

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 1a
Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
January 27, 2016**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Zone 6 recreational sturgeon fisheries Non-Indian mainstem commercial research-level smelt fishery Tributary recreational research-level smelt fishery Mainstem recreational salmon fisheries Non-Indian mainstem commercial salmon fishing plan Select Area commercial and recreational 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 on-line. The most recent reports are the 2016 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (December 17, 2015) and the 2016 Winter Spring Summer Report (January 20, 2016). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

Columbia River Smelt (Eulachon)

Columbia River smelt (Eulachon) return annually to the Columbia River to spawn in the mainstem and several of its tributaries downstream of Bonneville Dam. The fish typically begin to enter the Columbia River in December and peak tributary abundance is usually in February. Columbia River smelt are federally listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Upriver Spring Chinook

The upriver spring Chinook run is defined as all spring Chinook destined for areas above Bonneville Dam and Snake River summer Chinook. Chinook passing Bonneville Dam between January 1 and June 15 are managed as upriver spring Chinook. Snake River wild spring/summer Chinook and upper Columbia wild spring Chinook are components of this run and are federally-listed under the 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 8. Over the past ten years, adult runs have averaged around 196,000 (range 86,000 to 315,000).

Willamette Spring Chinook

Willamette River spring Chinook exhibit broader migration timing than upriver spring Chinook. Wild spring Chinook destined for portions of the Willamette River and its tributaries are ESA-listed. Over the past ten years, runs (adults and jacks) have averaged around 61,000 fish (range 27,000 to 111,000).

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 and the Select Areas. Wild components of this group are ESA-listed, with the exception of the Select Area fish. Over the past ten years, the combined adult return of these lower river stocks has averaged around 19,000 fish (range 10,000 to 32,000) in the tributaries and 9,000 fish (range 2,000 to 26,000) in Select Areas.

Winter Steelhead

The geographic range of winter steelhead includes all tributaries of the Columbia River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek on the Oregon shore and the Klickitat River on the Washington shore. Wild populations from the Cowlitz River upstream to Fifteen Mile Creek and from specific areas above Willamette Falls are ESA-listed. 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 16,000 fish (range 12,000 to 20,000).

Summer Steelhead

Lower Columbia summer steelhead abundance in the Columbia River peaks during May and June. The Skamania stock hatchery summer steelhead are widely planted in the lower Columbia tributaries, including the Willamette Basin. Skamania stock hatchery fish are also released annually in some tributaries upstream of Bonneville Dam. Wild lower river summer steelhead are present in the Kalama, Lewis, Washougal, and Wind rivers in Washington and in the Hood River in Oregon. The lower Columbia River steelhead DPS was listed as threatened by the NMFS on May 24, 1999. All steelhead handled in fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam during May and June are managed as lower river stock.

<i>Columbia River Mouth Fish Returns Actual and Forecasts**</i>					
			2015 Forecast	2015 Return	2016 Forecast
Spring Chinook	Total Spring Chinook		312,600	415,200	299,200
	Willamette		55,400	87,100	70,100
	Sandy		5,500	n/a	n/a
	Cowlitz*		11,200	23,900	25,100
	Kalama*		1,900	3,100	4,900
	Lewis*		1,100	1,000	1,100
	Select Areas*		5,000	11,100	9,200
	Lower River total		80,100	126,200	110,400
	Wind*		4,800	7,100	6,500
	Drano Lake*		7,800	17,600	9,800
	Klickitat*		2,500	2,800	1,600
	Yakima*		9,300	8,800	4,600
	Upper Columbia	Total	27,500	37,500	27,600
	<i>Upper Columbia</i>	<i>Wild</i>	4,500	7,300	5,000
	Snake River	Total			
	Spring/Summer		140,800	162,700	124,800
	<i>Snake River</i>	<i>Wild</i>	45,300	30,000	23,700
	Upriver Total		232,500	289,000	188,800
Summer Chinook	Upper Columbia	Total	73,000	126,900	93,300
Sockeye	Wenatchee		106,700	139,900	57,800
	Okanogan		285,500	370,900	41,700
	Snake River	<i>Wild</i>	1,800	1,700	2,100
	Total Sockeye		394,000	512,500	101,600
Steelhead	Winter	<i>Wild</i>	16,100	20,100	16,900
<i>*Return to tributary mouth **Totals may not sum due to rounding</i>					8-Jan-16

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Columbia River Smelt

- Beginning in 2001, the Washington and Oregon Eulachon Management Plan (WOEMP) provided guidance in structuring smelt fisheries. The plan identified three levels of fisheries based on expected adult run size, juvenile production, and ocean productivity. Level 1 fisheries are the most conservative and Level 3 are the most liberal.
- In response to the ESA listing in 2010, the states discontinued commercial and recreational smelt fisheries. The states have continued to work closely with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) in order to reinstate a research-level smelt fishery to provide biological data, fishery landing, and pounds per landing (CPUE) data so that smelt status and run strength can be better assessed.

2008-2017 U.S. v Oregon Management Agreement

- The 2008-2017 *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement (MA) provides the treaty Indian and non-Indian fishery harvest frameworks and harvest rate schedules for salmon and steelhead stocks destined for areas upstream of Bonneville Dam.
- The MA includes an abundance-based sliding scale harvest schedule for upriver spring Chinook. Based on the MA and the preseason forecast, ESA impacts for 2016 fisheries are limited to 11%, with 1.9% for non-Indian fisheries and 9.1% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Fisheries will also be managed to meet the catch balance provision in the MA for upriver spring Chinook which requires upriver mortalities in non-Indian fisheries to not exceed the total allowable catch available for treaty Indian fisheries.
- The MA also specifies fisheries occurring prior to a run size update be managed for a run size that is at least 30% less than the predicted upriver spring Chinook run size.
- A 30% reduction to the preseason forecast equates to a run size of 132,160 fish, which allows for an allowable harvest (kept plus release mortalities) of 10,969 upriver spring Chinook and an ESA limit of 1.7% for non-Indian fisheries prior to a run size update.

Endangered Species Act

- A Biological Opinion (BO) based upon the management actions outlined in the MA was issued by NMFS in 2008.
- Impacts to wild winter steelhead are limited to 2% for all mainstem Columbia River non-Indian fisheries. Impacts to wild LCR summer steelhead are also limited to 2%.

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Willamette River Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) limits 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 57,400 hatchery spring Chinook and the FMEP escapement goal of 27,600 hatchery fish, the harvestable surplus totals 29,800 hatchery fish. This surplus is allocated 76% (22,650) for recreational fisheries downstream of Willamette Falls (including the mainstem Columbia River) and 24% (7,150) to commercial fisheries (including Select Areas).

2015 Spring Chinook Management

- The Washington and Oregon Fish and Wildlife commissions (Commissions) have provided guidance on spring Chinook management. Allowed ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook are allocated 70% to recreational fisheries and 30% to commercial fisheries. Prior to a run update the allowed recreational and commercial ESA impacts are reduced by 20% and 40%, respectively. This direction combined with catch balance provisions in the MA, result in the following guidelines:

Prior to the run update, allocation of upriver fish (including release mortalities) for non-Indian fisheries will be:

- 7,515 fish for the recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam
- 1,002 fish for the recreational fishery from Bonneville Dam to the OR/WA state line
- 1,005 fish for recreational fisheries in the Snake River (Washington waters)
- 27 fish for Wanapum tribe (Upper Columbia)
- 1,222 fish for the mainstem commercial fishery
- 198 fish for Select Area commercial fisheries

2016 NON-INDIAN FISHERIES

Zone 6 Recreational White Sturgeon Fisheries

- Under permanent regulations the area from Bonneville Dam upstream to McNary Dam is open for white sturgeon retention. Each of the three pools will remain open until the pool-specific guideline is met. Annual population estimates are conducted on a rotational basis in each pool. The most recent survey (2015) was conducted in Bonneville Pool.
- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on January 21 to discuss and develop management recommendations for 2016 white sturgeon fisheries in Bonneville, The Dalles, and John Day pools, including potential modifications to harvest guidelines based on updated population assessments. The SMTF has provided the 2016 non-Indian harvest guidelines which remain unchanged for The Dalles and John Day pools, the guideline for the Bonneville Pool was reduced significantly due to a decreased population estimate in 2015.

2016 Zone 6 Recreational Sturgeon Harvest and Guidelines			
Pool	Guideline	2016 Harvest (thru)	% of guideline
Bonneville	325	80 (Jan 24)	25%
The Dalles	100	45 (Jan 24)	45%
John Day	500	24 (Jan 17)	5%

- Since 2011, the Bonneville Pool fishery has been managed to provide retention opportunity during winter and summer seasons, with the guideline being shared to provide meaningful opportunity in both seasons. The reduced 2016 harvest guideline for Bonneville Pool provides minimal fish for both the winter and summer seasons.
- Sturgeon harvest in Bonneville Pool during January 1-24 totaled 80 fish, which represents 25% of the total guideline of 325 fish. In order to reserve a portion of the harvest guideline for some retention opportunity during the summer season (mid-June), staff is making the following recommendation:

Staff Recommendation: 2016 Bonneville Pool Recreational White Sturgeon Fishery

Effective 12:01 AM Monday, February 8, the retention of sturgeon is prohibited in the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam upstream to The Dalles Dam, including adjacent tributaries.

- Staff projects total catch in the winter Bonneville retention fishery will be about 140 fish, leaving a balance of 185 fish, or 1-2 days for the summer retention fishery.
- Staff will be tracking catch in The Dalles Pool, and assuming catch rates remain stable, anticipates a decision on this fishery will be needed in mid-February.

Columbia River Smelt Research-Level Fisheries

- In 2014 and 2015, limited conservation-level research fisheries occurred from February through early March. Although smelt abundance levels allowed for a Level 2 fishery under the WOEMP, a more conservative reduced Level 1 fishery was recommended and adopted.
- Abundance indicators for the 2016 smelt return are mixed; however, the expectation is this year’s run size will be moderate like the runs of 2011 and 2012.
- After discussion with NMFS, and considering the mutual desire to continue a conservative management approach to smelt fisheries, staff is recommending a research-level fishery structure for 2016 that will provide biological and run strength data as well as provide some fishing opportunity for both recreational and commercial fisheries.

2016 Research-Level Smelt Fisheries

- All the proposed seasons are more conservative than Level 1 fisheries defined in the WOEMP.

<i>2016 Mainstem Commercial Smelt Fishery Recommendation</i>	
Season:	Mondays and Thursdays from February 1 through February 25 Open hours are 7 AM to 2 PM (7 hours).
Area:	Zones 1-3
Gear:	Gill net only. Specifications per permanent regulations.
Allowable Sales:	Smelt
Miscellaneous:	24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210.

- The proposed season, being restricted to three zones and 8 days (56 total hours), is similar to the conservative 2014 and 2015 season structures.

- The proposed fishery would provide a small harvest opportunity while continuing the historic index of run strength (pounds/landing). Landings will be sampled to collect biological data.

<i>2016 Washington Tributary Recreational Smelt Fishery Recommendation</i>	
Season:	Saturday February 6 Open hours are 7 AM to 1 PM (6 hours)
Area:	Cowlitz River (bank only)
Gear	Dip net
Daily Limit:	10 pounds of smelt per person.

- The proposed fishery will be monitored to provide effort, catch, biological data, and harvest estimates.
- Restricting the fishery to one 6-hour period is more conservative than the 2014 and 2015 seasons and past Level One fisheries.
- Delaying the start of the fishery one hour, to 7 AM (daylight), is advantageous for both monitoring and managing the fishery.
- Collection of creel survey data on the 2016 recreational fishery will address gaps in our limited information on historic recreational fishery harvest of eulachon.
- Oregon is not recommending a recreational smelt fishery in the Sandy River at this time. Oregon will determine if a fishery is warranted after additional freshwater abundance indicators become available. These indicators may include initial results from mainstem commercial periods as well as observations of eulachon returns during other sampling.

2016 Tribal Ceremonial & Subsistence Smelt Fisheries

- Minor tribal fisheries may occur in the Cowlitz and Sandy rivers for ceremonial and subsistence (C&S) use only, using traditional hand-held dipnets fished from shore. Agency staff will coordinate with the tribes on any C&S fisheries.

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fisheries

- The Columbia River downstream of the I-5 Bridge is currently open for hatchery salmon and steelhead under permanent regulations through March 31.
- The Columbia River from I-5 Bridge upstream to the Hwy 395 Bridge is currently open for hatchery steelhead under permanent regulations through March 31.
- Staff modeled lower river spring Chinook season scenarios for 2016 based on input from the public and the Columbia River Recreational Advisory Group (CRRAG). Modeled seasons were discussed with the CRRAG to identify preferences. None of the modeled seasons extended into the run size update timeframe of early May.

<i>2016 Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Recreational Fishery Recommendations</i>		
Downstream of Bonneville Dam		
Season:	Tuesday March 1 through Saturday April 9, <u>except closed</u> March 29 and April 5 (Tuesdays)	38 retention days
Area:	Buoy 10 upstream to Beacon Rock (boat and bank) plus bank angling only from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline. Legal upstream boat boundary defined as: A deadline marker on the Oregon bank (approximately four miles downstream from Bonneville Dam Powerhouse One) in a straight line through the western tip of Pierce Island to a deadline marker on the Washington bank at Beacon Rock.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	
Bonneville Dam to Oregon/Washington Border		
Season:	Wednesday March 16 through Friday May 6, 2015	52 retention days
Area:	Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) upstream to Oregon/Washington border, plus the Oregon and Washington banks between Bonneville Dam and the Tower Island power lines.	
Daily Bag Limit:	Two adult salmonids per day, but only one may be a Chinook. Only adipose fin-clipped fish may be kept. All other permanent regulations apply.	

- Catch expectations are approximately 9,100 adult Chinook (7,130 upriver mortalities) for the fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam and 900 adult Chinook (all upriver stock) for the fishery upstream of Bonneville.
- Fishery recommendations were developed to remain within and comply with:
 - ✓ Impact limits for species listed under the ESA.
 - ✓ Buffers and catch balance provisions outlined in the MA.
 - ✓ Policy guidance and management objectives provided by the Commissions.
- The proposed season for below Bonneville Dam received unanimous support from the CRRAG.
- The season for the Zone 6 fishery is based on the available pre-update allocation and estimated catch rates. Staff reviewed various season scenarios that might extend the season further into May, but the outputs consistently showed that the season would have to be severely truncated on the front end in order to add a few extra days in May.
- Although a key management goal is to minimize the need for in-season emergency action, due to the dynamic nature of fisheries and fish runs, none of the seasons recommended guarantee that in-season action will not be necessary in order to remain within ESA limits and/or catch balancing requirements.

- Staff is recommending a Joint State hearing be scheduled for Thursday April 7 to review the ongoing lower Columbia recreational spring Chinook fishery and consider an extension if enough fish remain available for harvest.
- In April 2015, the state of Washington adopted rules for the following two regulations. Washington intended for these rules to be made permanent, however that process is not yet complete. Washington will implement these rules in 2016.
 - ✓ Washington possession limit rule: Effective March 16 through June 15: When the mainstem Columbia River from the Tower Island power lines (approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam upstream to the Washington/Oregon state line is open to fishing for hatchery spring Chinook, upstream of the Dalles Dam the possession limit will allow up to four adult Chinook salmon in fresh form. Anglers aboard a boat may only possess one daily limit of salmon in fresh form.
 - ✓ Washington hand cast rule: Effective March 16 through June 15: When the mainstem Columbia River from the Tower Island Powerlines (located approximately 6 miles below The Dalles Dam) downstream to Bonneville Dam is open to fishing from the Washington bank for hatchery spring Chinook, only hand-casted lines may be used. It is unlawful to use a floating device to set lines for salmon and steelhead.
- Washington may also consider implementing the hand-cast only regulations in the area from Beacon Rock upstream to the Bonneville Dam deadline when that area is open only to bank angling.

Mainstem Steelhead and Shad Recreational Fishery

- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River from Buoy 10 upstream to the Highway 395 Bridge at Pasco, WA closes to steelhead retention April 1. The area downstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens May 16 and the area upstream of the I-5 Bridge re-opens June 16.
- Under permanent regulations, the Columbia River is open for shad angling all year, except closed downstream of Bonneville Dam from April 1 through May 15.

<p><i>Retention of Hatchery Steelhead and Shad During Recreational Spring Chinook Fisheries Recommendation</i></p>
<p>Effective March 16 – May 15, 2016, the Columbia River will be open for retention of adipose fin-clipped steelhead from Buoy 10 to the Highway 395 Bridge and shad from Buoy 10 to Bonneville Dam ONLY during days and in areas open for retention of adipose fin-clipped spring Chinook.</p>

- Beginning May 16 permanent rules resume: hatchery steelhead retention is allowed from the Tongue Point – Rocky Point line upstream to the I-5 Bridge and shad retention is allowed river-wide.
- Shad retention upstream of Bonneville will be allowed consistent with permanent regulations (open year round).

Tributary Spring Chinook Fisheries Downstream of Bonneville Dam

- No changes to permanent regulations are recommended for spring Chinook recreational fisheries in the Sandy, Clackamas, and Willamette rivers.
- Washington tributary seasons are in the 2015-2016 Fishing in Washington pamphlet and are currently the same as in 2015.

Mainstem Columbia River Winter/Spring Salmon Commercial Fishery

- Since 2004, a commercial fishing plan has been developed in cooperation with the Columbia River Commercial Advisor Group (CRCAG) to maximize the catch of hatchery spring Chinook and minimize handle of ESA-listed upriver spring/summer Chinook and wild winter steelhead.
- The Joint Staff will use the fishing plan as a guideline for managing the upcoming winter/spring season.
- The Joint Staff met with the CRCAG to solicit input for potential 2016 spring salmon seasons. Based on the preseason forecasts, approximately 7,150 Willamette hatchery spring Chinook and 1,200 upriver spring Chinook are available for commercial harvest prior to a run size update. The upriver allocation will again limit commercial harvest of Willamette spring Chinook. Prior to a runsize update, staff expects only one or two fishing periods will occur.

<i>2016 Winter/Spring Pre-Season Commercial Chinook Fishing Plan</i>	
✓	Manage mainstem commercial fisheries to remain within commission allocation and catch balancing guidelines.
✓	Test fishing is expected to occur on Sundays and/or Tuesdays beginning in mid-March.
✓	Compact hearings to occur on Mondays (and/or Wednesdays) if test fishing results are positive.
✓	Full-fleet fisheries are expected to occur on Tuesdays (and/or Thursdays) of each week, but may be scheduled on other days in order to maintain flexibility in developing fishing seasons.
✓	Fisheries may be conducted during daylight and nighttime hours, dependent upon water conditions and to minimize conflicts between user groups.
✓	Fisheries may occur in Zones 1-5.
✓	Based on test fishing results, fishing periods could begin by late March, primarily depending on steelhead abundance.
✓	Only tangle net gear will be used (4¼-inch mesh) unless adaptive management is initiated.
✓	Additional fishing periods may occur after run size updates are available.

- There was significant support from the CRCAG for consideration of winter (March) opportunity using large-mesh gear in order to better access the commercial allocation of Willamette spring Chinook, but this would require enacting the adaptive management provision of the harvest reform policy.
- In addition to the fishing plan, a set of general regulations typically in place during the winter/spring season will also be in effect. Such regulations include use of recovery boxes, limited soak times, live-capture certification, and cooperation with the on-board observation program.

Select Area Fisheries

- Select Area fisheries target spring Chinook during the winter and spring seasons (mid-February through mid-June) and both 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 9,500 Chinook annually over the past five years (2011–2015), with 84% of the harvested fish originating from Select Area sites.
- From the commercial allocation of ESA impacts to upriver spring Chinook, a fixed allocation of 0.15% has been allotted to Select Area commercial fisheries (unchanged since 2008).
- Harvest in winter, spring, and summer Select Area recreational fisheries has averaged 460 Chinook annually over the past five years (2011–2015) based primarily on preliminary Catch Record Card data.
- Recommendations for 2016 winter, spring, and summer Select Area fisheries were developed based on input received during a public meeting held January 13, 2016 in Astoria and subsequent discussions with commercial fishers.

Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Commercial Fishery

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

2016 Blind Slough/Knappa Slough Select Area - Recommendation	
Winter Season:	Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from February 8 through March 11. Monday and Thursday nights from March 14 through March 29. Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Tuesday and Thursday nights from April 21 through April 29, and Monday and Thursday nights from May 2 through June 14. Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Area:	Winter season: Blind Slough and Knappa Slough are open through March 18, and only Blind Slough area open March 21 through March 29. Spring season: Blind Slough and Knappa Slough areas are open. From May 2 through June 14, the lower boundary of the Knappa Slough fishing area is extended downstream to boundary lines defined by markers on the west end of Minaker Island to markers on Karlson Island and the Oregon shore (fall boundary).
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9¼-inch maximum mesh size restriction Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas 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 and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210. Unique catch reporting codes have been established for Blind Slough and Knappa Slough to facilitate separation of landings and sampling for winter/spring fisheries.

- The winter season in Knappa Slough (since 2013) and additional winter fishing periods in Blind Slough provide additional opportunity with minimal 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-spring fisheries in Knappa Slough and Blind Slough separately using new commercial zone codes developed in 2015. 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>2016 Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area - Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	Monday and Thursday nights from February 8 through March 11. Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Thursday night April 21 from 7 PM to 11 PM (4 hours), Tuesday April 26 from 7 PM to 7 AM Wednesday April 27 (12 hours), Thursday April 28 from 7 PM to 7 AM Friday April 29 (12 hours), and 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours) on Monday and Thursday nights from May 2 through June 14.
Area:	The winter and spring season Tongue Point fishing area includes all waters bounded by a line extended from the upstream (southernmost) pier (#1) at the Tongue Point Job Corps facility through navigation marker #6 to Mott Island, a line from a marker at the southeast end of Mott Island northeasterly to a marker on the northwest tip of Lois Island, and a line from a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island westerly to a marker on the Oregon shore. The South Channel area includes all waters bounded by a line from a marker on John Day Point to a marker on the southwest end of Lois Island upstream to an upper boundary line from a marker on Settler Point northwesterly to the flashing red USCG marker #10, northwesterly to a marker on the eastern tip of Burnside Island defining the upstream terminus of South Channel.
Gear:	<u>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction In the Tongue Point fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight not to exceed two pounds on any one fathom. In the South Channel fishing area, gear restricted to a maximum net length of 250 fathoms and no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas 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 and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Other permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect. 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210.

- Similar to 2013-15, the winter season in Tongue Point/South Channel is provides additional fishing opportunity with limited risk of accruing significant impacts to upriver stocks.
- Spring fishing periods are concurrent with other Select Area sites to distribute effort.

Deep River Commercial Fishery

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

<i>2016 Deep River Select Area - Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights from February 8 through March 11, and Monday, and Thursday nights from March 14 through March 29. Open hours are from 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
Spring Season:	Thursday night on April 14, and Tuesday and Thursday nights from April 21 through April 29, and Monday and Thursday nights from May 2 through June 14. Open hours are 7 PM to 7 AM (12 hours).
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>Winter season:</u> 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction <u>Spring season:</u> 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction. Nets restricted to 100 fathoms in length with no weight restriction on leadline. Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed. Nets cannot be tied off to stationary structures. 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 in these areas 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. Lighted buoys required.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous 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. <u>Winter season:</u> fishers are required to call 360-795-0319 to confirm the place and time of sampling. <u>Spring season:</u> a sampling station will be established at WDFW's Oneida Road boat ramp, about 0.5 miles upstream of the Deep River area downstream boundary (USCG navigation marker #16). 24-hour Quick Reporting Rule in effect for Washington buyers. Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210.

- Additional fishing periods during the winter season provide access to locally returning spring Chinook with minimal risk of impacts 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.

<i>2016 Youngs Bay Select Area - Recommendation</i>	
Winter Season:	<p>Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from February 8 – March 4.</p> <p>Open hours are from 6 AM to 6 AM the following day (24 hours) on Mondays and Thursdays, and 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) on Wednesdays, and</p> <p>Monday March 7 from 6 AM to midnight (18 hours) Wednesday March 9 from 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Thursday March 10 from 6 AM to 6 PM (12 hours) Monday March 14 from Noon to 4 PM (4 hours) Wednesday March 16 from 2 PM to 6 PM (4 hours) Thursday March 17 from 3 PM to 7 PM (4 hours) Monday March 21 from 7 PM to 11 PM (4 hours) Wednesday March 23 from 8 PM to midnight (4 hours) Thursday March 24 from 8 PM to midnight (4 hours) Monday March 28 from 10 AM to 2 PM (4 hours)</p>
Spring Season:	<p>Thursday April 21 from 7 PM to 11 PM (4 hours) Tuesday April 26 from 7 PM to 7 AM Wednesday April 27 (12 hours) Thursday April 28 from 7 PM to 7 AM Friday April 29 (12 hours) and Monday May 2 from 4 PM to 10 AM Tuesday May 3 (18 hours) Wednesday May 4 from 9 AM to 9 PM (12 hours) Thursday May 5 from 4 PM to 10 AM Friday May 6 (18 hours) and Noon Monday through Noon Friday (4 days/week) from May 9 – June 10, and Noon Monday through Noon Wednesday (2 days) from June 13 – June 15</p>
Summer Season:	<p>Noon Thursday through Noon Friday (1 day) from June 16 – June 17 Noon Monday to Noon Friday (4 days/week) from June 20 – July 1 Noon Monday July 4 to Noon Thursday July 7 (3 days), and Noon Tuesday through Noon Thursday (2 days/week) from July 12 – July 28</p>
Area:	<p>Entire Youngs Bay fishing area: The waters of Youngs Bay from the Highway 101 Bridge upstream to the upper boundary markers at the confluence of the Klaskanine and Youngs rivers including the lower Walluski River upstream to the Highway 202 Bridge. During the winter season, those waters southerly of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge (Lewis and Clark River) are closed. During the spring and summer seasons, the Youngs Bay fishing area includes the lower Lewis and Clark River upstream to the overhead power lines immediately upstream of Barrett Slough.</p>

Gear:	<p>Winter season: 7-inch minimum mesh size restriction</p> <p>Spring/Summer season: 9¾-inch maximum mesh size restriction</p> <p>Maximum net length of 250 fathoms and weight on leadline not to exceed two pounds in any one fathom.</p> <p>Nets not specifically authorized for use in these areas 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.</p> <p>Red corks are required at 25-fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to corks used in the remainder of the net.</p> <p>Use of additional weights and/or anchors attached directly to the leadline is allowed upstream of markers located approximately 200 yards upstream of the mouth of the Walluski River and in the Lewis and Clark River upstream of the alternate Highway 101 Bridge.</p>
Allowable Sales:	Salmon and shad. Retention and sale of sturgeon is prohibited.
Miscellaneous Regulations:	<p>Permanent regulations including rules related to transportation and lighted buoys remain in effect.</p> <p>Oregon buyers are required to submit fish receiving tickets electronically pursuant to OAR 635-006-210.</p>

- Staff worked with industry to provide increased opportunity in the winter while minimizing the risk of encountering upriver stocks during the late winter and early spring timeframes.
 - ✓ Additional winter fishing periods with reduced hours in March provide harvest opportunity, while minimizing impacts to upriver stocks.
 - ✓ Similar to 2015, the spring season opening is delayed in an attempt to minimize impacts on upriver spring Chinook which have exhibited a later run timing in recent years.
 - ✓ The spring fishery consisting of progressively increasing fishing time should maximize harvest of local stocks while minimizing impacts to non-local stocks.
- Similar to 2014-15, the majority of the winter-season fishing periods in Youngs Bay are scheduled primarily during daylight hours with industry support.
- The expanded summer fishery provides significant additional harvest opportunity while allowing for SAB broodstock escapement.

Select Area Recreational Fisheries

- Permanent angling regulations for Oregon waters within the Select Areas of Youngs Bay and Blind Slough/Knappa Slough are listed in the 2016 Oregon Recreational Fishing Regulations booklet. These waters are open year-round to Chinook salmon (adipose fin-clipped only during January 1 – July 31), adipose fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped Coho except for some seasonal tributary closures.
- Permanent Washington recreational fishing rules list waters of Deep River from the mouth to the town bridge are open to Chinook salmon (adipose fin-clipped only during January 1 – July 31), fin-clipped steelhead, and adipose fin-clipped Coho the entire year.

- In order to ease enforcement of co-occurring recreational fisheries in Select Areas and the mainstem Columbia River, staff recommends that daily bag limits in Select Area recreational fisheries be modified to match those of the mainstem when the fisheries are open concurrently.

<i>2016 Select Area Recreational Fisheries - Recommendation</i>
<p>Effective March 1 – June 15:</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River recreational fishery below Bonneville Dam is open to retention of Chinook, the salmonid daily bag limit in Oregon and Washington Select Areas will be the same as mainstem Columbia River bag limits.</p> <p>On days when the mainstem Columbia River fishery is <u>closed</u> to Chinook retention, the permanent salmonid bag limit regulations for Select Areas apply.</p>

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Joint Staff recommends a Joint State hearing be scheduled for April 7, 2016.

<i>Issues Requiring Compact/Joint State Consideration</i>			
		Page(s)	Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bonneville Pool Recreational Sturgeon	5	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mainstem commercial smelt fishery	5	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Washington tributary recreational smelt fishery	6	Washington State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Indian commercial salmon fishing plan	9	Compact endorsement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blind/Knappa Slough Select Area commercial fisheries	10	Compact and Oregon State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tongue Point/South Channel Select Area commercial fisheries	11	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deep River Select Area commercial fisheries	12	Compact
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Youngs Bay Select Area fisheries	13-14	Oregon State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Spring Chinook recreational fisheries	7	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shad and hatchery steelhead retention	8	Joint State
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Select Area recreational fisheries	15	Joint State