

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4
 Columbia River Compact
 January 30, 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 temperature at McNary Dam tailwater has averaged 39.2° F which is approximately one degree above the 5-year average for these dates. Water temperatures often reach their lowest point in early February and then begin to increase.
- The recent 5-day average outflow at McNary Dam is approximately 122 Kcfs which is not unusual for this time of year.

STOCK STATUS

Zone 6 Sturgeon

- The most recent stock assessment for Zone 6 was in the Bonneville Pool which was discussed in Fact Sheet 3a. A stock assessment for the John Day Pool is being conducted in 2025.

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 Sturgeon Management Task Force met on January 22 and recommended 2025 harvest guidelines for the Bonneville Pool based on current stock assessment information. The 2025 guidelines for treaty commercial and recreational retention were revised to 1,250 each. Current guidelines for the Zone 6 reservoirs are presented in the table below.

Pool	Current Zone 6 Harvest Guidelines		
	Overall Guideline	Treaty Commercial	Recreational Retention
Bonneville	2,500	1,250	1,250
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 began on January 1 in all three Zone 6 pools under permanent regulations. This fishery generally has low effort and catch; however, catches were above average in the Bonneville and The Dalles pools. The tribes previously took action to close the Bonneville Pool fishery on January 8 and to close The Dalles Pool fishery on January 11. A setline fishery has been scheduled in The Dalles Pool for February 1 to 4 (3.5 days). The John Day Pool fishery has remained open throughout and is currently scheduled to close on January 31. Preliminary catch estimates through January 27 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.

Reservoir	Preliminary				Total To-Date	Guideline	Remaining	% of Guideline Harvested
	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4				
Bonneville	329	377	closed	closed	706	1,250	544	56.5%
The Dalles	21	307	closed	closed	328	825	497	39.8%
John Day	0	20	9	12	41	210	169	19.5%
Total	350	704	9	12	1,075			

- Catch rates and effort have continued to be low in the John Day Pool even as weather has remained moderate and water temperature has been warm.
- There have been no observed steelhead harvest in platform fisheries to date. Any steelhead harvest will be reported when available. Normally, catches and effort are very low in the winter.

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

<i>2025 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (The John Day Pool)</i>	
Season:	Extend the ongoing setline fishery through 6:00 PM Saturday February 15. (14.5 additional days)
Area:	The John Day Pool only
Gear:	Setlines Only
Sanctuaries	Closed areas include standard closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Allowed Sales	Sturgeon between 43- and 54-inches fork length in The John Day Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional	24-hour quick reporting is required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Catch information for the John Day Pool is preliminary and monitoring data continue to indicate both low effort and low catch. This extension for the ongoing setline fishery in the

John Day Pool is projected to add up to 120 sturgeon at maximum observed catch rates for this time of year, which is within the treaty commercial catch guideline. An additional opening for the John Day Pool may be considered depending on the number of fish remaining on the harvest guideline after February 15.

- Any additional opening plans for The Dalles Pool will be dependent on the catch in the upcoming 3.5 day opening in The Dalles Pool and the remaining commercial harvest guidelines. Plans for additional fishing time in the Bonneville pool will be dependent both on the remaining guideline for the Bonneville Pool and whether or not The Dalles Pool fishery meets its objectives.
- Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. Fishery opening will be modified or closed if needed to stay within the allowed harvest guidelines.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes may request to be added to the Compact hearing scheduled for February 10, or other hearings if additional fishery actions are needed.