

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact
July 22, 2008**

Fisheries Under Consideration:	Non-Indian Commercial Mainstem Non-Indian Commercial Select Areas (SAFE)
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STOCK STATUS

- The total adult return of fall Chinook in 2008 forecast is 376,800 adults, which is much greater (170%) than the 2007 return of 219,600 adults, but is only 75% of the average return over the last 10 years.
- Bright stocks represent 62% of the total forecast. The forecasted return of 164,400 Upriver Bright (URB) adults represents 44% of the total river mouth forecast.

Summary of 2007 Actual and 2008 Pre Season Forecasts of Adult Salmon and Summer Steelhead Returns to the Columbia River¹.			
Species, stock	2007 Return	2008 Forecast	Comments
Fall Chinook	219,600	376,800	Overall good return, although most components are down from recent years
Lower river hatchery (LRH)	32,700	55,900	70% of 10-year average
Lower river wild (LRW)	4,300	3,800	25% of 10-year average
Bonneville pool hatchery (BPH)	14,600	86,200	Improved return, 99% of 10-year average
Upriver bright (URB)	114,500	164,400	Good return, 75% of 10-year average
Snake River Wild (SRW)	7,600	6,400	Good return, 140% of 10-year average
Mid-Columbia bright (MCB)	47,000	56,600	Good return, 70% of 10-year average
Bonneville upriver bright (BUB)	23,500	26,700	
Lower river bright (LRB)	700	2,000	
Pool upriver bright (PUB)	22,800	27,900	
Select area bright (SAB)	6,500	9,800	Excellent return; 175% of 10-year average
Upriver summer steelhead	319,400	326,400	Good return, similar to 10-year average
Skamania index (May 1 - June 30)	9,400	10,400	2,200 wild. Total return 66% of 10-yr ave.
A-run index (length <78 cm)	258,900	266,300	69,400 wild
B-run index (length ≥78 cm)	51,100	49,700	8,500 wild
Coho	328,600	164,800	Poor return
Early stock	200,600	96,000	32% of 10-year average
Late stock	118,000	68,800	40% of 10-year average

¹. Columbia River mouth return, except summer steelhead is Bonneville Dam return. Numbers may not sum due to rounding

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Salmon/Steelhead

- The "2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement" (2008-2017 MA) provides specific fishery management guidelines for fall season fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River and Select Areas.
- The 2008-2017 MA provides that the 31.25% URB impact rate is allocated 23.00% for treaty Indian fisheries and 8.25% for non-Indian fisheries.

- The allowable exploitation rate (ER) for wild/natural Lower River Chinook (LRH) in 2008 is 41% for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries. Based on preseason expectations, the ER is expected to be 28.7% in ocean fisheries and 8.2% in Columbia River fisheries. The 41% ER is a 16% reduction from the 49% ER allowed during 2002-2006, and less than the 42% ER allowed in 2007.
- The allowable ER for wild/natural Lower Columbia River (LCR) coho in 2008 is 8% for combined ocean and Columbia River fisheries. Based on preseason fishery expectations, Columbia River fisheries were allocated 2% of the total LCR coho ER. The 8% ER is a 60% reduction from the 20% ER allowed in 2007.
- The preseason forecast for Lower River Wild (LRW) fall Chinook is 3,800 fish to the mouth of the Columbia River, which is less than the escapement goal of 5,700 fish to the North Lewis River. Fisheries will be managed for a total exploitation rate of 10% or less on this stock.
- Non-Indian impacts to summer steelhead (Group A and B index) are limited to 2% during the fall season and impacts to chum salmon are limited to 5% of the run.
- Upriver bright and LRW Chinook and LCR natural coho are the major stocks constraining Columbia River fisheries in 2008.
- Non-Indian fisheries occurring during the 2008 fall season will be managed in accordance with the "2008 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement" completed through the NOF process.

Excerpts From the 2008 Non-Indian Columbia River Fall Fishery Chinook Allocation Agreement

- ✓ The preseason LRW impact allocations are 45% sport and 55% commercial and the URB impacts are allocated 53% sport and 47% commercial.
- ✓ The Columbia River Compact/Joint States will use impact allocations as guidance for making in-season management decisions concerning Columbia River sport and commercial fisheries. Actual impacts in the fisheries may differ from preseason estimates based on fishery catches, stock composition, and run size updates. The *U. S. v. Oregon* TAC will update the URB run size beginning in mid-September.
- ✓ Expectations for the commercial fishery include:
 - An early August salmon fishery during the first two weeks of August (modeled dates were **August 3, 5, 7, 10, and 12**). Mesh size is 9-inch minimum and area is Zones 1-5. The goal is to have all five zones open during this fishery if possible. Total catch expectation is 5,200 Chinook.
 - A mid-August fishery is expected to occur for two days (modeled dates were August 14 and 17, or **August 17 and 19**) in Zones 2-5 or 3-5. Mesh size is 9-inch minimum. The total catch expectation is 2,900 Chinook.
 - The late August fishery is expected to occur in Zones 4-5 beginning the week of August 24 (modeled dates were **August 24, 26, and 28**). Mesh size is 9-inch minimum. Total catch expectation is 5,700 Chinook.
 - The **late fall** fishery is expected to begin **September 18, 21 or 23**. The total Chinook catch expectation for all late fall fisheries is 8,400, including 2,800 for a September Zone 1-5 target Chinook fishery, 4,800 for Chinook-directed fisheries in Zones 4-5, and 800 for any October coho fisheries that may occur.
 - Only 1,700 coho are available for mainstem commercial fisheries in 2008. Directed coho fisheries are not expected to occur unless the run size is upgraded or additional coho remain available from ocean fisheries. Available impacts will be used during Chinook target fisheries and may also be used for a late-season coho - fishery in mid- to late October to evaluate the run-size. Any target coho fisheries will generally occur in Zones 1-3 during daylight hours with an unslackened 6-inch maximum mesh size net.

- Based on 2008 preseason run size forecasts and NOF negotiations, the catch expectation for August commercial fisheries is 13,700 Chinook, including 3,410 URBs, 2,390 LRHs, and 0 LRW.

Sturgeon

- The harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon is allocated 80% (32,000 fish) recreational and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial with specific size limits in place for both user groups.
- The cumulative non-Indian commercial harvest during 2006-2007 was 16,073 leaving 7,927 for 2008 fisheries.
- At the December 13, 2007 hearing the Compact adopted protocol regarding white sturgeon retention in Columbia River commercial fisheries during 2008.

Protocol For Management of White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries During 2008	
✓	Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 1,800 for the winter-spring timeframe (January-June 15) with 1,600 for winter sturgeon and 200 for winter salmon, 500 for the summer timeframe (June 16-July 31), 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,150 for the late fall timeframe (September-October). Any unused allocation from winter-summer fisheries to be re-distributed equally between August and late fall fisheries (50% to each fishery).
✓	Manage for a commercial harvest of 7,927 white sturgeon remaining on the cumulative 3-year guideline total.
✓	Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
✓	Allow some level of incidental white sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
✓	Conduct limited target white sturgeon fisheries during winter timeframe if feasible.
✓	Conduct target white sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access the commercial allocation.
✓	Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season-specific catch expectations or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.

2008 FISHERIES REVIEW

Non-Indian Commercial Sturgeon

- Landings of 886 white sturgeon during the 2008 winter/spring mainstem fisheries were <50% of the 1,800 allocation established in the white sturgeon management protocol.
- Summer season landings totaled 507 white sturgeon, compared to the 500 fish summer allocation.
- Prior to white sturgeon retention being prohibited effective June 4, SAFE fisheries landed 337 white sturgeon compared to the 300 fish allocation for the winter/spring/summer seasons. A total of 63 fish are available for harvest in remaining 2008 Select Areas fisheries.

2008 Lower Columbia River Commercial White Sturgeon Catch Summary			
Fishery	Guideline	Catch	Remaining
Mainstem Winter/ Spring Gillnet	1,800	886	914
Mainstem Summer Gillnet	500	507	-7
Select Area Gillnet (thru 6/3)	400	337	90 ^a
August Gillnet	2,000	--	2,000
Mainstem Late Fall Gillnet	3,200	--	3,200
Sum	7,900	1,730	6,197
	(7,927 actual)		

^a Includes 27 fish not included in the initial allocation process

- Season-specific guidelines were developed based on 7,900 fish available rather than actual 7,927 fish remaining for 2008 fisheries. Staff is recommending the 27 additional white

sturgeon be used for fall SAFE fisheries (90 white sturgeon for fall; 427 adjusted annual guideline), which, when combined with a reduced weekly landing limit, may allow for sturgeon sales in SAFE fisheries through a majority of the fall season.

- The adjusted guideline for August fisheries would equal 2,453 white sturgeon (including 50% of the 907 remaining fish from winter-summer mainstem fisheries). The adjusted guideline for late fall fisheries would be 3,653 fish.

2008 MAINSTEM COMMERCIAL RECOMMENDATION:

<i>Non-Indian Mainstem Commercial Early Fall Salmon Fishery</i>		
Season:	7 PM Sunday August 3 to 7 AM Monday August 4 7 PM Tuesday August 5 to 7 AM Wednesday August 6 7 PM Thursday August 7 to 7 AM Friday August 8 7 PM Sunday August 10 to 7 AM Monday August 11 7 PM Tuesday August 12 to 7 AM Wednesday August 13	(12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours) (12 hours)
Area:	Zones 1- 5	
Sanctuaries:	Grays River, Elokomina-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, Lewis-A, Washougal, and Sandy Rivers	
Gear:	9" minimum and 9¾" maximum mesh size restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of 10 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday) that the fishery is open. The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes mainstem fisheries only.	
Miscellaneous Rules:	<p>24-hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for Washington buyers.</p> <p>Multiple Net Rule: Nets not specifically authorized for use in this fishery may be onboard the vessel <u>if properly stored</u>.</p> <p>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>	

- ✓ Expected catch from this proposal is 5,200 Chinook and 2,200 white sturgeon
- ✓ The proposed fishery is consistent with the 2008 Fall Management Agreement.
- ✓ The proposed fishery provides for opportunity in the mainstem to harvest Select Area Bright (SAB) and other fall Chinook, while limiting harvest of URB stock.
- ✓ There is some potential during the proposed five-day season for landings to exceed the 5,200 Chinook guideline for this fishery. Closed days between fishing periods allow for in-season fishery checkpoints if needed.
- ✓ Chinook allocated to the mid-August season could be used as a buffer if catch exceeds 5,200 Chinook. If so, the mid-August fishery would need to be adjusted accordingly.
- ✓ Setting all early-August fishing periods at this time may reduce the need for an additional Compact hearing if the fishery proceeds as expected.
- ✓ The proposed sturgeon landing limit is consistent with the white sturgeon retention protocol for the commercial fishery, and should maintain total sturgeon landings within the adjusted August guideline.
- ✓ Use of 9 -inch gear will reduce handle of steelhead and under-sized sturgeon.

2008 FALL SELECT AREA FISHERIES

Management Considerations

- In 2006, production of Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook was relocated from ODFW's Klaskanine Hatchery to Clatsop County's South Fork Klaskanine Hatchery. Adults will return to both facilities in 2008. An escapement of about 550 females (approximately 1,100 adults) is required to maintain the current 1.5 million smolt production goal.
- Constraints to ocean salmon fisheries in 2008 should result in additional escapement of SAFE produced SABs and coho into the Select Areas.

2008 Fishery Expectations and Returns

- The predicted return of 28,900 coho to SAFE fisheries is 59% of the recent ten-year average SAFE harvest but would represent nearly a three-fold increase over actual landings (10,516) in 2007.
- Coho returns to Deep River are expected to be above average and much greater than the 2007 return due to increased releases at that location. An average return of coho is expected for Blind Slough in 2008, very similar to the 2007 actual harvest. Expected returns of coho to Youngs Bay and Tongue Point are below average but significantly improved over 2007 actual returns.
- The predicted harvest of 6,000 SAB fall Chinook in Youngs Bay is greater than the actual 2007 harvest (4,000), nearly double the 10-year average harvest, and would be the largest SAB fall Chinook catch since the inception of the SAFE project.
- The predicted return of 17,200 Big Creek tule fall Chinook is substantially higher than actual returns in 2006-2007 and allows for some additional harvest opportunity in the Knappa Slough SAFE fishing site.
- A public meeting was held June 11 in Astoria prior to developing fall Select Area fishery proposals; however, regulations and season structure proposed for 2008 are generally consistent with those adopted since 2001.

<i>Expected Salmon Returns to Select Area Fishing Sites During Fall of 2008</i>		
Select Area	Expected Adult Return To Select Areas	Harvest Potential
Youngs Bay	18,500 early coho 7,700 SAB fall Chinook	18,500 6,000
Big Creek Hatchery	17,200 tule fall Chinook	<7,300
Tongue Point	3,400 early coho	3,400
Blind Slough	2,400 early coho	2,400
Deep River	4,600 early coho	4,600

SELECT AREA RECOMMENDATIONS

Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery

- 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.

<i>2008 Select Area Fall Season - Tongue Point/South Channel Fishery</i>	
Season:	<p>Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 2 through September 12 (6 nights) <u>and</u> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 15 - October 31 (28 nights) Open 7 PM – 7 AM (12 hours) from September 2 - September 19 and 4 PM – 8 AM (16 hours) thereafter.</p>
Areas:	<p>Tongue Point and South Channel areas open entire season.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point through the green USCG buoy #7 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 a marker on Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.</p>
Gear:	<p>In the Tongue Point fishing area, restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 250 fathoms, and weight not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.</p> <p>In the South Channel fishing area, restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.</p> <p>Participants in the Tongue Point fishery may have stored onboard their boats gill nets with leadline in excess of two pounds per any one fathom.</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of three white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes Select Area fisheries only.</p>

- ✓ Fishing periods during late September through October open earlier to provide additional daylight fishing opportunities as previously requested by industry.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery

- 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.

<i>2008 Select Area Fall Season - Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Fishery</i>	
Season:	Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 2 through September 12 (6 nights) <u>and</u> Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 15 through October 31 (28 nights) Open 7 PM – 7 AM (12 hours) from September 2 through September 19 and 6 PM - 8 AM (14 hours) 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. Markers define an area closure of about a 100' radius at the mouth of Big Creek.
Gear:	In both fishing areas, restrict gear to an 8-inch maximum mesh size through September 5 and a 6-inch maximum mesh size thereafter, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of three white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes Select Area fisheries only.

- ✓ Similar to the Tongue Point/South Channel fishery, fishing hours increase after late September to maximize harvest opportunity.
- ✓ The 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction during the first week of the season will provide opportunity to harvest some of the predicted good return of tule fall Chinook destined for Big Creek Hatchery.

Youngs Bay Fishery

- All waters in this fishing area are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- Effective February 13, 2008, non-resident commercial fishing and boat licenses will not be required of Washington fishers participating in Youngs Bay commercial fisheries. A valid fishing and boat license issued by the state of Washington will be considered adequate for participation in this fishery. The open area for non-resident commercial fishers includes all areas open for commercial fishing.

<i>2008 Select Area Fall Season - Youngs Bay Fishery</i>	
Season:	6 AM Wednesday to 6 PM Thursday (36 hours) weekly from August 6 through August 28 (4 fishing periods) <u>and</u> 7 PM Tuesday September 2 through noon Friday October 31 (60 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; except for closed waters southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River).
Gear:	8-inch maximum mesh size restriction through August 28 and 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction thereafter. Restrict net to maximum length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom. Use of additional weights or anchors attached directly to the leadline <u>is allowed</u> upstream of markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River. Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net. Multiple Net Rule in effect during August 6-through August 28 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.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of three white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes Select Area fisheries only.

- ✓ Youngs Bay August fishing periods are designed to provide commercial harvest opportunity on SAB fall Chinook while allowing for escapement to both Klaskanine hatcheries and tidewater recreational fisheries.
- ✓ The standard fall season upper fishing boundary at Battle Creek Slough is intended to protect SAB fall Chinook that congregate in the upper tidewater area.
- ✓ Continuous fishing after Labor Day is intended to maximize harvest of net-pen produced coho.
- ✓ The 8-inch maximum mesh size restriction targets the fishery on Chinook during August and the 6-inch maximum mesh size restriction beginning in September targets the fishery on coho as their abundance begins to peak.

Deep River Fishery

- 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.

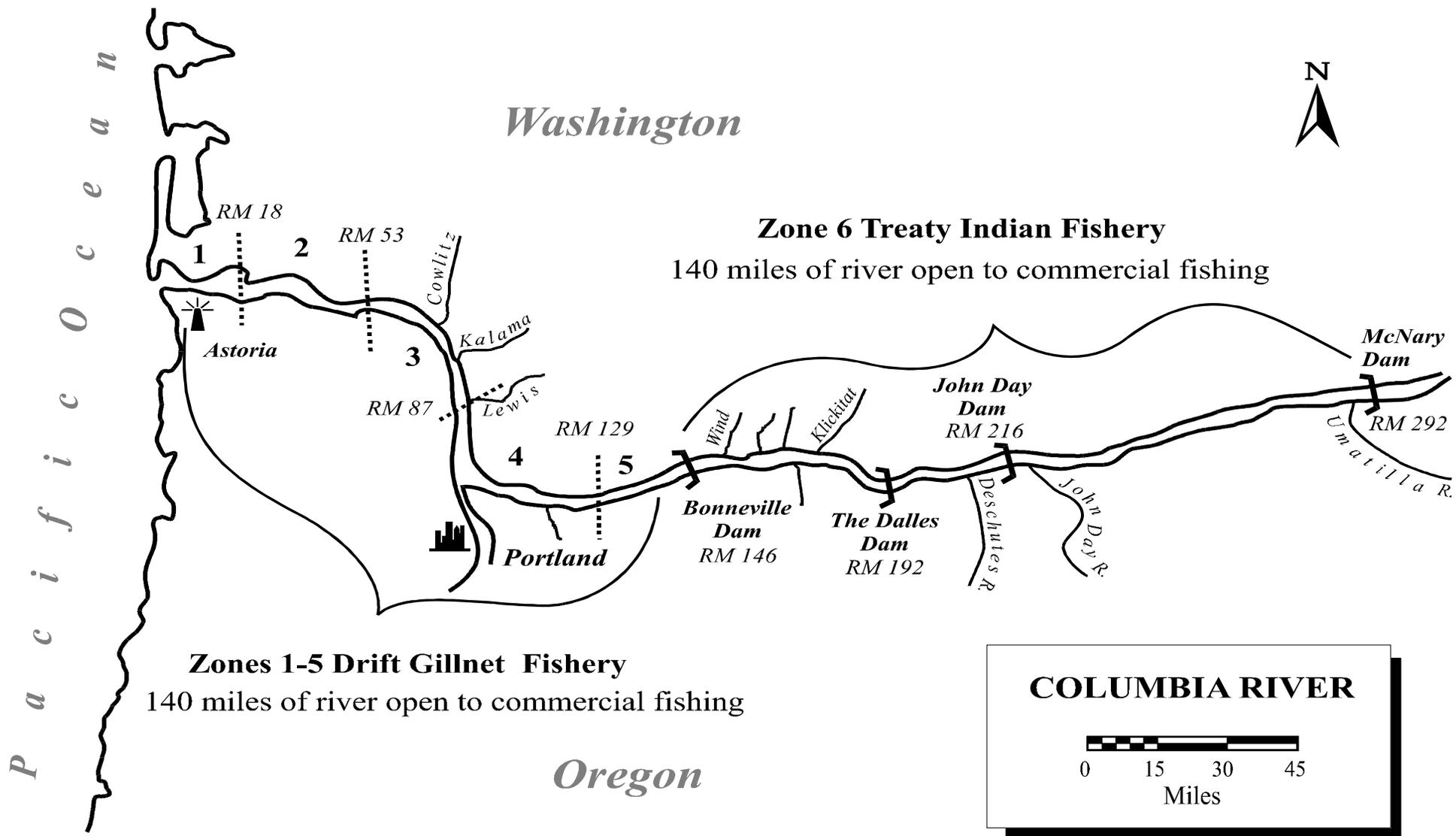
<i>2008 Select Area Fall Season - Deep River Fishery</i>	
Season:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from September 1 through October 31 (36 nights) Open 7 PM – 7 AM (12 hours) from September 1 through September 19 and 4 PM – 8 AM (16 hours) thereafter.
Area:	The Deep River fishing area includes all waters downstream of the town of Deep River to the mouth defined by a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore.
Gear:	Restrict gear to 6-inch maximum mesh size, maximum net length of 100 fathoms, and 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.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and white sturgeon. A maximum of three white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each vessel participating each calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). The white sturgeon possession and sales limit includes Select Area fisheries only.

- ✓ Four fishing periods per week throughout the season as requested by industry should increase effort and harvest potential.
- ✓ Proposed fishing hours are concurrent with Tongue Point/South Channel.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A Joint State hearing is scheduled for 9 AM Thursday July 24 via teleconference to discuss ongoing recreational sturgeon fisheries.
- The Joint staff will monitor catch and schedule additional hearings as necessary.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact Consideration</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Non-Indian Fall Commercial Fishery – Compact action (page 4).➤ Select Area Fall Commercial Fisheries:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tongue Point/South Channel – Compact action (page 6).• Blind Slough/Knappa Slough – Compact and Oregon State action (page 7).• Youngs Bay – Oregon State action (page 8).• Deep River – Compact and Washington State action (page 9).



Washington



Zone 6 Treaty Indian Fishery

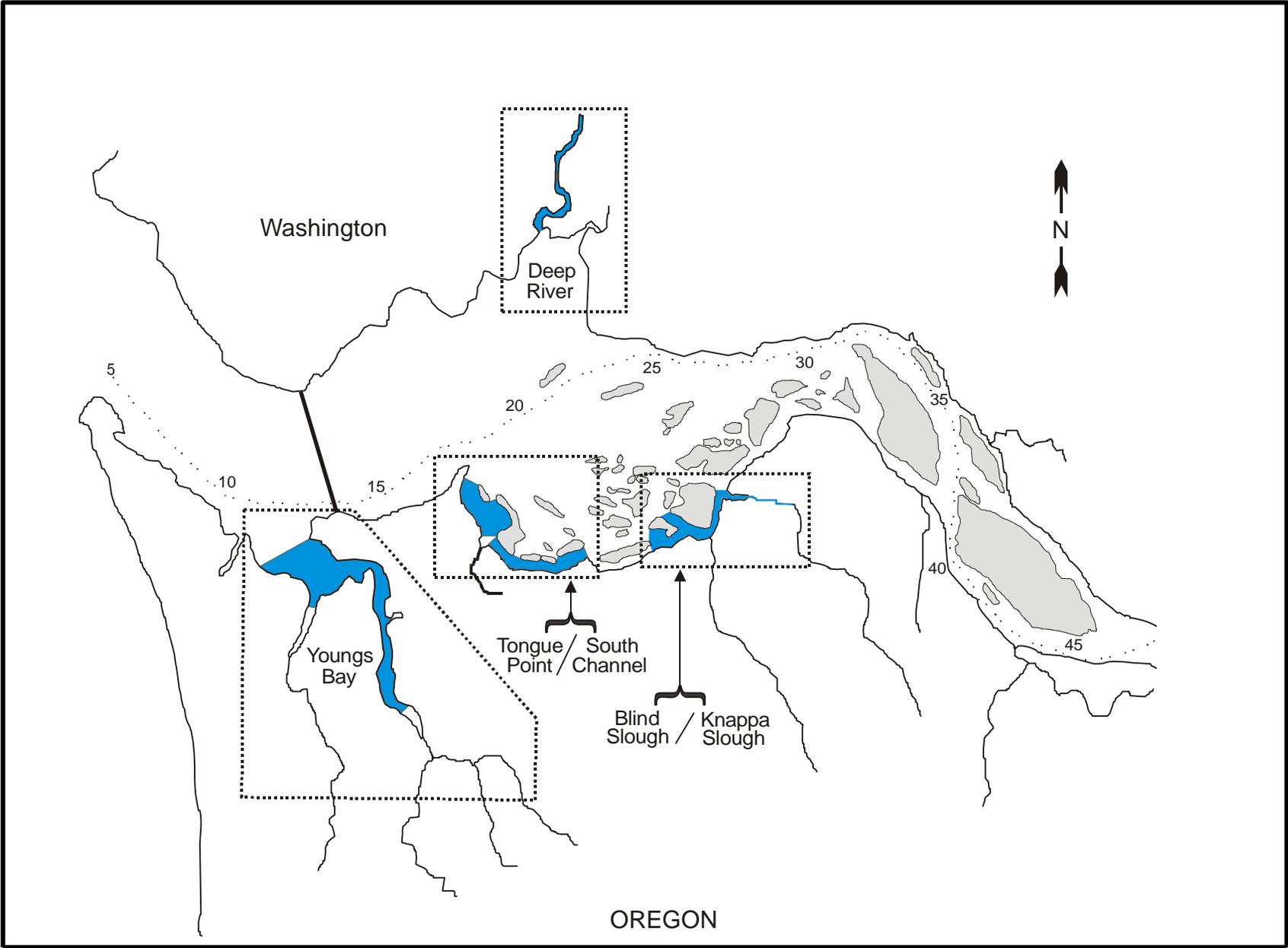
140 miles of river open to commercial fishing

Zones 1-5 Drift Gillnet Fishery

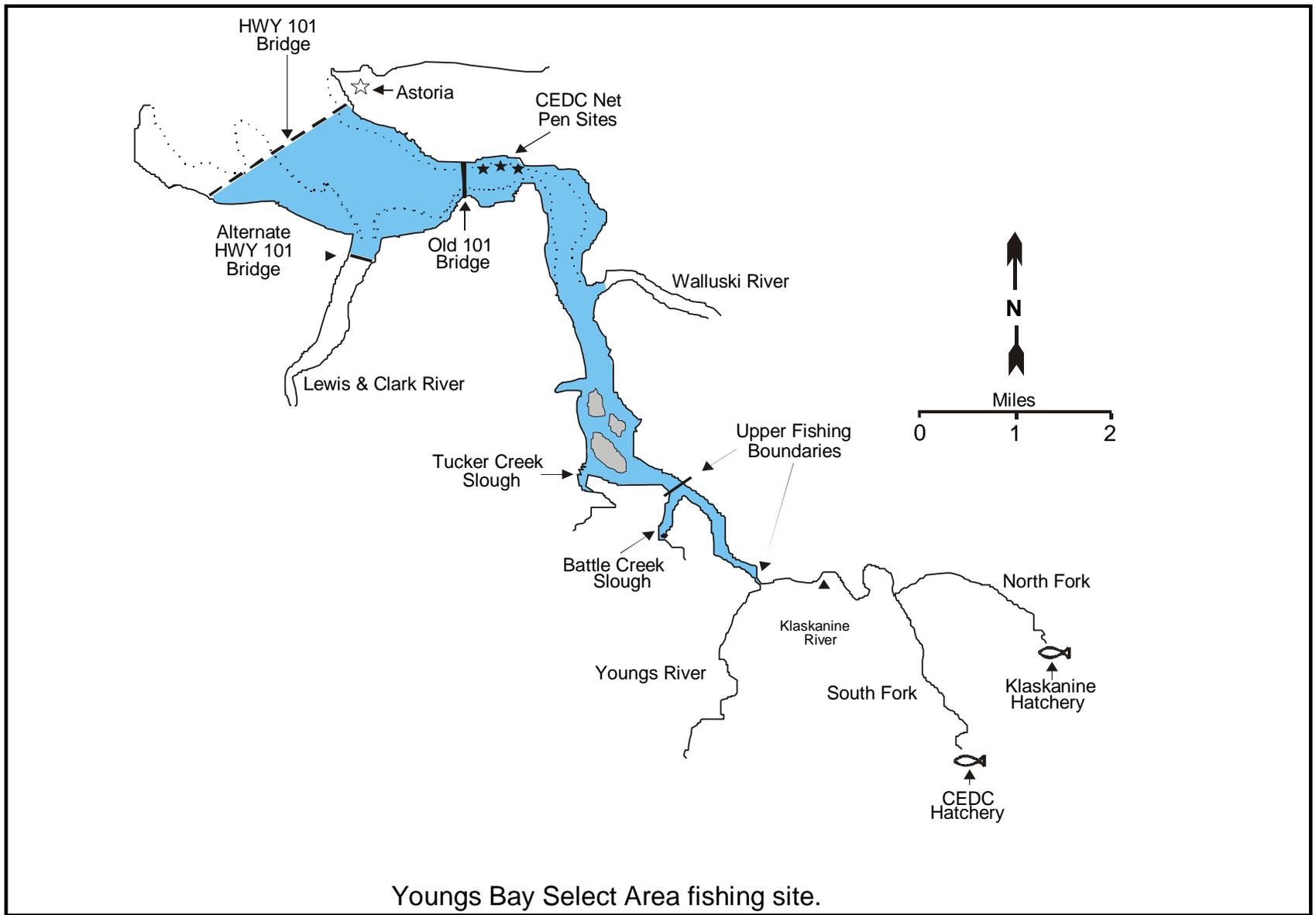
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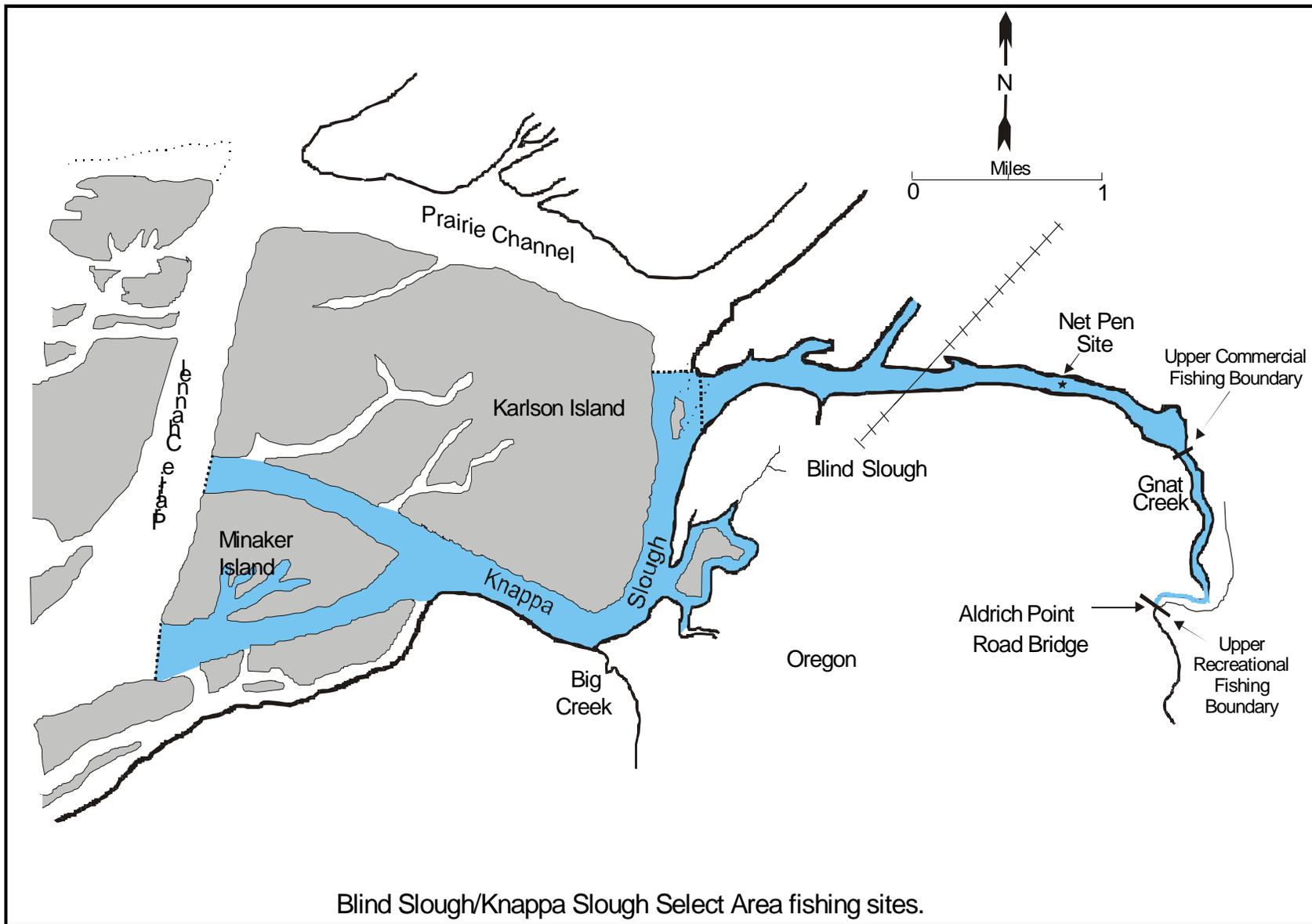
COLUMBIA RIVER

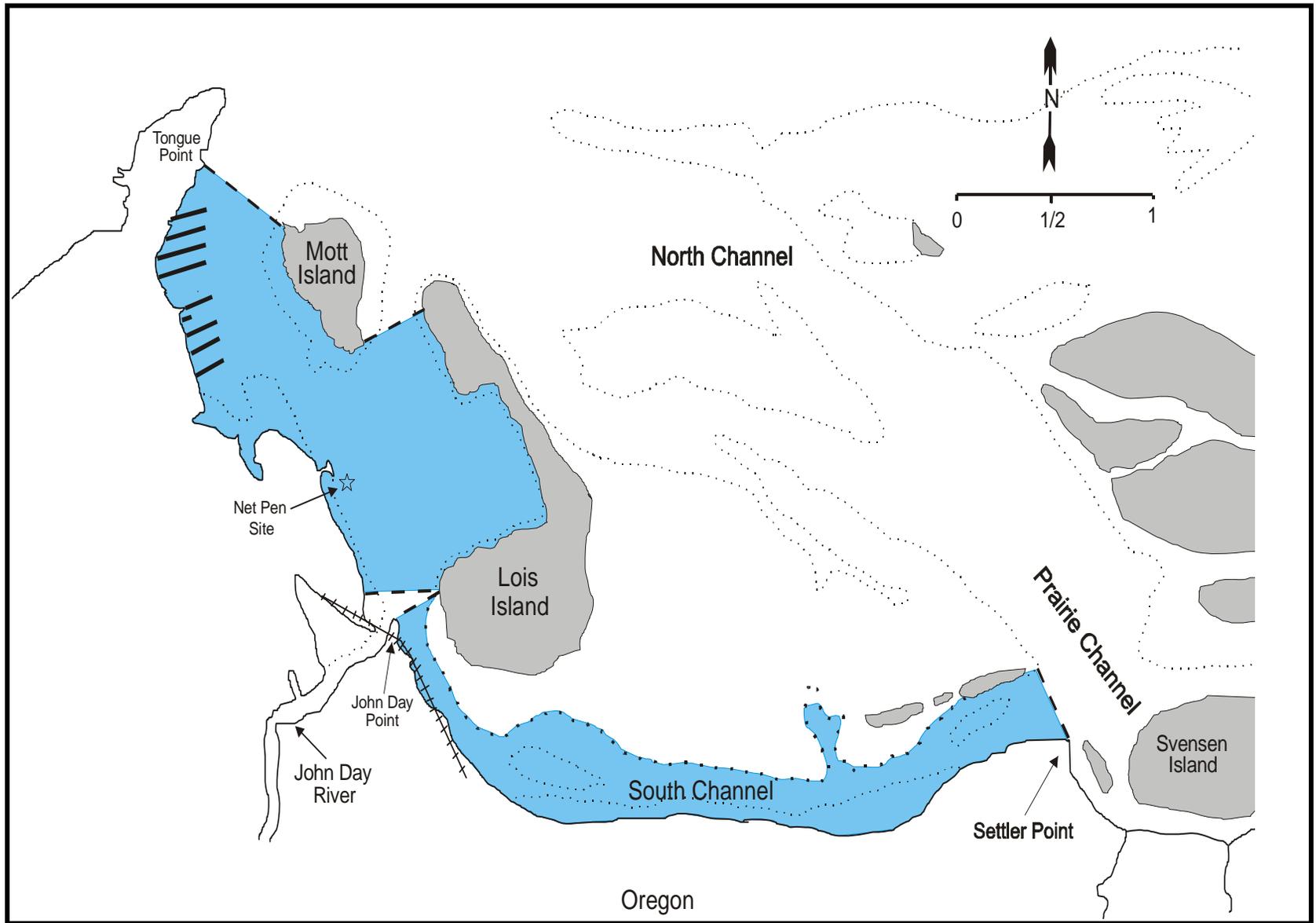




Fall Select Areas Fishery Locations







Tongue Point/ South Channel Select Area Fishing Sites

