

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION

TRIBAL STAFF REPORT WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 2 February 10, 2010

Purpose: Consider Tribal Winter Commercial Gillnet Fishery

ZONE 6 STURGEON FISHERIES

- The treaty winter gillnet fishery opened in all of Zone 6 on February 1
- The treaty commercial sturgeon harvest guidelines in Zone 6 are 1,400 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 8:

Winter Gillnet Fishery				
Zone	Chinook	Steelhead	Walleye	Sturgeon
61	0	0	1	1,020
62	0	12	0	174
63	0	0	0	0
Total	0	12	1	1,194

- Staff project that the commercial harvest guideline will be met in the Bonneville pool by Thursday.
- The tribal fishery codes require 48 hour notice in closing fisheries to ensure notification of fishermen. The tribes have met previously and took action to allow for the 48-hour notice.
- The sale of salmon and steelhead are also currently allowed in the platform/hook and line fishery in the Bonneville Pool. The Yakama Nation currently allows the sale of salmon and steelhead caught in their below Bonneville Dam platform and hook and line fishery, provided sale does not occur on USACE Property.

Fishery Proposal

- The tribes propose to end the winter gillnet fishery as of Thursday February 11 at 6:00 PM in the Bonneville Pool. Any fish caught legally before the closure may be sold at anytime. All other Zone 6 regulations remain the same including the commercial sale of salmon and steelhead. The winter gillnet fishery remains open 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 Thursday February 11 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 Thursday February 11 at 6:00 PM the winter season gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool is discontinued. Any fish caught legally before the closure may be sold at any time. 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

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