

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 1

January 27, 2011

Purpose: Consider Tribal Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery

ZONE 6 STURGEON FISHERIES

- There is an ongoing sturgeon setline fishery in Zone 6 from January 1 through January 31. Catches are normally low. In 2010, the setline catch was a recent year high of 137. There is some effort in the current fishery, but no fish ticket data is available yet for the fishery.
- The treaty winter gillnet fishery opens by permanent regulation in all of Zone 6 on February 1
- The treaty commercial sturgeon harvest guidelines in Zone 6 are 2,000 in the Bonneville Pool, 1,000 in The Dalles Pool, and 1,000 in the John Day Pool. These are consistent with recommendations of the Sturgeon Management Task Force which met on January 18 to review current stock assessment data.

Fishery Proposal

- The tribes propose two modifications to the permanent regulation. The first change is to open the fishery earlier at 7:00 AM instead of noon.
- The second is that the gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool will be for three nights per week instead of continuously as is the case with The Dalles and John Day pools. The rationale for this decision is to help ensure that the harvest guideline is not exceeded.
- The current permanent regulations for the winter gillnet fisheries in Zone 6 state that:

AREA: All of Zone 6

DATES: 12:00 noon February 1 through 6:00 PM, March 21.

GEAR: There *will be no* minimum mesh size restriction.

ALLOWABLE SALES: Chinook, steelhead, walleye, shad, yellow perch, catfish, bass, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon between 43" and 54" fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and between 38"-54" fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes.

Fish landed during legal fishing periods may be sold at any time even after the end of that fishing period.

The gillnet fishery may close prior to March 21 in any pool if that pool's harvest guideline is reached.

SANCTUARIES: All standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries shall remain in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery sanctuary is not necessary this time of year.

Scaffold Fishery:

The scaffold fishery remains open for subsistence use all year. Sales of fish caught in the scaffold/hook and line fishery between 12:00 Noon on February 1 and 6:00 PM on March 21 are allowed to be sold or retained for subsistence. Allowable gears include hoopnet, dipnet, and hook and line. Allowable species are Chinook, steelhead, walleye, shad, yellow perch, catfish, bass, and carp. Sturgeon between 43" and 54" fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and between 38"-54" in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes.

The Washington 24 hour Quick Reporting Rule will be in effect for all Washington commercial fish buyers.

- The only change proposed for The Dalles and John Day pool fishery is the opening time for the gillnet fishery and the opening time for platform and hook and line sales.
- Following are staff recommendations for Compact Action regarding needed modifications of permanent regulations.

Staff Recommendation #1: - Opening time for commercial sales

The winter season gillnet fishery in Zone 6 will open at 7:00 AM on Tuesday February 1.

Commercial sales of platform and hook and line fish caught after 7:00 AM in Zone 6 will also be allowed.

Staff Recommendation #2 – Bonneville Pool Fishery

A commercial gillnet fishery will be allowed in the Bonneville Pool beginning 7:00 AM Tuesday February 1 through 6:00 PM Friday February 4. The fishery will continue weekly from Monday at 7:00 AM through Thursday at 6:00 PM. The gillnet fishery will end no later than 6:00 PM March 21, but may be closed earlier if the commercial harvest guideline is reached. There will be no mesh restriction. The allowed sales include: Chinook, steelhead, walleye, shad, yellow perch, catfish, bass, and carp as well as sturgeon between 38”-54” fork length.

Staff Recommendation #3 - Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line Fisheries

For the Bonneville Pool platform fishery, commercial sales include Chinook, steelhead, walleye, shad, yellow perch, catfish, bass, and carp caught between 7:00 AM on February 1 and 6:00 PM on March 21 and sturgeon between 38”-54” fork length caught during periods when the commercial gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool is open.

For The Dalles and John Day Pools, commercial sales include Chinook, steelhead, walleye, shad, yellow perch, catfish, bass, and carp as well as sturgeon between 43” -54” fork length caught between 7:00 AM on February 1 and 6:00 PM on March 21

Staff Recommendation #4 – Tribal Fisheries downstream of Bonneville Dam

Salmon and steelhead caught in the tribal fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam consistent with state/tribal MOU’s will be allowed to be sold or retained for subsistence during periods when the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery is open for commercial sales. Retention of sturgeon is prohibited. No sales are allowed on COE property at Bonneville Dam.

- The tribes will have catch monitors in place for the fishery and will be prepared to meet to make fishery modifications if necessary based on catch information.

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