

**OREGON AND WASHINGTON DEPARTMENTS OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 6
 Columbia River Compact
 February 28, 2014**

<i>Fisheries under review:</i>
Treaty Indian winter gillnet fishery

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- Under permanent regulations, a winter gillnet fishery is open in Zone 6 from noon February 1 to 6:00 p.m. March 21. Gear is limited to gill nets, hoop nets, dip bag nets, and rod and reel with hook and line. Allowable sales include sturgeon, salmon, steelhead as well as miscellaneous non-native fish.
- The area immediately downstream of Bonneville Dam is also open under the terms of agreements with the States during times when areas in Zone 6 are open.
- Preliminary harvest estimates in the 2014 tribal winter season fishery through February 24 are shown in the table below.

2014 Treaty Commercial Sturgeon Harvest					
Pool	Jan Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	8	13	21	1,100	1,079
The Dalles	0	45	45	1,000	955
John Day	64	860	924	1,000	76
Total	72	918	990	3,100	2,110

- The tribal winter gillnet fishery in the John Day Pool closed at 6:00 PM on February 26.
- Because the tribes want to have the Bonneville Pool fishery access the abundant number of fish in the 38-42” fork length category the tribes have agreed to two changes in the fishery

<i>Recommendation – Bonneville Pool</i>
<p>Effective 6:00 a.m. Saturday March 1, 2014: The allowed size for retention of sturgeon in the Bonneville Pool will be 38-54” fork length. Sturgeon of this size may be sold commercially or retained for subsistence use. The winter gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool will close at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 12. Legal sized sturgeon harvested prior to 6:00 p.m. on March 12 may be sold at any time.</p>

- The tribes have also decided to not have the Bonneville Pool and The Dalles Pool open at the same time with different slot limits. There is a brief period of overlap to allow notification for fishers in The Dalles Pool.

Recommendation – The Dalles Pool

Effective 6:00 p.m. Monday March 3, 2014: The winter gillnet fishery in The Dalles Pool will close. Legal sized sturgeon harvested prior to 6:00 p.m. on March 3 may be sold at any time.

The tribes also propose the following season:

Season: 6:00 AM Thursday March 13 until 6:00 p.m. Saturday March 22.

Area: The Dalles Pool

Allowable sales: Salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch. Legal size sturgeon (between 43-54 inches in fork length) may be sold or retained for subsistence purposes. Live release of all oversize and under-size sturgeon is required. Sales of platform/hook-and-line caught fish can be sold during open commercial seasons. Fish caught during open commercial periods can be sold after the season closes.

Sanctuaries – As applicable, river mouth sanctuaries remain in effect.

Gear: Gill nets, hoop nets, dip bag nets, and rod and reel with hook and line are permissible. There is no mesh restriction on gillnets.

Miscellaneous: 24-hour quick reporting required for Washington wholesale dealers, WAC 220-69-240

- The tribes expect these two different open fishing periods for the two pools will provide a reasonable opportunity for fishers to access the commercial harvest guidelines in each pool.
- The tribes will continue to monitor the ongoing winter gillnet fishery and will make additional regulation changes as needed. Either pool will be closed earlier if the commercial harvest guidelines are expected to be met prior to their scheduled closure date.
- The tribes are not proposing any changes to the allowed species for sale or for any fishery regulations downstream of Bonneville.