

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION  
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 5**

**Columbia River Compact**

**March 3, 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.

<b>Pool</b>	<b>Slot Limit (inches, fork length)</b>	<b>January Setline</b>	<b>Winter Gillnet</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Commercial Harvest Guideline</b>	<b>Remaining</b>
<b>Bonneville</b>	38-54	0	0	0	325	325
<b>The Dalles</b>	43-54	0	242	242	325	83
<b>John Day</b>	43-54	49	540	589	1,000	411
<b>Total</b>		49	782	831	1,650	819

- 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 782 fish through Wednesday. No other species have been reported harvested to date. The fishery in The Dalles and the John Day pools are currently scheduled to close at 6:00 PM on Saturday March 5.
- The sturgeon catch per day is at the lower end of typical ranges for this time of year. Catch rates generally increase as the season progresses. While catch rates have not increased as anticipated yet, they did increase some this week and may increase more. Assuming catch rates increase next week to higher levels seen in previous year, tribal staff project the fisheries in the John Day pool will still be within its commercial harvest guideline by March 12. The tribes anticipate that The Dalles pool will be close to its harvest guideline by the current closure date of March 5.
- All four tribes agreed to the extension of the commercial fisheries in the box on page 2.

<b>2016 Treaty Indian Zone 6 Commercial Gillnet Fishery</b>	
<b>Dates/Time:</b>	Extend the ongoing fisheries through 6:00 PM Saturday March 12.
<b>Area:</b>	The John Day Pool only
<b>Gear:</b>	Gillnets with no mesh restriction.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	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.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	River mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnets in effect.
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	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.
<b>Dates/Time:</b>	6:00 AM Monday March 14 through 6:00 PM Monday March 21.
<b>Area:</b>	The Bonneville Pool only
<b>Gear:</b>	Gillnets with no mesh restriction.
<b>Allowable Sales:</b>	Sturgeon from 38 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.
<b>Sanctuaries:</b>	River mouth and dam closed areas applicable to gillnets in effect. The Spring Creek Hatchery Sanctuary is not in effect this time of year.
<b>Miscellaneous:</b>	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.