

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER SHEET NO. 5
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
 February 28, 2019**

Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty commercial gillnet

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 2019 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18, 2019) and the 2019 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead and other species (February 8, 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. The John Day Pool fishery was further extended until February 27. Catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase.
- Preliminary Harvest information through February 23 is shown in the table below.

Pool	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	43	0	43	500	457
The Dalles	11	435	446	415	-31
John Day	20	32	52	175	123
Total	74	467	541		

- No steelhead have been harvested to date.
- The tribes have modeled a commercial gillnet opening in the Bonneville Pool. Average passed years' catch rates indicate the fishery could last over two weeks. However, catch rates used in planning this opening were from 2017. These were higher than average and

over twice the catch rates in 2018. These catch rates indicate that the planned opening would not be exceeded by March 12.

- 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:	6AM Friday March 1 through 6 PM Tuesday March 12
Area:	The Bonneville 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 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool 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.

- Tribal staff will work with state staff to monitor the catch and account for commercial fish tickets. If harvest data indicate the fishery will meet the guideline prior to March 12, the tribes will modify the opening to ensure the fishery stays within the harvest guideline.
- If the fishery does not reach the guideline on March 12, the tribes may extend the fishery if appropriate.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The treaty tribes may request a Compact Hearing prior to March 12 to address any needed actions for treaty fisheries.