

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT: WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 9**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**March 28, 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. Additional periods in Tongue Point/South Channel and Knappa Slough were added at a Compact hearing last week.
- With the additional periods, winter season fisheries in Tongue Point/South Channel and Knappa Slough were extended to March 22 and March 24, respectively. Winter fisheries in Youngs Bay and Deep River recently ended; the final winter period in Blind Slough is scheduled for this Thursday night.
- Combined Select Area landings through March 24 total 169 Chinook, or 41% of the recent 5-year average harvest of 413 spring Chinook through this week. The catch includes an estimated 15 upriver spring Chinook (9% of the total catch).
- Preliminary landings from the March 27 period in Youngs Bay are approximately 100 fish (~12% upriver stock). Landings and sampling data for Blind Slough and Deep River fisheries is not yet available.
- Given the production increases into the Select Areas, catches to date have been much lower than expected.
- Ex-vessel price has remained high with an average ex-vessel value last week around \$12.00/pound.
- Several fishers have requested additional Select Area fishing opportunity. 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.

***2017 Select Area Commercial Fisheries - Recommendation***

Modify the winter season Select Area commercial fisheries to include additional fishing periods as follows:

Youngs Bay:

8 AM to Noon Thursday March 30

Youngs Bay (Walluski Area):

Noon to 4 PM Monday April 3

4 PM to 8 PM Thursday April 6

Tongue Point/South Channel:

10 AM to 2 PM Thursday March 30

Knappa Slough:

7 PM Thursday March 30 through 7 AM Friday March 31

Blind Slough only:

7 PM Monday April 3 through 7 AM Tuesday April 4

7 PM Thursday April 6 through 7 AM Friday April 7

Deep River:

7 PM Thursday March 30 through 7 AM Friday March 31

\* The open area in Youngs Bay for the April 3 and April 6 periods is defined as: From the first powerlines downstream of the Walluski River upstream to the confluence of the Youngs and Klaskanine rivers (Walluski Area).

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

- The proposed Knappa Slough period is concurrent with this week's previously adopted Blind Slough fishing period.
- 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.
- Reduced areas are proposed in April to provide some fishing opportunity and catch and effort data for this timeframe while limiting impacts to upriver stocks. With the proposed additions, the proportion of upriver impacts accrued in the winter season is expected to remain within the recent-year average.

**Future Hearings**

- A Joint State hearing is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday April 5, 2017 via teleconference to review salmon and steelhead stock status and consider recreational fishing seasons in the Columbia River.