

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - SPRING FACT SHEET NO. 1
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
April 16, 2019**

<i>Fisheries Under Consideration:</i>	Select Area commercial
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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 most recent reports are the 2019 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18, 2019) and the 2019 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead and other species (February 8, 2019). 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>

Select Area Commercial Spring Chinook Fisheries

- Combined Select Area winter-season landings through April 15 total 695 Chinook, or 81% of the recent 5-year average harvest of 860 spring Chinook through week 15.
- Ex-vessel price remains high, with an average ex-vessel value last week of over \$15.00/pound.
- Select Area winter fisheries have used approximately 48% of the total non-treaty commercial allocation. Most of the upriver stock catch has occurred in Youngs Bay.
- Winter season fishing periods concluded April 12. Initial spring season fishing periods are currently scheduled to begin this Thursday (April 18) in all Oregon sites except Youngs Bay, where the April 11 and April 18 fishing periods were previously rescinded due to higher-than-expected interception of upriver spring Chinook in the April 8 fishing period.
- Given the current accrual of upriver spring Chinook mortalities in winter Select Area fisheries, staff believes some additional modifications to the spring season structure are necessary to maintain opportunity in the late April timeframe.

Recommendation: 2019 Select Area Commercial Fisheries

Compact Action:

- **Rescind** the 4-hour fishing periods previously adopted for the Tongue Point Select Area on April 18, April 23–24, and April 26.
 - The South Channel fishing area remains open on these dates as previously adopted (7 PM–11 PM April 18, 10 PM April 23 – 2 AM April 24, and midnight–4 AM April 26).
- **Modify** the open hours previously adopted for the Knappa Slough Select Area on April 18–19, April 23–24, and April 25–26 as follows:
 - April 18 open **7 PM–11 PM** (4 hours)
 - April 23–24 open **10 PM–2 AM** (4 hours)
 - April 26 open **midnight–4 AM** (4 hours)
 - The Blind Slough Select Area remains open on these dates as previously adopted (7 PM–7 AM for April 18–19, April 23–24, and April 25–26)

Oregon State Action:

- **Rescind** the 4-hour fishing period previously adopted for the Youngs Bay Select Area on April 23–24.
- **Modify** the fishing area previously adopted for the Youngs Bay Select Area on April 25–26 as follows:
 - **Open area is the Upper Youngs Bay Area which includes all waters within the Youngs Bay Select Area upstream of the old Youngs Bay Bridge.**

All other previously adopted regulations specific to each site remain in effect.

- The recommendation would result in reduced fishing area and time through April 26. These modifications to the season structure will help limit additional upriver spring Chinook impacts in the early spring Select Area fisheries but still provides opportunity for each site in the late April timeframe.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- No additional Compact or Joint State hearings are scheduled at this time. The Joint Staff will monitor fisheries and recommend additional hearings as needed.