COLUMBIA RIVER INTERTRIBAL FISH COMMISSION
JOINT STAFF REPORT - WINTER FACT SHEET NO. 4
Columbia River Compact
February 26, 2020

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 reports are the 2020 Sturgeon/Smelt Report (January 17,2020) and the 2020 spring/summer report for Chinook, sockeye, steelhead, and other species (February 7, 2020). Links to the on-line reports are: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/crc/ and http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/OSCRP/CRM/jsmreports.asp

RIVER CONDITIONS

- The current outflow at the Bonneville Dam has ranged from approximately 142 to 172 kcfs in the past five days. The 5-year average flow in this time period is approximately 219 kcfs.
- The recent 5-day average temperature in the Bonneville Dam forebay is 40.9°F, which is slightly higher than the 5-year average temperature of 39.4°F.

STOCK STATUS

Sturgeon

- The 2020 sturgeon harvest guidelines for Treaty commercial fisheries in Zone 6 are 500 fish for the Bonneville Pool, 415 for The Dalles Pool, and 210 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, reported, and used in population assessments. Subsistence harvest typically occurs in association with fisheries targeting other species and is generally low. In 2019, the subsistence harvest was just 140 in all three Zone 6 reservoirs combined.

2020 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. This year's catches were slightly above average, but within past ranges.
- Winter gillnet fisheries have occurred in The Dalles Pool from February 1-7 and in the John Day Pool from February 1-8, February 12-17, and February 20-24.
- Current preliminary catches are shown in the table below. These include both ticketed landings and direct to public sales.
- Catch rates generally start out slow and increase over time as water temperature and effort increase. Catches in the Bonneville Pool are expected to average about 27 fish per day over the proposed fishing time. The expected total harvest (setline and gillnet) at the end of the proposed fishery is 385.
- No steelhead have been harvested in the winter gillnet fishery to date, but 6 winter steelhead have been caught in the platform fishery in the Bonneville Pool.

Preliminary Total Treaty Commercial Sturgeon Landings

	January Setline	Winter Gillnet	Total	Guideline	Remaining	% of guideline
Bonneville	127	0	127	500	373	25%
The Dalles	113	300	413	415	2	100%
John Day	42	157	199	210	11	95%
Total	282	457	739			

- Steelhead caught in the Bonneville Pool from November 1 through March 31 are counted as winter steelhead. There is no specific harvest limit for winter steelhead but harvest is generally low. Winter steelhead harvest has averaged 110 fish per year since 2001. Because harvest is generally low, no specific management actions regarding steelhead are expected to be needed. No chinook are expected to be harvested in Bonneville Pool during the winter period.
- The four Columbia River treaty tribes will or have adopted regulations consistent with the following:

2020 Treaty Indian Winter Season Commercial Gillnet Fishery	
Season:	6 AM Thursday February 27 to 6 PM Saturday March 7 (9.5) days
Area:	Bonneville Pool only
Gear:	Gillnets with no minimum mesh size restriction
Sanctuaries:	Closed areas include standard closed dam and river mouth areas applicable to gillnet gear
Allowable Sales:	Salmon (any species), steelhead, shad, yellow perch, bass, walleye, catfish, and carp may be sold or retained for subsistence. Sturgeon from 38 to 54 inches fork length in 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.
Additional:	24-hour quick reporting required for Washington buyers, pursuant to WAC 220-352-315 except that landings must be reported within 24-hours of completing the fish ticket.

- The tribes will monitor the fishery and will take action to close the fishery early if catches are projected to reach the harvest guideline prior to March 7.
- No Compact action is needed for the platform and hook and line fishery.

Future Meetings

The tribes may request a Compact Hearing on Tuesday March 10 to consider additional commercial fisheries.