

HOTLINE

Recorded Monday September 19, 2011

The following is a brief summary of emergency and permanent sport fishing regulations for the lower mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries.

Complete information contained in this hotline message can be found in the 2011/2012 Fishing in Washington pamphlet or on the department's web site @ <http://wdfw.wa.gov/>.

SALMON/STEELHEAD

Buoy 10 to the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line – Through the end of the year, up to two adult Chinook may be retained as part of the salmonid daily limit. Through September 30, the daily limit is 2 salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho. Chinook minimum length 24 inches; coho minimum length 16 inches.

Beginning October 1, permanent rules will be in effect.

The mainstem Columbia River from the Rocky Point/Tongue Point line upstream to a line projected from the Warrior Rock lighthouse through Red Buoy #4 to the orange marker atop the dolphin on the Washington shore - Through September 18, up to two adult Chinook may be retained as part of the salmonid daily limit. The daily limit is 6 fish. Up to 2 may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho.

Chinook retention (for adults and jacks) will close again effective September 19 and reopen October 1 through the end of the year.

Mainstem Columbia from the Warrior Rock line upstream to McNary Dam - Through December, open for chinook, coho, and hatchery steelhead. All other salmon must be released. Daily limit is 6 fish. Up to two may be adult salmon or hatchery steelhead or one of each. Wild coho must be released upstream to the Hood River Bridge.

Entire Mainstem Columbia - Anglers may not possess in the field fish mutilated so that size, species or fin clip cannot be determined until the angler has reached their automobile or principle means of land transportation and has completed their daily angling.

Cowlitz River from boundary markers at mouth to 400 feet below Mayfield Dam powerhouse - The salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which only 2 may be adult chinook. Only hatchery chinook and hatchery coho may be retained.

Tilton River from mouth to West Fork – Until further notice, wild Chinook (adults and jacks) must be released. The salmon daily limit is 6 fish of which up to 2 may be hatchery adult Chinook. Release wild coho.

North Fork Lewis River from mouth to overhead powerlines below Merwin Dam – Until further notice, wild Chinook may be retained. The salmon daily limit is 6 adults of which only 2 may be adult Chinook. Any Chinook (adipose fin clipped or not) may be retained. Release all salmon other than Chinook and hatchery coho.

Under permanent regulations, Colvin Creek (located upstream from the salmon hatchery) upstream to Merwin Dam closes to all fishing beginning October 1.

Washougal River – Effective September 17 until further notice, the fishing closure is reduced from 400 feet to 200 feet downstream of the new Washougal River adult fish weir.

White Salmon River - The lower portion of the White Salmon River will be closed to fishing for 12 hours Sept. 17 to allow an interagency clean-up team to remove derelict boats, camping gear and other debris before Condit Dam is breached in late October. The fishing closure will be in effect from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 17. The affected area extends 3.3 miles from the Highway 14 Bridge to the powerhouse at the dam. The river mouth downstream of the Highway 14 Bridge will remain open.

New Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement - All anglers 15 or older fishing for salmon or steelhead on the Columbia River or its tributaries must have an endorsement *in addition to their fishing license*. All other seasons and limits apply. The endorsement is good for the entire license year (through March 31), costs \$8.75, and can be purchased at a licensed dealer or online.

STURGEON

Mainstem Columbia and its tributaries from Buoy 10 upstream to the Wauna powerlines – Catch-and-release fishing is permitted through the end of the year.

Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam (including all adjacent Washington tributaries) – White sturgeon must be released through September 30. Beginning October 1, white sturgeon may be retained Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays only. Catch-and-release fishing is permitted on non-retention days.

Bonneville Dam to McNary Dam (including all tributaries) - The retention of sturgeon in all three pools and tributaries is prohibited through the rest of the year.

Catch-and-release fishing is permitted.

Thank you for calling the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Hotline.