

**TRIBAL STAFF REPORT**  
**Fall FACT SHEET No. 10**  
**Columbia River Compact**  
**November 20, 2003**

**Purpose:** To consider treaty Indian commercial sturgeon fishing options for the mainstem Columbia River.

**Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery Status**

- The tribes have an ongoing sturgeon setline fishery in the Bonneville and John Day Pools. Effort and catch in October and November have been low. Table 1 shows the current commercial harvest to date for 2003 commercial sturgeon fisheries along with the harvest guidelines and remaining available sturgeon.
- The commercial harvest of sturgeon in the Dalles Pool is currently closed.

**Table 1. Estimated Total Harvest to date for 2003 Treaty Commercial Sturgeon Fisheries.**

<i>Fishery</i>	<i>Bonneville Pool</i>	<i>The Dalles Pool</i>	<i>John Day Pool</i>	<i>Total Catch</i>
January Setline	20	0	0	20
Winter Gillnet	271	866	202	1,339
Summer Setline	73	0	54	127
Late Fall Setline (ongoing)	34	0	9	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>1,529</b>
Harvest Guidelines	1,200	900	335	2,435
Remaining Available	802	34	70	906

**Other Information:**

- The tribes previously, adopted fall season sturgeon gillnet fishing periods in 2001 from November 14 to November 20 in the Bonneville and John Day Pools. Then they continued with a gillnet period in the Bonneville Pool from November 23-30 and a period in the John Day pool from November 23-December 7. This was done in an effort to not exceed the guideline in the Bonneville Pool. The setline fishery ran concurrently with the gillnet fishing. The tribes harvested over 300 sturgeon in the Bonneville Pool in this fishery (13 days) and over 200 sturgeon in the John Day pool. The tribes anticipate a harvest of approximately 300 sturgeon based on this experience.
- There are very few chinook currently expected to be in the Bonneville Pool. There probably are not a large number of summer steelhead still in the Bonneville pool and less than 2,000 winter steelhead. TAC is still finalizing catch and stock composition estimates for the treaty fall season salmon fishery. However, it is expected that the tribes will be far enough below the impact limits on URB chinook and Wild B Index steelhead that whatever impact to chinook and steelhead may occur will be minimal and will not raise treaty impacts above the management limits.
- State and tribal technical staff have begun work to develop the needed technical information for Policy makers to make decisions relative to 2004 Zone 6 sturgeon fisheries, but there is no information available as to when this work will be complete. The tribal January setline fishery will begin on January 1 by permanent regulation under whatever harvest guidelines are established for 2004. Catch and effort in this fishery have been very low in recent years. The tribes will bring forward a proposal for a 2004 winter gillnet fishery for sturgeon at a later date. Following is the current tribal proposal:

<b>Sturgeon Gillnet Fishery Recommendation</b>	
Season:	6 AM Monday, December 1 through 6 PM Sunday December 14.
Area:	Bonneville Pool only.
Gear:	8 ½" Minimum Mesh Size
Sanctuaries:	All standard river mouth and dam sanctuaries are in effect.
Allowable Sales:	Sales are restricted to Sturgeon between 4 and 5 feet and walleye and carp. Salmon including steelhead are not allowed to be sold but may be retained for subsistence.
Miscellaneous Rules:	Current setline regulations in the Bonneville and John Day pools remain unchanged. <i>(The Quick Reporting rule is in effect for Washington Licensed Buyers)</i>