

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 TRIBAL STAFF REPORT – WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3b
 Columbia River Compact
 February 21, 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 7 ended Saturday February 17.

Pool	Jan Setline	Winter Gillnet			Total	Guideline	Remaining
		Week 5	Week 6	Week 7			
Bonneville	13	0	0	0	13	325	312
The Dalles	63	11	110	80	264	415	151
John Day	9	20	31	15	75	210	135
Total	85	31	141	95	352	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 352 fish through Saturday. No other species including steelhead have been reported harvested to date. The fishery in The Dalles Pool is closed. The fishery in the John Day Pool is currently scheduled to close Friday March 2 at 6:00 PM.
- Sturgeon catches last week declined in both the John Day Pool and The Dalles Pool which is not the typical pattern. The sturgeon 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 lower than expected. Tribal staff now expect catch rates for the next open period to be approximately what they were during week 6 which will result in the guideline being achieved on March 3.
- The tribes will review fisheries once the updated catch numbers have been updated early next week and will modify fishing plans if needed.
- 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 February 22 to 6 PM Saturday March 3 (9.5 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:	Extend the current opening through 6:00 PM on Saturday March 3 (+1 day)
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 and the planned Bonneville Pool winter gillnet opening 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.