
Columbia River Fishery Notice

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

March 29, 2010

Compact Action

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

Non-Indian Fisheries

Commercial Mainstem Winter Salmon Fishery

- Adopted a non-Indian commercial season as follows:

Season: Noon to midnight Tuesday March 30, 2010 (12 hours)

Area: Mouth upstream to the I-205 Bridge.

Sanctuaries: Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal rivers as applicable.

Gear: **4¼-inch maximum mesh size** during tangle net fishery. Use of monofilament nets is prohibited.

Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for tangle nets constructed with an optional steelhead excluder. Legal excluding devices include a mesh panel hung between the cork line and the tangle net mesh. The excluder panel must be a minimum of 5 feet in depth and not exceed 10 feet in depth with a 12-inch minimum mesh size. Monofilament mesh is allowed for the excluder panel.

Use of weedlines or droppers, used in smelt bobber nets, are also legal excluding devices. Weedlines or droppers must extend a minimum of 5' above the tangle net mesh.

Allowable Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon, white sturgeon, and shad.

Sales: A maximum of **five** white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) the fishery is open. The weekly white sturgeon sales limit applies to mainstem and Select Area fisheries.

Participants: Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that have attended and completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques.

Multiple Net Rule:

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.

Other permanent gear regulations remain in effect.

Miscellaneous Regulations:

Owners or operators of commercial fishing vessels must cooperate with Department observers or observers collecting data for the Department, when notified by the observer of their intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery.

Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when the first mesh enters the water to when the last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.

Red corks are required at 25 fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Two red corks are required on each end of tangle nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.

Use of recovery boxes is required on all lethargic or bleeding steelhead and all lethargic or bleeding non-adipose fin-clipped salmon.

Each vessel participating in this fishery is required to have 2 operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers. Operable recovery boxes require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to each chamber of the box(es). Each box must be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked.

12-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Compact hearing may be scheduled for Wednesday March 31 or Monday April 5, 2010.
- For information concerning these decisions see the March 29, 2010 Winter Fact Sheet #8 at: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/fact_sheets.asp
- Recorded Mainstem Commercial, Select Area Commercial, and Sport Fishery Updates and Action Notices can be accessed by calling (971) 673-6000 and following recorded instructions.
- Note: Joint Staff Reports, Fact Sheets, and Columbia River Action Notices are also available through the Internet at: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/index.asp>