

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 7
 Columbia River Compact
 February 25, 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 The Dalles Dam tailwater has averaged 37.7° F which is lower than the 5-year average for these dates of 39.2° F. 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 122 Kcfs which is the lower than the average flow for this time period. The five-year average flow for these dates is 138 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

- The tribes are planning additional openings based on the highest observed setline catch rates in these pools of 276 per day in the Bonneville Pool (Week 10 of 2024) and 118 per day in The Dalles Pool (Week 8 of 2024). These catch rates do not support 2.5 day openings, but would allow for a 1.5 day opening in either pool.

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

<i>2025 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (The Bonneville Pool)</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Wednesday February 26 through 6:00 PM Thursday February 27 (1.5 days)
Area:	The Bonneville Pool only
Gear:	Setlines Only
Sanctuaries	Closed areas include standard closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Allowed Sales	Sturgeon between 38- and 54-inches fork length in the Bonneville 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.

<i>2025 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Setline Fishery (The Dalles Pool)</i>	
Season:	6:00 AM Monday March 3 through 6:00 PM Tuesday March 4 (1.5 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.

- The planned opening in the Bonneville Pool is expected to catch an additional 414 sturgeon which would result in 90% of the guideline being caught. The planned opening in The Dalles Pool is projected to catch up to 177 sturgeon which would result in 92% 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.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- The tribes may request a Hearing in the future if additional fishery actions are needed.