

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 TRIBAL STAFF REPORT – WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4
 Columbia River Compact
 March 12, 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 2018 Spring Joint Staff Report (February 20, 2018) 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. Winter gillnet harvests are shown by statistical week. Week 10 ended Saturday March 10.

Pool	Jan Setline	Winter Gillnet						Total	Guideline	Remaining
		Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8	Week 9	Week 10			
Bonneville	13	0	0	0	0	0	8	21	325	304
The Dalles	63	11	119	92	6	36	0	327	415	88
John Day	9	20	33	17	10	6	0	95	210	115
Total	85	31	152	109	16	42	8	443	950	

- 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 358 fish through Saturday. No other species including steelhead have been reported harvested in the upper pools to date. The fisheries in The Dalles Pool and John Day Pool are closed. The fishery in the Bonneville Pool is currently scheduled to close Wednesday March 14 at 6:00 PM.
- Sturgeon catches last week were below average in the Bonneville Pool. Based on catches to date the total catch through Wednesday March 14 will likely be less than 20 fish. The catch of salmonids through week 10 is eight fish.
- Sturgeon catches during the last week (week 9) of the openings in the John Day Pool and The Dalles Pool had declined from earlier weeks which is not the typical pattern. The sturgeon catch rates generally increase as the season progresses. The 88 fish remaining on The Dalles Pool guideline could allow up to 5 more days of fishing if catch rates increase to the highest daily catch rate observed this season. Tribal staff project the fisheries in the John Day will still be well within the commercial harvest guideline if it were opened an additional 2-3 weeks.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2018 Treaty Indian Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>		
Season:	6 AM Thursday March 15 to 6 PM Monday March 19	(4.5 days)
Area:	The Dalles Pool Only	
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear.	
Gear:	Gill nets with no minimum mesh restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	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 Dalles 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.	
Additional:	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>		
Season:	6 AM Thursday March 15 to 6 PM Saturday March 24	(9.5 days)
Area:	The John Day Pool Only	
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear.	
Gear:	Gill nets with no minimum mesh restriction.	
Allowable Sales:	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.	
Additional:	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 current regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries do not require modification at this time.
- There is no specific annual guideline for treaty subsistence harvest of sturgeon, but these fish are accounted for.
- The expected catch of steelhead in the above planned fisheries is zero, but small numbers could be harvested.
- 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.