

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER SHEET NO. 3**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**February 19, 2019**

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 report is the 2019 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18, 2019). Links to the on-line reports are: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Sturgeon***

- Sturgeon stock assessment information was presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1.
- The 2019 sturgeon commercial harvest guidelines for Treaty fisheries in Zone 6 are 500 fish for the Bonneville Pool, 415 for The Dalles Pool, and 175 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 and used in population assessments. Subsistence harvest typically occurs in association with fisheries targeting other species and is generally low. In 2018, the subsistence harvest was just 89 in all three Zone 6 reservoirs combined.

**2019 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.
- The tribes typically set winter season gillnet fisheries during the period between February 1 and March 21.
- The tribes set initial winter season gillnet openings through February 13 in the two upper pools based on past catch rates. The fisheries were extended until 6:00 PM on February 19. Catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase. Effort appears to be moderate to date.
- Preliminary Harvest information through February 9 is shown in the table below.

	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	43	0	43	500	457
The Dalles	11	372	383	415	32
John Day	20	25	45	175	130
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>471</b>		

- Through February 14, the preliminary catch estimate in the Dalles pool totaled 289 leaving 126 remaining. Based on this, the tribes did not take action to restrict the Dalles Pool fishery.
- No steelhead have been harvested to date.

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will or have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2019 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Season:	Extend the ongoing fisheries until 6 PM Wednesday February 27
Area:	The John Day pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
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 John Day pools may be sold or 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 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The tribes expect continued moderate effort and catch in the proposed gillnet fishery extension. Based on results for this year’s fishery and previous winter sturgeon fisheries, the catch through February 27 is not likely to exceed the balance of fish remaining in the John Day pool.
- Based on landings to date, the winter gillnet fishery in the John Day pool has caught less than 3 fish per day on average. Landings would need to increase to close to 12 fish per day in order to reach the guideline by February 27.
- The tribes anticipate setting gillnet fisheries in the Bonneville Pool later in the Winter Season.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect to set additional fishing time after this period concludes, or may extend this period if appropriate. The tribes will take action to close fisheries early if harvest limits are projected to be met early.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The treaty tribes may request a Compact Hearing on February 26 to address any needed actions for treaty fisheries.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 AM Wednesday February 20, 2019 at the Shilo Inn (11707 NE Airport Way, Portland, Oregon 97220) to consider Select Area and recreational spring Chinook fisheries.