

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT – WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 1b
Columbia River Compact
January 30, 2018

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty Commercial Gillnet fishery

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 2018 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18,2018). <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

- Each year, a stock assessment is done in one of the Zone 6 reservoirs. In 2017, The Dalles reservoir was assessed. This assessment indicated an increase in the legal sized sturgeon abundance.
- The Sturgeon Management Task Force recommended new harvest guidelines for The Dalles Pool for the next three years based on a more conservative exploitation rate than was used in the past three years. These new harvest guidelines are:
 - 550 total including 415 treaty commercial and 135 recreational
- The 2018 sturgeon harvest guidelines for the John Day Pool and Bonneville Pool are:
 - John Day Pool 210 treaty commercial
 - Bonneville Pool 325 treaty commercial
- There is not a specific harvest guideline for treaty subsistence harvest of sturgeon, but these catches are accounted for, reported, and used in population assessments.

2018 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- A setline fishery occurs each January in all three Zone 6 pools under permanent regulations. This fishery generally has low effort and catch. Through January 27, 21 sturgeon have been harvested in The Dalles Pool and nine sturgeon have been harvested in the John Day Pool. Any available catches will be presented during the Compact Hearing.
- The tribes are setting initial openings in the upper pools based on past catch rates which indicate higher catches per day in the John Day pool versus The Dalles Pool.
- Three-year average daily harvest rates in the John Day pool suggest that the harvest guideline of 210 could be achieved in about 17 days.
- Three-year average daily harvest rates in The Dalles pool suggest that the harvest guideline of 415 could be achieved in about 21 days.
- In 2017, fisheries in both pools were extended beyond their initial openings. The tribes will monitor the fisheries and make any needed adjustments to ensure the fisheries stay within the harvest guidelines.

- There are no specific harvest limits for steelhead in winter season fisheries but the steelhead catch is low in the winter season averaging 77 in The Dalles and John Day Pools since 2001 with no recorded catch during the winter gillnet fishery in the past four years. 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 to be needed.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

| <i>2018 Treaty Indian Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i> | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Season: | 6 AM Thursday February 1 to 6 PM Friday February 16 | (15.5 days) |
| Area: | The Dalles and John Day Pools Only | |
| Sanctuaries: | Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear. | |
| Gear: | Gill nets with no minimum mesh restriction. | |
| 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 only when caught during open periods for that pool. Legal sized sturgeon may be 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 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. | |

| <i>2018 Treaty Indian Winter Platform and Hook and Line Fishery</i> | | |
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| Season: | 6 AM Thursday February 1 to 6 PM Wednesday March 21 | (48.5 days) |
| Area: | All of Zone 6 | |
| Sanctuaries: | Closed areas in effect include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to platform and hook and line gear. | |
| Gear: | Hoop Nets, Dip Nets, Hook and Line. | |
| 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 only when caught during open commercial gillnet periods for that pool. Legal sized sturgeon may be 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 220-352-180 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket. | |

Catch will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. The tribes expect to set additional gillnet fishing time after this period. The tribes will take action to close fisheries early if the harvest guidelines are expected to be reached.

- If catch rates indicate that the sturgeon harvest guidelines for either The Dalles or John Day Pools will not be achieved by February 16, then the tribes may choose to extend the fishery in either pool.
- The tribes request a Compact Hearing Wednesday February 14 to consider a possible extension of commercial gillnet opening in one or both pools.