

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 1a**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**July 27, 2017**

Fisheries Under Consideration:    Non-Treaty Select Area commercial salmon
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*Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The 2017 Fall Report will be distributed prior to the August 16 Compact hearing which will address mainstem treaty and non-treaty commercial fisheries. The most recent relevant report is the 2016 Fall Report (July 12, 2016). Links to the on-line reports are: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

**STOCK STATUS**

*2017 fall-season stock status information is presented in fall Fact Sheet #1.*

**2017 NON-TREATY FALL FISHERIES**

***Select Area Commercial Fisheries***

- Expected harvest in Select Area fishing sites include 44,400 Coho and 7,000 SAB fall Chinook.
- Coho returns to Select Area sites are expected to be 82% of the recent 10-year average return.
- Presence of non-local summer steelhead is expected to be very low in the Select Area sites; water temperatures are warmer than in the mainstem Columbia River and therefore they are not attractive refuges.
- Based on performance in recent years and the 2017 forecast, the expected return (after ocean and mainstem Columbia River fisheries) of tule fall Chinook to Big Creek Hatchery will be near broodstock needs, therefore the fishery proposal in the Blind/Knappa Slough site is reduced from recent years.
- Returns of tule fall Chinook released from Deep River net pens since 2009 will allow for opportunity to conduct Chinook-directed fisheries in Deep River during August.
- Regulations and season structure proposed for 2017 are similar to past years but the number of early-season fishing periods is reduced some due to Chinook broodstock concerns.
- Recreational fisheries in Select Area sites are currently open under permanent regulations.

**Deep River Select Area**

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Compact action. Washington state waters extend upstream from the Highway #4 Bridge and require Washington state action.
- A Washington license is required in Washington state waters and either a Washington or Oregon license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2017 Select Area Fall Season - Deep River Fishery</i></b>
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Season:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights August 21 – September 1 (8 nights) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights September 4–23 (15 nights) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights September 25 – October 13 (12 nights) Open hours: 7 PM – 7 AM through September 1, 6 PM – 9 AM from September 4–23, and 7 PM – 7 AM thereafter
Area:	The Deep River fishing area includes all waters from West Deep River Road Bridge at the town of Deep River downstream to the mouth defined by a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore.
Gear:	Gillnets. Maximum mesh size restriction is 9 ¾ -inch through September 9, and 6-inch thereafter. Maximum net length is 100 fathoms. No weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. No nets can be tied off to stationary structures. Nets may not fully cross the navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream, or channel any gillnet gear longer than three-fourths the width of the river, stream, or channel. “River, stream, or channel width” is defined as bank-to-bank, where the water meets the banks, regardless of the time of tide or the water level. This emergency provision shall supersede the permanent regulation and all other regulations that conflict with it. All other provisions of the permanent regulation remain in effect (WAC 220-20-015(1)).  Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery <u>may</u> be onboard the vessel if properly stored. Nets fished any time between official sunset and official sunrise must have <u>lighted buoys</u> on both ends of the net. If the net is attached to the boat, then one lighted buoy on the end of the net opposite the boat is required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of <b>three</b> white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The <b>three</b> white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180. 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 longer than 24 hours.

- Fishing periods in August maximize harvest of SABs in Deep River and reduce their migration into Grays River.
- Use of large mesh gear in August and early September focuses harvest on Chinook during peak abundance.
- The reduced mesh size (after September 9) and season end date are intended to reduce Chum handle and maximize Coho harvest.
- The season concludes in mid-October, when Chum abundance is building and few Chinook or Coho of commercial quality have been landed in recent years.
- Extended fishing hours for the first three weeks of September are intended to maximize harvest during those weeks of higher Coho abundance.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Areas

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and encompass all of Knappa Slough and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough and require Oregon State action.
- An Oregon license is required in Oregon State waters and either an Oregon or Washington license is required in concurrent jurisdiction waters.
- The broodstock goal for Big Creek Hatchery is 2,900 adult Chinook. Broodstock collected in 2016 was less than needed to meet current production goals.

<i><b>Recommendation: 2017 Select Area Fall Season - Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery</b></i>	
Season:	Monday and Wednesday nights August 28–31 (2 nights) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights September 4 – October 27 (32 nights) Open hours: 7 PM – 7 AM through September 8 and 6 PM – 10 AM thereafter.
Areas:	The Blind Slough fishing area includes all waters from markers at the mouth of Gnat Creek located approximately ½-mile upstream of the county road bridge, downstream to markers at the mouth of Blind Slough.  The Knappa Slough fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from the north marker at the mouth of Blind Slough, westerly to a marker on Karlson Island, downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore. The area within a 100-foot radius of the mouth of Big Creek is closed.
Gear:	Gillnets with a 9 ¾ -inch maximum mesh size. Maximum net length of 100 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.  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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of <b>three</b> white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The <b>three</b> white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180. 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 longer than 24 hours.

- Due to Chinook broodstock collection concerns at Big Creek Hatchery, the number of fishing periods in August is reduced relative to recent years.

Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area

- All waters in this fishing area are concurrent jurisdiction waters and require Compact action.
- A license from either Oregon or Washington is required to participate in this fishery.

<b><i>Recommendation: 2017 Select Area Fall Season - Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery</i></b>	
Season:	Monday and Wednesday nights August 28–31 (2 nights) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights September 4 – October 27 (32 nights) Open hours: 7 PM – 7 AM through September 8 and 4 PM – 10 AM thereafter.
Areas:	The Tongue Point fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker midway between the red USCG navigation light #2 at the tip of Tongue Point and the downstream (northern most) pier (#8) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility, to the flashing green USCG navigation light #3 on the rock jetty at the west end of Mott Island, a line from a marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a marker on the northwest tip of Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island westerly to a marker on the Oregon shore.  The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to the flashing red USCG marker #10, northwesterly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.
Gear:	Gillnets with a 6-inch maximum mesh size. Maximum net length of 250 fathoms.  In the Tongue Point fishing area: weight not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Fishers participating in the Tongue Point fishery may have un-stored gillnets legal for the South Channel fishing area onboard the vessel.  In the South Channel fishing area: no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.  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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of <b>three</b> white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The <b>three</b> white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional Rules:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180. 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 longer than 24 hours.

- The Tongue Point/South Channel season dates match Blind Slough/Knappa Slough to maintain concurrency between the two sites and address broodstock collection concerns at Big Creek Hatchery.

Youngs Bay Select Area

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action, but all waters are open to Washington licensed fishers.

<i>Recommendation: 2017 Select Area Fall Season - Youngs Bay Fishery</i>	
Season:	7 PM Tuesday to 7 AM Thursday weekly during August 1–24 Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights August 28–31 Open hours: 7 PM – 7 AM 7 PM Monday September 4 – noon Tuesday October 31
	Four 36-hr periods (3 nights)  (57 days)
Area:	The Youngs Bay fishing area includes all waters from the new Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the upper boundary markers at Battle Creek Slough, including the lower Walluski River upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge and the lower Lewis and Clark upstream to the overhead power lines immediately upstream of Barrett Slough.
Gear:	Gillnets with a 9¾ -inch maximum mesh size restriction through August 24 and a 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction thereafter.  Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed between markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River and the upper deadline at Battle Creek Slough, in the lower Walluski River upstream to the Highway 202 bridge, and in the Lewis and Clark River from the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the overhead power lines immediately upstream of Barrett Slough.  Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.  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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Chinook, Coho, Pink, and Sockeye salmon, white sturgeon, and shad. A maximum of <b>three</b> white sturgeon with a fork length of 44-50 inches may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The <b>three</b> white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes all Select Area fisheries.
Additional 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 longer than 24 hours.

- Modified late-August fishing periods balance commercial harvest opportunity on SAB fall Chinook while allowing for adequate hatchery escapement.
- The standard fall season upper fishing boundary at Battle Creek Slough is intended to limit harvest of SAB fall Chinook that congregate in the upper tidewater area in order to facilitate escapement of broodstock.
- Continuous fishing opportunity throughout the majority of September and October is intended to maximize harvest of Coho.

- The 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction allows the fishery to target Chinook during most of August and the 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction beginning in the last week of August will focus the fishery on Coho as their abundance begins to peak.

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 1 PM Wednesday August 16 at the Rainier City Hall (106 West B St., Rainier, Oregon) to consider treaty Indian and non-treaty mainstem commercial fisheries.