

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
 TRIBAL STAFF REPORT – WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2  
 Columbia River Compact  
 February 14, 2018**

***Fisheries under consideration:*** Treaty Commercial Gillnet fishery

*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 report is the 2018 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18,2018). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

**STOCK STATUS**

- Stock status information is available in Winter Fact Sheet #1b (January 30, 2018) and in the Joint Staff Report and the 2018 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18, 2018).

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES**

- The preliminary Zone 6 treaty commercial sturgeon harvests and commercial guidelines are shown in the table below.

<b>Pool</b>	<b>Slot Limit (inches, fork length)</b>	<b>January Setline</b>	<b>Winter Gillnet</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Commercial Harvest Guideline</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
<b>Bonneville</b>	38-54	13	0	13	325	312
<b>The Dalles</b>	43-54	63	127	190	415	225
<b>John Day</b>	43-54	9	32	41	210	169
<b>Total</b>		85	159	244	950	706

- There was a setline fishery open in all three pools in January and 85 fish were harvested. The winter gillnet fishery has harvested a total of 159 fish through Sunday. No other species have been reported harvested to date. The fishery in The Dalles and John Day Pools is currently scheduled to close Friday at 6:00 PM (February 16).
- In the John Day Pool, the sturgeon catch per day is below the average rate for this time of year. Catch rates generally increase as the season progresses. Assuming catch rates increase but remain below average, tribal staff project the fisheries in the John Day will still be well within the commercial harvest guideline into March.
- In the Dalles Pool, the sturgeon catch per day has been near the average rate for this time of year. If catch continues accumulating at the average rate, the commercial harvest guideline may be reached by the currently scheduled closure date, but there will likely be some fish remaining on the guideline.

- The tribes may propose additional openings or extensions of the sturgeon treaty commercial fisheries once the updated catch numbers have been considered early next week.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	Extend the ongoing fishery through 6:00 PM Friday March 2
<b>Area:</b>	The John Day Pool Only
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear.
<b>Gear:</b>	Gill nets with no minimum mesh restriction.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in the John Day Pool may be sold only when caught during the open period. Legal sized sturgeon may also be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
<b>Season:</b>	6 AM Monday March 5 to 6 PM Wednesday March 14 (10.5 days)
<b>Area:</b>	The Bonneville Pool Only
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear.
<b>Gear:</b>	Gill nets with no minimum mesh restriction.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be sold only when caught during the open period. Legal sized sturgeon may also be kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
<b>Additional:</b>	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The five year average catch of unclipped winter steelhead in the Bonneville Pool winter gillnet fishery is 32. Given the low unclipped winter steelhead counts at Bonneville to date, the catch in the planned fishery is expected to be less. There are no specific annual harvest limits on winter steelhead, but impacts to listed fish are expected to be within past average levels.
- The current regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries do not require modification at this time.

- There is no specific guideline for treaty subsistence harvest of sturgeon, but these fish are accounted for.
- Tribal fishery monitors will monitor fisheries and assist in collection of biological data.
- State and tribal staff will work cooperatively to report harvest on a regular basis.
- Sturgeon fisheries will be closed earlier if harvest guidelines for that pool are projected to be met before the scheduled end dates.
- The tribes may update their plans for these fisheries and present this update at the Compact scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup>.