

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
 TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4  
 Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearing  
 March 10, 2015**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>
Treaty Indian winter fishery

**STOCK STATUS**

- Stock status and historic winter season harvest data are reported in the 2015 Sturgeon/Smelt Joint Staff Report referenced in Fact Sheet 2a.
- The Sturgeon Management Task Force met on January 21 to consider the latest stock assessment for The Dalles Pool as well as other Zone 6 sturgeon management issues.
- The tribal commercial harvest guidelines are 1,000 for the John Day Pool, 325 for The Dalles Pool, and 1,100 for the Bonneville Pool.
- There is no specific harvest guideline for sturgeon retained for subsistence purposes. The five year average Zone 6 subsistence catch is 470.
- Spring Chinook passage at Bonneville is 90 adults through March 8. Passage to date is higher than in recent years. While the early counts are relatively strong compared to recent years, it is too early to determine the strength or timing of this year’s spring Chinook run.

**TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES**

- There is an ongoing winter gillnet fishery in the Bonneville Pool only that is currently scheduled to end at 6:00 PM on March 21. Sturgeon catches through March 8 are shown in the table below.

Reservoir	January Setline	Winter Gill Net	Commercial Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	1	128	129	1,100	971
The Dalles	0	99	99	325	226
John Day	81	794	875	1,000	125
<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>1,021</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>2,425</b>	

- Additionally, the preliminary total Zone 6 steelhead catch is less than 50. The preliminary chinook catch is 10-15.
- Some of the early spring ceremonies have been moved to earlier dates than normal. Because of this, the tribes have decided to not allow the sale of any chinook salmon caught after 6:00 PM on Thursday March 12. Commercial sales for other species (including sturgeon and steelhead) caught in the Bonneville Pool winter gillnet fishery will continue to be allowed.
- At this time, sturgeon catch rates do not indicate a high likelihood of reaching the Bonneville Pool sturgeon harvest guideline prior to March 12, but the tribes will take action

to close the sturgeon fisheries in any of the Zone 6 reservoirs if the commercial harvest guidelines are expected to be met.

- The tribal bank fishery downstream of Bonneville Dam which occurs under the terms of MOU's and MOA's with the states of Oregon and Washington remains closed at this time. The tribes will notify the states if and when this area opens, which will likely not occur until later in the spring.

<b>Treaty Indian Winter Fishery in Bonneville Pool</b>	
<b>Action:</b>	Effective 6:01 PM Thursday March 12, 2015: Sales of salmon are prohibited. Salmon may be retained for ceremonial and subsistence purposes.  All other regulations previously adopted remain in place.

#### **ADDITIONAL HEARINGS**

The tribes do not anticipate the need for another Hearing at this time.