

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
February 13, 2024

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Select Area commercial fisheries
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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 online. The most recent report is the 2024 Spring Chinook, Summer Chinook, Sockeye, Steelhead and Other Species Report (February 1, 2024) available at:

*<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

RIVER CONDITIONS

- As of February 12, the recent five-day average Columbia River water temperature at Bonneville Dam of 39°F is the same as the five-year average for this time in February. The five-day average outflow is 125.6 kcfs, which is lower than the recent 5-year average of 165.6 kcfs. The recent five-day average visibility is 6 feet compared to the five-year average of 7 feet.

STOCK STATUS

Upriver Spring Chinook

- The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam plus Snake River summer Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between January 1 and June 15 are managed as upriver spring Chinook. Snake River spring/summer Chinook and upper Columbia spring Chinook are components of this run and are federally-listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Spring Chinook returning to other tributaries above Bonneville Dam are part of this run but are not ESA-listed. Based on the recent ten-year average, Bonneville Dam passage is usually 50% complete by May 11. Over the past ten years, adult returns have averaged 152,289 fish (range 73,101 to 288,994).

Willamette Spring Chinook

- Willamette River spring Chinook exhibit broader migration timing than upriver spring Chinook. Spring Chinook destined for areas upstream of Willamette Falls and the Clackamas River are in the upper Willamette River ESU which is listed under the ESA. Over the past ten years, adult returns have averaged 47,807 fish (range 27,292 to 84,532).

Lower Columbia Spring Chinook

- Spring Chinook returning to the tributaries of the lower Columbia River are destined for the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Sandy rivers (CKLS) and the Select Areas. CKLS populations are in the Lower Columbia ESU which is listed under the ESA; hatchery spring Chinook produced for Select Area fisheries are not considered part of the ESU. Over the past ten years, the combined adult return of these lower river stocks has averaged 20,226 fish (range 6,803 to 34,323) to the tributaries and 10,854 fish (range 2,479 to 22,357) to the Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

- The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteenmile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Populations returning to Washington-side tributaries from the Cowlitz River upstream to the Klickitat River and Oregon-side tributaries from the Willamette River upstream to Fifteenmile Creek are in the Lower Columbia DPS and populations from areas upstream of Willamette Falls are in the Upper Willamette DPS; both of these DPSs are listed under the ESA. Steelhead handled downstream of Bonneville Dam during November through April are managed as winter steelhead. Over the past ten years, wild winter steelhead returns have averaged around 14,564 fish (range 9,440 to 22,379).

Summer Steelhead

- Steelhead encountered in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam in May and June are managed as lower river Skamania-stock summer steelhead.
- Upriver summer steelhead pass Bonneville Dam from April through October of each year. For the purpose of fisheries management, fish passing in April through June are categorized as upriver Skamania-stock steelhead while those passing during July through October are categorized as A-Index or B-Index (based on fork length, A-Index: <78 cm, B-Index: ≥ 78 cm). Passage during July is primarily A-Index fish; B-Index passage normally begins around the end of August. B-Index steelhead primarily return to Snake River tributaries in Idaho, while A-Index steelhead return to tributaries throughout the Columbia and Snake River basins.
- Fishery managers expect the return of summer steelhead to Bonneville Dam will be low again in 2024. If so, this would be the ninth consecutive year of lower-than-average returns for these fish.

Columbia River Adult Salmon Returns: Actual and Forecasted					
			2023 Forecast	2023 Return	2024 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Upriver Total *		198,600	141,179	121,000
	Upper Columbia		41,400	24,917	19,400
	<i>Upper Columbia natural-origin</i>		5,800	2,836	2,700
	Snake River Spring/Summer **		85,900	82,433	63,500
	<i>Snake River natural-origin**</i>		13,200	10,826	9,200
	Lower River Total		117,000	75,407	84,600
	Total Spring Chinook		315,600	216,586	205,600
	<u>Area-specific detail</u>				
	Willamette River		71,000	38,373	48,800
	<i>Willamette River hatchery-origin</i>		53,100	26,094	39,300
	Sandy River		7,800	6,312	7,700
	Select Areas***		22,100	18,789	18,100
	Cowlitz River		9,000	6,217	4,700
	Kalama River		2,400	2,525	1,900
	Lewis River		4,700	3,191	3,400
	Wind River***		4,400	5,068	4,200
	Drano Lake/Little White Salmon River***		8,000	7,550	5,300
	Hood River***		n/a	2,038	n/a
	Klickitat River***		1,400	651	1,300
	Deschutes River***		n/a	2,387	n/a
	John Day River***		n/a	2,686	n/a
	Umatilla River***		2,500	2,502	n/a
	Yakima River***		5,500	2,670	2,400
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia		85,400	54,722	53,000
Sockeye	Total Sockeye		234,500	329,040	401,700
	Wenatchee		44,300	146,875	97,000
	Okanogan		187,400	179,655	288,700
	Yakima		100	443	12,100
	Deschutes		100	68	100
	Snake River		2,600	1,999	3,800
Winter Steelhead	Wild		15,700	14,699	14,400

* Upriver totals are developed by TAC for use in management of *U.S. v. OR* fisheries. Wild components are included in the stock total. Area-specific estimates for upriver tributaries detailed here are provided by other agencies/entities and may not sum to TAC's upriver abundance estimates.

** 2023 return is based on current TAC run reconstruction methodology.

*** Return to tributary mouth.

1/31/2024

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2018–2027 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2018–2027 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides the treaty Indian and non-treaty fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- Fisheries are managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook which requires upriver mortalities in non-treaty fisheries to not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Based on the MA, the preseason forecast of 121,000 upriver spring Chinook, and the preseason forecast for 9,200 Snake River natural-origin spring Chinook, ESA impacts for 2024 fisheries are limited to 9.0%, with 1.6% for non-treaty fisheries and 7.4% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- To allow for uncertainty in preseason forecasting, the MA requires a 30% reduction from the upriver spring Chinook forecast (i.e., a run-size buffer) to start the season, which equates to 84,700 upriver spring Chinook. At this run size, the catch balance provision in the MA allows for a non-treaty harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 6,268 fish prior to an in-season run size update.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits annual freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring Chinook to $\leq 15\%$.
- The Willamette River FMEP includes a sliding scale for escapement goals based on abundance of hatchery fish which determines the allocation of surplus hatchery spring Chinook to recreational and commercial fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls. The escapement goals are also intended to allow for full recreational fisheries in the upper Willamette River.
- Based on FMEP guidance, an expected return of 40,600 hatchery spring Chinook, and the FMEP escapement goal of 25,300 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 15,300 hatchery fish. At this level, the harvestable surplus is allocated 15% to commercial fisheries and 85% to recreational fisheries.

2024 NON-TREATY FISHERIES

2024 Spring Chinook Management

- The Oregon and Washington upriver spring Chinook allocation policies for 2024 specific to commercial/recreational ESA-impact sharing and within-recreational sub-allocations are not concurrent. Under the Washington policy, no more than 70% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the recreational fisheries, and under Oregon rule, no more than 20% of the non-treaty allocation can be allocated to the commercial fisheries. Therefore, preseason modeling only utilizes 90% of the non-treaty upriver spring Chinook ESA impacts and results in a Select Area commercial fisheries allocation of ≤ 387 upriver spring Chinook.

Select Area Commercial Fisheries

- Select Area fisheries target spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons (mid-February through mid-June), and late-returning spring Chinook and early returning Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook during the summer season (mid-June through July).
- Harvest in winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial fisheries has averaged 10,549 Chinook annually (range 3,168 – 20,143) over the past five years (2019–2023), with 89% of the harvested fish originating from Select Area sites. The 2024 harvest expectation is 18,100 adult Select Area-origin Chinook.
- Age-3 jacks and adult-aged spring Chinook are expected to return to the Deep River Select Area site this year from a sub-yearling release program initiated in 2018. Fisheries were reinitiated in 2021.
- Recommendations for 2024 winter, spring, and summer Select Area commercial fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held in Astoria on January 24. For 2024, the staff proposal incorporates additional fishing periods during off-peak timeframes at all sites, reduced areas during initial spring fishing periods, and short tidal-based fishing periods during peak migration of upriver stocks to reduce interceptions and stabilize fishing opportunity.
- Handle rates of non-local stocks in Select Area commercial fisheries are low. Impacts to ESA-listed stocks in 2024 winter-summer Select Area commercial fisheries are expected to be $\leq 0.32\%$ for upriver spring Chinook, 0.96% for Willamette spring Chinook, 0.00% for sockeye, 0.07% each for winter and lower river summer steelhead, and 0.01% each for upriver A- and B-Index summer steelhead.
- Joint state staff are not recommending sturgeon retention in recreational or commercial fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam again in 2024.
- Shad retention and sales are allowed in Select Area commercial fisheries per OAR 635-042-0105.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Railroad Bridge in Blind Slough, encompass all of Knappa Slough, and require Compact action.
- Oregon State waters extend upstream of the Railroad Bridge and only require Oregon state action.

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Blind Slough and Knappa Slough Select Areas</i>	
Winter Season:	The winter Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 22 fishing periods from February 15 through April 12 as described below: <u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u> 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 15 – March 22 (16 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 25 – April 12 (6 nights)

Spring Season:	The spring Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 31 fishing periods from April 16 through June 14 as described below: <u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u> 7 PM to 7 AM Tuesday and Thursday nights April 16 – 19 (2 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights April 22 – 26 (2 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 29 – May 3 (3 nights) 7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 6 – June 14 (24 nights)
Summer Season:	The summer Blind Slough and Knappa Slough seasons include 15 fishing periods from June 17 through July 19 as described below: <u>Blind Slough and Knappa Slough open:</u> 7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights June 17 – July 19 (15 nights)
Area:	<p>The Blind Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Blind Slough and Gnat Creek from a north-south line represented by regulatory markers at the mouth of Blind Slough upstream to a regulatory marker in Gnat Creek located approximately 0.5 miles southeasterly (upstream) of the Barendse Road Bridge.</p> <p>The Knappa Slough Select Area is defined as waters of Knappa Slough, Calendar Slough, and Big Creek Slough bounded to the north (upstream) by a line projecting from a regulatory marker on the eastern shore of Karlson Island to the northernmost regulatory marker at the mouth of Blind Slough and bounded to the west (downstream) by a line projecting southerly from a regulatory marker on the southwestern tip of Karlson Island through regulatory markers on the western tips of Minaker Island to a marker on the Oregon shore.</p> <p>The waters of Knappa Slough within a 100-foot radius of the railroad bridge crossing Big Creek are closed.</p> <p>Through May 3 the downstream (western) boundary in Knappa Slough is a north-south line projecting through the easternmost tip of Minaker Island and regulatory markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore.</p>
Gear:	<u>Gear restrictions as follows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction. • Spring and Summer seasons: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. • The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms). • There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted. • Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a 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 (except Chum) and shad.

Misc. Regulations:	Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically 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 more than 24 hours. Blind Slough and Knappa Slough have unique catch reporting codes to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries.
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- The proposed season structure adds one period to the winter season and maintains the expanded spring and summer schedule while continuing to reduce risk to upriver stocks.
- In accordance with OAR 635-006-0210(2)(h) and WACs 220-69-230(1)(i) and 220-22-010(9)(a-b), commercial fishers are expected, and fish dealers are required, to report landings for winter-summer fisheries in Knappa Slough and Blind Slough separately using appropriate area coding. Fish dealers are requested to keep landings from these two sites separate to aid in sampling.

Tongue Point/South Channel Commercial Fishery

- All waters in the Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area are under concurrent Oregon and Washington jurisdiction and require Compact action.

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Tongue Point/South Channel Select Areas</i>	
Winter Season:	The winter Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 22 fishing periods from February 15 through April 12 as described below: <u>Tongue Point and South Channel open:</u> 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 15 – March 8 (10 nights) <u>Tongue Point open:</u> 8 PM to Midnight Sunday March 10 (4 hours) 9 PM Tuesday March 12 to 1 AM Wednesday March 13 (4 hours) 10:30 PM Thursday March 14 to 2:30 AM Friday March 15 (4 hours) 1:30 AM to 5:30 AM Monday March 18 (4 hours) 4 AM to 8 AM Wednesday March 20 (4 hours) <u>South Channel open:</u> 7 PM to 7 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights March 10 – March 22 (6 nights) 8 PM to Midnight Monday March 25 (4 hours) 9 PM Thursday March 28 to 1 AM Friday March 29 (4 hours) 8 PM to Midnight Monday April 1 (4 hours) 11 PM Thursday April 4 to 3 AM Friday April 5 (4 hours) 7:30 PM to 11:30 PM Monday April 8 (4 hours) 9:30 PM Thursday April 11 to 1:30 AM Friday April 12 (4 hours)
Spring Season:	The spring Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 31 fishing periods from April 16 through June 14 as described below: <u>South Channel open:</u> 9 PM Tuesday April 16 to 1 AM Wednesday April 17 (4 hours)

11 PM Thursday April 18 to 3 AM Friday April 19 (4 hours)

Tongue Point and South Channel open:

7 PM to 7 AM Monday and Thursday nights April 22 – 26 (2 nights)

7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 29 – May 3 (3 nights)

7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 6 – June 14 (24 nights)

Summer Season:

The summer Tongue Point and South Channel seasons include 15 fishing periods from June 17 through July 19 as described below:

Tongue Point and South Channel open:

7 PM to 7 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights June 17 – July 19 (15 nights)

Area:

The Tongue Point Winter-Spring Subarea is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from the end of the southern-most pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility projecting in a straight line through flashing red USCG light “6” to the shore of Mott Island, a line from a regulatory marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the northwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker located on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River projecting easterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island. If the marker on the Oregon shore is not in place, the upper boundary is defined by a line projecting easterly from a point (46°10'57.7"N latitude 123°44'35.3"W longitude) on the Oregon shore approximately 300 yards northwest of the railroad bridge crossing the John Day River to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island.

For summer fisheries, the open waters include the entire Tongue Point Select Area as described in OAR 635-042-0170(1)(a) and WAC 220-301-010 (11)(c). If the marker on the eastern shore of Tongue Point is not in place, the downstream boundary is defined by a line projecting from a point (46°12'31.1"N latitude 123°45'34.0"W longitude) on the eastern shore of Tongue Point to the flashing green USCG light “3” on the rock jetty at the northwest tip of Mott Island.

The South Channel Select Area is defined as waters of the Columbia River bounded by a line from a regulatory marker on the Oregon shore at John Day Point projecting northeasterly to a regulatory marker on the southwest shore of Lois Island, and a line from a regulatory marker on Settler Point projecting northwesterly to the flashing red USCG light “10” then projecting westerly to the eastern tip of Burnside Island.

Gear:	<u>Gear restrictions as follows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction Spring and Summer seasons: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction The maximum net length is 1,500 feet (250 fathoms). In the Tongue Point winter-spring subarea and the Tongue Point Select Area, the lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom. In the South Channel Select Area, there is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight and anchors directly to the lead line is permitted. Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a vessel if properly stored, however, unstored gillnets legal for use in South Channel may be onboard. 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 (except Chum) and shad.
Misc. Regulations:	Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically 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 more than 24 hours.

- The proposed season structure adds one period to the winter season and maintains the expanded spring and summer schedule while continuing to reduce risk to upriver stocks.

Youngs Bay Commercial Fishery

- All waters in Youngs Bay are Oregon State waters and require Oregon State action.
- The entire Youngs Bay Select Area is open to either Oregon or Washington fishers who possess valid licenses (fishing and boat) issued by either state. Per permanent rule, all landings from Youngs Bay must be delivered to an Oregon-licensed buyer.

Recommendation: 2024 Youngs Bay Select Area

Winter Season:	The winter Youngs Bay season includes 22 fishing periods from February 15 through April 4 as described below: <u>Youngs Bay open:</u> 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday February 15 – 29 (9 periods) 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday March 4 – 7 (3 periods) 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM Monday March 11 (4 hours) 9 AM to 1 PM Wednesday March 13 (4 hours) 10 AM to 2 PM Thursday March 14 (4 hours) 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM Monday March 18 (4 hours) 4:30 PM to 8:30 PM Wednesday March 20 (4 hours)
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Upper Youngs Bay Area open:

5 PM to 9 PM Thursday March 21 (4 hours)
7 AM to 11 AM Monday March 25 (4 hours)
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM Thursday March 28 (4 hours)
Noon to 4 PM Monday April 1 (4 hours)
3:30 PM to 7:30 PM Thursday April 4 (4 hours)

Spring Season:

The spring Youngs Bay season includes 12 fishing periods from April 18 through June 14 as described below:

Upper Youngs Bay Area open:

3:30 PM to 7:30 PM Thursday April 18 (4 hours)
6 PM to 10 PM Monday April 22 (4 hours)

Youngs Bay open:

7:30 AM to 11:30 AM Thursday April 25 (4 hours)
10:30 AM to 2:30 PM Monday April 29 (4 hours)
12:30 PM to 4:30 PM Wednesday May 1 (4 hours)
1:30 PM to 5:30 PM Thursday May 2 (4 hours)
6 AM Mondays – 9 AM Fridays from May 6 through June 14 (4+ continuous days/wk; 24 days total)

Summer Season:

The summer Youngs Bay season includes 7 fishing periods from June 17 through July 31 as described below:

6 AM Mondays – 9 AM Fridays from June 17 through July 19 (4+ continuous days/wk; 20 days total)
6 AM Tuesday July 23 – Noon Thursday July 25 (54 hours)
6 AM Tuesday July 30 – Noon Wednesday July 31 (30 hours)

Area:

The Youngs Bay Select Area is defined as waters of Youngs Bay and Youngs River southeasterly of the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the regulatory marker(s) at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers, including the Walluski River downstream of the Highway 202 Bridge, and the Lewis and Clark River north (downstream) of the overhead power lines (approximately 500 feet south (upstream) of Barrett Slough). During the winter season, the upstream boundary in the Lewis and Clark River is the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark Bridge).

The Upper Youngs Bay Area includes all waters within the Youngs Bay Select Area upstream of the old Youngs Bay Bridge.

Gear:	<u>Gear restrictions as follows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction • Spring and Summer seasons: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction • The maximum net length is 1,500 feet (250 fathoms). • Lead line weight may not exceed two pounds per any one fathom, except additional weights or anchors attached directly to the lead line is permitted in these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youngs River upstream of regulatory markers located approximately 200 yards southerly (upstream) of the mouth of the Walluski River. • In the lower Walluski River from the first dock near the mouth upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge. • In the Lewis and Clark River from the Alternate Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the overhead power lines (approximately 500 feet southerly (upstream) of Barrett Slough). • 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. • Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a 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 (except Chum) and shad.
Misc. Regulations:	<p>Permanent regulations related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect.</p> <p>Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically 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 more than 24 hours.</p>

- Staff worked with industry to maximize opportunity in the winter and summer seasons while reducing the risk of encountering non-local stocks during the late winter and early spring timeframes.
 - ✓ Adds one additional fishing period in late March, as compared to the 2023 season.
 - ✓ Adopts fishing periods with reduced hours/area in mid-March/April/early May to maintain harvest opportunity and improve fishery stability during peak upriver migration timeframe.
 - ✓ Sets fishing periods at low tide to reduce non-local encounters.
- Similar to recent years, the majority of the winter-season fishing periods in Youngs Bay are scheduled during daylight hours.

Deep River Commercial Fishery

- Concurrent jurisdiction waters extend downstream from the Highway 4 Bridge and require Compact action.

<i>Recommendation: 2024 Deep River Select Area</i>	
Winter Season:	The winter Deep River season includes 22 fishing periods from February 15 through April 12 as described below: 7 PM to 9 AM Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights February 15 – March 22 (16 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday and Thursday nights March 25 – April 12 (6 nights)
Spring Season:	The spring Deep River season includes 31 fishing periods from April 16 through June 14 as described below: 7 PM to 9 AM Tuesday and Thursday nights April 16 – 19 (2 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday and Thursday nights April 22 – 26 (2 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights April 29 – May 3 (3 nights) 7 PM to 9 AM Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights May 6 – June 14 (24 nights)
Area:	From the mouth of Deep River defined as a line from USCG navigation marker #16 southwest to a marker on the Washington shore, upstream to the Highway 4 Bridge.
Gear:	<u>Gear restrictions as follows:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction.• Spring season: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction.• The maximum net length is 600 feet (100 fathoms).• There is no lead line weight limit and attachment of additional weight or anchors directly to the lead line is permitted.• Nets may not fully cross navigation channel. It is unlawful to operate in any river, stream or channel any gill net longer than three-fourths the width of the stream (WAC 220-20-015 (1)). It shall be unlawful in any area to use, operate, or carry aboard a commercial fishing vessel a licensed net or combination of such nets, whether fished singly or separately, in excess of the maximum lawful size or length prescribed for a single net in that area, except as otherwise provided for in the rules and regulations of the department WAC 220-20-010 (17).• Nets not specifically authorized for use may be onboard a 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 (except Chum) and shad.
Misc. Regulations:	Transportation or possession of fish outside the fishing area (except to the sampling station) is unlawful until WDFW staff has biologically sampled individual catches. After sampling, fishers will be issued a transportation permit by WDFW staff. Winter and Spring seasons: fishers are required to call 360-798-8098 to confirm the place and time of sampling. 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically 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 more than 24 hours.

- The proposed season structure largely aligns with last year's winter and spring seasons in the Deep River site and proposed season structure for 2024 Oregon Select Area sites. However, two additional hours were added to the end of each fishing period to provide additional low tide opportunity as requested by the fishers.
- The proposed fisheries are expected to have minimal impacts to upriver stocks, as previous year's openings resulted in low impacts to upriver stocks.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A hybrid Joint State Hearing is scheduled for 10 AM Wednesday February 21, 2024 to consider mainstem Columbia River recreational spring Chinook fisheries. The meeting will be held at the City of Vancouver Water Resources Education Center located at: 4600 SE Columbia Way, Vancouver, WA 98661. A teleconference call-in option will be available.

	Page(s)	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area	5-7	Compact and Oregon state
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area	7-9	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youngs Bay Select Area	9-11	Oregon state
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deep River Select Area	12	Compact