

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT – WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5a**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**March 4, 2020**

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty commercial gillnet
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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 2020 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 17, 2020) and the 2020 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 7, 2020). Links to the on-line reports are: <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbiariver> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

### **RIVER CONDITIONS**

- The current outflow at the Bonneville Dam has ranged from approximately 140 to 172 kcfs in the past five days. The 5-year average flow in this time period is approximately 195 kcfs.
- The recent 5-day average temperature in the Bonneville Dam forebay is 41.7°F, which is slightly higher than the 5-year average temperature of 40.4°F.

### **STOCK STATUS**

#### ***Sturgeon***

- The 2020 sturgeon harvest guidelines for Treaty commercial fisheries in Zone 6 are 500 fish for the Bonneville Pool, 415 for the Dalles Pool, and 210 fish for the John Day Pool.
- There is not a specific harvest guideline for the treaty subsistence catch of sturgeon, but these catches are accounted for, reported, and used in population assessments. Subsistence harvest typically occurs in association with fisheries targeting other species and is generally low. In 2019, the subsistence harvest was just 140 in all three Zone 6 reservoirs combined.

### **2020 TREATY INDIAN WINTER FISHERIES**

- A setline fishery occurs each January in all three Zone 6 pools under permanent regulations. This fishery generally has low effort and catch. This year's catches were slightly above average, but within past ranges.
- Winter gillnet fisheries have occurred in the Dalles Pool from February 1-7 and in the John Day Pool from February 1-8, February 12-17, and February 20-24.
- A gillnet opening in the Bonneville Pool was set from February 27 through March 7.
- Catch rates have been higher than projected in the Bonneville Pool so the tribes are taking action to close the fishery two days early at 6:00 PM on Thursday March 5.
- Current preliminary catches are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and direct to public sales.
- One steelhead has been harvested in the winter gillnet fishery to date and 6 winter steelhead have been caught in the platform fishery in the Bonneville Pool.

Total Treaty Commercial Landings

	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining	% of guideline
Bonneville	127	285	412	500	88	83%
The Dalles	113	300	413	415	2	100%
John Day	42	149	191	210	19	91%
Total	282	734	1,016			

- Steelhead caught in the Bonneville Pool from November 1 through March 31 are counted as winter steelhead. There is no specific harvest limit for winter steelhead but harvest is generally low. Winter steelhead harvest has averaged 110 fish per year since 2001. Because harvest is generally low, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected to be needed. No chinook are expected to be harvested in Bonneville Pool during the winter period.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will or have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2020 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>
The commercial gillnet fishery in Bonneville Pool will close effective 6:00 PM on Thursday March 5.

<i>2020 Treaty Indian Platform Hook and Line Fishery</i>
Any salmon, steelhead, or sturgeon caught in the platform hook and line fishery after 6:00 PM on Thursday, March 5 may not sold but may be retained for subsistence purposes.

- Given the current reported harvest levels, the tribes have no plans to target further sturgeon fisheries in any of the three pools.

**Future Meetings**

A hearing is scheduled for March 10 to consider treaty commercial fisheries.