

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5a
 Columbia River Compact
 February 10, 2025**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>	Zone 6 treaty commercial setline fisheries
--	--

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 The Dalles Dam tailwater has averaged 38.9° F which matches 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 The Dalles Dam is approximately 116 Kcfs which is the lowest average flow for this time period in at least the last 5 years. The five-year average flow for these dates is 149.4 Kcfs.

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

- Setline Fisheries to date include:
 Bonneville Pool – Noon January 1 through 6:00 PM January 8. (7.25 days)
 The Dalles Pool – Noon January 1 through 6:00 PM January 11. (10.25 days)
 and 7:00 AM February 1 through 6:00 PM February 4 (3.5 Days)
 John Day Pool – Noon January 1 through 6:00 PM February 15 (45.25 Days)
- Preliminary catch estimates through February 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.

Week	Bonneville	The Dalles	John Day	Total
Week 1	329	21	0	350
Week 2	377	307	20	704
Week 3	Closed	Closed	9	9
Week 4	Closed	Closed	23	23
Week 5	Closed		16	16
Week 6	Closed	181	3	184
Total	706	509	71	1,286
Guideline	1,250	825	210	
Remaining	544	316	139	
% of guideline caught	56.5%	61.7%	33.8%	

- Catch rates and effort have continued to be low in the John Day Pool and no action is needed in the ongoing fishery.
- Catch rates in the last opening in the Dalles Pool averaged 52.4 per day which was an increase from catch rates in January.
- 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 Dalles Pool)</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Tuesday February 11 through 6:00 PM Thursday February 13 (2.5 days)
Area:	The Dalles 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 Dalles 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.

- While catch information for The Dalles Pool is preliminary, monitoring data continue to indicate moderate effort and catch. This planned opening setline fishery in The Dalles Pool is projected to add up to 295 sturgeon at maximum observed catch rates observed last year (117.5/day), which would result in 97% of the guideline being caught. If catches are substantially less than projected, it is possible that the tribes would schedule additional fishing time later.
- 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 Hearing scheduled for February 19, or other hearings if additional fishery actions are needed.