

COLUMBIA RIVER COMPACTACTION NOTICE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

April 4, 2016

THE FOLLOWING SEASON WAS SET:

<i>Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	10:00 AM to 8:00 PM Tuesday April 5, 2016 (10 hours)
Area:	Zones 1-5
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elochoman-B, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-B, Lewis-B, Sandy and Washougal.
Gear:	<p>Drift nets only. 4¼-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Single-wall multi-filament net only. Monofilament tangle nets are not allowed.</p> <p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. Net length can increase from 150 to 175 fathoms for nets constructed with a steelhead excluder panel, weedlines, or droppers.</p> <p>Mesh size is determined by placing three consecutive meshes under hand tension, and the measurement is taken from the inside of one knot to the inside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas may be onboard a 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.</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Adipose fin-clipped Chinook salmon and shad.</p> <p>Landing limits in place: <u>A maximum of four (4) adult adipose-fin clipped Chinook may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel.</u> The first four (4) adult hatchery fish must be retained and no additional drifts may be conducted once the Chinook limit has been retained.</p> <p>Jacks (Chinook less than 24-inches in total length) do not count against the adult landing limit.</p>
Regulations	<p>Standard regulations typically in place for spring Chinook commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, lighted buoys, tangle net certification, etc.</p> <p><u>Soak times</u>, defined as the time elapsed from when the first of the gill net web is deployed into the water until the gill net web is fully retrieved from the water, must not exceed 45 minutes.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Lighted Buoys</u>: Nets that are fished at any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have lighted buoys on both ends of the net unless the net is attached to the boat. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the opposite end of the net from the boat is required</p> <p><u>Recovery Box</u>: Each boat will be required to have on board two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers that meet the flow and size requirements standard for the winter/spring season. Each box and chamber and associated pump shall be operating during any time that the net is being retrieved or picked; pumps must continue to run until the net is fully retrieved and completely on board the vessel. Pumps shall continue to run whenever a fish is in the recovery box. All sturgeon, non-adipose fin-clipped salmon, and steelhead must be released immediately to the river with care and with the least possible injury to the fish, or placed into an operating recovery box. Any non-legal salmonid that is bleeding or lethargic must be placed in the recovery box prior to being released. All fish placed in recovery boxes must be released to the river prior to landing or docking.</p>
Additional Rules:	<p>Observer program: As a condition of fishing, 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 his or her intent to board the commercial vessel for observation and sampling during an open fishery. Additionally, cooperation with department personnel prior to a fishing period is expected.</p> <p>Live Capture workshop: Only licensed Columbia River commercial fishers that have completed the required state-sponsored workshop concerning live capture commercial fishing techniques may participate in this fishery. At least one fisher on each boat must have live capture certification.</p> <p>24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-69-240. Oregon buyers are required to electronically submit fish receiving tickets pursuant to OAR 635-006-0210.</p>

A Joint State hearing is scheduled for 2:00 PM Thursday April 7 to review the ongoing Lower Columbia River sport fishery and consider a summer season recreational fishery for white sturgeon retention in Bonneville Pool.