
COLUMBIA RIVER ACTION NOTICE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

September 23, 2020

The following action was taken:

<i>2020 Non-Treaty Zone 4-5 Mainstem Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	8 PM Thursday September 24 through 6 AM Friday September 25 (Week 39) 1 night 8 PM Wednesday September 30 through 6 AM Thursday October 1 (Week 40) 1 night
Area:	Zones 4-5. The deadline at the lower end of Zone 4 is defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore.
Sanctuaries:	Washougal and Sandy rivers.
Gear:	Drift gillnets only. 8-inch minimum mesh size restriction. Multiple net rule in effect beginning September 30 which means nets not specifically authorized for the 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:	Salmon (except chum) and shad. Sturgeon may not be possessed or sold.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. 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.

<i>2020 Non-Treaty Coho Tangle Net Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday September 30 (13 hours each) 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 2 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 5 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 7 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 9 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 12 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 14 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 16 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday October 19 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Wednesday October 21 5:00 AM to 6:00 PM Friday October 23
Area:	Zones 1-3. Upper deadline defined as a straight line projected from the Warrior Rock Lighthouse on the Oregon shore easterly through the green navigation Buoy #1 and continuing to the Washington shore
Sanctuaries:	Elokomin-A, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A and Lewis-A

Gear:	<p>Drift nets only. Maximum mesh size is 3-3/4 inches. Unslackened, single-wall, multi-filament floater nets only. Monofilament nets are not allowed.</p> <p>Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms.</p> <p>A red cork must be placed on the corkline every 25 fathoms as measured from the first mesh of the net. Red corks at 25-fathom intervals must be in color contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>There are no restrictions on the hang ratio. The hang ratio is used to horizontally add slack to the net. The hang ratio is determined by the length of the web per length of the corkline. The use of slackers or stringers to slacken the net vertically is <u>prohibited</u>. Rip lines are allowed providing they do not vertically slacken the net</p>
Allowable Sales:	<p>Salmon (except chum) and shad; all coho must be adipose fin-clipped. Sturgeon may not be possessed or sold.</p>
Regulations:	<p>Regulations typically in place for mark-selective commercial fisheries are in effect, including but not limited to: net length, use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, red corks, tangle-net certification, etc.</p> <p>Soak times, 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 <u>30 minutes</u>.</p> <p>Recovery Box: 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. All non-legal fish must be released immediately unharmed to the river or placed into an operating recovery box. All non-legal salmon and all steelhead that are bleeding, lethargic or appear lifeless 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> <p>Measuring mesh size: 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 outside of the opposite knot of the center mesh. Hand tension means sufficient linear tension to draw opposing knots of meshes into contact</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>
Additional Rules:	<p>Multiple net rule in effect: 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.</p> <p>Lighted Buoys: 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>24-hour quick reporting required is for Washington wholesale dealers, per WAC 220-352-315. 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.</p>

2020 White Sturgeon Recreational Fishery for Above Wauna

Season:	Saturday September 26, Tuesday September 29, and Saturday October 3	3 days
Area:	Mainstem Columbia River from the Wauna powerlines upstream to Bonneville Dam, including the Cowlitz River	
Allowable Catch:	Up to 484 white sturgeon Legal size: 44-inch minimum and 50-inch maximum fork length (Fork length is measured in a straight line from the tip of the nose to the fork in the caudal fin (tail) with the fish laying on its side on a flat surface, with the tape measure/ruler positioned flat <u>under</u> the fish)	
Additional Regulations:	Daily bag limit: One fish Annual bag limit: Two fish Retention of green sturgeon is prohibited	

Future Meetings

- A Compact Hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Thursday September 24, 2020 to consider additional treaty commercial fisheries.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 AM Tuesday, October 6 to consider non-treaty commercial fisheries.
- Staff will continue to monitor the fisheries and stock status and recommend additional hearings as needed.