

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 3**

**Columbia River Compact
February 18, 2016**

<i>Fisheries under consideration:</i>
Treaty Commercial Winter Gillnet Fishery

STOCK STATUS

- The stock status is described in Fact Sheet 1a and in the December 17, 2015 Sturgeon/Smelt Joint Staff Report and January 20, 2016 Winter/Spring/Summer Joint Staff Report.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

- The preliminary Zone 6 treaty commercial sturgeon harvests and commercial guidelines are shown in the table below.

Pool	Slot Limit (inches, fork length)	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Commercial Harvest Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	38-54	0	0	0	325	325
The Dalles	43-54	0	114	114	325	211
John Day	43-54	49	299	348	1,000	652
Total		49	413	462	1,650	

- There was a setline fishery open in all three pools in January that harvested 49 fish. The winter gillnet fishery has harvested a total of 413 fish through this morning. No other species have been reported harvested to date. The fishery in The Dalles and the John Day pools is currently scheduled to close at 6:00 PM on Monday February 22.
- The sturgeon catch per day is within typical ranges for this time of year. Catch rates generally increase as the season progresses. Assuming catch rates increase next week to the maximum observed during this time period, tribal staff project the fisheries in the John Day and The Dalles pools will still be within their commercial harvest guidelines by February 27.
- All four tribes agreed to the extension of the commercial fisheries in the box on page 2.

2016 Treaty Indian Zone 6 Commercial Gillnet Fishery

Dates/Time:	Extend the ongoing fisheries through 6:00 PM Saturday February 27.
Area:	The Dalles and John Day Pools only
Gear:	Gillnets with no mesh restriction.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length, Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, carp, catfish, walleye, bass, and yellow perch may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sales of fish are allowed after the fishing period as long as they were landed during the open period.
Sanctuaries:	River mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnets in effect.
Miscellaneous:	Quick reporting required for all Washington Fish Buyers pursuant to WAC 220-69-240.14(d), and landings must be quick reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The current regulations for the Zone 6 platform and hook and line fisheries do not require modification at this time.
- There is no specific guideline for treaty subsistence harvest of sturgeon, but these fish are accounted for.
- Tribal fishery monitors will monitor fisheries and will assist in collection of biological data.
- State and tribal staff will work cooperatively to report harvest on a regular basis.
- Sturgeon fisheries will be closed earlier if harvest guidelines for that pool are met before the scheduled end dates.
- The tribes also expect to set an opening for the Bonneville Pool fishery after the fisheries in the upper pools are concluded and will ask for a Compact when the tribes finalize the plan for this fishery.