

OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 8
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
March 20, 2017

Fisheries under consideration:	Select Area Commercial Fisheries
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- Select Area fisheries target spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons (mid-February through mid-June) and both spring Chinook and Select Area Bright (SAB) fall Chinook during the summer season (mid-June through July) in Youngs Bay.
- The 2017 winter/spring/summer seasons were adopted at the January 31, 2017 Compact hearing.
- The winter season fisheries in Tongue Point/South Channel and Knappa Slough ended last week on March 13 and March 17, respectively. Winter fisheries in Youngs Bay, Blind Slough, and Deep River continue but with reduced hours and/or days. Currently adopted seasons end on March 27 in Youngs Bay, March 28 in Deep River, and March 31 in Blind Slough.
- Combined Select Area landings through March 19 total 144 Chinook, or 55% of the recent 5-year average harvest of 262 spring Chinook through this week.
- The combined Select Area catch to date includes an estimated 14 upriver spring Chinook (10% of the total catch), with approximately 35 additional upriver mortalities expected for remaining winter Select Area fisheries.
- Ex-vessel price has remained high with an average ex-vessel value last week of \$12.35/pound.
- Several fishers have requested additional fishing opportunity in Tongue Point/South Channel and Knappa Slough. Given the expected accrual of upriver mortalities for currently scheduled winter Select Area fisheries, staff believes some additional fishing time can be provided without affecting the spring fishing schedule.

<i>2017 Tongue Point/South Channel and Knappa Slough Select Areas - Recommendation</i>
Modify the ongoing Select Area commercial fisheries in Tongue Point and Knappa Slough to include additional fishing periods as follows: <u>Tongue Point:</u> 3 PM to 7 PM Wednesday March 22 <u>Knappa Slough:</u> 7 PM Monday March 20 through 7 AM Tuesday March 21 7 PM Thursday March 23 through 7 AM Friday March 24 All other previously adopted regulations specific to each site remain in effect.

- The proposed Knappa Slough periods are concurrent with this week's previously adopted Blind Slough fishing periods.
- The first additional period for Knappa Slough would occur tonight. Although this is very short notice, initial fisher contacts support the recommendation.
- Although Select Area harvest to date is less than expected, catches should improve as the season progresses.
- The proposed fishing periods provide additional opportunity to access Select Area spring Chinook at high value.
- Upriver impacts are expected to remain within the range observed in recent-year winter season Select Area fisheries.
- Additional winter season opportunity in Youngs Bay and Blind Slough, with reduced area and hours, may be considered for April.

Future Hearings

- Staff may recommend a Compact hearing as early as late next week to consider Select Area commercial fisheries.