

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
 TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 7
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing
 March 11, 2014**

Fisheries under consideration:

-Treaty Indian winter gillnet fishery

- The ongoing winter gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool is scheduled to close at 6:00 PM Wednesday March 12. The Dalles Pool is closed and is scheduled to re-open at 6:00 AM Thursday March 13. The preliminary harvest estimate as of noon March 10 is shown in the table below.

2014 Winter Season Treaty Fisheries						
Pool	January Set Line	Winter Gillnet through March 1	Winter Gillnet March 2-10	Total	Guideline	
Bonneville Pool	8	31	396	435	950*	
The Dalles Pool	0	117	30	147	1,000	
John Day Pool	64	1,161	0	1,225	1,000	

*adjusted from 1,100

- The Bonneville Pool slot limit was 38-54” fork length in January and from March 1-present. From February 1-28, the slot limit was 43-54” fork length. Based on an analysis of harvest impacts relative to the abundance of different size groups done by tribal and state staff, the tribes are recommending a harvest guideline of 950 fish for the Bonneville Pool for 2014.
- Based on last week’s catch rates, an estimated 500 additional sturgeon will be harvested in the Bonneville Pool during March 11-15. This projection includes an assumption that some fishers will move to The Dalles Pool when it re-opens and takes into account high flows and large amounts of debris currently in the Columbia River.
- The tribes are proposing a season extension for the Bonneville Pool fishery.

Staff Recommendation: Winter Gillnet Fishery in Bonneville Pool

Effective immediately: Extend the season until 6:00 PM Saturday March 15, 2014.

All other previously adopted regulations remain in place.

- Sales of legal fish landed prior to the closure is allowed after the season concludes.
- The legal size slot limit for sturgeon in Bonneville Pool will remain at 38-54” in fork length.
- The platform and hook and line fishery in Bonneville Pool remains open for subsistence use when commercial seasons are closed. Sturgeon within 43-54 inches in fork length may be retained for subsistence purposes during closed commercial periods in Bonneville Pool.

- The tribes are also proposing a season modification to the fishery in The Dalles Pool.

Staff Recommendation: Winter Gillnet Fishery in The Dalles Pool.

Effective immediately: Modify the previously adopted opening date of 6:00 AM March 13, 2014 to an opening date of 6:00 AM March 12, 2014.

All other previously adopted regulations remain in place.

- This fishery is currently scheduled to continue until 6 PM March 22. The fishery will close earlier if guideline is met.
- Sales of legal fish landed prior to the closure is allowed after the season concludes.
- Tribal staff will continue to collect biological and PIT tag data from the commercial fishery. Tribal staff will also work with tribal buyers to account for their purchases and will estimate other “non-ticket” sales. They will continue to work closely with state staff to account for and report harvest in the winter gillnet fishery on a timely basis.
- Tribal fisheries downstream of Bonneville are ongoing, and will remain open for sales when a concurrent mainstem season is open in Zone 6. Sturgeon retention is not allowed in the tribal bank fishery downstream of Bonneville.