

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4 February 23, 2010

Purpose: Consider Tribal Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery

ZONE 6 STURGEON FISHERIES

- The treaty winter gillnet fishery opened in all of Zone 6 on February 1
- The treaty commercial sturgeon harvest guidelines in Zone 6 are 1,400 in the Bonneville Pool, 1000 in The Dalles Pool, and 335 in the John Day Pool.
- Catches have been increasing. The catches in the tribal winter gillnet fishery are shown in the following table. The sturgeon catches are through February 22:

| Winter Gillnet Fishery | | | | |
|------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|----------|
| Zone | Chinook | Steelhead | Walleye | Sturgeon |
| Bonneville | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1,702 |
| The Dalles | 0 | 12 | 1 | 669 |
| John Day | 0 | 0 | 0 | 207 |
| Total | 0 | 12 | 2 | 2,578 |

- Staff project that the commercial harvest guideline will be met in the John Day Pool by Friday and in The Dalles Pool by approximately next Wednesday.
- The tribal fishery codes require 48 hour notice in closing fisheries to ensure notification of fishermen. The tribes have met previously and took action to allow for the 48-hour notice.
- The sale of salmon and steelhead are also currently allowed in the platform/hook and line fishery in the Bonneville Pool. The Yakama Nation currently allows the sale of salmon and steelhead caught in their below Bonneville Dam platform and hook and line fishery, provided sale does not occur on USACE Property.
- The tribes ended the winter gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool as of Thursday February 11 at 6:00 PM. Sturgeon between 38 and 54 inches in fork length may still be retained for subsistence. Platform and Hook and line sales of other species remained unchanged.

Fishery Proposal

- The tribes propose to end the winter gillnet fishery as of Friday February 26 at 6:00 PM in the John Day Pool. The tribes also propose to end the winter fishery in The Dalles Pool as of Wednesday March 3 at 6:00PM. Any fish caught legally before the closure may be sold at anytime. All other Zone 6 regulations remain the same including the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead.

- The regulations for the platform/hook and line fishery in the John Day and The Dalles Pools remain unchanged, except that sturgeon between 43 and 54 inches in fork length landed after 6:00 PM Thursday February 11 may not be sold but may be retained for subsistence. Undersize and oversize sturgeon must be released unharmed. Sales and retention rules for other species remains unchanged. The tribes may take action to discontinue sales of all species in the near future.
- The regulations including the allowed species for retention and sale in the Yakama Nation below Bonneville Dam platform/hook and line fishery remain unchanged.

Staff Recommendation:

Effective Friday February 26 at 6:00 PM the winter season gillnet fishery in the John Day Pool is discontinued. Effective Wednesday March 3 at 6:00 PM the winter season gillnet fishery in The Dalles Pool is discontinued. Any fish caught legally before the closure may be sold at any time. The platform/hook and line fishery in these pools will continue as previously scheduled except that sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon between 43 and 54 inches in fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools may be retained for subsistence.

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