Fisheries Under Consideration: Treaty commercial gillnet

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 report is the 2019 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 18, 2019). Links to the on-line reports are: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/ and http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/reports.asp

**STOCK STATUS**

**Sturgeon**

- Sturgeon stock assessment information was presented in Winter Fact Sheet #1.
- The 2019 sturgeon commercial harvest guidelines for Treaty fisheries in Zone 6 are 500 fish for the Bonneville Pool, 415 for The Dalles Pool, and 175 fish for the John Day Pool.
- There is not a specific harvest guideline for the treaty subsistence catch of sturgeon, but these catches are accounted for and used in population assessments. Subsistence harvest typically occurs in association with fisheries targeting other species and is generally low. In 2018, the subsistence harvest was just 89 in all three Zone 6 reservoirs combined.

**2019 TREATY INDIAN WINTER FISHERIES**

- A setline fishery occurs each January in all three Zone 6 pools under permanent regulations. This fishery generally has low effort and catch.
- The tribes typically set winter season gillnet fisheries during the period between February 1 and March 21.
- The tribes set initial winter season gillnet openings through February 13 in the two upper pools based on past catch rates. Catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase. Effort appears to be moderate to date.
- Harvest information through February 9 is shown in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pool</th>
<th>January Setline</th>
<th>Winter Gillnet</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Harvest Guideline</th>
<th>Remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bonneville</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Dalles</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Day</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>275</td>
<td>1,090</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- No steelhead have been harvested to date.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will or have adopted regulations consistent with the following:
The tribes expect continued moderate effort and catch in the proposed gillnet fishery extension. Based on results for this year’s fishery and previous winter sturgeon fisheries, the catch through February 19 is not likely to exceed the balance of fish remaining in either the John Day or The Dalles pools.

The tribes anticipate setting gillnet fisheries in the Bonneville Pool later in the Winter Season.

Catch will be monitored to ensure the tribal fisheries remain within management limits. The tribes expect to set additional fishing time after this period concludes, or may extend this period if appropriate. The tribes will take action to close fisheries early if harvest limits are projected to be met early.

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

- The treaty tribes may request a Compact Hearing on February 19 to address any needed actions for treaty fisheries.
- A Compact hearing is scheduled for 10:00 AM Wednesday February 20, 2019 at the Shilo Inn (11707 NE Airport Way, Portland, Oregon 97220) to consider Select Area and recreational spring Chinook fisheries.