

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION**  
**JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER SHEET NO. 6**  
**Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing**  
**March 11, 2019**

Fisheries Under Consideration:    Treaty commercial gillnet
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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 on-line. The most recent reports are the 2019 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18, 2019) and the 2019 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead and other species (February 8, 2019). Links to the on-line reports are: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> and <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>*

**STOCK STATUS**

***Sturgeon***

- Sturgeon stock assessment information was presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1.
- The 2019 sturgeon commercial harvest guidelines for Treaty fisheries in Zone 6 are 500 fish for the Bonneville Pool, 415 for The Dalles Pool, and 175 fish for the John Day Pool.
- There is not a specific 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. In 2018, the subsistence harvest was just 89 in all three Zone 6 reservoirs combined.

**2019 TREATY INDIAN WINTER FISHERIES**

- A setline fishery occurs each January in all three Zone 6 pools under permanent regulations. This fishery generally has low effort and catch.
- The tribes typically set winter season gillnet fisheries during the period between February 1 and March 21.
- The tribes set initial winter season gillnet openings through February 13 in the two upper pools based on past catch rates. The fisheries were extended until 6:00 PM on February 19. The John Day Pool fishery was further extended until February 27. The Bonneville Pool fishery began on March 1 and is currently scheduled to close on March 12. Catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase.
- The current water temperature at Bonneville Dam is only 36 degrees F.
- Preliminary Harvest information through March 10 is shown in the table below.

	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	43	82	125	500	375
The Dalles	11	435	446	415	-31
John Day	20	57	77	175	98
<b>Total</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>648</b>		

- No steelhead have been harvested to date.

- The tribes have updated our modeled catch for the commercial gillnet opening in the Bonneville Pool. Catch rates to date have been moderate. Assuming increased catch rates, indicates the fishery could last until March 23, but as a precautionary approach the tribes will extend the fishery only until March 20 at this time.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will or have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2019 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery</i>	
Season:	Extend the ongoing fishery through 6 PM Wednesday March 20
Area:	The Bonneville pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
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 may be sold or 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 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- Tribal staff will work with state staff to monitor the catch and account for commercial fish tickets. If harvest data indicate the fishery will meet the guideline prior to March 20, the tribes will modify the opening to ensure the fishery stays within the harvest guideline.
- If the fishery does not reach the guideline on March 20, the tribes may extend the fishery if appropriate.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The treaty tribes may request a Compact Hearing on March 19 to address any needed actions for treaty fisheries.