

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT: FALL FACT SHEET NO. 17
Columbia River Compact
November 12, 2015

Fisheries under consideration:	Treaty commercial sturgeon setline Treaty commercial salmon platform and hook and line
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Stock Status and Management Guidelines

Detailed sturgeon stock status and historic harvest data were presented in the 2015 Joint Staff Report Concerning Stock Status And Fisheries For Sturgeon And Smelt (December 18, 2015) <http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01675/wdfw01675.pdf>.

- The joint state/tribal Sturgeon Management Task Force meets periodically to review stock status, harvest and rebuilding efforts for sturgeon in Zone 6. The Task Force recommends both sport and treaty commercial harvest guidelines for each reservoir in Zone 6. These recommendations have been accepted by the states and treaty tribes.
- The 2015 treaty commercial sturgeon guidelines are shown in the catch table in the following section.

2015 Treaty Sturgeon Fisheries

- 2015 treaty commercial sturgeon fisheries have consisted of a January setline fishery in each Pool. There was also a winter season gillnet fishery that began in February. The Dalles and John Day Pools opened from February 2 through February 24. The Bonneville Pool opened from February 23 through March 21.
- Fall season setline fisheries included an 11.5 day period in late October in The Dalles Pool which harvested 119 sturgeon. There was an 11.5 day period in the Bonneville Pool which ends at 6:00 PM on Friday October 13. There were only small numbers of fishers participating in these fisheries
- Sturgeon are harvested for subsistence use in association with spring, summer, and fall season fisheries targeting salmon and steelhead. These fish are not included in the commercial harvest guidelines. The preliminary total 2015 subsistence catch to date is 67.
- The following table contains the 2015 commercial harvest to date.

Table 1. 2015 Treaty Commercial Sturgeon Catch							
Reservoir	January Setline	Winter Gill Net	Fall Setline	Commercial Total	Guideline	Remaining	
Bonneville	1	377	26	404	1,100	696	
The Dalles	0	93	119	212	325	113	
John Day	81	803	0	884	1,000	116	
Total	82	1,273	145	1,500	2,425		

- Late fall setline fisheries are periodically used to access remaining fish on the commercial harvest guidelines. Setline fisheries normally have relatively modest effort and catch rates.

Tribal Fishery Plan

Treaty Commercial Sturgeon

- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted the following regulations:

<i>2015 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Sturgeon Setline Fishery</i>	
Season for The Dalles Pool:	6:00 AM Monday November 16 to 6:00 PM Wednesday November 25, 2015.
Season for the Bonneville Pool:	6:00 AM Friday November 27 to 6:00 PM Thursday, December 31, 2015.
Sanctuaries:	Standard sanctuaries applicable to setline gear.
Gear:	Setline Gear.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles Pool and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be sold or kept for subsistence purposes. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Platform and hook and line fish of legal size may also be sold if caught during the open period and open area of the commercial setline fishery.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The fishery provides reasonable opportunity for fishers to harvest some more sturgeon and come closer to the commercial harvest guidelines. With 119 sturgeon harvested in The Dalles Pool in 11.5 days, tribal staff estimate that a 9.5 day period to harvest the remaining 113 fish should be appropriate especially as water temperatures cool and fish become less active.
- The tribes will monitor the catches and take action to close the fisheries earlier if the harvest guidelines are expected to be reached before the scheduled closure dates.
- At this time, the tribes are not considering opening the John Day Pool.

Treaty Commercial Salmon

- The tribes met and agreed to extend the period when commercial sales are allowed for Zone 6 Platform and Hook and Line caught fish.

<i>2015 Treaty Indian Fall Platform and Hook and Line Fishery Extension of Current Sales Period</i>	
Season	6:00 AM Friday November 13 to 6:00 PM Wednesday, December 31 (consistent with tribal regulations)
Area	Zone 6
Gear:	Hoop Nets, Dip Nets, and hook and line

Sanctuaries:	Standard sanctuaries applicable to these gear types.
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species) steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon may not be sold, but sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools and from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool may be kept for subsistence purposes. Legal sized sturgeon caught from platform or hook and line gear during any open commercial set line period in that pool may also be sold. Fish landed during any open commercial periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
Additional:	<u>24-hour quick reporting</u> required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-69-240 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The Zone 6 platform and hook and line fishery is expected to harvest very small numbers of fish during this time period.

Future Meetings

- The next Compact Hearing will be scheduled depending on the status of ongoing fisheries.