctuaries:** Standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries are in effect.  
**Gear:** No mesh size restrictions.  
**Allowable Sales:** White sturgeon, steelhead, walleye, shad, carp, catfish, bass and yellow perch. Fish landed during an open commercial period may be sold at any time.  
White sturgeon between 43-54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day pools and white sturgeon between 38-54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence use.  
Chinook salmon may not be sold but may be retained for Ceremonial and Subsistence use.  
**Miscellaneous Rules:** Sale of platform and hook-and-line caught fish is allowed during open commercial gillnet seasons, with the same allowable species.  
**Washington Reporting Rule:** WDFW adopted a regulation requiring all Washington wholesale buyers purchasing fish from the treaty Indian mainstem winter commercial fishery to send a report of their landings to WDFW within 24 hours of the closure of the fishery via either:  
a. FAX transmission to (360) 906-6776 or (360) 906-6777  
b. E-mail to [crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:crfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov)  
c. Telephone to 1-866-791-1281

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- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) will meet in early January 2010 to review stock assessment updates and develop recommendations for subsequent Zone 6 sturgeon management in 2010.

## Joint State Action

The states of Oregon and Washington took no action on Columbia and Willamette River white sturgeon recreational fisheries. Recreational sturgeon fisheries will resume for the early portion of 2010 under the same regulations as 2009. Additional season modifications will be considered at the February Compact/Joint State hearing.

### 2010 Lower Columbia River White Sturgeon Recreational Fishery

#### *Above Wauna Powerlines*

In the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines (River Mile 40) upstream to Bonneville Dam, all adjacent Washington tributaries, and the lower Willamette River upstream to Willamette Falls (including Multnomah Channel):

- Allow retention of white sturgeon three days per week on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday effective January 1, 2010 through July 31, 2010 and October 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 with a **38-inch minimum and 54-inch maximum fork length restriction in effect.**
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#### *Below Wauna Powerlines*

In the mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines (River Mile 40) downstream to the mouth at Buoy 10, including Youngs Bay; and all adjacent Washington tributaries:

- Allow retention of white sturgeon during:
    - January 1, 2010 through April 30, 2010.
    - May 9, 2010 through June 28, 2010.
    - July 2, 2010 through July 5, 2010 (or until guideline is met).
      - **38-inch minimum fork length** in effect during January 1 through April 30, 2010.
      - **41-inch minimum fork length** in effect during May 9, 2010 through the rest of the season.
      - **54-inch maximum fork length** in effect throughout the season.
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The following regulations apply to the recreational sturgeon seasons adopted above:

- Catch and release of sturgeon may continue during retention closures.
- Retention of green sturgeon is prohibited as per permanent regulations.
- Catch limits and other restrictions listed in the current 2010 Oregon Sport Fishing Regulations pamphlet remain in effect the entire year.

## **Oregon State Action**

The state of Oregon took the following actions:

### ***Oregon Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Smelt Fisheries***

- Modified the recreational mainstem smelt fishery as follows:

**Season:** Open 7 days a week, 24-hours a day during January 1 - March 31, 2010  
**Area:** Zones 1 – 5.  
**Limit:** 10 pounds per person.  
**Miscellaneous:** Concurrent rules with Washington

**The state of Washington announced their intentions concerning smelt fisheries in Washington waters.**

### ***Washington Mainstem Columbia River Recreational Smelt Fisheries***

- Adopted a recreational mainstem smelt fishery as follows:

**Season:** Open 7 days a week, 24-hours a day during January 1 - March 31, 2010  
**Area:** Zones 1 – 5.  
**Limit:** 10 pounds per person.  
**Miscellaneous:** Concurrent rules with Oregon

### ***Washington Tributary Smelt Fisheries***

- Washington did not adopt tributary smelt fisheries at this time.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The next Compact/Joint State hearing is scheduled for 10 AM, Thursday, February 18, 2010 at the Clackamas County Historical Society, 211 Tumwater Drive, Oregon City, Oregon to review salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, and shad stock status; and consider non-Indian commercial and recreational fishing seasons for white sturgeon and spring Chinook in the mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas.
- For information concerning these decisions see the December 17, 2009 Winter Fact Sheet #1. [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact\\_sheets.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp)