

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4 February 13, 2009

Purpose: Consider Tribal Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery

ZONE 6 STURGEON FISHERIES

- The treaty winter gillnet fishery opened in all of Zone 6 on February 2
- The treaty commercial sturgeon harvest guidelines in Zone 6 are 400 in the Bonneville Pool, 1000 in The Dalles Pool, and 335 in the John Day Pool.
- Catches have been increasing. The catches in the tribal winter gillnet fishery are shown in the following table. The sturgeon catches are through February 12:

Winter Gillnet Fishery				
Zone	Chinook	Steelhead	Walleye	Sturgeon
61	0	0	0	331
62	0	0	0	151
63	0	0	0	64
Total	0	0	0	546

- Staff project that the commercial harvest guideline will be met in the Bonneville pool prior to Monday.
- The tribal fishery codes require 48 hour notice in closing fisheries to ensure notification of fishermen.
- The winter gillnet fishery closes at 6:00 PM Friday February 13, and was previously scheduled to re-open on Monday February 16 in Bonneville Pool.
- The sale of steelhead is also currently allowed in the platform/hook and line fishery in the Bonneville Pool. The Yakama Nation currently allows the sale of steelhead caught in their below Bonneville Dam platform and hook and line fishery.

Fishery Proposal

- The tribes propose to end the winter gillnet fishery as of Friday February 13 at 6:00 PM as currently scheduled. The gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool will not re-open on Monday February 16. All other Zone 6 regulations remain the same including the commercial sale of steelhead. The winter gillnet fishery remains open seven days per week under existing regulations in The Dalles and John Day Pools.

- The regulations for the platform/hook and line fishery in the Bonneville Pool remains unchanged, except that sturgeon between 38 and 54 inches in fork length landed after 6:00 PM Friday February 13 may not be sold but may be retained for subsistence. Undersize and oversize sturgeon must be released unharmed. Sales and retention rules for other species remains unchanged.
- The regulations including the allowed species for retention and sale in the Yakama Nation below Bonneville Dam platform/hook and line fishery remain unchanged.

Staff Recommendation:

Effective Monday February 16 at 6:00 AM the winter season gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool is discontinued. The platform/hook and line fishery in the Bonneville Pool will continue as previously scheduled except that sturgeon landed in the Bonneville Pool may not be sold, but sturgeon between 38 and 54 inches in fork length may be retained for subsistence.

*Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
February 13, 2009*