

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2
 Columbia River Compact
 January 8, 2025**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Zone 6 treaty commercial setline 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 online. The most recent report relevant to this fishery is the 2025 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 7, 2025) available at:

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

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The recent 5-day average river temperatures at Bonneville Dam has averaged 43 degrees which is higher than average for these dates.
- The recent 5-day average outflow at The Dalles Dam is approximately 155 kcfs which is not unusual for this time of year.

STOCK STATUS

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The states and tribes work cooperatively to complete white sturgeon stock assessments, which rotate between the three Zone 6 reservoirs on an annual basis. The 2024 survey was conducted in the Bonneville Pool and will be reviewed by the Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) on January 22.

Steelhead and Salmon

- No chinook or steelhead are handled in sturgeon setline fisheries and are therefore not discussed in this Fact Sheet

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The SMTF which is a joint state tribal body is scheduled to meet January 22 to review the stock assessment for the Bonneville Pool. While it’s unknown what recommendation will be regarding updated harvest guidelines for the Bonneville Pool sturgeon fisheries, current guidelines are presented in the table below.

Pool	Current Zone 6 Harvest Guidelines		
	Overall Guideline	Treaty Commercial	Recreational Retention
Bonneville	1,250	675	675
The Dalles	1,100	825	275
John Day	315	210	105

- 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.

2025 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. The January setline catches have been above average in the Bonneville and The Dalles Pools. Preliminary catch estimates through January 6 are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and direct to public sales. No salmonids are handled in setline fisheries.

Table 1. Preliminary Sturgeon Harvest to Date and Modeled Additional Catch with proposed fisheries.

Reservoir	Week 1	Week 2	Preliminary Total To Date	Guideline	Remaining	% of Guideline Harvested after planned fisheries
Bonneville	421	118	539	675	136	79.9%
The Dalles	52	0	52	825	773	6.3%
John Day	10	0	10	210	200	4.8%
Total	483	118	601			

- Catch rates have started out high as water temperature has been warm and effort has been good.
- In 2024 catch rates were relatively high in the winter fisheries.
- Estimates of steelhead harvest in platform fisheries are not available yet and will be reported when available. Normally, catches and effort are very low in the winter.
- The tribes have used conservative estimates of likely average daily catches based on actual observed catches from this season.

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

<i>2025 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (Bonneville Pool)</i>	
Season:	The ongoing sturgeon setline fishery in the Bonneville Pool will close at 6:00 PM on Wednesday January 8, 2025.
Area:	The Bonneville Pool only
Gear:	Sturgeon Setlines

<i>2025 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (The Dalles Pool)</i>

Season:	The ongoing setline fishery in The Dalles Pool will close 6:00 PM Saturday January 11, 2025.
Area:	The Dalles Pool only
Gear:	Sturgeon Setlines

- The expected total sturgeon catch in the Bonneville Pool fishery by the planned closure is 647 fish based on catch rates observed this year which were higher than normal. The expected sturgeon catch in The Dalles Pool fishery by the planned closure is difficult to project but is conservatively estimated at 442 based on recent average catch rates. The expected catch of steelhead is zero.
- Catch information for the John Day Pool is preliminary and effort and creel reports continue to be low. Therefore, the tribes are not modifying the ongoing setline fishery in the John Day Pool at this time.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect it may be possible to set additional fishing time in The Dalles Pool after this planned closure. The tribes intend the closure of The Dalles Pool fishery to preempt an overage and provide opportunity to assess catches before considering additional fishing.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes may request to be included on the hearing on Thursday January 16, 2025.