

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2b**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**January 25, 2022**

|  |                                    |
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| <b><i>Fisheries under consideration:</i></b> | Zone 6 treaty commercial fisheries |
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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 2022 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 14, 2022) available at:*

*<https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/management/columbia-river/reports> and <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp>*

*The 2022 Winter/Spring/Summer Staff Report is scheduled to be distributed in early February.*

**RIVER CONDITIONS**

- Fact Sheet 2a contains information on current river conditions.

**STOCK STATUS**

***Zone 6 Sturgeon***

- Fact Sheet 2a contains information on Zone 6 sturgeon stock status.

***Steelhead and Salmon***

- Through January 21, a total of 1,516 including 643 unclipped winter steelhead have been counted at Bonneville Dam (42% unclipped). The total count and the unclipped count are the fourth highest to date in the last 10 years. There are no dam counts available this time of year for The Dalles, John Day, or McNary Dams.
- Chinook counts at Bonneville Dam in January include one fish passing downstream and one upstream. These fish may have actually been fall chinook.

**MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES**

***Zone 6 Sturgeon***

- Fact sheet 2a contains information on Zone 6 sturgeon harvest guidelines.
- There is no 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. The 2021 subsistence harvest estimate is 233 fish for all three Zone 6 reservoirs combined.

***Steelhead and Salmon***

- Steelhead caught upstream of The Dalles Dam from November 1-June 30 are counted as part of the A/B-Index summer steelhead return. There are no specific harvest limits for steelhead in winter season fisheries, but the steelhead catch is low averaging 51 fish annually in The Dalles and John Day Pools combined since 2008 with no recorded catch during the winter gillnet fishery in the past nine years, although there has been some harvest in spring fisheries. The highest observed catch since 2001 was 306 in 2008. Because of generally low steelhead

harvest in the winter gillnet fishery, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected. There are no dam counts available this time of year for The Dalles, John Day, or McNary Dams.

- Steelhead caught in the Bonneville Pool from November 1 through March 31 are counted as winter steelhead. There is no specific harvest limit for winter steelhead, but harvest is generally low. Winter steelhead harvest has averaged 104 fish per year since 2001 and was 40 fish in 2021. Because harvest is generally low, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected to be needed.
- Chinook are not expected to be present during the winter gillnet fishery.

**2022 TREATY INDIAN WINTER FISHERIES**

- A setline fishery occurs each January in all three Zone 6 Pools under permanent regulations through January 31. This fishery generally has low effort and catch. This year’s catches to date are below average in the Bonneville and John Day Pools, and near average in The Dalles Pool. But they are within past ranges. Preliminary catch estimates for the season are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and direct to public sales. There may be some landings in the last few days that have not been recorded yet.

|            | January Setline | Winter Gillnet | Total | Guideline | Remaining | % of guideline harvested to date |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|-------|-----------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Bonneville | 0               | 0              | 0     | 675       | 675       | 0%                               |
| The Dalles | 39              | 0              | 39    | 560       | 521       | 7%                               |
| John Day   | 0               | 0              | 0     | 210       | 210       | 0%                               |
| Total      | 39              | 0              | 39    |           |           |                                  |

- Gillnet catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase.
- Average past catch rates indicate the John Day Pool guideline may be reached in about 14 days and the fishery guideline in The Dalles Pool may be reached in about 7 days. As a precautionary approach, the initial plan is for a 4.5-day fishery in The Dalles Pool and an 11.5 day fishery in the John Day Pool. Actual catch rates are impacted by weather, river conditions, and effort. For any additional fisheries, expected catch rates will be adjusted based on actual fishery performance. If there are remaining available fish after the planned opening, then additional fishing time will be scheduled.
- In 2021, The Dalles Pool saw relatively high catch rates while catch rates in the John Day Pool were modest. The total guideline in the John Day Pool has only been reached in one out of the last seven years.
- Steelhead caught upstream of The Dalles Dam from November 1-June 30 are counted as part of the A/B-Index summer steelhead return. There are no specific harvest limits for steelhead in winter season fisheries, but the steelhead catch is low averaging 51 fish annually in The Dalles and John Day Pools combined since 2008 with no recorded catch during the winter

gillnet fishery in the past nine years, although there has been some harvest in spring fisheries. The highest observed catch since 2001 was 306 in 2008. Because of generally low steelhead harvest in the winter gillnet fishery, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected.

- Steelhead caught in the Bonneville Pool from November 1 through March 31 are counted as winter steelhead. There is no specific harvest limit for winter steelhead, but harvest is generally low. Winter steelhead harvest has averaged 104 fish per year since 2001 and was 40 fish in 2021. Because harvest is generally low, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected to be needed.

The four Columbia River treaty tribes will adopt regulations consistent with the following:

| <b><i>2022 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i></b> |  |
|---|--|
| Season:   | 6 AM Tuesday February 1 to 6 PM Saturday February 5 (4.5 days)   |
| Area:   | The Dalles Pool only   |
| Gear:   | Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction   |
| Sanctuaries:  | Closed areas include standard closed 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 The Dalles and 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.   |

| <b><i>2022 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i></b> |  |
|---|--|
| Season:   | 6 AM Tuesday February 1 to 6 PM Saturday February 12 (11.5 days)   |
| Area:   | The John Day Pools only  |
| Gear:   | Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction   |
| Sanctuaries:  | Closed areas include standard closed 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 The Dalles and 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.   |

**2022 Treaty Indian Winter Platform and Hook and Line Fishery**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Season:          | 6 AM Tuesday February 1 to 6 PM Saturday March 19  |
| Area:            | All of Zone 6  |
| Gear:            | Hoop Nets, Dip Nets, Hook and Line   |
| Sanctuaries:     | Closed areas include standard closed standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to platform and hook and line 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 and from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Sturgeon within the legal-size limit and caught in the platform and hook and line fishery may only be sold if caught during the open period and open Pool of an open gillnet fishery. 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 intent of the platform fishery regulation is to allow any sturgeon caught incidentally with platform or hook and line gear to be sold if they are caught in a Pool with an open commercial gillnet fishery and to allow the sale of any steelhead that may be caught.
- The expected sturgeon catch in the Dalles Pool fishery is 310 fish based on an average of the 2020 and 2021 average catches per day. The expected sturgeon catch in the John Day Pool fishery is 187 based on average catches per day. The expected catch of steelhead is zero.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect to set additional fishing time after this period 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 tribes request a Compact Hearing on Wednesday February 9 in case there is an opportunity for remaining fish on The Dalles Pool guideline or if adjustments are needed John Day Pool fishery.