

**2000 FALL SELECT AREA FISHERIES
FACT SHEET
July 27, 2000
Compact Hearing**

**Staff Recommendations for 2000 Fall Salmon Seasons in Columbia River Select
Fishing Areas of Big Creek, Tongue Point/South Channel,
Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Deep River, Steamboat Slough and Youngs Bay**

INTRODUCTION

Oregon and Washington Joint Staff recommendations are presented for Compact consideration in the select fishing areas of Big Creek, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Tongue Point/South Channel in Oregon, and Steamboat Slough and Deep River in Washington. Youngs Bay lies entirely in Oregon and season recommendations will be considered by state action. A public meeting was held June 8 in Astoria to solicit input prior to developing staff recommendations. Select area fishery impacts on nonlocal and listed Columbia River salmon and steelhead have been addressed in the Section 7/10 Assessment/Application for the Incidental Take of Listed Species in Washington and Oregon Mainstem Fisheries of the Columbia River August through December, 2000.

BIG CREEK FISHERY

Background

- Big Creek select area fisheries are considered annually to provide harvest opportunity on large returns of tule stock fall chinook and reduce broodstock surplus returning to the hatchery. Past fisheries were successful in targeting Big Creek stocks, with minor catches of nonlocal stocks. In 1999 a poor return of fall chinook resulted in no fishery.
- Past season catches

<u>Year</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
1983	1,243	6	11
1987	14,734	746	3
1988	9,216	172	1
1996	3,389	143	25
1997	2,000	55	20

2000 Run Expectations

- About 100 select area bright (SAB), Rogue River stock, and 4,000 tule stock fall chinook adults are expected to return in 2000.

Commercial Season Recommendation

- The 2000 return of fall chinook is expected to be below hatchery escapement needs precluding fishery considerations.

EXPERIMENTAL SELECT AREAS (Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, Deep River, and Steamboat Slough)

Background

	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
<u>1996</u>				
Tongue Point	1,955	50	0	-
Blind Slough	2,301	82	2	-
Deep River	2,240	35	0	-
<u>1997</u>				
Tongue Point	861	180	1	-
Blind Slough	1,605	32	0	-
Deep River	963	149	1	-
<u>1998</u>				
Tongue Point	3,374	431	1	68
Blind Slough	615	95	0	1
<u>1999</u>				
Tongue Point	3,659	339	0	106
Blind Slough	1,958	167	0	4
Deep River	1,430	48	2	0

- The 1999 coho catch in experimental Select Areas of about 7,000 fish was below preseason expectations of 9,900 coho.
- Stock composition of coho caught show low levels of nonlocal stocks in the experimental select areas. Only one Snake River wild and no lower river wild (LRW) fall chinook were caught in 1999.
- Sturgeon sales were allowed in all experimental select areas beginning in 1998.
- Expected total harvest in 2000 is 25,000 coho; 5,000 coho in Tongue Point/South Channel, 5,000 coho in Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, 10,000 coho in Deep River, and 5,000 coho in the first fishery in Steamboat Slough. Season setting focuses on maximizing local salmon harvest potential and information collection.

Tongue Point/South Channel

- Commercial season recommendation

Tongue Point Only

7 PM - 7 AM; Tue and Wed nights, Sep 5 - 7 (2 nights)

7 PM - 7 AM; Sun, Mon, Wed, and Thu nights, Sep 10 - 15 (4 nights)

Tongue Point and South Channel

7 PM - 7 AM; Sun, Mon, Wed, and Thu nights, Sep 17 - 29 (8 nights)

6 PM - 8 AM; Sun, Mon, Wed, and Thu nights, Oct 1 - 31 (18 nights)

Total of 32 nights

- Commercial fishing area
 - Tongue Point Basin is open to fishing in all waters bounded by a line from the red light at Tongue Point to the flashing green light at the rock jetty on the northwesterly tip of Mott Island, a line from a marker at the south end of Mott Island easterly to a marker on the northwest bank on Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island due westerly to a marker on the opposite bank. In addition, South Channel is open to fishing in all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green buoy "7" thence to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to flashing red marker "10" thence northwesterly to a marker on the sand bar defining the terminus of South Channel. All open waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.
- Gear
 - An 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended to target salmon and not sturgeon. Legal gear restricted to a maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom within Tongue Point Basin. In South Channel, nets are restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restrictions on the leadline. Fishers participating in the Tongue Point Basin fishery may have stored on board their boats, gill nets with leadline in excess of two pounds per fathom.
- Sport fishery
 - Tongue Point Basin/South Channel is open the entire year for chinook and finclipped coho.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough

- Commercial season recommendation

Blind Slough Only

7 PM - 7 AM; Thu and Fri nights, Sep 7 - 9
(2 nights)

7 PM - 7 AM; Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri nights, Sep 11 - 16
(4 nights)

Blind Slough and Knappa Slough

7 PM - 7 AM; Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri nights, Sep 18 - 30
(8 nights)

6 PM - 8 AM; Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri nights, Oct 2 - 31
(17 nights)

Total of 31 nights

- Commercial fishing area

- Blind Slough is open 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. Concurrent waters extend downstream of the railroad bridge. State waters extend upstream of the railroad bridge and require an Oregon license. In addition, Knappa Slough is open to fishing in all waters bounded by a line from the northerly most marker at the mouth of Blind Slough westerly to a marker on Karlson Island downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the western end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore. An area closure at the mouth of Big Creek defined by markers of about a 100' radius.

- Gear

- Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Eight-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended to optimize salmon and limit sturgeon catches.

- Sport fishery

- Blind Slough from markers at the mouth upstream to the Aldrich Point Road Bridge and Knappa Slough from markers at the mouth of Blind Slough to markers at the east end of Miniker Island is open the entire year for chinook and finclipped coho.

Deep River Fishery

- Commercial season recommendation

7 PM - 7 AM; Tue and Wed nights, Sep 5 -7 (2 nights)

7 PM - 7 AM; Sun, Mon, Tue, and Wed nights, Sep 10-28 (12 nights)

6 PM - 8 AM; Sun, Mon, Tue, and Wed nights, Oct 1-31 (18 nights)

Total of 32 nights

- Commercial fishing area

- Deep River is open to fishing downriver from the town of Deep River to the mouth (a line from navigation marker "16" southwest to a marker on the Washington shore). Concurrent waters extend downstream of the Highway 4 bridge. State waters extend upstream of the Highway 4 bridge.

- Gear

- Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Eight-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended to optimize salmon and limit sturgeon catches.

- Sport fishery

- Deep River is open August 1 – December 31 for salmon from the town of Deep River to the mouth. Wild coho must be released.

Steamboat Slough Fishery

- Commercial season recommendation

7 PM - 7 AM; Thu and Fri nights, Sep 7- 9 (2 nights)

7 PM - 7 AM; Tue, Wed, Thu, and Fri nights, Sep 12-30 (12 nights)

6 PM - 8 AM; Tue, Wed, Thu, and Fri nights, Oct 3-28(16 nights)

Total of 30 nights

- Commercial fishing area

- Steamboat Slough is open to fishing in waters bounded by markers on Price Island and the Washington shore at both ends of Steamboat Slough. Open waters are under concurrent jurisdiction.

- Gear

- Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Eight-inch maximum mesh size restriction is recommended to optimize salmon and limit sturgeon catches.
- Sport fishery
 - Steamboat Slough is open August 1 – December 31 for salmon. Wild coho must be released.

Special Considerations and Restrictions for Experimental Areas

- Season considerations
 - Openings in early September in each area and four nightly fishing periods per week after September 10 optimizes quality and value.
 - Night fishing recommended to maximize salmon catch and reduce interaction with recreational boaters and other river commerce.
 - An additional 2 hours of fishing time each period during October coincides with longer nights.
 - Weekend closures designed to minimize interaction with recreational boaters.
 - Staggered openings for Tongue Point/South Channel and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough will allow fishers flexibility and maximizes harvest opportunity.
 - A mid-week opening for Steamboat Slough is designed to encourage maximum participation while accommodating research needs for this new site.
- Other commercial restrictions
 - For Steamboat Slough, transportation or possession of fish outside of the fishing area is unlawful unless by licensed buyer. An exception to the rule would allow fishers to transport their catch out of the fishing area with a permit issued by an authorized agency employee after examining the catch.
 - For all other Select Areas (Tongue Point/South Channel, Blind Slough/Knappa Slough, and Deep River) special transportation permits are not required. Permanent fish transportation rules are in effect.
- Monitoring and sampling
 - Landings will be monitored daily.
 - Catch sampling goal of 100% at Steamboat Slough with a minimum of 30% for the other Select Area fisheries.
- Allowable sales
 - Salmon and sturgeon allowed to be sold in the experimental select area fisheries in 2000. (Sturgeon sales first allowed in 1998 spring seasons.)

YOUNGS BAY FISHERY

Background

- Youngs Bay has been open to salmon fishing annually since 1962, with openings concurrent with the late fall mainstem, gill-net season through 1976. Beginning in 1977, the Youngs Bay season has been separate and increased in importance with the Clatsop County Economic Development Council's (CEDC) Fisheries Project's involvement, especially with their successful net-pen acclimation program emphasized in recent years. Recent seasons have been successful in targeting local stocks of coho and chinook while avoiding nonlocal salmon stocks.
- Past season catches

<u>Year</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Chinook</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Chum</u>	<u>W. Sturgeon</u>
1990	73	3,226	27,596	21	8
1991	74	2,241	82,123	13	31
1992	76	1,553	19,552	46	31
1993	70	365	15,458	4	17
1994	44	119	57,751	14	4
1995	65	839	22,309	7	65
1996	62	1,439	15,783	3	85
1997	66	1,726	13,647	2	76
1998	64	1,422	19,523	2	102
1999	59	1,589	15,911	2	99

2000 Adult Run Expectations and Potential Target Harvest

- Early stock coho expectations are for 53,000 adults entering Youngs Bay, with all available for harvest.
- Select area bright (SAB) fall chinook expectations are for 3,000 adults entering Youngs Bay with about 1,500 fish available for harvest. The remaining 1,500 fish are expected back to Klaskanine Hatchery.

Commercial Season Recommendation

Noon, Aug. 1 – 6 PM, Aug. 2 (1 day)
Noon, Aug. 8 – 6 PM, Aug. 9 (1 day)
Noon, Aug. 15 – 6 PM, Aug. 16 (1 day)
Noon, Aug. 22 – 6 PM, Aug. 23 (1 day)
Noon, Aug. 29 – 6 PM, Sep. 30 (1 day)
Noon, Sep. 5 – 6 PM, Oct. 31 (56 days)
61 days

- Opener is a continuation of the July one-day/week fishery to optimize harvest opportunity for net-pen SAB fall chinook.
- Short one-day fishing periods in August minimize interception of nonlocal salmon and steelhead stocks while reducing harvest of SAB broodstock destined for Klaskanine Hatchery.

Commercial Fishing Area

- Same as 1999 with the upper deadline markers at Battle Creek Slough.

Gear

- Length of net restricted to a maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. Eight-inch maximum mesh size to optimize salmon and limit sturgeon catches (same as 1999). Monofilament gillnets are allowed in Youngs Bay only (effective spring, 1999).

Other Commercial Restrictions

- "Youngs Bay Fish Transportation and Landing Permit" is not required. Permanent fish transportation rules are in effect.
- Allowable species are salmon and sturgeon.

Monitoring and Sampling

- Landings will be monitored daily.
- Catch sampling will occur at a minimum 30% level.

Sport Fishery

- Youngs Bay is open to chinook and finclipped coho the entire year from the Highway 101 bridge to markers at Battle Creek Slough.
- Closed commercial fishing periods through the Labor Day weekend provides for weekend recreational opportunity during building salmon abundance.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR WHITE STURGEON

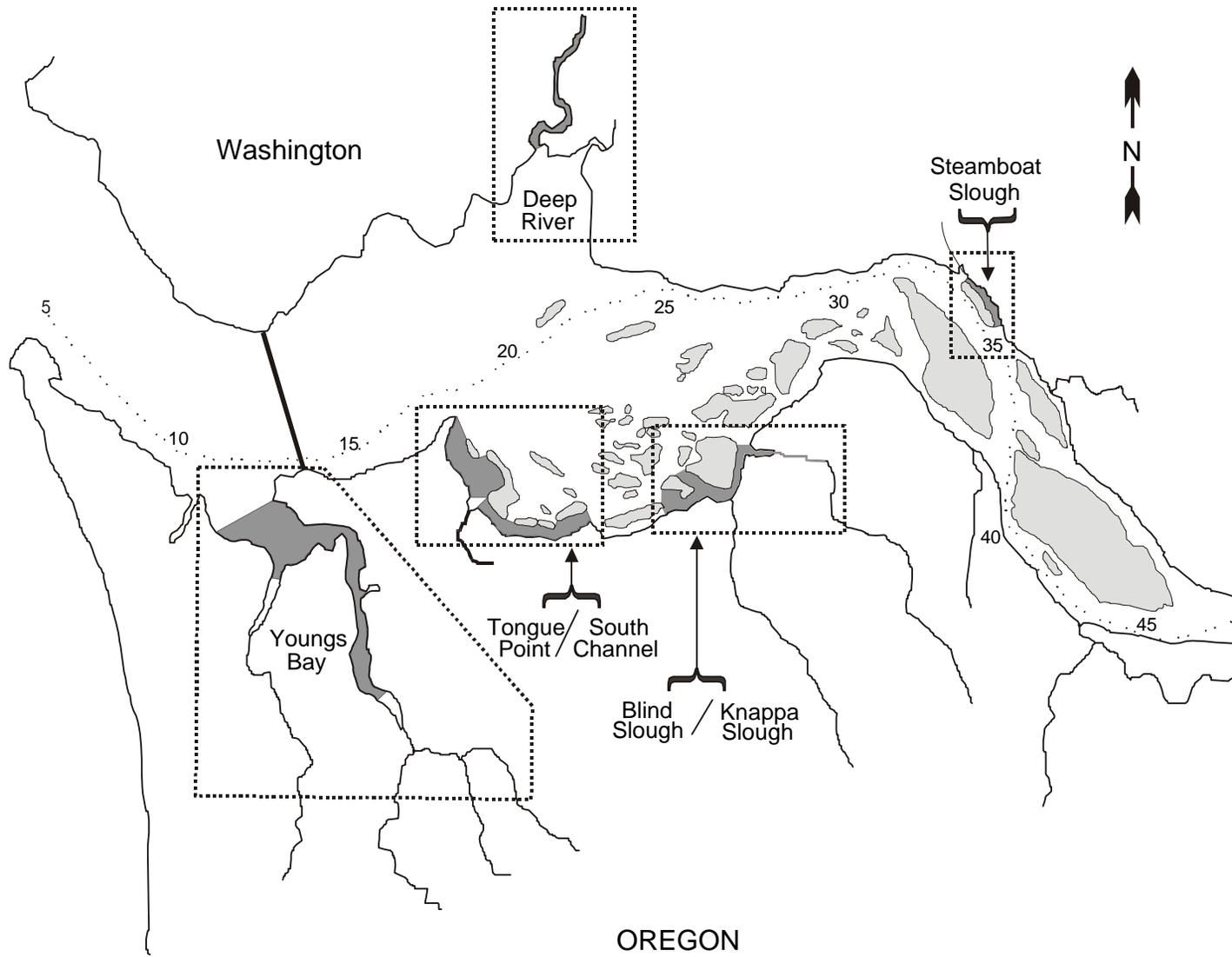
Commercial catch guideline of white sturgeon for select area fisheries in 1999 was determined to be up to 10% (1,000 fish) of the total commercial allocation of 10,000 fish. The total 1999 white sturgeon catch for Select Area fisheries of 733 fish includes 209 fish caught during the fall. For all Select Areas a maximum eight-inch mesh size restriction was in effect to optimize salmon and limit sturgeon catch.

In 2000 the issue of the appropriate allowable level of white sturgeon catch for Select Area fisheries was revisited by industry leaders on April 12 and discussed at the June 8 public meeting. No formal allocation for 2000 was determined, however, three consensus points were developed:

- 1) Select Area fisheries are salmon-directed fisheries.
- 2) Regulation of mesh size is encouraged to target salmon.
- 3) Enforcement presence is encouraged to ensure compliance of gear restrictions.

Future chinook and coho directed fisheries will be restricted to mesh size appropriate to the target species. Modification of gear regulations will be coordinated with the fishing industry.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
July 27, 2000



Fall Select Area Fishery Locations

Tongue Point/South Channel

Seasons:

Tongue Point Only

7 PM-7 AM; Tue and Wed nights, Sep 5 - 7 (2 nights)
7 PM-7 AM; Sun, Mon, Wed, and Thu nights, Sep 10 - 15 (4 nights)

Tongue Point and South Channel

7 PM - 7 AM; Sun, Mon, Wed, and Thu nights, Sep 17 - 29 (8 nights)
6 PM - 8 AM; Sun, Mon, Wed, and Thu nights, Oct 1 - 31 (18 nights)

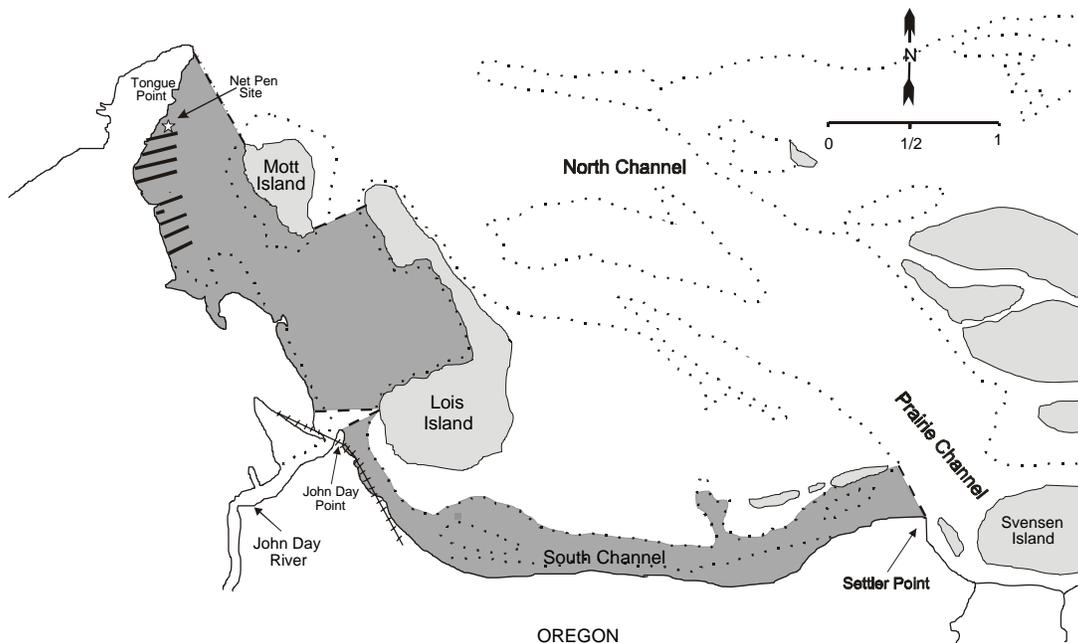
32 nightly periods

Gear: Tongue Point Basin
250 Fathoms in Length
8-inch Maximum Mesh Size Restriction
Weight Not to Exceed 2lbs/fm on Leadline

South Channel
100 Fathoms in Length
8-inch Maximum Mesh Size Restriction
No Weight Restriction

Area: Same as fall, 1999. Open Waters Under Concurrent Jurisdiction.

Allowable Sales: Salmon and Sturgeon.



Blind Slough/Knappa Slough

Seasons:

Blind Slough Only

7 PM - 7 AM; Thu and Fri nights, Sep 7 - 9
(2 nights)

7 PM - 7 AM; Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri nights, Sep 11 - 16
(4 nights)

Blind Slough and Knappa Slough

7 PM - 7 AM; Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri nights, Sep 18 - 30
(8 nights)

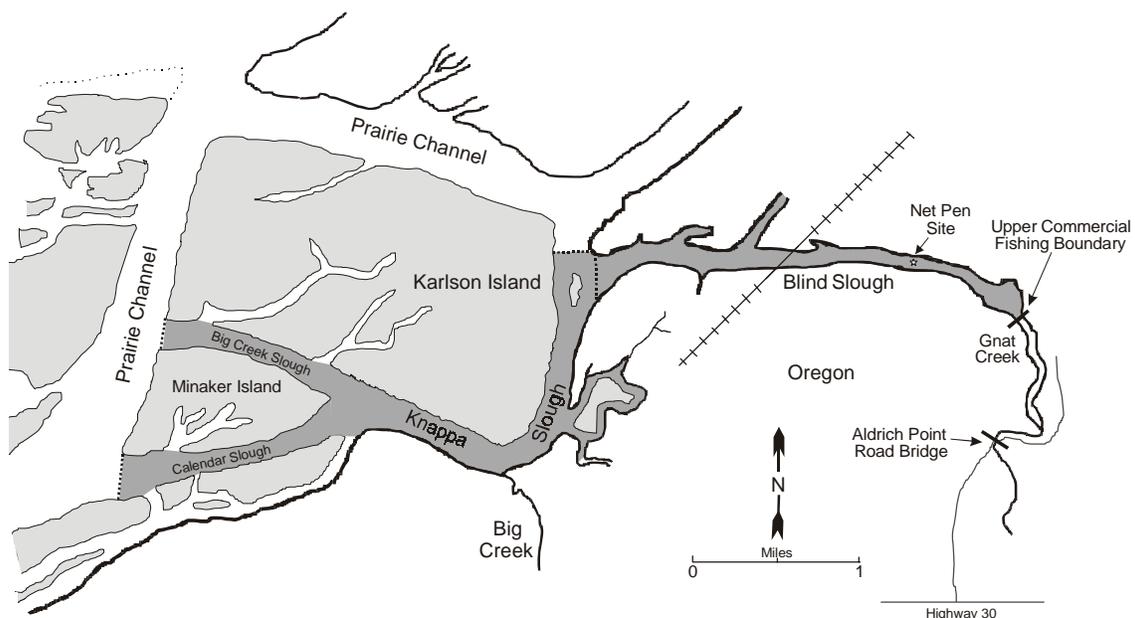
6 PM - 8 AM; Mon, Tue, Thu, and Fri nights, Oct 2 - 31
(17 nights)

31 nightly periods

Gear: 100 Fathoms in Length
8-inch Maximum Mesh Size Restriction
No Weight Restrictions

Area: Same as fall 1999 except the lower boundary of Knappa Slough area extends downstream to the western end of Minaker Island. Concurrent Jurisdiction Waters are Downstream of Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough, and open waters of Knappa Slough.

Allowable Sales: Salmon and Sturgeon.



Deep River

Seasons:

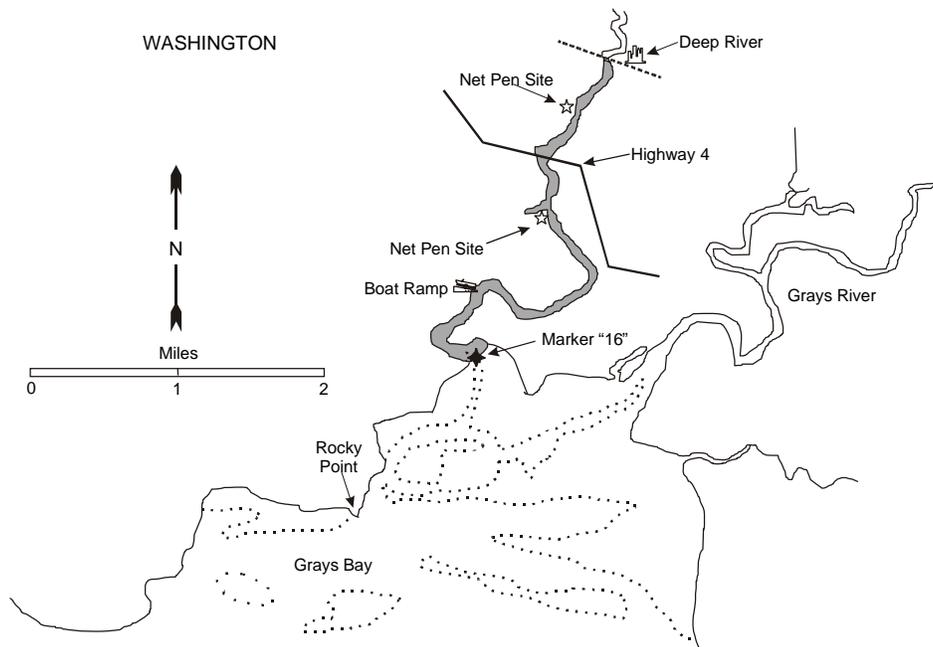
7 PM - 7 AM; Tue and Wed nights, Sep 5 -7
(2 nights)
7 PM - 7 AM; Sun, Mon, Tue, and Wed nights, Sep 10-28
(12 nights)
6 PM - 8 AM; Sun, Mon, Tue, and Wed nights, Oct 1-31
(18 nights)

31 nightly periods

Gear: 100 Fathoms in Length
8-inch Maximum Mesh Size Restriction
No Weight Restrictions

Area: From the town of Deep River downstream to a line through navigation marker #16. Concurrent Jurisdiction Waters are Downstream of the Highway 4 Bridge.

Allowable Sales: Salmon and Sturgeon.



Steamboat Slough

Seasons:

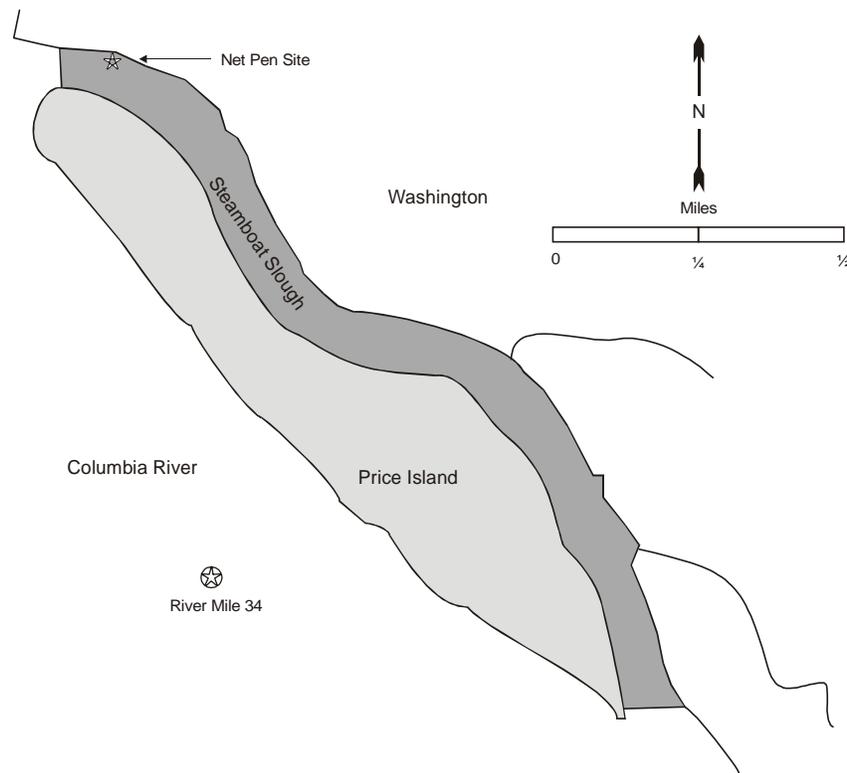
7 PM - 7 AM; Thu and Fri nights, Sep 7- 9
(2 nights)
7 PM - 7 AM; Tue, Wed, Thu, and Fri nights, Sep 12-30 (12
nights)
6 PM - 8 AM; Tue, Wed, Thu, and Fri nights, Oct 3-28 (16
nights)

31 nightly periods

Gear: 100 Fathoms in Length
8-inch Maximum Mesh Size Restriction
No Weight Restrictions

Area: Open waters bounded by markers at both ends of Steamboat Slough..
Open waters under Concurrent Jurisdiction

Allowable Sales: Salmon and Sturgeon.



Steamboat Slough Select Area Fishery Site

Youngs Bay

Seasons: Noon, Aug 1 - 6 PM, Aug 2 (1 day)
Noon, Aug 8 - 6 PM, Aug 9 (1 day)
Noon, Aug 15 - 6 PM, Aug 16 (1 day)
Noon, Aug 22 - 6 PM, Aug 23 (1 day)
Noon, Aug 29 - 6 PM, Aug 30 (1 day)
Noon, Sep 5 - 6 PM, Oct 31 (56 days)
(61 days)

Gear: 250 Fathoms in Length
8-inch Maximum Mesh Size Restriction
Weight Not to Exceed 2lbs/fm on Leadline
Monofilament is Allowed

Area: Upper Deadline at Markers at Battle Creek Slough

Allowable Sales: Salmon and Sturgeon.

