

COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
TRIBAL STAFF REPORT - FALL FACT SHEET NO. 12b
Columbia River Compact
October 19, 2016

Fisheries under consideration: Treaty Commercial Sturgeon Setline fishery

Detailed information on stock status and management guidelines for Columbia River fisheries are presented in Joint Staff Reports, which are produced annually and available on-line. The most recent sturgeon reports are the 2016 Sturgeon Report (December 17, 2015) and the 2016 Fall Report (July 12, 2016). Additional relevant sturgeon information was presented in Winter Fact Sheet 1a (January 27, 2016) <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/> or <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp>

STOCK STATUS

- Each of the Zone 6 pools is managed with a separate harvest guideline for treaty commercial and recreational fisheries in the individual pools. There is no specific guideline for treaty subsistence harvest but the subsistence data are included in overall catch accounting.
- The treaty commercial harvest guidelines are adjusted on a three year rotating basis based on current stock assessments for those pools.
- The 2016 treaty commercial harvest guidelines are 325 each for the Bonneville and The Dalles Pool and 1,000 for the John Day Pool.
- There is ongoing young of the year sturgeon sampling. This work will be concluded soon and does not conflict with fisheries. Stock assessment tagging will begin in The Dalles Pool in December.

2016 Treaty Indian Fisheries

- The table below shows the harvest to date for treaty commercial sturgeon fisheries.

Pool	Jan. Setline	Winter Gillnet	Aug Setline	Total	Guideline	Remaining
Bonneville	0	102	29	131	325	194
The Dalles	0	268	--	268	325	57
John Day	49	689	--	738	1,000	262

- Based on the number of fish remaining on the commercial harvest guidelines, the tribes have developed a plan to provide opportunity to harvest these remaining fish.
- The fishery is designed to allow opportunity in each pool separately.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

<i>2016 Treaty Indian Fall Commercial Sturgeon Setline Fishery</i>	
Season:	6 AM Monday October 24 to 6 PM Saturday November 5
Area:	John Day Pool Only
Season:	6 AM Monday November 7 to 6 PM Saturday November 12
Area:	The Dalles Pool Only
Season	6 AM Monday November 14 to 6 PM Saturday November 26
Area:	The Bonneville Pool Only
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas in effect include standard dam closed areas applicable to setline gear.
Gear:	Setline Gear. Fishers are encouraged to use circle hooks and avoid J-hooks. It is unlawful to use setline gear with more than 100 hooks per setline, with hooks less than the minimum size of 9/0, with treble hooks, without visible buoys attached, and with buoys that do not specify operator and tribal identification.
Allowable Sales:	Sturgeon of legal size caught in open periods for that pool may be sold or retained for subsistence. Legal size limits include sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in the Bonneville Pool and sturgeon from 43 to 54 inches fork length in The Dalles and John Day Pools. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes.
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.
<i>2016 Treaty Indian Platform and hook and line Fishery</i>	
Allowable Sales:	Legal sturgeon harvested with platform and hook and line gear during open commercial set line periods for that pool, may be sold or retained for subsistence. The legal size limits are the same as the setline fishery. Fish landed during the open periods are allowed to be sold after the period concludes. Other species may be sold according to ongoing platform and hook and line regulations.
Other:	All other ongoing platform and hook and line regulations remain in effect.

- Based on past fall setline fisheries and this year’s August setline fishery, the tribes expect low effort and moderate catch.
- Fish tickets are the primary source of landing data for sturgeon along with supplemental creel data. Catch will be monitored to ensure the fishery remains within management limits. Because of low expected effort, the tribes do not anticipate these openings will require any in-season action.
- The tribes are not planning any additional commercial salmon gillnet fisheries in 2016. The platform and hook and line fisheries for salmon and steelhead remain open for both commercial use.
- The tribes do not anticipate any additional Compact Hearings at this time.